



NEWSLETTER

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

August 2011

Peace to you in the name of the Lord

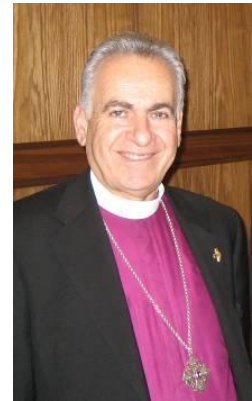
Greetings from Bishop Suheil Dawani

Dear Friends,

The theme of our work and the mission of our Diocese is 'faith in action', we continue serving the needs of the most needy and vulnerable in our communities; as we believe that actions speak louder than words.

Work continues on the two healthcare projects in the West Bank, as construction is almost done at the Anglican Diabetes Clinic, and the new ventilator at St. Luke's Hospital has been installed and is now functioning. We are very grateful for the support we have received so far.

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank you all for your faithful support of the Diocese and its work.



+ Suheil Dawani

August 16, 2011

Bishop hosts farewell reception for Edmunds

15 July 2011 – Bishop Dawani hosted a farewell reception for the Rev. Canon Robert and Deborah Edmunds as they prepare to move home on 19 August after three years of service on the Bishop's staff in Jerusalem.

At a reception and dinner following a special Evensong in the Cathedral, Bishop Dawani warmly welcomed British Consul General Sir Vincent and Lady Fean and American Consul General Representative Matthew Welch, as well as Patriarchs and church leaders, staff and friends. He expressed his deep appreciation for Canon Edmunds' service as his Chaplain and Canon Pastor to the English speaking congregation and to Deborah for her work as his Executive Secretary and her support of the diocesan women's ministries. He highlighted their dedication and faithful spirit in their work for the Diocese of Jerusalem, saying "Bob and Debbie show not only love and concern toward the people of this Diocese and others in this region, but they were truly honest and faithfully servants. They were sensitive to the difficult circumstances we face as Christians in this land... I have no doubt that both of them will be good ambassadors not only to this Diocese but also to the people of Jerusalem. They will carry with them our pains as well as our hopes and aspirations for a just and genuine peace in this land." He closed by noting that they would carry the Church and the people of his land in their hearts in their lives and Canon Edmunds new position with the Episcopal Church where he will serve as the Middle East Partnership Officer.

Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

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Editor: The Rt Revd Bishop Suheil S.Dawani

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Church leaders honoring Canon Edmunds with their presence were His Beatitude Theophilos III, Greek Patriarch and Bishop of Jerusalem, Bishop William Shomali, representing the Latin Patriarch His Beatitude Msgr. Fuad Twal, Archbishop Aris Shirvanian and Father Goossan Aljanian, representing the Armenian Patriarch His Beatitude Archbishop Torkon Manoogian, and His Grace Dr. Anba Abraham, Archbishop and Coptic Patriarch. His Beatitude Theophilos III presented Canon Edmunds with a gift of a traditional Orthodox cross for spiritual advisors and expressed his warm gratitude for Canon Edmunds' service as Secretary to the Heads of Churches.

August 24, 2011

St. Andrew's Clinic-Ramallah

August 24, 2011 St. Andrew's Diabetic Center is an essential focus of the healthcare ministries of the Diocese of Jerusalem. The construction of the center is now complete and it is hoped that the needed equipment along with elevators will be installed within the next couple of months.



The main focus of the Diabetic Center is treating the complicated consequences of diabetes among Palestinians, in the form of an outpatient clinic providing comprehensive services. The Center will focus on diagnosing patients, monitoring their diet, blood pressure and heart vessels; in addition to running all the needed tests related to diabetes. The Center will be open to all regardless of faith, especially to those who cannot afford treatment elsewhere. A sliding fee scale will be used in order to allow anyone in need to access quality primary healthcare.

The idea of a Diabetic Center in the West Bank emerged from a great need for many Palestinians especially among Palestinian refugees, as diabetes is growing rapidly in Palestine. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, the number of new registered diabetic patients in the year 2010 reached 2,509, of which 1,370 are females (Palestinian Ministry of Health Annual Report, 2010). In the long run, the Center is keen on raising awareness among Palestinian communities on healthy eating habits and preventive measures against diabetes. Moreover, the Center will contribute to reducing related illnesses resulting from diabetes.

August 22, 2011

New equipments for St. Luke's Hospital

St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus continues to provide general and subspecialty medical and surgical services, intensive care, general and subspecialty outpatient clinics, rehabilitation, obstetrics and neonatal intensive care serving Palestinians in the Northern area of the West Bank. St. Luke's Hospital is keen on enhancing the healthcare of the Palestinian community through upgrading medical and surgical wards with vital equipment. With the support of our donors, the hospital was able to purchase and install new medical devices to improve the Radiology Department, Urology Department and the Neonatal Ward.

A new computerized radiology unit is now functioning with full capacity offering excellent resolution and better quality of x-rays in order to meet urgent needs of patients; while catering to the needs of other patients from the various departments in an efficient and convenient way.

The Urology department, being the only department offering endoscopes in northern West Bank, is very essential for Palestinian communities who cannot access other places for medical attention. In the year 2010; 380 patients were diagnosed with urological diseases. The new cystoscope installed at the Urology department will help women and men patients in diagnosing, managing and treating urological diseases.

St. Luke's Hospital is also focusing on nourishing newborn babies and providing the needed care for their mothers. The new neonatal machine helps babies with respiratory failure or those having problems breathing for the first minute of their lives. On average, 1 to 4 babies per day are diagnosed with respiratory failure. Considering this huge number of babies who are in great need for the ventilator, this new machine is essential for giving a new chance for those helpless angles.



New infusion pumps were also added to the different medical and surgical departments of St. Luke's hospital, helping doctors, nurses and caregivers to regulate IV fluids and medications for patients in accurate doses.

Gratitude and appreciation go to all our partners and donors who help in promoting healthcare for those who are in need.

August 22, 2011



Bishop hosts “Kids for Peace” Iftar Jerusalem, 22 August 2011 – Bishop Dawani hosted an Iftar for leaders and advisers of “Kids4Peace” (K4P) celebrating the Holy month of Ramadan. The event was also attended by Archdeacon Samuel Barhoum and Canon Hosam Naoum of St. Georges Cathedral in Jerusalem.

K4P was initiated and is sponsored by the St. Georges Cathedral since 2001 focusing on shared values of love of God and neighbor which are evident through all the Abrahamic faiths. This is a one academic year program which gives Christian, Moslem and Jewish children and their families an opportunity to have dialogue and better understand each other. Presently, two branches are in place in the Diocese; in

Jerusalem and in the Galilee.

The Bishop addressed the participants highlighting the history, vision and future of K4P, hoping that the good efforts of the leaders of K4P will be continued and more contacts shall take place between the Diocese and all those involved in K4P.



August 22, 2011

Regional Clergy Meeting

Jerusalem, 22 August 2011 – The Clergy from Palestine and Israel of the Anglican Church met on 22 August 2011 as part of their monthly meetings, discussing the issues that concern the Ministry in General and the Parishes’ needs in particular. This is a time for fellowship and prayer with the Bishop and for more efforts by the clergy for the benefit of the child and young people as was one of the major issues on the agenda for the meeting.



August 19, 2011

South India Bishops visit to St. Georges Cathedral

Jerusalem, 19 August 2011 – Bishop Dawani hosted 18 Bishops with their spouses from South India Anglican Church at St. Georges Cathedral. The group is on their pilgrimage tour to the holy land and part of their program, they attended the Evening Song at the St. Georges Cathedral. After the service a reception was held in the guest house garden welcoming the Bishops.



Bishop Dawani made a short history of the Diocese of Jerusalem and its ministries and parishes in the five countries in the Middle East and highlighted the importance of cooperation and exchange between the two churches. The visitors thanked the Bishop's hospitality and extended an invitation to attend their General Synod in 2012.



August 18, 2011

Zababdeh Summer Camp

18-8-2011 Under the supervision of Rev. Nael Abu Rahmoun, Priest at St. Matthew's Church, three summer camps of 300 children were held in the church premises of Zababdeh, Palestine.

Each camp had a different program. The first and the second camp were having the entertaining activities and spirit of fun such as swimming and hiking in addition to the Sunday School lessons related to age factor (Elementary and Junior High). The third camp was for the High School and was aimed at the spiritual part and was concentrating more on Bible Study and discussion circles in addition to swimming and gym.

August 18, 2011

Bishop Dawani hosts Iftar

A week before Ramadan ends, the Diocese of Jerusalem sponsored an Iftar at the Cathedral Guest House garden hosted by Bishop Suheil Dawani accompanied by diocesan Staff and directors of diocesan institutions. The guests were politicians such as Dr. Nabil Sha'at and Mr. Azam el Khateeb, the General Director of the Moslem Awqaf, in addition to doctors, business and civic leaders.



Bishop Suheil Dawani started the ceremony emphasizing the cooperation and respectful relationship between Christians and Muslims in Jordan, Palestine and the Holy Land.

Bishop Dawani emphasized the best symbolic example of humanitarian relations and forgiveness, the “Jesus the son of Mary” Mosque that was recently built in Jordan.

The ceremony ended with a speech from Mr. Azam el Khateeb and Dr. Nabil Sha’at expressing their gratitude to the Bishop and the assembled group for the invitation to this significant interfaith event.

Bishop Dawani Visits Diocesan Camp

August 12, 2011 – Bishop Suheil and Shafeeqa Dawani made a pastoral visit to the diocesan summer camp program at St. Margaret’s Hostel in Nazareth. This year, the Israel-Palestine diocesan camp program focused on the Christian presence and Christian responsibility for social service.

Every year, there are three periods of camp, for the three different groups (age stages) High School, Junior High and Elementary. The camp started with High School youth for 4 days and 5 nights under the supervision of Rev. Hanna Daleh from St. Andrew’s Church in Ramallah. Then the second camp continued with the Junior High youth supervised by Rev. Nael Abu Rahmoun from St. Matthew’s Church, Zebabdeh and the assistance of Rev. Fuad Dagher from St. Paul’s Church, Shefa-Amr. The last period of the camp will start August 15 and ends August 19 with the Elementary group under the supervision of Rev. Fuad Dagher and Rev. Canon Hosam Naoum of St. George’s Cathedral, Jerusalem.



The main aim was establishing a very good Christian base through the Bible sessions that were held every morning and every night in addition to the entertaining programs like gym, hand crafts, indoor and outdoor games. The average presence was 60 to 80 candidates from different parts of Israel and the West Bank. According to Rev. Fuad Dagher “the impression we insist on creating in such events is the opportunity to build up friendships blessed with the spiritual Christianity that lasts through the coming years”.

July 22, 2011

Bishop Lays Foundation Stone for School in Jordan

21 July 2011 - On a trip for Confirmation Sunday at the Church of the Redeemer in Amman, Bishop Dawani laid the foundation stone for a new school in Husn, Jordan. With education for special needs children in great demand in Jordan and with the blessing of the Jordanian government, the Diocese of Jerusalem is expanding its educational outreach to Husn where special education is much needed.

Located near Irbid where the diocesan Arab Evangelical School includes vision impaired students in every classroom, the new school in Husn will follow in the same tradition of inclusivity for vision impaired children. Beginning with a kindergarten, the plan calls for school expansion one grade at a time to assure ongoing education for the students at the school.





August 25, 2011

New academic year at Diocesan Schools in Amman

Mrs. Haifa Najjar, Superintendent of the Ahliyyah School for Girls, the Bishop's School and the Ahliyyah and Bishop's KG, held a meeting at the beginning of the new academic year with family members of the three schools. Mrs. Najjar launched this first meeting by welcoming all and congratulating staff on their personal and professional accomplishments. This meeting hosted His Grace Bishop Suhail Dawani and Mr. Haleem Bashlawi, chief accountant of the Diocese.

The meeting highlighted opportunities for success and achievement. It emphasized that despite the financial limitations facing the diocesan institutions, these institutions possess high performance levels and the passion to reap great success. Mrs. Najjar also stressed the values adopted by the schools, which are the ethical umbrella of their conduct, beginning with humility, giving, and goodness, extending to long life learning, open-mindedness, and embracing diversity.

Mrs. Najjar also addressed major challenges that are to be confronted, and emphasized that good communication, integrity, harmony, and togetherness are our tools to best face them. She added that our schools are institutions of enlightenment that target the local community by large. Our schools have the patience to create a different quality of education. Therefore, the dream of launching the first IB College deemed possible. Moreover, our recent accomplishments at Bishop's are a great source of inspiration for our teachers and institutions.

At the end of the meeting, His Grace Bishop Dawani thanked family members of the schools for their efforts. He particularly thanked Mrs. Najjar, who was able to create such fruitful partnerships among all workers and staff with her patience, vision, and wisdom.

August 24, 2011

Bishop meets HM British Consul-General

Jerusalem, 24 August 2011 – Bishop Dawani met Sir Vincent Fean, HM British Consul-General, in the Bishop's Office. The meeting dealt with the outcomes of the Lambeth Conference titled "the Christians in the Holy Land" and other issues concerning the Christian presence in Jerusalem.

August 25, 2011

Jordan - Finance and Standing Committee Meeting



of the Diocese for the last four months. Property Committees in Jordan, Palestine and Israel presented their reports. Other issues were discussed; among which was the Annual Church Council meeting to take place on November 14th 2011 in Amman – Jordan.

Amman – The third Finance and Standing Committee meeting for 2011 took place at Ramada Hotel in Amman. A comprehensive financial report was submitted by the Chief Accountant, Mr. Halaeem Bashlawi, and which was approved unanimously by the joint council.

The Bishop presented his report covering all the activities



August 24, 2011

Jordan (Amman) – Ramadan Iftar at Schneller School



Amman – In the presence of the Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Suheil Dawani, the Schneller Institution held a Ramadan Iftar on August 24 for Jordanian government officials, Moslem and Christian religious leaders. Among the invitees was the Minister of Municipalities, Mr. Hazem Qashoua and Sheikh Dr. Hamdi Mourad. Dr. Ghazi Musharbash, Director of Schneller School, welcomed the guests and the Bishop addressed the audience emphasizing the co-existence between Moslems and Christians in Jordan under the leadership of his Majesty, King Abdullah II. The Sheikh, Dr. Murad, highlighted the importance of religion in the lives of people and also the strong relationship between Moslems and Christians in Jordan.



More stories and information are available at: www.j-diocese.org Email enquiries to: info@j-diocese.org
Donations may be sent to: The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, PO Box 19122, Jerusalem, 91191



The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, a diocese of the worldwide Anglican Communion, extends over five countries, including Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Israel, within the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. There are 27 parishes that minister to the needs of their communities, centered on the Cathedral Church of St. George the Martyr in Jerusalem. The church supports 33 institutions, which include hospitals, clinics, kindergartens and schools, vocational training programs, as well as institutions for the deaf, the disabled and the elderly, reaching out to interfaith neighbors in mutual respect and cooperation.