



July 2013 Newsletter

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

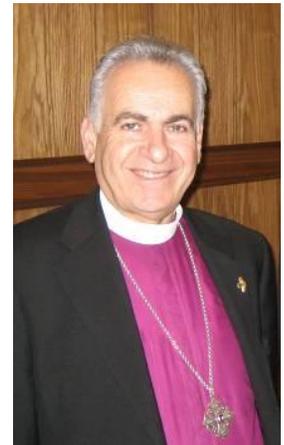
Peace to you in the Name of the Lord

Greetings from Bishop Suheil Dawani

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Holy City of Jerusalem!

The latter part of August was busy meeting with the various school boards in preparation for the beginning of another school year. While there is a considerable amount of work involved to ensure that everything is ready to provide our students with a solid academic programme, these meetings have an element of excitement and satisfaction as we prepare to receive these young people and fulfill the sacred trust placed in us to educate them so they can lead happy, meaningful and productive lives. I extend to all the dedicated staff of our schools my prayers and best wishes for a fulfilling school year and to all our students a truly joyous year of learning and personal development.



I am very grateful to the clergy of the Diocese for the important ministry they provide to our young people through the year, but also during the summer holidays. Many young people attended camps during the recent weeks and received important Christian formation in fun-filled ways. Helping Christian youth to continue to mature in their faith and to live out their baptism by taking their rightful place in church and in society is a truly precious gift to impart to them.

Unfortunately, the summer has also included many challenging days. Egypt continues to experience social upheaval and many people have died in recent demonstrations. Egyptian Christians have been threatened and killed and many churches have been damaged. Likewise, the situation in Syria remains violent and there is the alarming possibility of intervention that could lead to widespread conflict in the region. As indigenous Christians of the Holy Land and the Middle East, our voice is united and our message is clear - we want peace, we pray for peace, we serve peace. At a recent gathering of more than 650 Christian pilgrims in the Bishop's Peace Garden, we were an assembly of more than 50 countries and 20 Christian denominations united in our prayer for peace.

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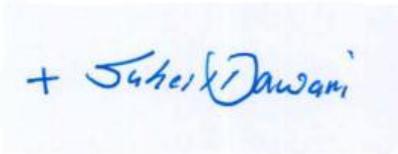
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Finally, we were blessed to have the engagement of Salim Dawani, a young deacon, to Adma Shehadeh, a wonderful woman, who together will share much happiness and contribute significantly to the parishes they will have the joy of serving. As well, there have been many occasions to share meals with family and friends under the summer sky and to give thanks to God for His presence in our Lives. Amidst all the challenges of life, we move forward in faith, hope, peace, and love.

Greetings and Peace in the Name of our Risen and Ascended Lord Jesus Christ!

Peace, Salaam

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a light blue background. The signature reads "+ Suheil Dawani".

+ Suheil Dawani

Deacon Salim Dawani's Engagement to Ms. Adma Shehadeh

Deacon Salim Mousa Dawani from Nablus got engaged to Ms. Adma Akram Shehadeh from Kufr Yassif in a joyous family celebration on Friday, 02 August 2013. The engagement ceremony was led by His Grace Bishop Suheil Dawani. Also participating in the ceremony were Canon John Organ, Chaplain to the Right Rev'd Suheil Dawani, and The Very Rev'd Hosam Naoum, Dean of St. George's Cathedral. Congratulations and wishing them a lifetime of happiness.



Youth Camps Held in St. Margaret's Guest House in Nazareth

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem held the youth summer camps for the year 2013 under the slogan "But someone says to you, you have faith but I have deeds. Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds" at St. Margaret's Guest House in Nazareth for the three age groups: elementary (Grade IV - VI), preparatory (Grade VII - IX), secondary (Grade X - XII).

Some 65 children participated in the first camp for the elementary age group, which was held during the period between (29/07/2013 until 02/08/2013), while in the second camp for the preparatory stage, which was held during the period between (05/08/2013 until 09/08/2013) nearly 95 persons participated. The third camp for the secondary stage (X - XII) will be held on Monday, 12/08/2013 until Friday, 16/8/2013.

The Rev'd Fuad Dagher, Pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Shafa'amer, The Very Rev'd Hosam Naoum, Dean of St. George's Cathedral, led the first camp. The Rev'd Fuad Dagher and the Rev'd Nael Abu Rahmou, Pastor of St. Mathew's Church in Zababdeh, along with a number of local leaders, participated in the second camp. In addition, six foreign volunteers from the Diocese of Southwell Nottingham in England, a twin with the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East, participated in the camp.

The Rev'd Nael Abu Rahmoun will be the sponsor of the third camp for the secondary stage (Grade X - XII), assisted by The Rev'd Fuad Dagher.

His Grace Bishop Suhail Dawani, accompanied by the Rev'd Canon John Organ, Chaplain to Bishop Suheil, The Very Rev'd Dean Hosam Naoum, Archdeacon Samuel Burhom, and The Rev'd Canon Hatem Shehadeh, paid a visit to the camp on Thursday afternoon, 08/08/2013. The Rev'd Fuad Dagher and the Rev'd Nael Abu Rahmouin received His Grace and the accompanying delegation, where the participants presented spiritual hymns led by the Rev'd Fuad Dagher and the worship team.



Bishop Suheil encouraged the young people in their commitment to the Church and its service to the world.

The participants then presented art and spiritual presentations as a product of their work and a motivation for these presentations.

Participants were from the Galilee and the West Bank.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church holds its Summer Camp in Ramallah



The St. Andrew's Church held its annual summer camp in Ramallah, under the slogan "To Put our Trust in the Lord", during the period between 5/08/2013 and 8/08/2013. The camp was held in the church premises in Ramallah. Some 35 children, aged 7 - 12 years, with five local mentors participated in the camp.

The participants spent a period of worship of hymns and prayers, combined with a variety of activities in the church hall, including written contests and games with a Christian goal.

Of the most important activities were learning new songs and handicrafts, which focused on the biblical story of that day. These stories were:

- ▶ The story of Jesus calming the storm;
- ▶ The story of Jesus walking on the water;
- ▶ The story of the Transfiguration of Jesus - This is my beloved Son, listen to him.

On Monday, 5 August, 2013, Bishop Suheil Dawani paid a visit to the camp, blessed the participating children and distributed gifts to the winners in the competitions.

An Inspection Tour By Bishop Suheil in St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus

Bishop Suheil Dawani, Chair of the Arab Episcopal Synod in Jerusalem and the Middle East, paid a visit to the Arab Evangelical Hospital, 'St. Luke's Hospital,' in Nablus on Monday, 12 August 2013. His Grace was received by the Director General of the Hospital, Dr. Walid Kirreh, along with medical and administrative staff of the hospital.



Bishop Suheil extended his warmest wishes to the staff and their families on the occasion of Eid al-Fiter, wishing all a blessed holiday. He then toured the hospital departments to see the progress of work and the nature of the services provided to the patients. He noted with pride how the hospital works diligently to improve and develop its quality of services.

For his part, Dr. Kirreh welcomed His Grace and the accompanying delegation, stressing the Bishop's permanent interest in developing the hospital and the quality of services provided. He emphasized the current highly regarded position of the hospital, thanks to the Bishop's continued support and guidance and the cooperation of workers, which brought the hospital to a state of excellence and innovation.

In addition, the Staff Committee met with Bishop Suheil, where the Committee Chairman, Fayez AL-Zagha, extended his sincere thanks and appreciation for the Bishop for his gracious gesture and for his continued interest in improving the living conditions of workers, which continues to be a priority.



In her speech, Staff Committee Member Samar Akoubeh stressed the current position reached by the hospital under the guidance of Bishop Suheil and his constant eagerness for its success and development. The Staff Committee also submitted several ideas to be discussed in the future with regard to the conditions of workers.

Bishop Dawani greeted the workers and thanked them for their efforts, alluding to his and the Hospital Director's interest in developing and improving the conditions of workers and the hospital as well, and in the quality of services provided to the patients.

St. George's Management Group Meeting

On Wednesday, 14 August 2013, His Grace Bishop Suheil presided over the St. George's School Management meeting in the presence of the Diocesan Superintendent, Rev'd Dr. Lawrence Hilditch, who is leading the school to The International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme. St. George's School is planning to implement the new IB Programme this academic year 2013 - 2014. A new IB Coordinator from Ireland is coming next week to join the faculty.



Bishop Suheil Offers Prayers and Support to Archbishop Mouneer and the People in Egypt



Bishop Suheil Dawani offered his prayers and support to Archbishop Mouneer Anis and to all Christians in Egypt during this difficult time, and especially within the last few hours as some local churches, including St. Savior's Anglican Church in Suez, come under heavy attack.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and all the people of Egypt that there will be a genuine peace and harmony.

Bishop Suheil Extends his Prayers and Concerns for Archbishop Mouneer and the Egyptian People

My Dear Brother in Christ,

I write a word of encouragement to you at this urgent hour of distress for you and your faithful. The scenes of violence against St. Saviour's Church in Suez and the destruction of the car of Fr. Ayoub, as well as attacks against Orthodox churches in Menyia and Suhag in Upper Egypt, and also against a Catholic church, are truly alarming. Please be assured of my prayers for you, your diocese, our fellow Christians and indeed all the people of Egypt. I pray that this violence will end immediately and that there will come to the whole country a spirit of restraint, peace, and harmony. I pray especially that lives will be spared.

These are difficult days for Egypt and her people. We stand in solidarity with you and pray that God will bring about tranquility and calm in which differences can be resolved, the public good served, and faith communities can live side by side in mutual respect.

Please be assured of my prayers and that I am here for you to be of help and support.

May God strengthen and uphold you.

The Rt. Rev'd Suheil Dawani

Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem

Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Farewell Service on Sunday to Honor The Rev'd Deacon Salim Dawani

A farewell service was held on Sunday 18 August 2013 followed by a reception at the Bishop's Peace Garden to honor The Rev'd Deacon Salim Dawani. It was a joint service at **10:30am**. Deacon Salim Dawani will be serving in St. Matthew's Church in Zababdeh early September 2013.

Please join us in this most special celebration as we give thanks for his time of ministry with us, his care and concern for us and his gracious and loving spirit that he so generously shared.

Farwell Service Held in Honor of Deacon Salim Dawani



On Sunday, 18 August 2013, a joint service was held to bid farewell to the Rev'd Deacon Salim Dawani, as he prepares himself to move on to St. Matthew's Church in Zababdeh (north of the West Bank) early next week. Deacon Salim has served in St. George's Cathedral for nearly thirteen months. Also, during the service, three children, aged 14, 13 and 7 years-old, from England were baptized in a lovely, moving ceremony at St. George's Cathedral. A humble reception was held in honor of Deacon Salim Dawani at the Bishop's Peace Garden after the service.



Board of Directors' Christ Church in Nazareth Holds Preliminary Meeting for the New School Year 2013 -2014



The Board of Directors of the Christ Church Episcopal School in Nazareth held a preparatory meeting on Saturday, 24 August 2013 to discuss organizational and administrative matters in preparation for the new academic year 2013-2014. The meeting was chaired by Bishop Suheil Dawani.

Evensong with Choir of London, St. George's Boy's Choir at St. George's Cathedral

On Sunday evening, 25 August 2013, an evensong was held at St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem with the participation of Choir of London, St. George's Boys' Choir, and Olive Branches Choir.



St. George's School (Bishop's School) in Jerusalem Holds Preliminary Meeting for the New School Year 2013 - 2014

On Monday, 26 August 2013, His Grace Bishop Suheil Dawani held a preparatory meeting for the faculty and the staff in the presence of the administrative staff, consisting of the Newly-Appointed Superintendent The Rev'd Dr. Lawrence Hilditch, Mr. Annan Takruri, in Charge of the Secondary Section, Ms. Basma Khoury, in Charge of the Elementary Section, Mr. Matthew, Coordinator of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme, Dr. Itshaq Nasser Eddin, Academic Affairs Advisor. Bishop Suheil opened the meeting with a reading from the Holy Gospel, the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter Six "The Sermon on the Mount". He talked about the importance of proper, sound construction that is built on strong, solid foundation on which the school policies are based. He stressed the importance of spiritual and moral values in education, in addition to the academic aspects.

Bishop Suheil Hosts 600 Pilgrims Visiting the Holy Land



Bishop Suheil Dawani hosted in the Bishop's Peace Garden some 600 pilgrims visiting the Holy Land with the "True Life in God International Conference" on Wednesday, 28 August 2013. Pilgrims represent more than 50 countries from around the world and more than 20 different Christian Denominations. Their primary focus is "Christian Unity".

Bishop Dawani spoke about Jerusalem as a city of peace, stating the importance of making peace a priority for the Middle East and the whole world, especially the situation of heightened tension currently taking place in the region.



Teams of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel Visit St. George's Cathedral

Bishop Suheil Dawani said farewell to the outgoing team and welcome to the incoming team of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI). Bishop Suheil commended both teams for their dedication to witness what local Palestinians experience, as a result of the lack of peace without justice in the Land of the Holy One.

St. John's School Board Meeting Held with the Beginning of the New School Year 2013 - 2014

St. John's School Board of Directors held a meeting in Haifa to discuss the needs of the school and the possibilities of development according to the vision set by the Board of Directors under the auspices of Bishop Suheil Dawani, with the aim of upgrading and improving the quality of services provided by the school for our community. The meeting was chaired by Bishop Suheil Dawani and was held in the family house hall (St. Luke's) in Haifa on Thursday evening, 29 August 2013.



Rev'd Canon Samir Habibi Visits the Holy Land

The Rev'd Canon Samir Habibi was graciously received by Bishop Suheil Dawani during his recent visit to the Diocese of Jerusalem. Canon Habibi visited The Jerusalem Princes Basma Center for Disabled Children and made a financial contribution to the institution in support of its important work on behalf of Palestinian children.

Establishment of a New Medical Center in Al-Zababdeh



Bishop Suheil Dawani, Medical Adviser and Coordinator of Health Services for the Diocese of Jerusalem, accompanied by Dr. Hisham Nassar, the Rev'd Na'el Abu Rahmon, and Deacon Salim Dawani paid a visit to Al-Zababdeh City on Friday, 30 August 2013. The visiting delegation met with the Mayors of Al-Zababdeh, Qabatiya, and the surrounding villages. They discussed the establishment of a new medical center that serves 75,000 residents. The Diocese, in cooperation with the Mayor of ZI-Zababdeh, Qabatiya, is currently working on the preparation of a medical survey of the area and the necessary medical needs in this area.

After the meeting, the delegation visited the clinic to view the progress of work in it.

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.