



NEWSLETTER

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

July 2009

Bishop Suheil attends 76th General Convention; Urges support for Christianity in the Holy Land

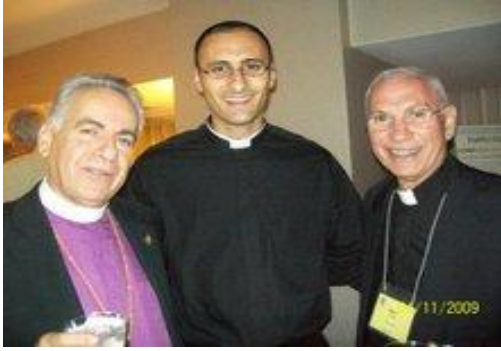
Anaheim, California -- Bishop and Mrs. Dawani were among the special invited guests of the Most Rev'd Katharine Jefferts Schori at the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, which included the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Primates of several Anglican Communion Provinces and Ecumenical and Interfaith dignitaries.



Bishop Suheil spoke at several meetings, including the Coordinating Group of the Jerusalem Diocese Partners, chaired by the Presiding Bishop. At that meeting, Presiding Bishop Katharine presented Bishop Dawani with a generous check coming from the annual Good Friday Offering of the Episcopal Church. She also designated the Partnership Group among her Executive Staff at the Episcopal Church Center (Headquarters) in New York City to coordinate the work of American church partners involved with Jerusalem and its institutions.

During the Episcopal Church Center's luncheon gathering for Bishops and Deputies at the General Convention on the Middle East, Bishop Dawani spoke of the historic continuity of service among the more than 7,000 Anglicans in the Diocese of Jerusalem. The Diocese encompasses five countries in the Middle East, with 28 congregations and 34 institutions in the important areas of education and health care.

"These grassroots institution provide a safety net of necessary social services, especially through our work in providing scholarships and educational opportunity for the young," said Bishop Suheil. "Through these programs we also seek to stem the emigration of the historic Christian community to Western countries, given the complexity and challenges faced in our region. We remain a community of hope, a hopefulness that comes from our Blessed Lord's imperative in St. John's Gospel, "I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly."

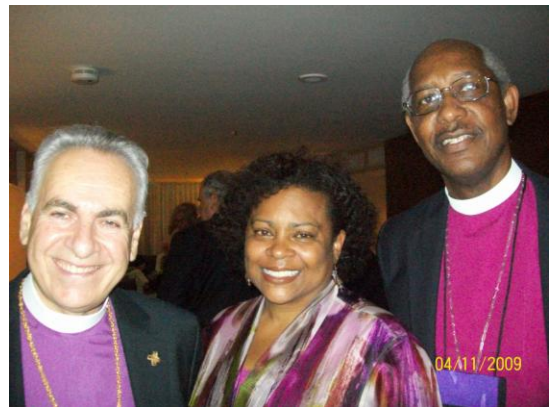


The Dawani's were hosted at a gala reception held by the American Friends of the Diocese of Jerusalem in the Suite of Bishop Jon Bruno. Bishop Dawani then gave an update on the happenings in the Diocese. Mrs. Dawani spoke of the developing lay ministry of the women of the church and the two past conferences that had been held in Amman, the first of its kind in the life of the diocese. On the following day she spoke to the spouses of the 200 Bishops attending the General Convention.

Bishop Dawani met and conferred with the Archbishop and Primate of the Church in Canada, the Most Rev'd Fred J. Hiltz whom the Bishop will welcome to Jerusalem in late August 2009. His Grace will preach at St. George's Cathedral as well as Christ Church in Nazareth.

During the Convention, Bishop Dawani and Shafeeqa held a series of meetings with members of the Convention - both in the House of Bishops and in the House of Deputies relating to the Middle East. They spoke at several events on the life, witness and service of the Diocese of Jerusalem and its 34 Institutions across the five countries it serves. Bishop and Mrs. Dawani accompanied the Primate/Archbishops to a Gala Dinner held at the Presidential Library and Museum of Richard M. Nixon, former President, Vice President, Senator and Congressman.

The General Convention is a Bi-cameral Legislative and Policy Setting Body for the Episcopal Church. It meets every three years, approves the Church's national headquarters and services budget, acts on numerous resolutions relating to the ministry of the Church, and elects an Executive Council to manage the affairs of the Church. The House of Bishops, chaired by the Presiding Bishop includes every Bishop, (diocesan, Suffragan, Assistant and Retired). The House of Deputies, chaired by an elected member of the House, includes delegations of eight members composed of elected Clergy and Laity from every Episcopal Diocese with four alternates in each Order. At the same time, the Episcopal churchwomen from each diocese also meet in their Convention. The House of Bishops does meet on a number of called occasions in the interim years.



Also attending the General Convention are the Episcopal Church's related institutions and agencies. The attendees at this Convention and visitors will exceed 10,000 persons from across the Episcopal Church (USA) and its 14 overseas dioceses.

Ahli Hospital Expands Services in Gaza

Thanks to the many donations received from the Anglican community, the Ahli Arab Hospital of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem has been able to increase health, medical and social support for the residents of Gaza.

Funds donated to the hospital and the diocesan Gaza Medical Emergency Fund are used to run the vital programs provided by the Ahli Arab Hospital to address the hardships faced by patients and their families. Among other services, the hospital also runs a mobile clinic for first aid and basic medical care, which travels to areas where limited services and transportation make it difficult or impossible for patients to reach the hospital.

With a holistic healing model in mind, the Diocese recognizes that medical services alone are not enough to heal a patient. Emotional support and nutrition are also key elements in the healing process. Ahli Arab Hospital operates an important free meal program for patients and their families to assist them in focusing on patient recovery.

The hospital has just launched a new program with recently trained staff to provide psychosocial services in the aftermath of the January crisis and the continuing restrictions on mobility. This important service is directed to women, in an effort to help women assist their families in dealing with the severe stress felt by the many Gazans who lost loved ones, homes, and sometimes entire families during the war. The emphasis on women is based on the observation that women are most likely to carry the psychosocial healing methods home to their husbands and children, benefiting the entire family. Local community service agencies provide referrals for women who would benefit from the program, and it covers all of Gaza without regard to residence, economic status, or faith.

Your support and donations continue to play an important role in our ability to alleviate some of the pain and suffering in Gaza, and demonstrate the true meaning of Christ's love and compassion.



BISHOP DAWANI VISITS ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL TRAINING PROGRAM

July 28, 2009 – Bishop Dawani, accompanied by Dr. Hisham Nassar, took an all day trip to various medical facilities in Jerusalem and the West Bank. Dr. Nassar, the Bishop's diocesan Consultant for Healthcare, is a respected surgeon at Hadassah Hospital which is one site in a training rotation for hospital staff from our diocesan St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus.

The training program, which involves hospitals in Amman and Jerusalem, is a testimony to the cooperative interfaith medical programs which are quietly bringing people together to provide the highest quality healthcare to people in need, regardless of residency or faith. In this rotation, Muslim and Christian Palestinian nurses and attendants train with Christian and Jewish Israeli doctors and nurses at Hadassah.

In his first stop, Bishop Dawani visited with this second group of staff to go through the rotation, and toured the medical facilities at Hadassah, focusing on the neurosurgery unit where the staff are being trained. During the Jerusalem weeks of their training, the St. Luke's Hospital staff have been hosted at St. George's Guest House on the Cathedral Close, where Bishop Dawani and his family also live. The focus of this training program is to develop qualified staff for the planned neurosurgery unit at St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus, West Bank.

From Hadassah, Bishop Dawani and Dr. Nassar, went north to Nablus to visit the St. Luke's hospital staff and meet with the Board of Directors. Just two years ago, St. Luke's Hospital was in danger of having to close its doors. Fortunately, with the hard work of many people led by Bishop Dawani as soon as he became diocesan bishop and thus the Chairman of the Board, St. Luke's has received sufficient support to become an updated and thriving hospital providing high quality healthcare in a region where health facilities are limited.



During this visit, Bishop Dawani toured the proposed neurosurgery unit, the maternity ward, and the closed fourth floor. He heard about the need for updated incubators for the maternity ward and discussed use of the fourth floor with the Board. As efforts continue to maintain the highest quality equipment in the maternity ward and elsewhere in the hospital, the Board decided to embark on a plan to renovate and open the fourth floor. Through these efforts, the hospital can become self-sustaining by increasing income while shining as an example of healthcare excellence and faith in action for the city of Nablus and the surrounding rural villages.

Bishop Dawani and Dr. Nassar concluded their visit with a stop in Ramallah, West Bank, where additional space has been added to St. Andrew's Church Parish Hall, with help from the United Thank Offering, to start an outpatient day clinic for that burgeoning city.

In the ongoing effort to increase and improve the medical ministry of the Diocese of Jerusalem, Dr. Nassar, in his role as the Bishop's Healthcare Consultant, became a charter member of the newly established global Anglican Healthcare Network, which is an organization devoted to sharing healthcare knowledge and equipment for the improvement of healthcare in underserved regions.

Dr. Nasser is very optimistic about the Anglican Healthcare Network, having already benefited from online conversations, a conference, and other helpful exchanges. Bishop Dawani continues to encourage a cooperative effort across the Anglican Communion reminding all that we are the One Body.

***St. George's Cathedral co-sponsors event to memorialize
British archeologist in Anglican ceremony***

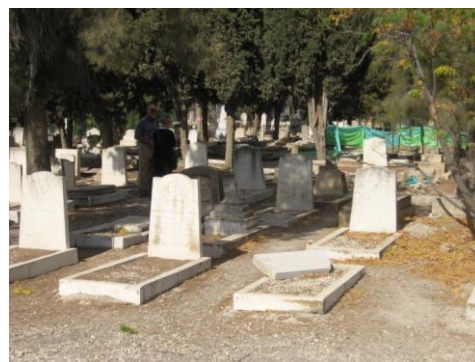
Mt. Zion Protestant Cemetery, Jerusalem -- A unique event held July 12 in the Mount Zion Protestant Cemetery honored an obscure archeologist whose meticulous work in the caves of Mt. Carmel during the 1920s was "of paramount scientific value," according to archeological experts. Charles Lambert, who died in Jerusalem in 1935 at the age of 44 and was buried in the Mt. Zion cemetery, was recognized by noted Israeli archeologist Mina Evron for his expertise and care during his excavations. Ms. Evron pursued ongoing work in the caves and found Mr. Lambert's notes and records vital to her own efforts at the same site. Ms. Evron contacted the Rev'd Canon Robert Edmunds, Chaplain to Bishop Dawani and Canon Pastor of the Cathedral of St. George in Jerusalem, with the idea of finding a way to honor Mr. Lambert's achievements, since he was never credited for his work during his lifetime.



At the planned event on July 12 which took place at the cemetery and the Jerusalem University College, formerly the Bishop Gobat School which is still a diocesan property, Ms. Evron spoke about Mr. Lambert and her continuing work on the caves at Mt. Carmel. Former British Ambassador to Israel Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles was introduced by the current British Ambassador, Tom Phillips CMG, and both had words of welcome and appreciation.

Dr. Wright provided a tour of the cemetery, which includes historical as well as archeological features. Worthy of note are the graves of the first three bishops of the joint Anglican-Lutheran bishopric of the mid-19th Century, as well as members of the armed forces of Britain and Germany and many who dies as a result of the bombing of the King David Hotel in 1946. The cemetery also includes the burial site of Sir W.M. Flinders Petrie, often referred to as the "father of ceramic typology and stratigraphic excavation."

The Mount Zion Protestant Cemetery is a remarkable historical site overlooking the Hinnom Valley. Plans are in development for the restoration of this cemetery. If you are interested in supporting this project, please contact Rev'd Canon Robert Edmunds at bishops.chaplin@j-diocese.org for further information.



From Schneller-son to Schneller-father

A report from the Schneller June Newsletter

Dr. Ghazi Musharbash, once a student at a Schneller school, took office as the new director at the Schneller School in Marka, Jordan. Dr. Musharbash attended a Schneller school in Bethlehem in his youth, announced in his inaugural address, “Schneller was my mother; I was its son; and now I am its father.” A long time industrial chemist, Dr. Musharbash brings his creative spirit, along with extensive professional experience to the position.

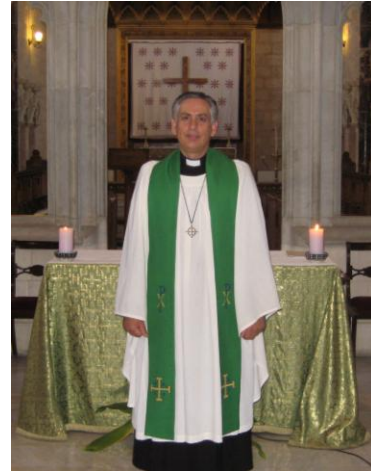


Dr. Musharbash plans to develop the innovative educational training facilities recently started at the school. With the addition of a new 4000 square meter building, designated the Educational Training Centre, the school can now become a trans-regional centre for training of educators, vocational trainers, and psychologists to learn the most modern approaches to teaching and empowering students with a new high ropes course, a sense garden for intensive education, and a children’s zoo.



Poster on in a main hall of the Evangelical Episcopal School in Irbid, Jordan

The Cathedral of St. George
welcomes
the Rev'd Emad Daibes
as the Bishop's Assistant for the
Arabic-Speaking Congregation.
Father Emad will assist with pastoral care
and liturgy at the Cathedral.



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www.j-diocese.org



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.