



NEWSLETTER

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

March 2011

Salaam, Peace to you in the name of the Lord

Greetings from Bishop Dawani

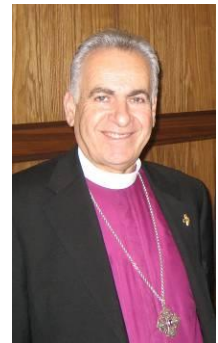
Dear Friends,

Throughout this month I have been attending meetings across the Diocese in my capacity as Chair of the many schools and institutions the Diocese supports.

Spending time with colleagues, both lay and clergy alike, brought home to me the importance of these relationships in providing support, fellowship, and encouragement as we continue to reach out to those in need in our communities. These times of fellowship also emphasized the remarkable work individuals throughout our communities are doing to help others whether they be patients, students or parishioners in our mission of hope and care to all those in need.

I give thanks for all those who work so hard in this Diocese to make a difference to those in need and thank you all for your continued support and faithful service in His name.

+ Suheil Dawani



The Bishop meets the Mayor of Jerusalem's staff



The Bishop met with the Vice Mayor of Jerusalem and the Mayor's Consultant for Christian Communities in Jerusalem on the 29th March.

Bishop Suheil met with these members of the Mayor's staff to discuss issues of shared concern about the visibility of the Christian presence in the Holy City in a continuing effort to establish a good working relationship between the Municipality and the Diocese.

To the left of Bishop Suheil is Naomi Tsor, Vice Mayor of Jerusalem and to his right is Jackie Avrahami, the Consultant for Christian Communities in Jerusalem.

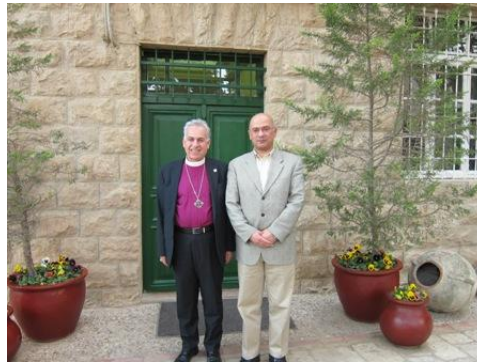
Bishop Suheil Chairs School Board Meetings in Jordan and the Galilee

Bishop Suheil chaired the Board meetings of the Diocesan Saviour School, Zarka, Ahliyyah School, Amman, and Christ's School, Nazareth earlier this month. Bishop Suheil is the Chairman of the Board for all schools and such meetings are conducted regularly to discuss progress and plans for the coming year.



Left: Board Members of Saviour School, Zarka
Right: Board Members of Christ School, Nazareth

These meetings are a vital opportunity for teachers, staff, and board members alike to come together and consider, in a supportive environment, the progress made over the past year and hopes for the year ahead. The schools continue to strive to provide the best in education for all pupils in their care and Bishop Suheil thanked all present for their continued hard work and dedication over the past twelve months.



Left: Bishop Suheil (Chair) and Dr Ma'in Insour Member of the Ahliyyah School Board
Right: The Ahliyyah School Board

Provincial Synod Executive Committee, Amman



Earlier this month Bishop Suheil Dawani attended the Provincial Synod Executive Committee which brings together the four Bishops of the Anglican Province of the Diocese of Jerusalem & the Middle East under their Primate, The Most Revd Dr Mouneer Hanna Anis.

From left to right are The Most Rev Dr Mouneer Hanna Anis, Primate and Bishop of Egypt; The Rt Revd Azad Marshall, Bishop of Iran; The Rt Rev Suheil Dawani, Bishop of the Diocese of Jerusalem; and The Rt Rev Michael Lewis, Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf.

Opening of the St Luke's Hospital nurses' residence



Bishop Suheil, accompanied by his wife Shafeeqa Dawani, attended the opening of the newly renovated nurses' residence at St Luke's Hospital, Nablus. The opening of the residence followed the St Luke's Hospital Board Meeting which took place earlier in the day.

St Luke's has experienced financial hardship over the past few years but since 2007 the hospital's financial situation has gradually improved allowing the Diocese to find funds to carry out essential work to the hospital buildings. The staff residence quarters were in need of renovation and now a new residence exists which will house ten female nurses in

five rooms.

The Diocese is now looking into the possibility of providing accommodation for male nurses on a new floor to be built above the current accommodation block in an effort to improve the standard of accommodation for staff who carry out such vital work for the benefit of the community of the northern West Bank.

The event was followed by refreshments.



The Re-dedication of St. Paul's Anglican Church, Jerusalem



St. Paul's is known to be the first Arab-Anglican church in the region. The church was built in 1873 with the support of the Church Missionary Society of England (CMS) during the episcopacy of the Rt. Revd Samuel Gobat. The church was consecrated on November 29, 1874.

St. Paul's was in regular use by parish members as part of the Diocese of Jerusalem until 1948. When the fighting ended and Israelis took control of the neighborhood, the members of the congregation found they could not easily get to the church as it was on the west side of the "green line" in what is now known as

West Jerusalem.

The congregation began to worship at Christ Church, Jaffa Gate for a few years. In 1953 the congregation of St. Paul's became, by formal agreement, part of the ministry of the Cathedral of St. George in what became known as East Jerusalem. St. Paul's Church has not been in use for regularly scheduled worship since 1948.

St. Paul's underwent renovations and improvements prior to its being re-opened during a service of re-dedication on March 2nd, 2011. The Rt. Revd Suheil Dawani, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, presided over a service which included restoring the baptismal font, altar and pulpit to their original locations and use in the church. Each of these had been removed from the church for safe-keeping when the church was closed. (The altar and font had been kept at St. Paul's Church in Shef'amr and the pulpit at Church of our Savior in Kufr Yasf.)



During the service Bishop Dawani welcomed His Beatitude Theophilos III, Greek Patriarch, Bishop Kamal Bathish who represented His Beatitude Fouad Twal, Latin Patriarch and Bishop Mounib Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Holy Land. Each of the ecumenical representatives offered remarks celebrating the re-opening of the church in West Jerusalem.

Others in attendance included the clergy of the Diocese, members of both the Arabic and English-speaking congregations of the Cathedral, neighbors and friends as well as political representatives of both Palestinian and Israeli authorities.

Bishop Suheil spoke of the importance of peace and reconciliation which the re-opening of St. Paul's in West Jerusalem inspires as a place of prayer for all of God's children.

Diocesan attendance at the Anglican – Lutheran Society AGM, London



The Rev Canon Samuel Fanous represented Bishop Suheil Dawani at the AGM of the Anglican-Lutheran Society held in London earlier this month.

The Anglican-Lutheran Society was formed in 1984 by two Christian friends, one Lutheran and the other Anglican. The society exists to broaden awareness and understanding of both traditions and draws members from across the world. The society's patrons are The Archbishop of

Canterbury, Rowan Williams, and Munib Younan, President of the Lutheran World Federation.

www.anglican-lutheran-society.org

This year's AGM was held in London at the Ethelburga Centre for Peace and Reconciliation. The topic of this year's AGM was 'The Situation Facing the Christians in Jerusalem and the Holy Land' and presentations and discussion focused on this theme.

The Rev Canon Samuel Fanous gave a presentation which focused on his own experience as an Arab Christian living and working in Israel. Father Samuel emphasized the all encompassing love of God for all his people in the Land of the Holy One and the inclusive message which Christianity teaches.

The meeting concluded with prayers and a service of communion led by Bishop Rupert Hoare

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.

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