



A letter from Gaza

by Subaila Tarazi

Editors' Note: Suhaila Tarazi directs the Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, operated by the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem. CNEWA has long supported the hospital, which today proclaims itself a "haven for peace in the middle of one of the world's most troubled places."

I was born in Gaza, in Palestine, to a Greek Orthodox middle-class family. I had my elementary and secondary education in Gaza public schools and later left for Egypt for further studies, where I obtained my Bachelor of Science degree.

When I was young I was sent by my parents to join Girls of Light, a Christian program at the Baptist church, to study the Bible and learn more about Jesus. During the course, I was very much inspired by the life of Lillian Trasher, an American missionary in Assiut,

Egypt, who founded the first orphanage there. She was known as "the Nile Mother."

The essential message I learned from her story was from Paul's Epistle to the Romans: "We know that all things work for good for those who love God."

I started my work at Al Ahli Arab Hospital, the only Christian hospital in Gaza, which belongs to the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem. This was during the first intifada (uprising) in 1987, when Palestinians fought Israeli occupation, which brought with it violence, fear,



