Peace to you in the name of the Lord

Greetings from Bishop Suheil Dawani

Dear Friends,

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Spring has arrived in Jerusalem – our City of Hope and Resurrection. This month has been one of great celebration as we have greeted the warm weather, the intoxicating aroma of roses and the blooming citrus trees.

We have also celebrated the installation of our new Dean of St. George's Cathedral. The Very Revd Hosam Naoum has become the first Arab Dean to be installed here. Our service of installation, held on Ascension Day, was full to capacity with clergy and friends from around the world who came to celebrate this auspicious occasion.

The presence of the Heads of Churches with us that morning showed the strength of the Church of Christ in this city of Jerusalem, and also places on us a great duty and responsibility. We are called upon to comprehend and accept the nature and deep significance of Jerusalem, the City of God, and we, as the Body of Christ, are partners in the mission for peace and justice.

This month of May ended with Pentecost Sunday, another wonderful day of festivity as we celebrated what in Jerusalem we call the birthday of the church. The Church goes on by the empowerment of the Spirit, by preaching Christ, by bringing men and women under the influence of Christ and the Spirit, by working for peace, justice and reconciliation and by the work of our institutions. Our presence is witness to the living God.

It is our hope that as we work together, at St. George’s and in the Diocese of Jerusalem, and in the City of Jerusalem, and in the world at large, that it will be a blessing to all as we continue to strive to maintain the Christian presence in the land of the Holy One.

+ Suheil Dawani
Dr. Geyanikas visits St. Luke’s Nablus

Dr. Walid Kirri, General Manager of St. Luke’s Hospital, Nablus, welcomed Dr. Costas Geyanikas, from Greece, who is a specialist in endoscopes (used for the diagnosis of diseases of the joints and the knees). Dr. Costas, came to visit St. Luke’s Hospital in cooperation with Dr. Abdullah Abbas the orthopedic specialist at the hospital. A Tea was held in honour of Dr. Geyanikas visit and Dr. Kirri expressed his gratitude and willingness to provide all the necessary facilities in order to conduct operations professionally and as easily as possible.

Dr. Geyanikas expressed his admiration at the hospital and praised the family atmosphere, and the cooperation that prevails throughout the hospital, especially in the Operations Section. He called for the continued need for similar training and education programs in the future, and to use the knowledge gained through education and development programs to serve the community.

Arab Evangelical Episcopal School wins Competition

Company H2O Meter is a student success story sponsored by the Bank of Palestine

It is the second time in three years that the Arab Evangelical Episcopal School has qualified to represent Palestine in the Arab world.

The Arab Evangelical Episcopal School won a landslide victory on the national level by winning two awards in the competition sponsored by INJAZ Palestine.

The established company, H2O Meter, is a success story of distinct vision and modern strategy.

Each school established a ‘School Company’ and was given the task to market the product, H2O Meter. The winner was the school with the largest percentage of sales by the end of the competition. The Arab Evangelical Episcopal School sold more than 90% of its target throughout the city of Ramallah.

The device, H2O Meter, was marketed as a contemporary product and environmentally friendly. It works to measure water levels in reservoirs and also contributes to the identification of the presence of leaks in the tank and the measure of water consumption in homes, factories, companies, banks, and shops. The electronic device works on a 9-volt battery in the reservoirs. A patent on the device has been issued by the Ministry of National Economy. Mr. Jalal Elji, has granted the privilege to market H2O Meter over the lifetime of the company.

The INJAZ Palestine branch of the Global Foundation for Junior Achievement Worldwide (JA Worldwide) is distributed in over 127 countries including 18 Arab countries.
A new project for the Jordan Valley

As part of the work of the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf and the Jofeh Centre, a new community rehabilitation project has begun in the Jordan Valley. The new Rehabilitation Centre will be situated in Karameh in the central part of the Jordan Valley.

The project was started in March this year with the target of completing the first stage in 4 months and a pre-hab building will be constructed during the first weeks of May. Total completion including all new construction should be executed in 2-3 years depending on available funding.

Bishop Dawani Attends Mission LAND Festival in Stuttgart, Germany

Bishop Suheil travelled to Germany this past week to attend the Land Mission Festival in Stuttgart, Germany. The Bishop was one of the main presenters and also gave sermons at two services on Sunday, May 13.

Arriving on Thursday, Bishop Suheil began his visit with meetings with our EMS partners: The Revd Ulrike Schmidt-Hesse, The Revd Klaus Schmid, The Revd Uwe Graebe, and Bernhard Dinkelaker discussing the Schneller Institutions and the good work that is going on in them.

On Friday the official program began with a round table discussion on the ‘Christian Presence in the Middle East’. Bishop Suheil presented his point of view at this discussion, saying ‘The Church is trying very hard to encourage Christians to stay in the Land of the Holy One in order to keep the Christian presence and influence in a place where there is so much need for peace, reconciliation and moderation.’

Saturday was a busy day of meetings and an afternoon panel discussion on the topic -‘Salt of the Earth – Christians in the Middle East’. Bishop Suheil gave a presentation and responded to questions from those in attendance.

On Sunday, May 13, Bishop Suheil gave the sermon at the morning worship focusing on ‘The Prescription for Peace’. After the service, the Bishop participated in a dialogue about the Christian witness in Germany and discussed his perspective coming from a multi-religious society. He stressed that ‘The work for peace is an important mission for all of us, peace with justice, is burdensome and costly. It is the work of nations, churches, synagogues, mosques. It is the work and the business of every one of us, simply because our Lord asks us to do so.’ It was a pleasure to also have in attendance three German members of parliament.
Bishop Suheil also preached at the main service for the Mission Land Festival in the afternoon. The theme of his sermon focused on Matt. 5:13-16 - “Salt of the Earth”. Bishop Suheil said, ‘Christians in the Middle East function as salt and light in the region. They not only preserve the divine message of peace and love among all peoples, but also serve as bridge-builders within their own communities. Interfaith dialogue, mutual respect, and understanding are what we believe in and work for. God uses the church to make the difference in the world.’ Bishop Suheil also gave the Benediction at both services.

The Bishop wrapped up his visit to Germany with a day of visits and returned home on May 15th.

Announcement of New Dean of St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem

Eastertide 2012

I am delighted to announce the appointment of The Reverend Canon Hosam Elias Naoum, pictured below, as the new Dean of the Cathedral Church of Saint George the Martyr in Jerusalem. Canon Naoum, 38, has served as the Canon Pastor of the Cathedral since 2005, and was the Acting Dean for three years (2007-2009). As Dean, Canon Naoum will continue to serve as Pastor to the Arabic and English-Speaking Congregations at the Cathedral. He did his first theological training at the College of the Transfiguration and Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa, and a Master of Theology degree in Canon Law (MTS) at the Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS), Alexandria, Virginia in the USA. This appointment of the new Dean comes after a long time of discernment and prayer and a lawful and constitutional procedure. I call upon all our partners and friends around the Anglican Communion to hold Hosam and his family (Rafa, Wadi, Laurice and Krista) in their prayers and support. May his term as the Dean of the Cathedral be a blessing to many and to the glory of God.

Canon Hosam will continue to serve, especially in his new capacity as the Dean of St. George’s Cathedral, both the Diocese of Jerusalem and the worldwide Anglican Communion. The Cathedral is the Mother Church of the Anglican family and will always be a hospitable home and a worship space for many pilgrims and visitors to the Mother City of our faith.

Canon Naoum will be installed as Dean in St. George’s Cathedral on Ascension Day, May 17, 2012, at 11:00 am.

Faithfully,

The Right Reverend Suheil S. Dawani
Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem

The Revd Canon Hosam E. Naoum
Anglican- Lutheran Commission Meets in Jerusalem

Bishop Suheil hosted the Anglican-Lutheran commission here at St. George’s during the week May 14th. The Archbishop of Canada, Fred Hiltz visited Jerusalem with the National Lutheran Bishop of Canada, Susan Johnson. The delegation of Canadians - Anglican and Lutheran, met with Bishop Suheil and Bishop Munib Younan to discuss the current relations and cooperation that exist between us. Two days were spent in discussion and dialogue as the Canadian Delegation shared their journey to full communion.

Ascension Day and Installation of the New Dean of St. George’s Cathedral in Jerusalem

After much prayer, and seeking of God’s guidance, now for the first time in the life of the Anglican Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, a local Arab has been appointed Dean of St. George’s Cathedral. Bishop Suheil Dawani installed The Revd Canon Hosam Naoum as the Dean of St. George’s Cathedral on Ascension Day, Thursday, May 17th, 2012.

Bishop Suheil welcomed the Greek Patriarchate, His Beatitude Theophilos III, and Bishop William Shomaley, Latin Patriarchal Vicar, Msgr. Joseph Kalikian, the Armenian Catholic Bishop, and representatives from the Coptic and Syrian Orthodox Churches; Bishop Munib Younan, the President of the LWF; the Archbishop of Canada, Fred Hiltz and the Anglican/Lutheran Delegation from Canada and Jerusalem.

Sir Vincent and Lady Fean, British Consul General, Mr. Daniel Rubenstein, US Consul General, Mr and Mrs. Chris Greenshields, Canadian Representative in Ramallah and dignitaries from the City of Jerusalem.

Personal greetings were also received from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, The Revd Canon Paul Mill representing Bishop James Longstaff of Rochester and Chaplain to Queen Elizabeth II.

Representatives from all the Churches, including all the clergy and pastorate committees and those from the Arab/English congregation were there to witness this historical day.
A word from His Beatitude Theophilos III, Patriarch of Jerusalem

The Anglican Communion has a long and important relationship of particular significance. We remember with warmth the recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land of His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, whose commitment to closer relations with the Orthodox Church is well known, and whose support of the Christian communities of the Holy Land has been especially encouraging to us all.

As Orthodox and Anglicans in the Holy Land, we share many of the same challenges as well as many commitments. Most of all we share the commitment of ensuring the well-being and the security of the Christian presence in the Holy Land. Christianity is native to this region, and we regard the Holy Land as our home. And we understand that a vital, vibrant Christian presence is essential to the true nature of the Holy Land as a place of genuine religious, cultural and ethnic diversity and co-existence.

This Cathedral bears a significant dedication, for in your patron Saint George we Orthodox and Anglicans share a great saint, whom we venerate with equal devotion, especially in the Holy Land, and his image adorns the lintels of so many of our Christian homes.

In token of our prayers for you, your family and your congregation here at the Cathedral, we would like to present to you this icon of Saint George, and we commit you to his prayers and protection.

May God bless you, Bishop Suheil, Archbishop Fred, Father Hosam, and the ministry of this Cathedral.

Former Archbishop of Canterbury visits St. George's

On Sunday, May 20th, Bishop Suheil welcomed the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord George Carey and his pilgrimage group from St. George’s Anglican Church, Newbury, Berkshire, England. Lord Carey assisted at the altar during the service and members of his choir sang during communion. The youngest member of the choir was 12 year old Anna Kersley, who has been traveling with her mother on this wonderful visit to the Land of the Holy One. Everyone enjoyed a coffee and sweet in the beautiful gardens of St. George’s Guest House.

Independence Day in Jordan

Bishop Suheil went to Jordan on May 25th to celebrate Jordan’s Independence Day. He met with His Eminence King Abedallah Eben El Hussein, his wife Her Majesty Rania and their son, Prince Hussein.
A Celebration of Pentecost

Pentecost Sunday, May 27th, was observed at St. George’s Cathedral with all the congregation and clergy in attendance. We rejoiced and celebrated the Holy Spirit among us. The clergy processed in behind the pipes and drums of the Palestinian Scouts.

Bishop Suheil and the new Dean, The Very Revd Hosam Naoum celebrated at the service and led the joint Arab/English congregation in hymns and worship.

A Pentecost Lunch was served on the grounds of St. George’s School with over 600 people in attendance. Fr. Fuad Dagher from St. Paul’s, Shefa’mer and The Very Revd Hosam Naoum led the congregation in hymns and music to celebrate the birthday of the Church.

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