

Reaching the most needy...

The death of David and Samantha Cameron's son Ivan at the end of February saddened the nation as he had died so young, after suffering from cerebral palsy and severe epilepsy.

David Cameron has been quick to praise the care given to his son throughout his life and has spoken highly of the NHS and the staff who worked with him and his family.

In the UK conditions such as cerebral palsy and epilepsy are well researched and treatments and advice are readily available. However, in other countries this is often not the case. One such country is Lebanon, where a lack of state provision of care and resources often results in the marginalisation of certain sections of society and a lack of opportunities.

The Al Kafa'at Foundation is tackling this problem as it works with over 4, 500 children and young adults, with varying disabilities, including cerebral palsy. The centre offers a new lease of life to those who would not otherwise be able to attend school or learn to make a living for themselves.

The centre operates across seven sites, including a school for children with cerebral palsy and a fully functional compound for the employment of adults with learning difficulties. In addition, there are boarding facilities for up to 450 residents and two vocational training centres.

More developments are taking place at Al Kafa'at – in January BibleLands sent a £100,000 grant for the Sheltered Workshop project which was the focus of our Lent 2007 Appeal. When built, there will be 15 workshops that will train and employ up to 200 adults with cerebral palsy. The new workshops will include a chocolate shop, a candle shop, paper recycling, clay moulding, manufacturing of wooden toys, a laundry, ironing services, chair manufacturing and graphic design and editing.

Let's thank God for the work of the Al Kafa'at Foundation in providing opportunities for those who would otherwise remain on the margins of society and continue to pray for the Sheltered Workshop project and all those who benefit from the opportunities provided by the centre.