Salaam, Peace to you in the name of the Lord

Greetings from Bishop Dawani

Dear Friends,

This month the Diocese has welcomed many from the international Christian community while continuing to nurture the people of faith who maintain the Christian presence in this region. Many pilgrims have joined congregations here in Jerusalem and throughout the Diocese as part of their pilgrimage to the Middle East. The Diocese continues to celebrate and develop relationships with other Christian organizations and representatives. It serves to remind us all of the worldwide Christian community of which we are a part.

I pray that our mission of hospitality to our pilgrims, and to each other, will continue to reflect the Christian message at the core of our work. All are welcome.

+ Suheil Dawani

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News Briefs

Bishop Dawani made Chaplain to St. John Eye Hospital

This month Bishop Dawani welcomed the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem to St. George’s Cathedral for a service of celebration and thanksgiving for the fifty years of service the hospital has provided in their building complex in Sheikh Jarrah, Jerusalem. Bishop Dawani was invested as the Chaplain to the St. John Eye Hospital by the Prelate of the Order, The Rt. Revd. Jack Nicholls.

The Bishop welcomes Ecumenical Accompaniers to St George’s Cathedral

On 10th October the Bishop welcomed the latest group of Ecumenical Accompaniers (EAs) to arrive in Israel/Palestine. The group attended the Sunday morning service at St George’s and afterwards received a welcome from the Bishop at a time of sharing with pilgrims from the Oxford Diocese, UK.

The Ecumenical Accompaniers programme (www.eappi.org) was set up in 2002 by the World Council of Churches in response to a call from the Christian community here. The Diocese wishes the current international group of EAs a safe and blessed time here in Israel/Palestine.
Welcoming Supporters

CMS Australia Leadership visits Bishop and Mission Clergy

Bishop Dawani welcomes Canon John and Cathryn Thew of the Church Mission Society (CMS) in Australia to discuss the mission partnership of CMS with the Diocese. For many years CMS Australia has sponsored two clergy in the Diocese, one in Amman and one in Damascus. The Revd Lex Macqueen and his wife June serve the English Speaking Congregation in Amman. The Revd Andrew Lake and his wife Pam serve the English Speaking Congregation in Damascus.

Knights Templar visit Bishop Dawani and Diocese of Jerusalem to promote Christians in the Land of the Holy One.

Leaders of the Knights of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (SMOTJ) met with Bishop Dawani to explore how they might support the Christian presence through the Diocese of Jerusalem.

Prior to the visit with Bishop Dawani, the SMOTJ leadership visited our diocesan Arab Evangelical School and our Episcopal Technical Vocational Training Center (ETVTC) in Ramallah, West Bank. The SMOTJ representatives pledged to continue to support the work of the Diocese through the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

The Bishop welcomes Bishop John Pritchard and the Oxford Diocese Pilgrimage

Bishop John Pritchard and a group of over 100 pilgrims from the Oxford diocese in the UK attended the Sunday service at St George’s cathedral as part of their pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Their attendance coincided with a visit by the latest group of Ecumenical Accompaniers to arrive in Israel/Palestine.

Bishop Dawani welcomed the group for a time of fellowship and sharing after the service. The Bishop emphasized the importance of the Diocese’s work in providing pastoral care, education & healthcare, and the significance of ecumenical work across the region.

Demonstrating their commitment to the Arab Anglicans in the Holy Land, the Bishop of Oxford, The Rt Revd John Pritchard, presented Bishop Dawani with a financial contribution to the work of the Diocese, which was gratefully received. With concern for the families who are facing financial hardships especially as the holiday times approach, Bishop Dawani has marked the donations for assistance to needy families.
Welcoming friends from the Diocese of Kingston, Jamaica

Bishop Dawani welcomed the Rt. Revd. Robert Thompson and 32 members of the Diocese of Kingston, Jamaica. The Jamaican pilgrims had begun their visit in Jordan where they attended a service at the Church of the Redeemer, followed by a time of fellowship with the congregation.

The delegation from the Diocese of Jamaica particularly enjoyed the service at the Church of the Redeemer. One of the Deacons serving in that church, the Rev. Fursan Zu'mot completed his theological training in Jamaica with the cooperation of Bishop Thompson. The service was followed with a meal and fellowship.

The UK North West Festival Chorus visits Amman

On Saturday 16 October, the International Anglican Church of Amman was delighted to welcome The North West Festival Chorus (UK) to its weekly service. There were over 100 members of the choir, and the acoustic properties of the Church of the Redeemer added to a highly professional and moving performance. The choir sang the anthem - 'He That Shall Endure to the End' from 'Elijah' by Mendelssohn. After the service the choir performed 'Gloria' by Antonio Vivaldi. The Revd Lex Macqueen thanked the choir, and their conductor, Mr John Bethell MBE, for their inspiring performance.

Parish Life

The First Marital Enrichment Conference Sept. 2010

The Division of Marriage and Family Counseling in the Diocese held the first marital enrichment conference at Schneller School in Marka. Couples attended the conference and there was a special programme for the children who accompanied their parents. The conference was also open to others who were interested in obtaining more information about marriage and family issues. The total number attending was 25. Revd. Dr. Khaled Freij, newly appointed by the Diocese as leader of the Division of Marriage and Family Counseling, with his wife Rana, arranged the conference.

The Day started with Holy Communion, a good beginning for a time of honest discussion. Everyone enjoyed a special Friday night with music, games, bingo and prizes. The couples who attended the conference are looking forward to the next.
Confirmation in Ramallah

One of the great pleasures for a Bishop is to confirm and receive new members into the full life of the Anglican Communion. After confirming seventeen young people in Amman, Bishop Dawani traveled to Ramallah to confirm eight more. The Revd Hanna Daleh, who was appointed priest-in-charge at St. Andrew’s last year, presented his candidates after significant training. In a joyful service at St. Andrew’s Church, still glowing from its recent renovation, seven young people and one adult were blessed by Bishop Dawani and confirmed into the Church through the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

Celebration of Feast of St. Luke at Marka

Bishop Dawani joined with the clergy and congregation on Sunday 17th October at the church at Marka to celebrate St. Luke. During the service the Bishop gave a short address and he began by reminding the congregation that there were other institutions named after this important Saint in the Diocese. These include St. Luke’s Hospital, Nablus, St. Luke’s Church and Centre in Beirut, and St. Luke’s Chapel for the Deaf, Salt. The Bishop emphasized the importance of St. Luke particularly with regard to healing.

After the service a reception was held in the church hall during which Archdeacon Luay thanked the Bishop for his visit and expressed his gratitude to him for his wise leadership and encouragement. Before cutting a wonderful cake in celebration the Bishop honoured Niameh, a long standing member of the congregation for her work and service to the church in Marka.

Clergy Meetings in Amman and Shefa Amr

In October, Bishop Dawani gathered the clergy together in two regional meetings, one in Shefa Amr, Israel, and the other in Amman, Jordan.

With Bible Study, discussion, and fellowship, the Bishop addressed the need to serve with humility and to be good examples of a life in Christ. This reflects our relationship with God and must be passed on to our parishioners, and our ecumenical and interfaith neighbors.

Clergy from Amman were joined by colleagues from Salt, Zarqa, Aqaba, Husn and Irbid for the meeting which was followed by lunch and fellowship. Clergy in Shefa Amr came from Zebabdeh, Ramallah, and Nablus in the West Bank and Kufr Yasif, Haifa, Nazareth, Raineh, and Ramleh in Israel.
Community Dinner - Amman, Jordan

The congregation of the Church of the Redeemer celebrated Thanksgiving by supporting a Community Dinner, held at the Orthodox Club, Amman. Attended by over 200 people, the dinner was an opportunity to celebrate the goodness of God remembering how God supplies all our needs. There was a short time of worship with prayers and readings led by Revd. Fadi Diab, minister of the Church of the Redeemer, and members of the congregation. On behalf of the Bishop, members of the congregation were thanked by Revd. Fadi. An excellent dinner was served following the service allowing a time of fellowship.

Bishop Dawani meets with Pastorate Committee

As the Chief Pastor of all the diocesan congregations, Bishop Dawani regularly meets with the Pastorate Committees of the churches. Bishop Dawani provides support and guidance to the lay leadership and the clergy of each parish particularly in times of transition or unusual challenges.

Pastorate Committee meeting October 2010 – Christ Church, Nazareth with Bishop Dawani and Father Imad Diaibes (centre).

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.

Editor: The Rt Revd Suheil S. Dawani