



NEWSLETTER

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

October 2012

Peace to you in the name of the Lord

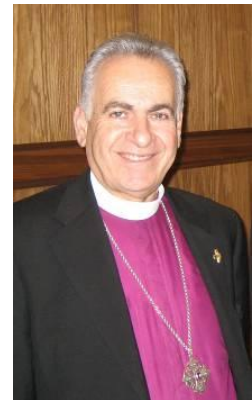
Greetings from Bishop Suheil Dawani

Dear Friends,

October has been a busy month for the Diocese of Jerusalem. All our institutions continue to work hard. Our medical centers and hospitals focus on supporting the people in need; our schools are back in full swing educating our students and our doors are always open for the visitors who come to experience the Land of the Holy One.

I have been traveling among the parishes of our Diocese, celebrating Baptisms, Confirmations, and the dedicated work of teachers.

I have made 'a historic visit' to Hong Kong and shared in worship and fellowship with Archbishop Paul Kwong. I had the honour of making Archbishop Paul an Episcopal Canon of the Cathedral of St George the Martyr in recognition of the partnership and friendship between Hong Kong and Jerusalem.



We celebrated our Thanksgiving Sunday in early October and we have much for which to be thankful. We celebrate the partnerships and friendships that we have throughout the world.

We continue to pray for peace in Syria and throughout the region. We also hold up those who have been caught in the devastation of the hurricane on the East Coast of North America.

In everything we give thanks and praise to our Lord Jesus Christ,

Salaam,

+ Suheil Dawani

Canadian Forces Officers visit with Bishop Suheil



Bishop Suheil hosted Canadian Forces officers, Brigadier General Michael Pearson and Lt. Col Kevin Ng, on Thursday, October 2nd, at St. George's Guest House. Bishop Suheil and his guests discussed Operation Proteus as well as the work and ministry of the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

Confirmations at Christ Church, Nazareth

The confirmation at Christ Church, Nazareth, was filled to capacity on Saturday evening, as Candidates presented themselves for the laying on of hands by Bishop Suheil. Located in the heart of Nazareth, the Anglican Parish of Christ Church is experiencing a revitalization of ministry and mission. Assisting in the service was the Revd Imad Deibes, The Revd Fuad Dagher, and Canon John Organ, Bishop's Chaplain, Canon Zahi Nasser, and The Very Revd Hatem Shahedeh.



Thanksgiving Sunday



St. George's Cathedral was filled to capacity Thanksgiving Sunday with visitors from around the Anglican Communion. The Family Arabic / English Thanksgiving Service was held at 10:30am. The service was followed by coffee and sweets in the St. George's Guest House Garden. We were very pleased to welcome Bishop Christopher and Shirley Buekes, from South Africa, Bishop Morris K. Thompson, Jr. from the Diocese of Louisiana, and Bishop Hope Morgan Ward from the United Methodist Church. Also visiting this day were The Very Revd David A. duPlantier, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Canon Timothy Biles from JEMCA.

A visit from AFEDJ

The Revd Deborah Dresser, President of American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, and Anne Lynn, Executive Director, visited the Diocese of Jerusalem for 10 days in October. They visited various institutions, schools and churches throughout Jordan, Israel and Palestine. Long time partners with the Diocese of Jerusalem; American Friends continues to work to raise money in support of the Anglican/Episcopal ministry done in the Land of the Holy One.

Bishop Suheil visits Hong Kong

"A HISTORIC MEETING" - Those were the words used by Archbishop Paul Kwong to describe the first visit of the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem to the Province of Hong Kong (HKSCH) since the Province was established in 1998.



During Bishop Suheil's and his wife's, Shafeeqa, historic October visit to Church in Hong Kong, a full calendar of engagements were kept including a dinner honouring Bishop Suheil hosted by Archbishop Paul, the Installation of the new Dean of St John's Cathedral, Hong Kong, the Very Reverend Matthias Der, a two day visit to the Missionary Territory of Macau (a part of the Hong Kong Province), and an opportunity to speak to the Provincial clergy about the Church in Jerusalem and the status of Christians in the Middle East.

Each day Bishop Suheil visited different social and educational institutions in the Province of Hong Kong. In Stanley he visited St Stephen College, one of the outstanding schools in Hong Kong, but a school that suffered tremendously during World War II because a massacre took place there. In Hong Kong the Bishop visited St James' Settlement, a project that reaches out to the elderly, to the mentally and physically challenged as well as providing social services to the neighbourhood.



In Macau the Bishop visited St. Paul's Church, a K through 12 school that has designated different learning centers throughout the school for the purpose of studying culture and music. The Bishop also visited the Taipa Youth and Family Integrated Service Centre which has eight different diverse services for youth and their parents, which includes a Gambling Counseling and Family Wellness Centre. This center provides counseling services for the Macau/Taipa residences as well as the thousands of people who come to Macau to gamble.



On Sunday October 14 Bishop Suheil preached at the 9am Eucharist at the St John's Cathedral. This service is the primary English speaking serve which is attended by hundreds of Chinese and foreign visitors. Half of the congregation is made up of Filipino domestic workers who find that Sunday service to be the one social activity they have during the week. Bishop Suheil spoke about Jerusalem, and its challenges, a sermon that was much appreciated by the 700 members of the congregation who were present.

Accompanying Bishop Suheil and Shafeeqa were the Very Revd Canon John Peterson, the recently elected President of the Compass Rose Society, and his wife Kirsten. One evening Madeline and Joey Fan, members of the Compass Rose Society from Hong Kong, hosted a dinner for Bishop Suheil so that the members of the Compass

Rose Society could meet the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem. At that dinner Bishop Suheil spoke about his appreciation for the ministry of the Compass Rose Society and the Society's support of the high school and university student scholarship programme of the Diocese of Jerusalem.

At the dinner hosted by Archbishop Paul honouring his guests from Jerusalem, Bishop Suheil surprised everyone when he announced that he was making Archbishop Paul Kwong an Episcopal Canon of St George's Cathedral, Jerusalem, in recognition of the partnership and friendship between Hong Kong and Jerusalem. Hong Kong has played a pivotal role in the Queen Heleni project in Jerusalem, a project that will provide much needed income in the years to come for the educational and medical programs in the Diocese of Jerusalem. When Bishop Suheil made this historic appointment, the prolonged applause indicated everyone's appreciation of the honour that Bishop Suheil had given to Archbishop Paul.



Hong Kong is the smallest Province geographically in the Anglican Communion, but like the Diocese of Jerusalem, Hong Kong has an incredible social, medical and educational outreach programme to the indigenous population. Like the Diocese of Jerusalem, no questions are asked in Hong Kong about a person's religious affiliation because the institutions are the way in which the church is able to serve the people in Hong Kong and Macau. May this partnership between Hong Kong and Jerusalem continue to grow and flourish in the years to come.

(Article submitted by the Very Revd Canon John L. Peterson)

Confirmations at St. Paul's, Shefa'mer



An uplifting Celebration of Confirmation was held at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Shefa'Amr, Galilee, Saturday evening, 20 Oct. Bishop Dawani confirmed 16 young people, who are eager to take their faith seriously. The church was full with many from the community who had come to celebrate with these youth as they boldly confirmed their Christian faith. The Bishop was joined by The Revd Fuad Dagher of St. Paul's, Shefa'Amr, The Revd Imad Deibes from Christ Church, Nazareth, The Very Revd Hosam Naoum, Dean of St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem and Canon John Organ, Bishop's Chaplain.

Visit from Interfaith Group

On October 21st Bishop Suheil hosted an Interfaith Group composed of New Jersey Jews, Muslims, and Christians.

Bishop Suheil spoke of interfaith dialogue and mutual support of one another here in the Holy Land, of peaceful co-existence, and the rejection of religious inspired violence.

It was encouraging to meet this group and experience not only their shared commitment to dialogue but also their united actions that build up the common good of all.



Teacher Retirement and Service Recognition at AEES, Ramallah



The Evangelical Episcopal school celebrated its 58th anniversary on the 24th of September with the presence of Bishop Suheil, Canon John Organ, the Bishop's Chaplain and their wives, the management, the board members and staff of both the school and the Vocational Training Center. Before dinner, Bishop Suheil and Iyad Rafidi honored Ms. Samia Saleme for her retirement after serving the School and Church in Ramallah for more than 40 years. Bishop expressed great appreciation for Mrs. Saleme's years as a dedicated and creative teacher. 'She has a magic touch which enriched the lives of all the students within her care.' The Bishop said. He said that Samia was always ready to serve and to add her perfect touch on any small or big work she was asked to achieve. After the exchange of gifts, more than 80 guests enjoyed the dinner that was served at the Episcopal Church hall.

Bishop Suheil spends a Weekend Visiting in Jordan:

Early Morning Eucharist at the Virgin Mary Church, Irbid, Jordan



On Saturday, October 27th, Bishop Suheil and Mrs. Shafeeqa Dawani began their busy weekend at The Virgin Mary Church in Irbid. The Bishop celebrated Holy Eucharist with the congregation. Fr. Hanna Mansour, Canon Samir Esaid and Deacon Fursan Zom't assisted in the service.



Following the service everyone enjoyed a wonderful breakfast with the parish.

Women's Workshop in Irbid, Jordan

After breakfast a Regional Women's Workshop was held at The Virgin Mary Church in Irbid. Bishop Suheil welcomed everyone and Fr. Ibrahim Nairouz spoke on the importance of Bible Study in the church and also that women can lead Bible Studies. Shafeeqa Dawani spoke about how important it is for women to take the opportunity to be involved in their churches, sharing in the activities. She also thanked everyone involved with making this event a success, including the coordinators, consultants, music coordinator, photographer, and all those who used their time and talent to make the day a success. Special thanks goes to Sabah Zurikat, wife of Canon Samir Esaid, and 7 women from the Virgin Mary Church who worked extremely hard to put together this workshop, arranging everything including the food and the hall. More than 65 women attended the Women's Workshop.



St. John the Baptist, Husn



Bishop Suheil went to St. John the Baptist Church in Husn on Saturday at noon, on October 27th to celebrate the Service of Baptism. Young Layth Azar was baptized into the faith while his family and friends gathered to celebrate with him. 'Layth' means Lion in English and we pray that Layth will be courageous and find strength through the power of the Holy Spirit. Deacon Eyad Ajji assisted the Bishop during the service.

Worshipping in Zarka



Sunday morning, October 28, Bishop Suheil celebrated Holy Eucharist with the parish of Savior Church in Zarka. Assisting the Bishop at this service was The Revd Khalid Freij and Canon Hanna Mansour.



Confirmations in Amman, Jordan



Bishop Suheil joined with the Revd Khalid Freij and Canon Hanna Mansour at Savior Church in Zarka to celebrate the Service of Confirmation.

The church was full with many from the community who had come to celebrate with these youth as they boldly confirmed their Christian faith.



A visit from Embrace the Middle East



Richard Jones, Regional Director of Embrace the Middle East (formerly BilbleLands) brought a team of church leaders to visit Bishop Suheil on Monday October 29th. These Lay Readers are on a study tour of The Holy Land and came to bring greetings from their respective Dioceses. They also discussed the situation of indigenous Christians living in the Land of the Holy One. They prayed with Bishop Suheil for him and his Diocese, for continued strength and courage and also for peace and justice to come to this land.

EmbraceME seeks to improve the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the Middle East. They do this in partnership with local Christians, focusing on education, healthcare and community development.

A Visit from the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem



Bishop Suheil had the pleasure of meeting with the team from the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem on Monday, October 28th. Reconnecting after their meeting in New York during the Bishop's recent visit to the US in September, The Templars are focusing on education and especially individual scholarships. They presented Bishop Suheil with a generous gift of \$17,500 that will go to the Diocesan Scholarship Fund.

Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani (OSMTH) is a world-wide ecumenical Christian Chivalric Order, accredited by the United Nation as an NGO with consultive status with about 6000 members. The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (SMOTJ) is the OSMTH organization within the United States has a little over 2000 members. For a number of years this US based component has chosen to focus our charitable outreach on helping the Palestinian Christians by supporting the church based schools and clinics in the greater Holy Land. Their gift to the Diocese of Jerusalem is greatly appreciated.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Richmond, Virginia VBS Raises Money for the Diocese of Jerusalem



During the week of August 6th, ninety-three children gathered at St. Thomas each morning for Vacation Bible School. Five staff members and 54 volunteers worked diligently, both before and during this time, to ensure a successful and fun event for these children. What a wonderful example of outreach to our community.

The theme of water recalled wonderful Bible stories of Moses striking a rock in the wilderness, Jesus calming the stormy sea, the Samaritan woman at the well and more.

During the morning gatherings, we learned of children in Israel/Palestine and their culture as our mission stories. We collected \$263.47 to be sent to the Diocese of Jerusalem and numerous toiletry supplies which were given to the Refugee Relocation program here in Richmond.

Bishop Suheil had the pleasure of visiting St. Thomas during his time in the United States in September. Many thanks to the Revd Susan Daughtry for supporting the Diocese of Jerusalem and teaching her children about the Christians in the Land of the Holy One.

For more information on St. Thomas's Vacation Bible School – please go to <http://www.stthomasrichmond.org/article/ministry-of-the-month-vbs>

News from the Arab Episcopal School, Irbid, Jordan



Arab Episcopal School is once again bustling with busy students and teachers. The fall semester began on September 3rd 2012. This year we have 200 students, 41 of which are blind or low vision. In addition, we have welcomed five new teachers. We are happy to report that once again we have added another grade level to our School. This year we now offer an 8th grade class to students.

We are blessed to have two volunteers for the 2012-2013 school year. Lena Gomer serving with EMS (Evangelisches Missionswerk

Suedwestdeutschland) from Karlsruhe, Germany, is helping in the Kindergarten 2 class, and teaching music lessons. Kristy Guertin, serving with the Mennonite Central Committee and from the United States, is helping in the English and Art classes.

In art class students have been learning about the importance of recycling. Here they are creating beautiful candle holders re-cycled from plastic water bottles.

This fall, we celebrated the students with the highest marks from last year. We treated the students to lunch at a special restaurant in Jerash. After enjoying their meal, they each received a certificate for their excellent work.



For more information on the Arab Episcopal School, please go to <http://www.aeschool.org>

Lecture Series Continues at The Church of the Redeemer, Amman-Jordan



On September 27th, The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Amman hosted the Catholic Bishop in Jordan, Bishop Maroun Lahham, to participate in its Monthly Lecture Program.

Bishop Lahham spoke about "The Role of Laity in the Ministry of the Church" and began his talk by recalling how 40 years ago, as a Seminarian; he attended an Episcopal wedding service, and was reprimanded by his mentoring priest. He expressed joy at having been invited to speak to our public lecture audience. He began by defining Laity and explained that for a long time, the term laity had negative connotations since laity were compared to ordained

clergy and found lacking in worth. He previewed the involvement in the church in the past and the changes that have been taking place since the Vatican II, pointing out how the Catholic Church specifically has come to understand the importance of Laity participation in the life and ministry of the church. He also described the steps the church is taking to establish and expand that role.

Bishop Lahham, in a very positive manner, impressed on the audience that it is no longer acceptable for the members of a church to be passive onlookers, but must move on to be active participants in the ministry of their church. Lay persons ministry in the church is founded on their baptism which anoints and consecrates them for ministry as part of the body of Christ.

The Bishop stressed, however, that a layperson's ministry whether in or outside the church cannot take priority over that person's familial responsibilities and commitments. He also pointed out that each person should participate in accordance with his/her talents and gifts so that their work will be effective and bear fruits.

In the practical realm, Bishop Lahham listed the factors that make for a successful and fruitful lay ministry in our churches, including cooperation & coordination, unity & diversity, comprehensive coverage of all ages and interests, and most importantly a special attention to youth.

He concluded by saying that the parish is the building block of the church. A successful parish is the one that calls on every baptized member and makes available the opportunities for them to feel at home to achieve the role that was intended for them for the Glory of God and the building of the church.

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer started this Monthly Public Lecture program to interact with its own and the surrounding community, and having Bishop Lahham as part of this program is proof that unity and mutual interaction are possible when we are open to focusing on our commonalities.



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.