

PURE RELIGION

A New Vision

Dr. Deaf Ali Husban, director of Mafraq Hospital, eagerly awaited the arrival of Elder and Sister Griffin, short-term specialists for the Church's vision initiative, and Elder and Sister Colson, welfare missionaries in northern Jordan. These two missionary couples were making a follow-up visit to this rural Ministry of Health (MOH) hospital in northeast Jordan to see the impact of recently donated equipment and training.

In 2005, LDS Charities provided the hospital with an operating microscope for eye surgery, and in 2009 additional equipment was donated for treatment of eye disorders. Training was also provided by volunteer LDS ophthalmologists.

Dr. Ali Husban exclaimed what a difference these gifts and training had made for his hospital! He said that the donated equipment and visits from LDS Charities provided encouragement for the hospital. The staff realized that even though they were working in this small facility far from the main MOH hospital in Amman, they could accomplish much more with their new instruments.

One of the ophthalmologists at Mafraq Hospital, Dr. Hussain Ali Jasim, recently performed specialized eye surgery on a 22-year-old university student. It was the first surgery of its kind in any MOH hospital in Jordan, and Dr. Hussain is the only ophthalmologist in Jordan trained to perform the procedure. The surgery created a lot of

publicity for the hospital.

But it was even more exciting for the patient! This young woman had 80% vision loss in both eyes caused by keratoconus, a disease that thins and causes bulging of the central cornea. This made it difficult for her to read and see the blackboard. Following surgery, she regained 95% of her vision in the eye operated on. She is awaiting surgery on her other eye. Her grateful father sent a beautiful flower arrangement and card to the hospital thanking the staff and proclaiming, "It is a gift from God."



When Dr. Hussain performed a second corneal surgery on another young woman, Elder Griffin, an ophthalmologist by profession, was able to scrub in and observe. He was pleased to see firsthand how the donations from LDS Charities had contributed to a new level of success for this hospital. The benefits to patients can be life changing.

Because of the attention these eye surgeries brought to the hospital, Jordan's minister of health called Dr. Ali Husban to congratulate him on providing such an advanced procedure at Mafraq. He promised them a new operating microscope, making way for further advances in treating patients.

Dr. Ali Husban repeatedly expressed gratitude for the help provided by the Church, declaring that LDS Charities has given the hospital and its ophthalmologists a new vision of what they can accomplish.



Dr. Hussain performing corneal surgery using the microscope donated by LDS Charities



Dr. Griffin and Dr. Hussain



Dr. Ali Husban with floral arrangement sent by patient's father