



A DAY OF JOY!

Though rain was in the forecast, October 23rd turned out to be a perfect autumn day. The cloudless sky was bright blue and there was a hint of fall in the air. Approximately 400 believers representing all the evangelical denominations of Jordan gathered on the new but uncompleted campus of JETS to praise God and celebrate a DAY OF JOY. The Jordan Board of Trustees wanted to mark a special day to celebrate a "new beginning" for JETS.

A committee of Trustees and key members of the staff had prayerfully crafted the day and invitations were sent to the churches throughout Jordan. The heads of all the evangelical churches were present, and some congregations even sent bus loads of members. The Trustees sat as a group on the front rows of the makeshift chapel where one day the reception area in the Academic building will be located. The students and staff looked sharp in new navy blue tee shirts with JETS in white letters on the back. They proudly served as hosts and ushers to the guests. Bright carpets with Arabic patterns covered the floors and pathways around the buildings still under construction. The colorful mood of the audience matched the bright surroundings.

The program consisted of live and videotaped testimonies from graduates from various countries of the Arab world. It was interspersed with beautiful hymns and choruses led by gifted worship leader and singer, Issa Kabar. The highlight was an address by Dr. Imad Shehadeh, Founder and President. In a PowerPoint presentation he shared the vision of JETS from its founding. With photographs and charts he visualized its history and development to the present day. He also described the painful difficulties that JETS has recently faced and how God is overcoming these through prayer and perseverance. The audience was deeply moved as they listened attentively and responded positively to his openness and honesty. He challenged the attendees to see Jesus and what He was doing, and to see the "Tsunami" of events that happened to JETS in the past year and a half as an opportunity designed by Him to be cleansed for a stronger future, to be united in a joint venture, and to adopt a bigger vision. There were a lot of tears and expressions of amazement and support. Faith, hope and love were virtues fully evident throughout the day in both the audience and the JETS administration, faculty, staff, students and trustees.

This meeting of likeminded believers ended on a high note with an unprecedented offering taken for JETS. 34,278 Jordanian Dinars (\$48,416.00) was received along with pledges of 600 JD (\$847.45) per month. This was definitely a vote of confidence in the ongoing ministry of JETS. This DAY OF JOY brought blessings above all that we could ever ask or think.

The future of JETS is as bright as the promises of God.

