



NEWSLETTER

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

November 2010

Salaam, Peace to you in the name of the Lord

Advent Greetings from Bishop Dawani

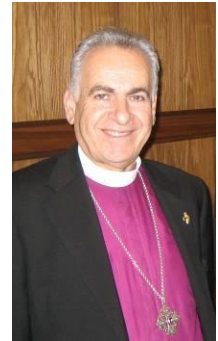
Dear Friends,

This month we are reminded of the importance of working together throughout this Diocese, the Province, and the Anglican Communion.

The significance of working with fellow colleagues and staff making a difference to the lives of many in this turbulent region was very much in evidence at this month's Provincial Synod. The continual strengthening of the Diocese's women's ministry through meetings and workshops is a further example of the strong skills and talents to be found within our parish and Diocese. The bonds of the Anglican Communion were graciously apparent in our visit to the Nippon Sei Ko Kai.

May we continue to foster and harness these talents for the good of others across our communities.

+ Suheil Dawani



Bishop Dawani meets British Foreign Secretary in Jerusalem, 3rd Nov 2010



Bishop Dawani met the British Foreign Secretary, William Hague, during the Foreign Secretary's visit to Jerusalem earlier this month.

The meeting was held at the British Consulate in East Jerusalem.

Image Courtesy of AP and Yahoo News. (AP Photo/Miriam Alster, Pool) http://news.yahoo.com/nphotos/Mideast-Conflict-British-Foreign-Secretary-William-Hague-right-sits-Anglican-Bishop-Jerusalem/ss/events/wl/080601mideast/im:/101103/481/urn_publicid_a_p_org_c3fb2f4f182e4f6786aa8d39a083910d/

Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

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Diocese holds Regional Women's Workshop on "Presenting the Diocese"

The Diocese of Jerusalem sponsored a two day workshop for women on speaking skills to represent the Diocese at home and abroad. Shafeeqa Dawani coordinated the program with the Women's Leadership team. Bishop Dawani was the Keynote Speaker and Mrs. Susan Barhoum was facilitator and trainer of the workshop.



The Diocese of Jerusalem is a complex Diocese with many ministries; parish, education, vocational, and medical institutions spread through five countries with conflicting political issues. In this region, with geographical, political, interfaith, and ecumenical issues affecting the Church in the birthplace of Christianity, learning how to share information about the Diocese of Jerusalem with visitors is important and challenging.

Since the beginning of Bishop Dawani's episcopacy, he and his wife Shafeeqa have encouraged and promoted women to be important contributors in the life of the Church. By affirming women, offering training, and celebrating women's talents, the Dawanis are exponentially increasing the strength and potential of the Diocese in this region and abroad. Vital to peace in the Middle East, the Arab Christians work to stabilize the region, demonstrate the mutual benefit of interfaith cooperation and respect, and reach out to help the most vulnerable in society.

With previous Women's Conferences, regional meetings, training sessions, and international women's visits, interest in expanding the Women's network internationally is growing. As diocesan women received invitations to address women's groups abroad, it became clear a two day workshop, focused on providing women with the information and tools they would need, was urgently needed. This regional meeting was the first workshop designed to help women be ambassadors of the Diocese of Jerusalem, advocating for local Christians in the Middle East and raising awareness about the ministries of Anglicans in this region.

Provincial Synod 9th and 10th November 2010



This year the Provincial Synod of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East was held in Amman, Jordan. It was hosted by the Diocese of Jerusalem in Jordan at the invitation of Bishop Dawani who welcomed delegates from across the Diocese. The new Diocesan Offices were used to hold the main meeting and Bishop Dawani welcomed his fellow Bishops to his home for the House of Bishops meeting. Alongside the four Bishops of the Province, Lay and Clergy representatives of each Diocese met together to discuss and inform each other of matters relating to the Province and its Diocese. Business and financial decisions were taken and there was an important reminder that we can work together to serve our Diocese here in the Middle East.

It was also acknowledged that the Christian presence in the Middle East was under threat and the Province needed to remind the Diocese and Churches of the need for unity and to preserve the witness in this region.

Anglican Health Network Advisory Council meeting in Nyon, Switzerland



On the 26th and 27th October the Anglican Health Network Advisory Council met following their inaugural meeting in June 2009. Dr Hisham Nassar, Medical Director to the Diocese of Jerusalem, was in attendance.

The AHN was established in 2009 with the support of the Anglican Communion.

The mission of the AHN is: To renew the ministries of healing and healthcare within the Anglican Communion, to transform the state of healthcare for millions of impoverished communities served by Anglicans in the

developing world, and to promote learning and practice on the interactions between faith and health.

The next meeting will take place in November 2011 in Jerusalem. www.anglicanhealth.org

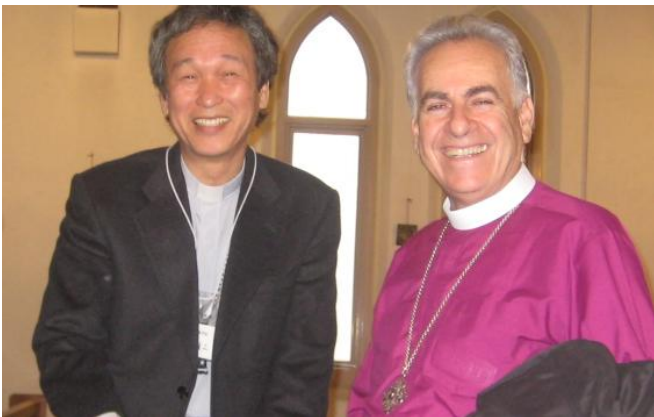
Bishop Suheil and Shafeeqa Dawani visit partners in Nippon Sei Ko Kai

November 18-26: Bishop Suheil and Shafeeqa Dawani spent a week in Japan at the invitation of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, the Anglican Church in Japan. The visit by the Dawanis was a joyful reunion for the women and delegates who have visited the Diocese of Jerusalem in recent years. The Dawanis were most warmly and respectfully received as is the custom in Japan, setting the tone for their most gratifying visit.



Welcomed by Bishop Jintaro Ueda of Tokyo and Bishop Samuel Osamu Onishi of Osaka, the Dawanis greeted the Synods of the Diocese of Tokyo and the Diocese of Osaka with a brief visit to Kyoto. Topics included the current situation in the Middle East, the Church's responsibility in response to that situation, and the ministries of the Diocese of Jerusalem.

With receptions and talks, there was ample time for Shafeeqa to speak on women's empowerment. The gracious manner in which women are encouraged to share their talents in the Diocese of Jerusalem for the benefit of their churches and communities was well received in Japan.



The visit to Japan was the first for Bishop Dawani and the second for Shafeeqa. In spite of a busy schedule covering three dioceses in seven days, the Dawanis returned energized and encouraged by the heart, passion, and care of the Japanese for each other and the challenges facing Arab Christians throughout the Diocese of Jerusalem.

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2: 1-5: An advent reflection from the Cathedral of St. George in Jerusalem

Whenever mountaintops are mentioned in the Bible, we do well to pay attention. The high places were often associated with important events, revelations, and visions from God's very hand. Moses at Mt. Sinai, Jesus in prayer on various mountains and the Transfiguration all come to mind. In this passage the holy mountain of Jerusalem, referred to as Zion, is brought into sharp focus as God's dwelling place from which all the nations are invited to come and learn to walk in the light of the way of the Lord.

This vision is inspiring to all who work, pray, and hope for peace, both here in Jerusalem and throughout the world. The power of all people coming in humility to learn of God's way of life to turn away from division, violence and war towards God's way of light provides a vision of hope for the future of all creation.

However, the historical record since Isaiah's vision suggests that war has indeed been learned and learned too well over many centuries. Blood has run through the streets of Jerusalem in times past and politically inspired violence continues in many of her neighborhoods even now. Despite Isaiah's vision; despite the tears Jesus shed as he overlooked the Holy City; despite centuries of prayers in the holy places by faithful people, Jerusalem has yet to experience the peace which Isaiah envisions.

Is the mountaintop too high to ascend? Is it possible to ask people to set aside old agendas? Is it possible that religious and political leaders can walk together in the light of the Lord? Is it possible for old enemies to no longer learn war anymore?

Christians in the Land of the Holy One continue to believe, with all evidence to the contrary, that all things are possible for those who love the Lord because if peace is possible here in Jerusalem, peace is possible for everyone.

Article features in Churches for Middle East Peace www.cmep.org

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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.

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