

SANADAK Arabia

September 19, 2021

The Lord placed a desire on my heart to serve the cause of the most vulnerable children; the orphans and the oppressed. Driven by this vision, I decided in 2015 through prayers and the support of my husband and children to quit my job as an architect and to dedicate myself to serving the orphans following my desire and the Lord's calling for me.

I shared my calling with my church, Al Raja Church in Amman and with Rev. David Rihani, the head of the Assemblies of God Church in Jordan and I was fully supported by all. Rev. Rihani requested me to put my vision into writing.

I detailed my vision and the calling I felt the Lord had chosen me for and I sent an email to Rev. Rihani. He received it while he was in a meeting about refugees in Malta with Gordon Showell-Rogers (WEA Associate Secretary General). They discussed my letter and decided to arrange for me to attend the first World Without Orphan (WWO) Global Forum in Chiang Mai, Thailand in February 2016. The following week I found myself on an airplane to Chiang Mai. I met with leaders and I was introduced to a network of believers who are making a difference in the lives of orphaned and vulnerable children around the globe. I felt inspired.

During the meeting, the Lord led me to meet Mrs. Jodi Tucker. We had a wonderful discussion and Jodi accepted my invitation to visit us in Jordan in June 2017.

Back in Jordan, I met with a devoted team of believers who wanted to work with vulnerable children. We launched **Beit Al Mahabeh "House of Love"** to serve orphans in Jordan through our churches.

I was asked by Mrs. Jodi Tucker to be the coordinator for Orphan Sunday in Jordan. In November 2017, we organized the first observance of Orphan Sunday in Jordan with a group of local evangelical churches and churches of different denominations.

As a declaration of our partnership and union with Orphan Sunday International, we changed our name to **"Ahad Al Aytam" (Orphan Sunday Jordan)**.

The following year, the observance of Orphan Sunday expanded to include other evangelical and cross-denominational churches. Churches in Egypt also participated in this day for the first time.

In 2019, our service was blessed abundantly as we reached Syria, in addition to Egypt. This was a sign from the Lord to reach out to the rest of the Middle East and we decided to change the name to **"Ahad Al Aytam Arabia" (Orphan Sunday Arabia)**. In July, we launched our first website www.orphansundayarabia.org. It was the first website in Arabic language to serve Orphans through the church. In addition, we used social media to raise awareness on Facebook and Instagram to the Arabic speaking countries.

As a result, in 2020 the number of participating countries, in addition to Jordan, Syria and Egypt increased to include Iraq, South Sudan, Uganda (for Sudanese children), Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates with significant participation from other denominations like Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Syrian Orthodox, and Episcopal Churches. We also assigned a trained coordinator in each country.

We have since built ties with Christian children care-centers in Jordan, and have formed partnerships with centers that specialize in cognitive and medical care. We held specialized training programs for workers in orphan care-centers and Sunday schools, in partnership with local specialized institutions and with LAMB International, a capacity-building network.

Our devoted teams in Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Uganda are currently caring for families with orphans and children with behavioral problems. Our intervention is aimed at preventing these kids from being removed from their homes by the government.

We are currently working to establish day care centers in each country to directly reach children to empower them spiritually, psychologically, and academically, and to provide medical assistance if necessary.

Our services have benefited children during the Corona crisis. With the Lord's blessing, we have reached the most vulnerable children in the Middle East and brought awareness to their needs. Most of the service work that we have focused on was raising the academic level of the targeted children directly by providing teachers and professionals and indirectly by providing training courses empowering those in charge of caring for children in orphan centers. In addition to that, we managed to prevent some kids from being out of school by providing financial support.

In early 2021, and for several reasons, one of them is the ministry is a local ministry for the Arab countries, the board decided to change the name to "SANADAK". The name is based on the Arabic word SANAD which means "SUPPORT". SANADAK is more personalized meaning "WE ARE YOUR SUPPORT". The new website is <http://www.sanadak.org>, and facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/SANADAK.Arabia>

SANADAK Arabia is administered through a council of four qualified servants of God and a devoted qualified team of representatives in the Middle Eastern countries we serve.

Nisreen Hawatmeh

Managing Director/Founder

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