



INCREASE THE PEACE

An extraordinary union of people from all spiritual backgrounds is fighting for peace in the Middle East, proving that even in the worst war-torn reaches of the West Bank humanity can prevail. Photographer Angela Catlin **and journalist** Billy Briggs **uncover a story of hope**

In December, 2008, award-winning photographer Angela Catlin and journalist Billy Briggs visited Israel and the West Bank to document the work of remarkable peace initiatives for a major international festival to be held in Edinburgh.

While much reporting from the region often focuses on the negative, amidst the political turmoil there is extraordinary

Child's play
This infant is a Bedouin Arab in the desert near Jericho. The Bedouin Arabs are Israeli citizens but are among the most marginalised groups in society.

co-operation between people from all spiritual backgrounds working towards peace, mutual understanding and reconciliation.

Rabbis work with Palestinians, and in a unique village called Neve Shalom Arabs and Jews have lived peacefully together for 30 years. In the northern Israeli city of Haifa, the Catholic Church aids people from every community and at weekends

Jewish doctors forego time off to travel to the West Bank and Gaza to treat Palestinians.

Since 1863, the Church of Scotland has run a school for Christian, Jewish and Muslim pupils in Jaffa and in one of the poorest neighbourhoods of East Jerusalem, called Beit Hanina, Muslim girls receive education at a school set up by a Christian. →

On these pages are examples of peace projects in the region which a current exhibition aims to cast light on.

Briggs, a journalist whose work has been recognised by Amnesty International and the EU, said: "As a reporter I've travelled in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza and on many occasions witnessed the darker side of human nature."

"The media tends to ignore the positive, so much of the good work at grassroots level to promote peace is missed. The people I met were outstanding individuals who look beyond the labels society attaches to groups. They are often exposed to great danger but ignore the risks to carry on with their efforts."

Peacemakers of Israel/Palestine runs at Out of the Blue Drill Hall, Dalmeny Street, Edinburgh
Tel. 0131 555 7100
www.outoftheblue.org.uk



Holy city
A view of the Old City of Jerusalem and the magnificent Al Aqsa Mosque.



Reaching out
Sister Marie Joseph holds the hand of a child at The House of the Sacred Heart in the northern Israeli town of Haifa. The institution is a school and medical facility that offers specialised care and treatment for mentally disabled children from all over the country.



A stitch in time
A Palestinian woman at an embroidery centre in Bethlehem run by a charity called the Arab Women's Union. The project is supported by the Church of Scotland and aids around 100 local people who produce traditional designs and crafts to be sold around the world.



Study buddies
Muslim girls from one of the poorest neighbourhoods of East Jerusalem called Beit Hanina receive a subsidised education at The Future School. The institution was set up in 2006 by an Arab Christian called Abed Haiek who recognised the urgent need for schooling in a marginalised area of the city. Left, Dua Dabbag 14 and friend Nadeen Liftawi, 13, share a joke in class.

Look on the bright side
Reverend John Cubie, from Glasgow, at St Andrew's Church, which overlooks Mount Zion and the Old City of Jerusalem. The Church of Scotland works to promote peace and mutual understanding in the region and has run a school in Jaffa for Christian, Jewish and Muslim pupils since 1863. The Church of Scotland also supports an embroidery centre in Bethlehem run by a charity called the Arab Women's Union. It aids around 100 local people who produce traditional designs and crafts to be sold around the world. St. Andrew's also has a shop selling the work that the women produce.



Building bridges
Zionist Rabbi Yehiel Grenimann stands alongside his Arab friend Fakhri Abu Diad in Jerusalem. These men work together to promote peace and mutual understanding and support in a part of the city called Silwan.

All we hear is Radio Gaza
Ran Edelist is a journalist at a radio station called All for Peace which broadcasts to the nation from Jerusalem. "Our principles are to stay alive and to try and bring to an understanding in both Israeli and Palestinian communities that there is no other way than to co-exist peacefully."

