



GRADUATION NEWSLETTER

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

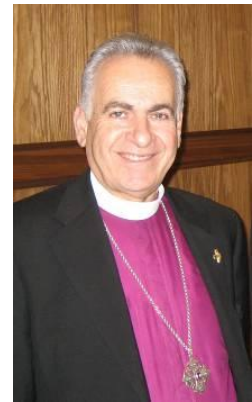
July 2011

Peace to you in the name of the Lord

Greetings from Bishop Suheil Dawani

Dear Friends,

This summer, we are very grateful for the efforts of the Archbishop of Canterbury for drawing attention to Christians who maintain the historic presence of Christianity in the land of Christ. We also thank the Anglican-Jewish Commission and the Anglican-Lutheran Commission for meeting in Jerusalem in their efforts to increase mutual respect and cooperation with our ecumenical and interfaith brothers and sisters while reminding us of the importance of a shared Holy City.



Just recently, I returned from the first Anglican-Catholic Conference on Christians in the Holy Land sponsored by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of Westminster where I spoke on the situation for Christians maintaining the historic Christian presence in the Land of Christ. It is my hope and my prayer that the video speeches captured that day along with the many earnest discussions and heartfelt efforts to promote peace will highlight the vital work and importance of Arab Christians in this region.

At home in the Diocese, we continue to expand our ministries in cooperation with local authorities. As we near our fundraising for the outfitting of our new cardio-vascular diabetic clinic in Palestine, we began construction on a new school in Jordan. In partnership with Anglican, ecumenical, and interfaith supporters, we invest in civil society in the Middle East. We thank all who have helped and invite others to join us.

+ Suheil Dawani

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.

Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

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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.



BISHOP WELCOMES MEMBERS OF JORDANIAN PARLIAMENT

12 July 2011 - Bishop Dawani welcomed members of the Jordanian Parliament to St. George's Cathedral and Guest House while they were on tour of the West Bank and Jerusalem. Mr. Ghazi Musharbash, Director of our Schneller School in Amman, is a member of Parliament and was part of the visiting delegation. Bishop Dawani gave a brief address thanking His Majesty King Abdullah for his support to our Christian presence in Jordan. Bishop Dawani also expressed his appreciation for His Majesty's work in peace and justice in the whole area.



The Parliamentary visit affirmed the significance of the Christian Church in Jordan and the Anglican Church in particular. The Diocese of Jerusalem sponsors many well respected and award winning educational institutions in Jordan which serve children and youth with special needs. A leader in Jordan in education for the vision and hearing impaired, the Diocese serves the predominantly Muslim population with great respect and care, reaching out to empower the most vulnerable and strengthening the civil society.

BISHOP CELEBRATES REVITALIZATION OF ST. LUKE'S

10 July 2011 - Bishop Dawani honored diocesan Nablus ministries with an all day visit. Beginning with a church service followed by a tour of the hospital, Bishop Dawani commended the good work of the new hospital leadership and all hospital staff on the third anniversary of restructuring the once struggling hospital.

Now in good financial health, with patients and doctors seeking services and professional association with St. Luke's, the hospital stands as a beacon of hope in the city of Nablus.

Bishop Dawani prayed over patients and visited with the interfaith staff remarking on the positive changes that have taken place over the recent years.



Renovations, upgrades in equipment, and improved staff morale have all made St. Luke's the quality institution it is today. This could not have been done without the help of our financial supporters who, inspired by the commitment of the interfaith staff, provided necessary funds for physical improvements.

St. Luke's Hospital demonstrates the community benefit of interfaith professionals focusing on common beliefs and mission to serve people in need in dignity and equality. St. Luke's illustrates the path to Peace.

DIOCESAN WOMEN GATHER FOR DIOCESAN PRESENTATIONS

Friday, 1 July 2011 - Episcopal Church women of Israel and Palestine gathered in Ramallah for a second workshop on representing the Diocese of Jerusalem in public relations and information sharing. Following the first workshop in which general information was shared, interested women were each assigned a topic to explore in greater detail. This workshop was an opportunity for the women to make their presentations to each other supported by the Women's Leadership team led by Shafeeqa Dawani with Bishop Dawani and parish clergy.



ANGLICAN COMMUNION NEWS

LAMBETH CONFERENCE: 18-19 July 2011 - The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of Westminster co-hosted a Conference on Christians in the Holy Land at which Bishop Suheil Dawani and Latin Patriarch Fuad Twal were key speakers.

The Conference was designed to call attention to the challenges faced by Christians in the region and to explore what can be done to support them in their ministry of maintaining the Christian presence in the Land of our Lord.

Both Bishop Dawani and Patriarch Twal spoke about the situation for Christians in the region and emphasized the need for people around the world to support the local Christians who are maintaining the historic and reconciling Christian presence in the Land of Jesus.

During the Conference, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of Westminster formally launched a new joint initiative, Friends of the Holy Land, a fund designed to support Christians and ministries in the region.



Following the Conference, the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks invited Bishop Dawani and select conference members from Bethlehem and Jerusalem for a breakfast meeting in his home. The meeting was characterized by the Chief Rabbi's ongoing commitment to peace among all faiths and hope for a resolution to the conflict in the Holy Land.

ANGLICAN-LUTHERAN COMMISSION MEETING: 19-24 June - The Anglican-Lutheran International Commission met in Jerusalem at St George's Cathedral for their final meeting during the third week of June. The Commission of fifteen members with representatives from across the globe met under the leadership of the Most Reverend Fred Hiltz, Primate of Canada, and the Reverend Dr Thomas Nyiwé, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon.

To mark the meeting Bishop Suheil invited the commission members to an ecumenical reception on Monday 20th June at which the heads of churches from across the city of Jerusalem also attended. It was an opportunity for the commission to meet and discuss with other church leaders their work and to further the ecumenical focus of their visit.

The commission joined members of the international congregation of St George's Cathedral on Trinity Sunday at which the Most Reverend Fred Hiltz preached and spoke to the assembled congregation about the work of the Commission and its task for this final meeting, to complete a report on diakonia – the servant ministry of the church.



As well as spending time in the Cathedral community the commission attended evensong at the newly re-consecrated St Paul's church and visited, amongst other sites, the diocesan Princess Basma Center on the Mount of Olives.

THE ANGLICAN-JEWISH COMMISSION: 13-19 June - The Anglican-Jewish Commission comprised of a delegation from the Archbishop of Canterbury's office and another from the office of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel met in Jerusalem. The Commission meets annually to strengthen the interfaith dialogue between the two Traditions. The theme chosen for this year was the Psalms and their centrality to the Traditions of Judaism and Christianity.

The newly appointed Archbishop of Dublin and member of the Anglican delegation, the Most Reverend Dr Michael Jackson, was invited to preach on Trinity Sunday during the 9.30 Arabic speaking service with other members of the Anglican delegation in attendance. The Archbishop spoke of his pleasure at being in Jerusalem and of being inspired by the sustained faithfulness of the local Palestinian Christians amidst the tension of daily life. Bishop Suheil welcomed and thanked the Archbishop, a faithful friend and supporter of the Diocese of Jerusalem.

The Anglican delegation resided at the Cathedral Guesthouse during their visit and took part in the cycle of prayer and daily services at the Cathedral Church of St George. They were taken to visit various Diocesan projects in Ramallah and Nablus and were welcomed at St Luke's hospital by Dr Walid Kerry and given a tour of the site meeting patients and staff.

The visit to St. Luke's Hospital was particularly significant for Primate Michael Jackson. As bishop, he had led his diocese in a series of fundraising teas and events to purchase several important pieces of medical equipment, including incubators necessary to help the hospital keep up with the need in the neonatal unit. We are very grateful for Primate Jackson's shepherding of his people in support of the ministries of the Diocese of Jerusalem.



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.