

Copy file

MRS. KHALIL TOTAH
402 SOUTH WASHINGTON AVENUE
WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA

March 19, 1956

Crass

Hanna Nixon

Dear Friend,

I have just read with interest the yearly report of the American Colony Charities Association of Jerusalem and having finished with it and made my contribution to its work, I thought you might be interested in it and might even wish to send it on to your son, Dick. That part of the world is in such precarious condition at this time and several items in this report are so pertinent to it that I thought it might be valuable.

The American Colony has worked for so many years right there in Jerusalem and Mrs. Vester is so able that her note of the reaction of Arabs to the situation would be worth attention. I am sure you will find a great deal in her report to give you food for thought, and if you see fit to send it on to Dick with comment it would certainly be helpful.

I have recently read a new brochure "Who Knows Better Must Say So", by Rabbi Elmer Berger, Secretary of the American Council for Judaism, who just returned from a visit to the countries of the Middle East where he studied the situation of the Jews in the Arab countries and also Israel. It is the most amazing document I have read for a long time. Would you like to see it?

Very best wishes,

Sincerely yours

Eva Totah

From 1616
2 - La Mirada Ave
La Habra Calif



Vice President Richard Nixon
Att - Rose Mary Wood's
Washington
D. C.

1955

*AMERICAN COLONY CHARITIES
ASSOCIATION*

incorporated New York

178 East 70th Street — New York 21, N. Y.

Honorary President: The Rev. Harry Emerson Fosdick

President: Hon. Harold B. Minor

and

*AMERICAN COLONY
AID ASSOCIATION*

Founded by Mrs. Frederick Vester

Jerusalem — Jordan

AMERICAN COLONY CHARITIES ASSOCIATION

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The Rev. Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, Honorary President
Hon. Harold B. Minor, President
Mrs. John H. Finley, First Vice-President
Mr. Lowell Thomas, Second Vice-President
Mrs. Alvah L. Miller, Secretary
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Mrs. Frederick W. Longfellow, Treasurer

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AMERICAN COLONY AID ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE IN JERUSALEM

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Dr. Mahmoud Dajani, President
Mrs. Frederick Vester, Secretary-Treasurer
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Mr. Hanna Atalla
Mr. Anton Atalla
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Mrs. A. G. Lind

February 1, 1956

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT

It was just twenty years ago that my wife and I arrived in Jerusalem to take up my post as Consul in Jerusalem. We stayed temporarily at the American Colony and came into contact for the first time with Mrs. Vester and the good works she, and before her her mother, has been doing. Since that time I have been intimately associated with Near Eastern affairs and have had occasion to visit Jerusalem and to observe at first hand the continued development of these fine activities. The most recent of these visits took place in June 1955, which roughly coincided with my election as President of the American Colony Charities Association.

I know of no work of this nature in the Near East which is more productive of human results than Mrs. Vester's activities embraced in the American Colony Aid Association. The Spafford Children's Hospital, the clinic and infant welfare center are outstanding examples of unselfish and devoted service. This work has been rendered even more urgent by the tragic refugee situation which has greatly increased the need in Jerusalem without, unfortunately, proportionate increase in facilities and income. The budget for this work is tiny and the overhead costs unusually small. Almost everything given by our supporters goes directly into alleviating disease and suffering.

It should be noted also that the work of the American Colony Aid Association in Jerusalem has been a shining example of the best in American private endeavor. In this tragic political hour, these activities stand as a bulwark of American influence and understanding.

The Annual Report which is attached uses two titles — The American Colony Charities Association Inc., under which tax free contributions are made in the United States and the American Colony Aid Association which is the operating agency in Jerusalem, Jordan.

I sincerely hope that old friends will rally to support this work at a time of crisis in Jerusalem and throughout the entire Middle East and that many new friends will be added during 1956 to the list of our contributors.

Harold B. Minor

MARBLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH
Fifth Avenue at 29th Street, West
New York 1, New York

January 5, 1956

Mrs. Bertha Spafford Vester
American Colony Aid Association
Arab Jerusalem, PALESTINE
Dear Mrs. Vester:

I want you to know of my great enthusiasm for the work of the American Colony Aid Association. Having visited the American Colony in Jerusalem, and having had the privilege of meeting your family and yourself, I know at first hand something about the great work which you have done over so many years.

Personally, I feel that you stand in a very important place in this historic moment. All through the years, you and your associates have been building constructively in that tension area of the world, rendering loving service to God's children, and you are deserving of the sacrificial and enthusiastic support of thoughtful people everywhere.

I hope that many will learn of your work and will be impelled to give generously to it of their cooperation, their prayers and their money. I want you to know that you can count upon me at all times for devoted support of your work.

With kind regards and praying God's richest blessing upon you and yours, I am

Cordially yours,
Norman Vincent Peale

AMERICAN COLONY AID ASSOCIATION
Arab Jerusalem, Palestine
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Dr. Mahmoud Dajani
President

Mr. Slator C. Blackiston, Jr.
Hon. President

Mrs. Bertha Spafford Vester
Secretary-Treasurer

January 25, 1956

To our friends and supporters:

You should know something of the conditions under which we are conducting our work.

Ever since the division of Palestine, we have known that one day the refugees would burst their bounds and do something desperate. These 900,000 Palestinian refugees whose ancestors had held and tilled the land for over a thousand years are all farmers.

The intricate history of the National Zionist movement reached its culminating point in the autumn of 1947, when the United Nations recommended the division of Palestine into an Arab and a Jewish section. The city of Jerusalem was to be internationalized. Jordan got the arid and rocky part, with no deep water port. Israel occupied what they never possessed before, the Philistine country and the fertile coastal strip.

President Truman supported the partition plan and acknowledged the State of Israel instantly.

Zionist propaganda was and still is efficient. How little the American public has known about the real issue which resulted in the plight of the Palestinian refugees. It is a matter of gratitude that since the Deir Yaseen massacre, Americans are getting more reliable information. The American Council for Judaism, through the Jewish newsletter and other agencies, are bravely countering Zionist propaganda.

Is it any wonder that the fiercest antagonism in the recent riots was aimed against America and Americans?

The visit to the Jordan capital of Sir Gerald Templer was the spark that set off the revolt against the Iraqi-Turkish Pact. I do not, for a moment, think that the mob understood what they were protesting against. Without any doubt, they were led and paid by communist infiltrators and propoganda, which had been seeping into the Palestinian refugee camps through some of the neighboring countries.

A very natural cause for the sudden outburst this year is that after a long drought, this country has had a copious rainfall. To these tillers of the soil, early rain means ploughing. These unhappy people have not one inch of land to plough and they gnashed their teeth with resentment.

They are huddled into enormous camps regardless of ancient family feuds, even blood feuds and had come to the end of endurance.

The climax came before Christmas, when mobs of youths and girls, even small school children surged the streets — true to the communist pattern which puts children into the forefront. Twice they attacked the American Consulate. They headed for the Turkish Consulate, but got hold by mistake, of the French doctor. The mob, which I estimated to be about 2000, passed the American Colony. They threw stones and 101 window panes were broken. An encouraging fact is that the mob divided. Half tried to protect us while the other half were determined to throw stones. Excitement and frenzy possessed them. We got off lightly.

I kept the Clinic open and dealt with several casualties. We harbored the French doctor, his wife, children and nurse, as well as the American Consul and his family.

Other American institutions fared badly. The excellent Mennonite Relief Work in Jericho was destroyed. The Baptist Hospital in Ajloun, east of the Jordan river, was attacked. Dr. Lovegreen was operating at the time and did not stop. Not one of the staff left during the attack. But the new buildings outside the compound were destroyed. The American Tuberculosis hospital on the road to Hebron was attacked, stoned and the doctor's household belongings looted. However, they were all returned. The staff stood at their post all through. America can well be proud of its representatives in Palestine.

UNRWA stores in several places were burnt and looted. Point IV suffered damage. After days of anxiety martial law was declared. Everything is quiet now, and conditions are returning to normal.

This is a severe lesson. Unless America and Britain agree on a policy and bring pressure to bear so that the United Nations enforce the resolution voted on and unanimously passed, which corrected the cruel division of Palestine, compensated the Palestinian refugees and recommended the internationalization of Jerusalem, they might just as well realize that they have forfeited the friendship of the whole Arab Middle East.

Signed,
Bertha Spafford Vester

SPAFFORD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ANNUAL REPORT 1955

STAFF

Matron, Four Staff Nurses, Ten Pupil Nurses, Doctor in Charge, Assistant Doctor, Two ward maids, One cook, Three Washer women, Man of all work.

Six hundred and twenty three children passed through the Spafford Children's Hospital from January 1 to December 31, 1955, ranging in age from birth to fourteen years. This is an increase of more than two hundred over last year, and represents 9815 hospitalization days. 575 were dismissed cured and 48 died of various maladies. Malnutrition, Tuberculosis, Gastro-Enteritis, Anaemia and Broncho-Pneumonia being the most prevalent; there are many more.

Forty one major and thirty five minor operations were performed, successfully.

The formal opening of the unique (for Jordan) and well equipped operating theatre took place under sensational conditions. The day fixed for the ceremony commemorated the 74th anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Spafford and their associates founding the American Colony in the house that has now become a memorial to the ministry of service they started then.

Just before the dedication took place, two children arrived in urgent need of appendectomy. The operation could not be postponed. While Canon Every of St. George's Cathedral offered prayers dedicating the new addition to God, these children were being operated on.

The solemnity of the occasion was increased by what was taking place on the other side of the wall.

OUR GREAT NEED

To diagnose properly an X-Ray Unit is indispensable and we ordered a small machine, hoping it would suffice.

Great economy had to be exercised in equipping the new part and, in this instance, we were too economical. The X-Ray Unit arrived and was installed, but proved inadequate. The importers agreed to take it back and we lost nothing in the transaction. The machine we need is a Gempcon "200" M.A. X-Ray Unit fitted also for superficial Therapy treatment and will cost \$8,227.50. We have \$2,375.00 toward that sum.

I am hoping and praying that some kind friends will supply this great need.

THE AMERICAN COLONY AID ASSOCIATION, JERUSALEM
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1955

	<i>JD.fils</i>	<i>JD.fils</i>	
R E C E I P T S			
<i>DONATIONS THROUGH TREASURER, JERUSALEM</i>			
William Volker's Fund	875.000		
Arabian American Oil Co.	739.535		
Readers Digest Foundation	720.000		
Sundry Donations	1,690.905		
Special Donations	<u>522.710</u>	4,548.150	
 <i>DONATIONS THROUGH THE AMERICAN CHARITIES ASSOCIATION, INC., NEW YORK</i>			
		9,464.220	
<i>BAZAAR</i>			
Proceeds	121.620		
Less -- Expenses	<u>32.855</u>	88.765	
<i>CLINIC</i>			
Donations	6.120		
Fees	1,143.275		
Sundries	<u>550</u>	1,149.945	
 <i>SPAFFORD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL</i>			
Donations	204.790		
Fees	111.125		
Sundries	<u>13.995</u>	329.910	
 <i>INFANT WELFARE CENTRE</i>			
Donations	9.000		
Fees	516.825	525.825	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>\$16,106.815</u>	
 <i>BALANCE, as at the 1st January 1955, being:</i>			
Cash at Barclay's Bank (D.C.&O.) Jerusalem, Israel (Frozen)	216.648		
Cash at Ottoman Bank, Jerusalem - Jordan	1.450		
Cash in Hand	<u>27.149</u>	245.247	
		<u><u>JD. 16,352.062</u></u>	

JERUSALEM, 20th January 1956.

We have examined the above Receipts and Payments Account with the books and documents relating thereto and certify it to be correct in accordance therewith.

	<i>JD.fils</i>	<i>JD.fils</i>	
P A Y M E N T S			
<i>PAYMENTS FOR GENERAL PURPOSES</i>			
Salaries	506.500		
Postages and Telegrams	75.565		
Printing and Stationery	58.840		
Car Expenses	294.565		
Travelling Expenses (Mrs. Vester's)	404.500		
Help to Needy Persons	27.500		
Sundries	<u>40.940</u>	1,408.410	
 <i>PAYMENTS TO ARAB NATIONAL HOSPITAL, BETHLEHEM -- BEIT-JALA</i>			
<i>LOAN FROM AMERICAN COLONY HOTELS LTD., REPAID</i>			600.00
 <i>CLINIC</i>			
Salaries and Wages	977.010		
Medicines	805.115		
Rent	228.000		
Light and Water	7.590		
Printing and Stationery	15.600		
Equipment, Repairs and Maintenance	75.855		
Sundries	<u>100</u>	2,109.270	
 <i>SPAFFORD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL</i>			
Salaries and Wages	3,115.168		
Food	979.365		
Medicines	349.005		
Light and Water	205.850		
Heating	348.820		
Telephone	24.900		
Furniture, Equipment, Repairs and Maintenance	2,354.595		
Building	200.000		
Sundries	<u>26.310</u>	7,604.013	
 <i>INFANT WELFARE CENTRE</i>			
Salaries and Wages	1,350.237		
Medicines	192.495		
Equipment, Repairs and Maintenance	42.720		
Sundries	<u>460</u>	1,585.912	
TOTAL PAYMENTS		<u>\$13,405.800</u>	
 <i>BALANCE, as at the 31st December 1955, being:</i>			
Cash at Barclay's Bank (D.C.&O.) Jerusalem, Israel (Frozen)	216.648		
Cash at Ottoman Bank, Jerusalem - Jordan	1,450		
Cash in Hand	<u>2,728.164</u>	2,946.262	
		<u><u>JD. 16,352.062</u></u>	

CHARTERED ACCOUNTS
HONORARY AUDITORS: RUSSELL & CO.

INFANT WELFARE CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT 1955

STAFF

Matron, One Assistant, One Visiting Nurse, One Cleaner, Doctor in Charge Assistant Doctor.

Six hundred and twenty nine (629) children were registered in the Infant Welfare Center during 1955. A notable advance is the fact that we have succeeded in convincing mothers that they must bring their babies regularly to the Center and not wait until they are sick.

Consequently 22,028 visits were paid by mothers bringing their babies.

4893 were seen by the doctors and 211 were admitted to the Spafford Children's Hospital.

Our home visiting nurse paid 2067 visits to homes. This is an important part of the work. She checks upon what is being done at home and inspires more cooperation.

A second visiting nurse would be an asset.

The majority of children suffer from malnutrition. Test feeds of nursing mothers are made and supplementary feeding supplied.

2499 portions of milk were given to these children and much more could be given if we had the means.

An encouraging feature is that 322 mothers attended cooking classes in the preparation of babies food. 147 mothers attended sewing classes. Many of them are expectant mothers and they receive the layette after making it.

OUT PATIENT CLINIC

ANNUAL REPORT 1955

STAFF

Matron, One Staff Nurse, One Assistant, One Cleaner, Two volunteers, Door keeper and chauffeur.

During 1955, 39,636 patients were attended to in the Out Patient Clinic of the American Colony Aid Association.

8163 patients were seen by our two doctors and 3544 treatments were given.

1930 eye cases were treated. Serious eye trouble is referred to the Ophthalmic Hospital of the Order of St. John.

3169 injections of Penicillin, Liver extract etc. and 241 intravenous injections were given.

Malaria is again prevalent, although it had vertically been stamped out. Tuberculosis is on the increase, due to malnutrition to such a degree that it is frightening.

Each year mention is made of having no hospital accommodation for the adult destitute sick. 228 patients were sent from our Clinic to the Arab National Hospital in Bethlehem, over 17 kilometers of tortuous road.

The Augusta Victoria Hospital can only accept accredited refugees, but there are many other miserably poor who have been rendered homeless by the division of Palestine and who are worse off than official refugees. What happens to them? No record is kept of their misery, heartache and death.

Refugees are admitted to our Clinic whenever possible, and 5749 of our patients were official refugees in 1955.

67 minor operations were performed in the Clinic.

I wish I had time and space to give particulars.

PLEASURE OF THIS LIFE AND COMPENSATION

IN THE NEXT

by

Mr. Yousef Hanna, Editor of Ad-Difaa
Newspaper

(Article appeared on Nov. 8, 1955)

Yesterday I spent over an hour in one of the abodes of mercy. There one feels even for a short time, that one is separated from a world where people are monopolized with politics, where men's minds

have become impregnated with evil; evil that creates hell on earth, where innocent children are the fuel.

Yesterday, the venerable Mrs. Vester invited me to visit the house where her parents started the work among the destitute of the Holy City, seventy four years ago. This house is now the Spafford Children's Hospital. The hospital is supported by her and by contributions.

I was indeed astonished to see this Institution. It is unique in the East. It is fully equipped with medical and surgical appliances, but is for children only. Dr. Mahmoud Dajani works in this hospital. He confirmed these facts.

In this hospital I saw children who have lost their eyesight from lack of food. I saw children who were emaciated in body, gnawed by hunger until they resembled wood corrupted by termites. Medical care and sufficient food are given these children, but especially it is the love and sympathy of this venerable lady, who in spite of being eighty, still continues the work she believes in. It is her joy in this life and her hope of recompense in the next.

This esteemed lady said to me: "And we received a girl whose body was wracked with tuberculosis. She looked utterly forsaken like a wall in a ruined house which is a common sight these days. "She continued, "Dr. Dajani told me that her cure would be costly, and how could we meet the cost for one patient when we had about four thousand every month. I withdrew to my room, "said this venerable lady, "to be alone with God. I offered Him a fervent prayer that He would help me to save the girl's life." Dr. Dajani completed the story. "After a short time, I picked up the telephone and heard the venerable lady speaking."

"God has answered my prayer," she said, "I have received enough money so you can begin your work in the name of God." Since then the girl has gone away cured.

How can we tell what this woman can do? God destroyed Lot's city because there was not found five righteous souls to save it. Perhaps this righteous woman and other pious men and women may be the salvation of the West and prevent total destruction.

AMERICAN COLONY CHARITIES ASSOCIATION, INC.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year: January 1, 1955 to December 31, 1955

BALANCE ON HAND — January 1, 1955\$18,451.13

RECEIPTS

Contributions:

Boston, Mass.	\$ 160.00
Buffalo, N. Y.	65.00
California	6,496.00
Connecticut	188.00
Detroit, Mich.	225.00
Illinois (Chicago and Oak Park)	920.00
Indianapolis, Ind.	250.00
Massachusetts	80.00
Michigan	1,135.00
Minneapolis, Minn.	400.00
Montclair, N. J.	877.00
New Jersey (Orange and Princeton)	447.00
New York	3,030.00
Pennsylvania	250.00
Rochester, N. Y.	210.00
Texas	823.61
Utica, N. Y.	225.00
Miscellaneous	15,456.00
Total Contributions	<u>\$31,237.61</u>

Refunds:

Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick — "Look Applauds"	13.10
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Exchanges:

Bernice Powers	<u>16.80</u>
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Total Receipts	<u>\$31,267.51</u>
Total Balance and Receipts	<u>\$49,718.64</u>
DISBURSEMENTS — Schedule	<u>\$40,223.33</u>
BALANCE ON HAND — December 31, 1955	<u><u>\$ 9,495.31</u></u>

AMERICAN COLONY CHARITIES ASSOCIATION, INC.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year: January 1, 1955 to December 31, 1955

DISBURSEMENTS

Remittances to American Colony Aid Association - Jerusalem	\$21,000.00
Drugs, etc.:	
Dr. Mahmoud Dajani	8,000.00
Surgical Instruments (funds donated by Ford Foundation)	5,500.00
Travel Expenses (Mrs. Bertha Spafford Vester)	1,325.00
Secretary — Stenographic and Clerical Services	318.88
Stationery — Berkshire Press	619.00
Stillman Associates	8.10
Postage	97.00
Auditing Services	325.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	<u>13.55</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$37,206.53</u>

Exchanges:

Bernice Powers	<u>\$ 16.80</u>
Automobile (donated by Mrs. Richard H. Dougherty)	<u>\$ 3,000.00</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$40,223.33</u>

MRS. FREDERICK W. LONGFELLOW
Treasurer
178 East 70 Street
New York 21, N. Y.

C. LAWRENCE FLYNN
Certified Public Accountant
488 Madison Avenue
New York
Tel.: COrtlandt 7-6347

Member of the New York Bar

January 30, 1956

The Board of Directors
American Colony Charities Association, Inc.
Mrs. Frederick W. Longfellow, Treasurer
178 East 70th Street
New York 21, New York

Gentlemen:

I have examined the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements of American Colony Charities Association, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 1955, have reviewed the accounting procedures of the Association and have examined accounting records and other supporting evidence, by methods and to the extent I deemed appropriate.

In my opinion the accompanying Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements presents fairly the cash receipts and disbursements of the American Colony Charities Association, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 1955 and the balance of cash on hand at that date, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Respectfully,

C. LAWRENCE FLYNN
Certified Public Accountant
State of New York
State of New Jersey