



NEWSLETTER

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

September 2012

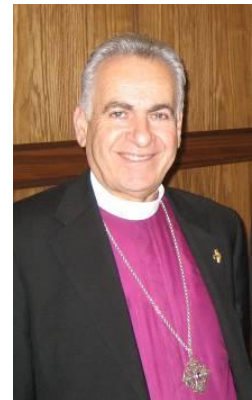
Peace to you in the name of the Lord

Greetings from Bishop Suheil Dawani

Dear Friends,

The activities of September are upon us as school begins, travel and church life become busy and we embrace the activities of fall once again.

We have enjoyed Church Confirmations in the Diocese and, as always, we have welcomed visitors. We held our Regional Women's Conference, for the women of Palestine and Israel, in Bethlehem. I traveled with Canon Hanna Mansour to the United States where I spoke at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. We also visited friends and churches in Richmond and Alexandria, Virginia. It has been a fruitful time and I give thanks to all who have helped and supported us during our visit.



We continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Syria. Below I have attached my letter of response to all of you who have sent your concerns and prayers to us over the last few months. Please persist with your outpouring of prayers for peace as the violence there continues.

I am pleased to present our new Programs Development Officer, Sawsan Batato. She will be working closely with our partners and institutions and we look forward to growing our relationships with the world wide communion.

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

Salaam,

+ Suheil Dawani

Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

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Editor: The Rt Revd Bishop Suheil S. Dawani



Bishop's Response to Friends from around the Anglican Communion

Friends from around the Anglican Communion have expressed their prayerful support for the people of Syria. Many have asked particularly for information about the well-being and safety of Anglican parishioners in Damascus and also about the church building itself.

We are making every effort to be in contact with our Anglican parishioners in Syria but this is extremely difficult to do on a regular and daily basis because communication is literally non-existent. We hear from time to time, through family members living outside Syria, that loved ones are alive but then days and weeks go by and there is no word at all, leaving them to wonder if their relatives are still well and safe.

Several weeks ago, we learned that the area of Jaramana, where All Saints Episcopal Church in Damascus is located, had possibly been damaged. We are not able to substantiate this and hope the church is safe. However, as everyone understands, our primary concern is with the safety of all the people of Syria.

The Churches of the Holy Land continue to join together in prayer for the people of Syria and have made a financial contribution in support of Syrian Refugees.

We thank everyone for your prayerful support and we ask God's help to bring an end to the conflict and a restoration of peace.

+Suheil

New Programs Development Officer



It is with great pleasure that I introduce to you Mrs. Sawsan Batato, our new Programs Development Officer.

Sawsan has a Masters degree in Industrial Pharmacy from the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Montpellier in France. She possesses the technical knowledge and advanced experience in international public health standards and practices. She has extensive experience in development programs including, needs assessment, design, planning and development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of program outcomes, and reporting. She is also well versed in the development of fundraising proposals, analysis and evaluation of proposals. Furthermore, she is experienced in development and implementation of training programs and curricula.

Sawsan has participated in the development of the National Health Strategy as well as the EU country strategy, and has actively participated in local thematic focus groups and international conferences. She has worked in international organizations with many responsibilities managing various development programs including Health, Education, youth and women programs.

We are looking forward to having Sawsan working together with us, and are confident that with her high educational background and expertise she will be a great asset to the diocese in successfully leading development programs. Please feel free to contact her with any inquiries about our Development programs.

She can be reached at programsdevelopment@j-diocese.org.

Confirmations in Emanuel Church, Ramleh



It was a beautiful Saturday evening in Emanuel Church, Ramleh, as 8 young people were confirmed by Bishop Suheil on September 1st. The church was packed to overflowing, and the energy and excitement of those gathered were complimented by the confirmands who joyfully processed into the church to affirm their faith and receive the gift of God's Spirit through the laying on of hands.

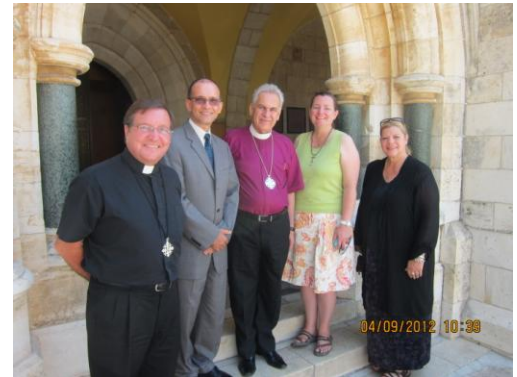
Bishop Suheil assured the confirmands that their decision to take personal responsibility for their baptismal vows is met with an imparting of God's grace to allow them to do so boldly and wisely. Kneeling before the bishop, each child received the laying on of hands, followed by a presentation of a rosary cross necklace.

The service was followed by a reception in the churchyard. A gentle breeze cooled the evening air and a full moon suggested the light of Christ now glowing brightly in these young Christian children, who are a small minority within their much larger peer group of Muslim and Jewish youth.

The evening concluded with a dinner hosted by the rector of the parish, The Rev Canon Samuel Fanous and his family.

A Visit by the Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church

On Tuesday, 04 Sept, Bishop Suheil greeted members of the Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. The delegation brought greetings on behalf of their faith community and expressed a deep desire to build meaningful ecumenical partnerships. Bishop Suheil encouraged their partnership with Christians in the Land of the Holy One and provided an overview of the current status of Christians in the Middle East, especially the Holy Land. Bishop Suheil affirmed the importance of a continuing indigenous Christian presence in the Holy Land, a presence which has been here since the first Pentecost. His Grace provided information about the Diocese of Jerusalem, its education, healthcare and rehabilitation institutions as well as current projects underway, such as the Diabetic Clinic in Ramallah and the Elderly Home and Center in Bier Zeit.



The Revd Jorge Domingues, Deputy General Secretary of Global Ministries, New York City, spoke about how important it is for Christians who visit the Holy Land to connect with local Christian churches. Methodist Liaison in Palestine and Israel, Ms. Janet Lahr Lewis, added that it is the official policy of the Methodist Church that when church members are visiting the Holy Land, they make every effort to meet local Christians, the "Living Stones." The Revd Kristen Brown, missionary with Global Ministries of the Methodist Church, expressed enthusiasm and excitement in her role to help develop ecumenical partnerships.

Bishop Suheil was pleased to meet with the delegation and to extend his encouragement and support of Christians working together in the Land of the Holy One.

Workshop at Schneller School in Amman, Jordan



A workshop was held at Theodore Schneller School in Amman, Jordan on September 7th. The top priority of the Schneller School is the care and education of the children, said Bishop Suheil, and he called upon all involved in the school to make this their priority as well. Two additional priorities were given by the bishop, both in support of the first, where he called for more creative and self-sustaining investment, and for a restructuring of the Schneller School.

A tour was given by Ghazi Musharbash and recent improvements were highlighted as well as

those improvements still required and/or in various stages of development.

In attendance was Bishop Suheil, Dr. Martin Schneller, facilitator, Board Members, visitors from EMS, Germany and from the Diocese of Jerusalem - Mr. Haleem Bashlawi, Mr. Ramzi Hallac, and Canon John Organ, Bishop's Chaplain.

A Visit to St. John's Episcopal School in Haifa



Bishop Suheil visited St. John's Episcopal School in Haifa on September 13th. He was greeted warmly by students and teachers. The children were excited to see the Bishop and the elementary classes sang a special song of greeting for him. One young lady read a poem* that she had written especially for Bishop Suheil. Other students offered stories and poems, too.

While at St. John's School, Bishop Suheil participated with Revd Canon Hatem Shehadeh in a tree planting ceremony. This is a physical sign of the school's commitment to the care of the environment.



Bishop Suheil was accompanied by Canon John Organ, Bishop's Chaplain.

*Few words I would like to say,
to welcome our respected Bishop if I may.

It is a great honor to meet you here,
and we warmly welcome you with a Cheer.

We appreciate you came a long way,
but your visit has really made our day.

Thank you for your constant caring
And support to our school,
Promising that we will maintain that jewel.

As Jimmie Davis said:
"Sunshine is a welcome thing,
It brings a lot of brightness"

And so do you
Wishing you good health
And may God be with you!



Episcopal Women's Regional Conference



The Episcopal Women's Regional Conference was held at the Manger Square Hotel in Bethlehem for the Episcopal women of the Galilee, Israel, West Bank and Jerusalem under the title "My Talent is My Present."

The two day conference took place on the 21st and 22nd of September, with over 50 in attendance, including English speaking Episcopal women.

Mrs. Shafeeqa Dawani, wife of Bishop Suheil Dawani, welcomed and encouraged the women at the conference to discover their talents and employ them in their churches, homes and society. "My talent is my present and a gift from God," she said. She also spoke about the goals of the women's movement in the Diocese.

Day One was led by two women speakers and leaders, Nora Carmi and Raeda Diam. The two subjects that were the focus of the first day were "Discover your talents which God gave you" and "How to amply and develop them."

Day Two centered on true examples of women leaders in the church and society. The Mayor of Ramallah, Janette Michael; the principle of St. Joseph's School, Shireen Mughanam; and Shireen Awad, a teacher in Beit Sahour were the speakers.



A tour of the Shepherd's field was led by the Revd Ibrahim Nairouz, the consultant on the second day. All those in attendance were happy to see this special place and hear the timeless Christmas story.

As the conference came to a close, Shafeeqa Dawani thanked all who helped to make this event a success, including the coordinators, consultants, music coordinator,

photographer, interpreter, and the office employees in the Jerusalem Diocesan office. Mrs. Dawani gave special thanks to the speakers at the conference.



The coordinators in Jordan are working hard preparing for a one day workshop in Irbid at the end of October 2012. They are taking care of every detail in order to make this one day event a success, too.

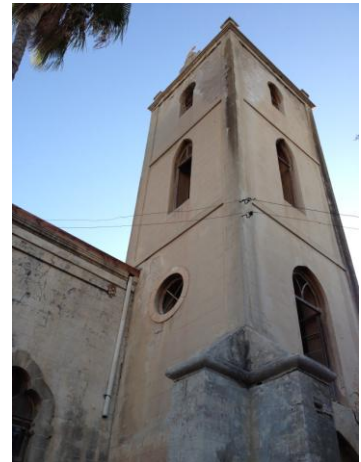
A Visit by the Church of Scotland World Mission Committee



On the 24th of September our partners from the Church of Scotland World Mission Committee visited Tabbetha School in Jaffa to attend the meeting of the School Board and to participate in the inauguration of the Wedad Andraus Peace Garden, dedicated to the founder of the school, Ms. Jane Walker Arnot.

After the Visit the committee and several local people were taken by Canon Samuel Fanous, school chaplain and Canon John Organ, the Bishop's chaplain, to St. Peter's Anglican Church. St. Peter's has been closed since 1948 when the entire congregation was pushed to leave the country. Bishop Suheil's vision is to renovate the

church and to assign a priest there. This will enable all our Partners, including the school, embassies and local people to continue to use the church and revive its ministry again. Canon John Organ explained the purpose of the diocese and the vision of the Bishop and Canon Samuel Fanous gave a brief history of the church to illuminate the connection of the story of the vision of St. Peter according to the Acts of the Apostles chapter 10. Everyone is very happy about the church will reopening again. The visit to St. Peter's ended with a short prayer.



Photos were taken by Canon John Organ.

Bishop Suheil Visits the Dioceses of Washington and Virginia, USA



Accompanied by Canon Hanna Mansour, Bishop Suheil arrived for his 10 day visit to the Diocese of Washington and Virginia on September 21st. On Sunday morning, September 23rd, Bishop Suheil participated in the Cathedral Forum at the Washington National Cathedral. The Bishop presented the ministry of the Diocese in Jerusalem and the Middle East, and spoke about the concerns and challenges of the Anglican Church and the Christians of the area. Bishop Suheil also talked about the ministry of the church through the parishes and institutions and the witness through dialogue that would lead to peaceful co-existence. He also stressed the importance of the partnerships

in the ministry since this ministry is done on behalf of the universal church. Nearly 100 people from the District of Columbia gathered for this event.

At the 11:15am Holy Eucharist, Bishop Suheil addressed the 700 people who attended the cathedral service, challenging them to join the ministry of the diocese through prayer and support.

In the evening the Bishop attended a dinner at the home of Bishop Mariann Budde, during which they discussed the future of the partnership between the two dioceses. The bishops agreed to do their best to make this companionship productive and successful. Also in attendance were twenty people who have visited the Land of the Holy One and are interested in the ongoing work of the Diocese of Jerusalem.



Bishop Suheil's Sunday sermon may be viewed at the Washington National Cathedral site:

<http://www.nationalcathedral.org/exec/cathedral/mediaPlayer?MediaID=MED-5S596-NB0012&EventID=CAL-5QBPM-M6000R>

Bishop Suheil and Canon Hanna Mansour traveled to Richmond, Virginia, where their busy schedule included a luncheon with the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem and Interfaith group; dinner with local clergy, a Mission Lunch at the Diocesan Offices, a Westminster Canterbury Healing Service; dinner with Bishop Susan Goff and Bishop Shannon Johnson of the Diocese of Virginia, and a luncheon at Virginia Theological Seminary with the American Friends of the Diocese of Jerusalem.





Canon Hanna Mansour made a special visit to the Anna Julia Cooper Episcopal School in Richmond, VA.

Bishop Suheil finished his visit in Virginia at Christ Church, Alexandria, where he preached at both morning services and then had lunch with Fr. Pierce Klemmt.

Many thanks go to The Revd Susan Daughtry and the Revd Ann Gillespie and everyone for all their help in organizing and arranging this fruitful visit to Virginia.



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.