

Dr. Khoury is a well known and much revered Christian Palestinian physician in the Middle East and especially in Jerusalem. After finishing college, Dr. Khoury attended medical school at the Ecole Jesuite in Beirut, Lebanon in 1945. A year later he studied general surgery at the Royal College of Surgery in Edinburgh and London. He then spent a year and a half studying at the Institute of Urology in London. In 1986, Dr. Khoury became the Director of St. Joseph's Hospital in Jerusalem and resides there with his wife and four children.

1. Dr. Khoury, can you describe what it is like being a Christian physician, working in a Catholic hospital in a non-Christian country?

I am quite content being a Christian and working in a Catholic hospital serving Christians and non-Christians alike. I'm especially happy to help the many non-Christians whom I have gotten to know over these many years, many of whom have been under my medical care. In medicine, religion plays no favorites.

2. What is the greatest obstacle that you face in delivering quality medical care to anyone who needs it?

Generally speaking, the greatest obstacle seems to be in the area of updating our medical equipment with new machines and new technology so that we can better diagnosis our patients and at the same time provide them with new and improved medical treatment.

3. Do the other local hospitals like Hadassah, etc. take referrals from you?

Generally speaking they do, but like anything else these transactions have to be properly organized. Contacts are always within the personal sphere and referrals are always done by the physicians themselves.

4. Is it difficult to recruit good doctors for the hospital?

No, it is not difficult to recruit good doctors but the choice of 'good' physicians is unfortunately restricted both in numbers and in technological experience.

5. Do you have volunteer physicians that come to help?

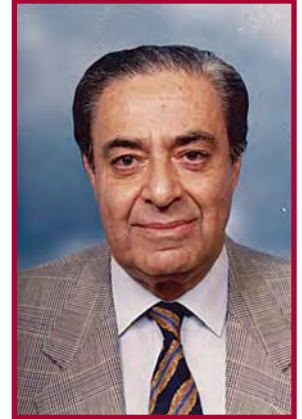
On occasion we do accept physicians from other countries who stay for 3-6 months. It also depends on how much funding the hospital can lay out for their stay with us. Many times we ask other charitable institutes to assist the hospital financially to make up any deficits. In any case, we are always open to competent and dedicated physicians.

6. How do you feel about the Palestinians that are living in the territories and are unable to reach a hospital for medical emergencies?

I feel a bit depressed about it because every time I am approached by someone living in the territories or the West Bank wishing to come to our hospital for treatment they have to first obtain a preliminary paper from us stating that we accept them. Then they have to go the military authorities asking for a permit for them to pass into Jerusalem. Some get the permits while others do not and it has had some horrific consequences for those needing emergency medical assistance.

7. What about the future generations of physicians--are there any opportunities for young scholars to follow in your footsteps?

I am sure there will be some opportunities for new physicians but not many for future Palestinian Christian physicians who tend to study in other parts of the world and generally do not come back to the Holy Land. We also have to remember that many Christian families left the country in 1948 leaving a void. Let us always remember that Christians have always been a minority within a minority.



(continued from page 10)

Tony Loyd, Mr. & Mrs. Carter Hofmeister, and Mr. & Mrs. Keenan Hauke.

Fr. Peter Vasko, President of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land closed the evening saying, "Because of you and like-minded Catholics and Christians around this great country of America, your generosity has given and will continue to give hope to the young Christians for their future in the Holy Land."

"Lastly, I would ask that each of you continue to pray for the conflict in the Holy Land and its surrounding region and especially for those innocent lives that were taken in the last conflict in Lebanon. As Christians we must be voices of moderation and mediation for others. It will only be through justice, peace, and security that we will eventually see a change in that land. Pray that one day, that reality will come true. In the meantime, let us always be God's instruments of peace, joy, and hope to others and especially to our Christians who are so often forgotten."



Fr. Peter shares his love for the Holy Land with a guest from the dinner.