



NEWSLETTER

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

October 2011

Peace to you in the name of the Lord

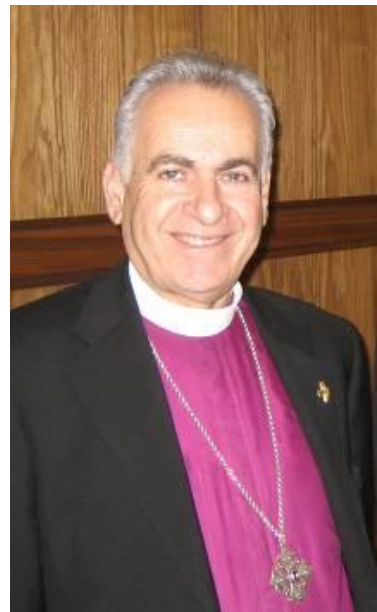
Greetings from Bishop Suheil Dawani

Dear Friends,

October began with our Thanksgiving Sunday and we have continued the month with thanksgiving in our hearts. We have been very busy with visitors and visitations.

We have welcomed friends from around the world, from Hong Kong, Australia, the United States, Germany and many other countries. In our own Diocese, I have visited our schools and our institutions where I have listened to stories of good news in education and hard work.

I give thanks to God for the new Dean of St. George's College, the Revd Dr. Graham Smith, and his wife Sherry, who have arrived from the United States.



Our newsletter this month is full of the good news that encourages us to live gratefully and 'in all things to give thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ'.

+ Suheil Dawani

+ Suheil Dawani

Thanksgiving Sunday



Thanksgiving Sunday at St. George's Cathedral and College was a day of great rejoicing. Our abundant blessings included the induction of our new college Dean – the Revd Graham Smith, with his wife, Sherry, who are recently arrived from Chicago, Illinois. Bishop Suheil welcomed the Smiths and inducted Graham in as Dean of the College during the 10:30 am Family Arabic / English Thanksgiving Service. The service was followed by Coffee Hour in the Guest House Garden and a lovely lunch for the clergy and their families in the new Alumni Dining Room



Farewell to Revd Andreas Maurer-Schneller – Jordan



Bishop Suheil was pleased to give the Revd Andreas Maurer an award at the end of his position as the EMS Liaison secretary for the Middle East. The Revd Maurer has been a great friend of the Theodore Schneller School and has been the executive of the Evangelical Schneller Association (EVS) since 1999. He spent three years living in Israel/Palestine before and during his theology courses in the 1980s. In the 1990s he spent four years as a pastor of the German Speaking Protestant Congregation of Beirut and also was responsible for the congregational members in Syria.

As of 1st of November Andreas Maurer will serve as assistant to the director of Paulinenpflege Winnenden, a deaconical institution with more than 1,200 employees that has relations to institutions in the dioceses.

A New Car for St. George's School, Jerusalem



It is with great pleasure that Bishop Suheil gives the keys of St. George's new vehicle to Headmaster Eid Sader.

The new Peugeot will be used for a variety of responsibilities from transporting teachers to hauling books and large educational materials. It will meet all the transportation needs of the school.

Mr. Sader thanked Bishop Suheil for this wonderful and precious gift.

Visit of Consolation to the mosque in Tub-Zangariyye



It was with a deep sadness that Bishop Suheil traveled to the North this week after the burning of one of the mosques in the village of Tuba-Zangariyye in the Upper Galilee.

The Bishop, with other heads of religion, Patriarch Theopholis III, Chief Rabbinate Ammar went for a visit of solace. They went to console those in the village and to present a common bond under One God.

Bishop Suheil continues his ministry in the Diocese of Jerusalem for conciliation and a just peace.

Bishop Suhail visit to the Christ School in Nazareth



Bishop Suheil visited Christ School Nazareth, last Friday, to celebrate the beginning of the new school year. The Bishop met with the staff and gave thanks for their continued dedication to the children and the school.

The mission of Christ Church School is to provide excellent education in updated modern facilities for all children regardless of religious affiliation in the multi-faith city of Nazareth.

Saviour School Success Stories -Zarka

The Saviour Evangelical School has been working on many projects that are bringing the school and the community together. It is in the stories that our students find inspiration and hope. Here are some of our stories:

1. "For my Mom", this is the motto of a hard working young girl at the High School. As a little girl, her family faced financial and social difficulties. Her mother sold balloons to pay her daughter's school fees and faced considerable hardship. Yet this young woman has worked diligently and done very well, getting the highest grades in her class. This has enabled her to study her subject of main interest at one of our Jordanian Universities. As this young woman says 'I excel at school "For my Mom"'.

2. Our kindergarten has been in need of a playground for quite some time but the price of a playground is very expensive. Although we have been working very hard toward this goal, the dream of actually one day accomplishing this objective has seemed a long way in the future. Through the financial support of the American's Friends, we now have a wonderful playground. It is safe for our students and they are overjoyed.



3. The story of Rama Tamimi, a blind student, is an inspiration to, not only other blind students but also to the whole community. Rama is in the 2nd grade and she has been studying English. During the school play she stood up in front of the whole audience and performed her part fluently in this foreign language. Rama has become a role model for many at her school because it takes a lot of courage to stand up and speak to a large crowd, even in one's own language.



4. Our teachers have been working on many projects that have contributed to the growing cooperation between our schools and communities.



The "Petra" Exhibit was focused on the encouragement of tourism to the Jordan area. The Principle of the Educational Department was impressed and supportive of this idea.

The "Traffic" Project has also had great significance and influence on our students and the community. The school set out the plan for a small city which included all the traffic signs and traffic lights. By detailing the traffic system, it has been a helpful tool in teaching the younger children the rules of the road and how to walk safely in the city. This project was supported by the Traffic Department in Zarqa.

5. The Saviour Evangelical School is always looking for innovative means to support the students in our schools who are in financial need. This particular initiative encourages students to buy used CDs. The proceeds go toward paying the school fees of a child in need. This is one of a number of the pioneer projects for students in financial need.



At The Saviour Evangelical School, we continue with confidence to create new events and activities that will help our schools and communities.

We look forward to sharing many more stories of success in near future.

Ongoing constructions in Irbid-Amman

Bishop Suheil Dawani checked on the progress of the building of the new Kindergarten at St. John the Baptist Church in Husun-Jordan. This Kindergarten will be a great help for the congregation of the church and the working mothers in Husun.



In Irbid – Jordan, at the Arab Episcopal School, a 500 square meter third floor addition is under construction. This will expand the school's capacity to be able to add classes for 6th -10th graders. The Diocesan Council is sponsoring the addition.

Confirmations, Baptisms and Thanksgiving at Irbid

On Sunday 9th October was a very important day for the church of St. Mary's Irbid. It was an occasion of celebration for those who were confirmed, baptized and for those who gave thanks for the gift of children.



Fr Samir writes "The service was wonderful and we were very thankful to have the Bishop with us. All the Christian teachers from school came out to support the students being confirmed, and



many families came to witness and congratulate all the people receiving the various ceremonies the bishop conducted. The church was so full of people that we had to take out extra chairs! "



During the service the Bishop preached on the fruits of the Spirit showing how we can incorporate these into our lives. The Bishop conducted the confirmations, baptisms and two thanksgivings of local families and students from the school. After the service everyone enjoyed Kanafeh (Arabic sweet) in the Meeting Hall and had an opportunity to meet with the Bishop. This was a very special and memorable occasion.

A Visit from BibleLands



Bishop Suheil had the pleasure of meeting with 16 people from BibleLands on Friday, October 14th. Richard Jones and his group, gathered with the Bishop in the Great Hall where they shared their experiences of visiting the Holy Land. The Bishop also shared with them his insights into living in a land steeped in history and his vision of the future. BibleLands is a NGO from the United Kingdom who has been an important supporter of medical and educational services in the Diocese of Jerusalem; giving to St. Andrew's Clinic in Ramallah, Ahli Hospital in Gaza, the Princess Basma

Center in Jerusalem and St. Luke's Centre in Beit Mery in Lebanon , and St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus.

Regional Clergy Meeting in held in Jordan



Clergy of the Anglican Church met on Monday, October 10th, in Jordan. This monthly meeting is spent discussing the issues that concern the overall ministry in the Middle East and also the needs of the local parishes as well.

This gathering is a time for prayer and fellowship with Bishop Suheil and an opportunity to discuss the major concerns that face the diocese.

A Visit to St. Andrew's Church, Ramallah

This past Sunday, October 16th was a lovely day at St. Andrew's Church in Ramallah. The Revd Hanna Daleh welcomed Bishop Suheil, who came to celebrate the Sunday Service and visit with worshippers.



Bishop Suheil met with the Pastor's Committee with whom he discussed the well being of the church. He also shared in the fellowship after service with parishioners and enjoyed some wonderful treats and conversation.



News from Jofeh

The return to work after the summer break was welcomed by both the students and the workers. This new school year has brought some exciting developments in the life of Jofeh Rehabilitation Centre.

Overall there were more students and these included two new classes for the Deaf in the Kindergarten, 4 in Grade 1 and 5 in Grade 2. Two young women and two young men were placed in the workshops. One of the boys is deaf and the other one is intellectually impaired. This work gives these young people the opportunity to develop skills and to become part of a working community.



During the summer there were still visitors and this gave the opportunity to inform many of the work and vision of the Centre. This included a group of General Managers from the Marriott Hotels, young people from Germany and a tour group from BibleLands.

The BibleLands group, Brother Andrew (from HLID) explains the cooling system to the visitors from the Marriott Hotels.



Every year there are more families that have contact with the Centre and to try and assess the success in meeting the needs of the community, a questionnaire was distributed to the families. The information collected will indicate whether needs are being met, whether the teachers and facilities are adequate for the children, and overall satisfaction with the services the Centre is providing. It is not always easy to get people to respond but gradually the information is being gathered.

Jofeh provides a very important service for the people of the Jordan Valley in a district of 13 villages and 60,000 people. It coordinates services from all the local community and is seeking to expand the work by setting up new centers in the future.

Dinner with the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

The American Friends arrived in Jerusalem on Oct. 17th. They have visited the holy sites in Palestine and a number of the places that they help to support through their fundraising efforts. Bishop Suheil and Shafeeqa hosted a dinner on Friday, Oct. 21, for Mrs. Phoebe Griswold, President of AFEDJ and her fellow missionaries. The dinner also included The Revd Canon John Peterson, past Dean of St. George's College, and The Rev. Peter Koon, The General Secretary of the Diocese of Hong Kong.



The Revd Canon John Peterson, Bishop Suheil, and The Rev. Peter Koon, The General Secretary of the Diocese of Hong Kong.

The AFEDJ was established in 1988 as a partnership to help support the Diocese of Jerusalem in its work. AFEDJ is committed to supporting the schools, hospitals and programs of the Diocese of Jerusalem as the foundational work of building presence and building peace. AFEDJ promotes and raises program and infrastructure funds for humanitarian work of the Diocese of Jerusalem and its institutions so it may better serve the needs of all people in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine and Israel. AFEDJ is devoted to equity, respect and human dignity. For information, please see their website at



Mrs. Phoebe Griswold,
President of AFEDJ

www.afedj.org

Mrs. Griswold and the American Friends went to visit St. Andrew's Clinic in Ramallah where they were received by Dr. Hisham Nassar, the medical advisor to Bishop Suheil. The American Friends have been instrumental in raising funds for the Echo Doppler machine which will be vital in the treatment of diabetes and cardio-vascular diseases.

St. Andrew's Clinic will focus the prevention and management of diabetes among the Palestinian population. A Wellness Program, with an emphasis on cardio-vascular health, will be offered. Other services will also be provided to those in need which are not otherwise readily available.

A Visit to the site of the Queen Heleni Project

The Rev. Peter Koon from Hong Kong visited Bishop Suheil at his office on Friday, October 21. The Diocese of Hong Kong is a major supporter of the Queen Heleni Project and. Bishop Suheil took The Rev. Koon and Eileen Read, from AFEDJ to visit the building site on Saturday, Oct. 22. The Queen Heleni Project is a new and exciting venture. Construction is hoping to be underway by January/February 2012.



Sunday at St. George's Cathedral



Sunday, October 23rd at St. George's Cathedral was full to capacity at both the Arabic/English service and the English service. We welcomed friends from around the world. Pilgrims from England, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and other parts of the globe came to worship with us and joined us in the garden for coffee hour.



Bishop Suheil celebrated at the Arabic/English service and the Revd Canon Hosam Naoum preached at both the Arabic/English service and the English service. It is exciting to see the warmth and communion between so many as they gather to worship Our Lord in the city of his Resurrection.

Clergy Meeting in Nazareth



The clergy from the northern part the Diocese met on Monday, Oct. 24th in Nazareth. The clergy meet regularly to discuss the issues pertaining to the needs of their local parishes. This gathering is a time for prayer, reflection and fellowship with Bishop Suheil and an opportunity to discuss the concerns that face ministry in the Diocese of Jerusalem.

A Diocesan visit to the Diocese of Southwell-Nottingham, in the United Kingdom.



With the support of Bishop Suheil Dawani, five people from the diocese of Jerusalem, Hannan Haddad, Laith Abushaar, Deema Dawani, Rana Tanous, Beshara Khoury, led by the Revd Canon Hosam Naoum, visited Southwell Minster and around the diocese of Southwell-Nottingham from 6 to 16 October. The visit was arranged by a group from the Minster, and had the blessing of Bishop Paul Butler and Dean John Guille, who welcomed the group upon their arrival.

The Jerusalem Diocesan group spoke to members of thirteen local churches, and spent a day at the Southwell and Nottingham Diocesan Conference, where Canon Hosam preached at the opening Eucharist and led a workshop after lunch. The group also gave presentations and led discussions at nine local primary and secondary schools. There was much discussion about the importance of justice, reconciliation and peace in the visitors' countries at a well attended public meeting arranged by the Institute for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Nottingham.

The visitors spoke with 3,500 people on their short visit. Awareness was raised about the difficult and tense situation in the Middle East and the role of the church as a bridge builder and peacemaker. In addition the visit reemphasised the already existing link with the diocese of Southwell and the Minster, in the hope of strengthening the companionship towards a formal link between the two dioceses.

The Diocesan Women's Day in Jericho

The Women's Day in Jericho began at 10am with an opening prayer from Bishop Suheil Dawani. Mrs. Shafeeqa Dawani gave her opening remarks to a room full of women from churches from all over the Diocese - Haifa, Nazareth, Ramallah, Reineh, Shafa-amr, Ramla, Nablus, Zababdeh, Kufur Yassif and Jerusalem. These regional workshops focus on the church and our institutions, education and health.



The morning began with a Bible Study (given by Bishop Suheil) on Matthew 25:34 – 40

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.' ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' ³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' ⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Jesus said – ‘Let the children come to me’ and we embrace the children in our schools. Jesus said – ‘Heal the sick’ and we embrace the wounded in our hospitals. This is our role as Christians in the Holy Land, to teach and to heal. It is important that the medical, educational, spiritual aspects are included in all our institutions. And the base from which we work is love, faith and commitment.



The speakers for the day included: Dr. Walid Kerry – St. Luke’s Hospital, Nablus; Haziz Daem- Principal of the Haifa School; and Sr. Najah Rantisi – the Arab Evangelical Episcopal School and the Boys Home.

Fr. Ibrahim Narous led the afternoon discussion on how we can serve our communities and help our institutions. Women are empowered when they are involved in the churches and the church institutions.

A Visit from Bishop Johansson from Gothenburg Cathedral and the Immanuel Gospel Choir



It was our pleasure to have Bishop Johansson and his group from Gothenburg Cathedral in Sweden, visit us on Sunday October 30th. It was an honour to have him share in the liturgy at the 11:00 am service at our Cathedral. Bishop Johansson read the gospel reading (Matthew 24: 1-14- NRSV), administered the bread during communion, and gave the blessing at the end of the service.

We also had the great delight of listening to The Immanuel Gospel Choir from Stockholm, who graciously sang during communion and the postlude as well. Our Sunday service was overflowing with congregants and it was wonderful to hear the glorious sounds of praise and worship in the Cathedral.



One of the highlights of our morning was the presence of, Paula Gilbert, vocal soloist and Dr. Darryl Gilbert on piano. Paula sang the prelude, ‘Jerusalem, Jerusalem’ and a hymn during communion.

Bishop Dawani welcomed Bishop Johansson and the pilgrims, speaking about the Diocese and its institutions and the need to support the Christian presence in the Land of the Holy One.

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.