



July 09

Who's Lovin' You?

On the 7 July 2009, a 12 year old from Swansea shared the stage with stars such as Mariah Carey, Lionel Ritchie and Stevie Wonder as millions of people around the world watched on.

Shaheen Jafargholi was invited to sing at Michael Jackson's memorial service, after the star saw his audition tape for the Thriller Live Tour and taking part in Britain's Got Talent where he sang the Jackson 5 hit *Who's Lovin' You?*

He had originally been asked to perform with Jackson in his series of concerts which were due to take place in London this summer, as the star recognised his talent and was keen to work with him. Sadly this was not to be, but it is clear that Shaheen now has an exciting journey ahead of him, after the opportunity offered to him by Jackson and his family.

Shaheen got his big break by others giving him a chance, and the Jesuit Brothers' Association in El Minya, Upper Egypt, aim to do something similar – giving people with disabilities the chance to have a better future. They offer them the opportunity to become active members of their society, where previously they had been disadvantaged, isolated and excluded from the government education system.

In the 1970s the Jesuit Brothers developed land which they had bought in 1886. They built workshops, a library and also developed a school for children and young adults with learning difficulties, along with a residential Vocational Training Centre for those with a disability. BibleLands has supported the Vocational Training Centre with a regular grant since 2003.

The Jesuit Brothers actively seek out each student, and arrange with their parents for them to join the 2-year education and vocational training programme. The centre teaches a whole range of vocational skills, from woodwork and gardening through to sewing and shoe making. At the end of the course each student is then encouraged and helped to find a job relating to their studies.

Without the Jesuit Brothers' Association, these students would doubtless be left in a helpless, hopeless situation – often neglected, often abused, and with no opportunity to explore and show what they are capable of.