



NEWSLETTER

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

June 2010

Networking and Building Partnerships Around the World with Ongoing Ministries in the Diocese

BISHOP SUHEIL AND SHAFEEQA DAWANI SPEAK AT CANADA'S GENERAL SYNOD *Invites Canadian participation in diocesan and interfaith endeavors*



June 3-8 2010, Bishop Suheil and Shafeeqa Dawani were guests of Primate Fred Hiltz at the 2010 General Synod held in Halifax, Canada. Primate Hiltz visited the Diocese of Jerusalem, hosted by Bishop Dawani, in late August of 2009 in response to the Church of Canada interest in increasing their relationship with local Anglican Christians who have maintained the Christian presence in the Land of the Holy One since the time of the first Pentecost. Moved by what he saw in the Diocese, Primate Fred invited Bishop Suheil and Shafeeqa to be guest speakers at the 2010 Synod.

After explaining the context for ministry in five political regions (Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon) and suffering hardships which drive Christians from the area, Bishop Dawani stated "we are a people who overcome challenges with the love of Christ ... Jerusalem is the city of Resurrection (where) death has been defeated and eternal life given to all who believe. We are people of hope and your commitment in keeping that hope alive is as important now as it ever was."

Met with strong applause for his speech emphasizing the need for mutual respect and peace, Bishop Dawani spoke of the Christians as a 'bridge' between all Abrahamic faiths, Muslims, Christians, and Jews, which has helped to counter the spread of extremism. He encouraged the Church of Canada to join in the diocesan Kids4Peace program which brings youth from the three Abrahamic faiths together.

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Thanked with a standing ovation by the assembled multitude, Archbishop Hiltz described Bishop Dawani's presence at the Synod as a "wonderful and sacred moment." He described Bishop Dawani as a "gentle, loving, chief pastor ... a respected ecumenist (and) bridge-builder."

Speaking on ministry with the women of the Diocese



Joining Bishop Dawani, Shafeeqa spoke to the Synod of Canada about her mission with the women of the Diocese and the region to work together for healthy societies and peace.

In an interview during the General Synod in Canada, Shafeeqa spoke up about the importance of empowering oneself to make a difference: "I had to stand up and speak, or I wasn't ever going to." Asked if it was hard, she replied "Only the first time."

She later went on to say: "It's hard when the person in front of you does not feel with you, and does not accept me as a Palestinian Christian, or that my family once lived in Jaffa." (Jaffa has been incorporated into Tel Aviv in Israel.) ... "Sometimes that person doesn't know the truth, but a distorted story. I feel sad inside, not mad, sad inside now."

Shafeeqa works with women leaders around the diocese to empower each other, to strengthen the Christian presence and increase dialogue. Along with her husband, she demonstrates peace and reconciliation by living it in spite of personal losses and hardships. Through a series of conferences and workshops, women, including the wives of many of her husband's priests, have taken on a much wider role, strengthening themselves, their families, and their communities.

"They are active... And there is encouragement—in every step they take they are encouraged by their husbands and by other women," Shafeeqa said. "We have always to hope, live in hope. If I do not have hope I cannot give it to others and encourage others to stick to hope and faith and love. We live in hope."

Content and photos courtesy of the Anglican Journal of Canada:

<http://www.anglicanjournal.com/nc/other-news-items/article/giving-peace-a-chance-9210.html>

Looking Ahead to a New Medical Clinic in Ramallah

On behalf of the Diocese and the people of Ramallah, Bishop Suheil Dawani offers thanks to God and to the many faithful who have made the construction of the new medical clinic possible.

Ramallah and the immediate area is home to over 279,000 people and continues to expand as an international center for business and commerce in Palestine. This handicapped accessible clinic is located in new space which has been built above the church hall at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in downtown Ramallah.

This outpatient clinic will focus primarily on treating the complicated consequences of diabetes among the Palestinian population. A diabetic foot program combined with an extensive emphasis on cardio-vascular health will provide for services to those in need which are not otherwise readily available. Palestinians generally have a higher incidence of diabetes than the general population of the region. It estimated that 10% of Palestinian women suffer from the condition. Vascular health is a critical component for diabetics which requires qualified medical staff and the appropriate equipment for diagnosis and treatment.



With construction of the building now completed, and medical professionals ready to go to work, the next phase has to do with acquiring the proper medical equipment. Individuals, churches and dioceses are invited to support any portion of this Anglican health program in the heart of the West Bank. Information regarding how to best transfer funds toward this project are best made to the Rev'd Canon Robert D. Edmunds, Chaplain to the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem at [**bishops.chaplain@j-diocese.org**](mailto:bishops.chaplain@j-diocese.org).

Bishop Dawani has stressed that the clinic's ministry will be particularly for those who cannot afford treatment elsewhere. A sliding fee scale will be used to allow anyone in need to have access to high quality health care. God-willing, an October dedication is being planned to open the clinic to the public.

This service to those in need is an essential focus of the health care ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem through its hospitals in Gaza and Nablus, its outpatient clinic in Zebabdeh and a variety of rehabilitation centers sponsored throughout the region.

CEO of AngliCORD visits Bishop Suheil and the Diocese of Jerusalem Discuss Medical Support and Partnership



Jerusalem, June 30, 2010 Bishop Suheil Dawani welcomed the visit of Ms. Misha Coleman, Chief Executive Officer of AngliCORD, to the Diocese of Jerusalem this week. Ms. Coleman has extensive experience in development work through a variety of diplomatic and NGO programs, most recently with AngliCORD. AngliCORD is a major funding agency in Australia and contributes support to the health care ministries of the Diocese. Bishop Dawani and Ms. Coleman, along with members of the Diocesan staff, are exploring new ways in which the good news of the ministry of the Diocese can be shared with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Australia.

Christ School Nazareth Celebrates Graduation and Final Court Decision

Christ School, Nazareth begins a new chapter with the first graduating class under the new director, Mr. Yusef Ballan and the final court decision closing the property rights issues which have plagued the school for three years. Mr. Ballan was named director of Christ School after the departure of retired Bishop Riah's son last year. As director, he has worked with diocesan leaders to evaluate all parts of the school to tighten the administration, cut costs to a balanced budget, and point the school to a positive future. Meanwhile, the Israeli Courts rendered their final decision regarding the claim of retired Bishop Riah denying him all rights, access "without express written permission of the diocesan Bishop Suheil Dawani," or involvement "at all in any matter, without exception, in the matters of church and the school".

Jordan schools honor student achievements

May 25th was a very special day in the life of the Saviour School, Zarka. Not only was it Jordan Independence Day, it was the day of Graduation for the 48 Tawjihi Graduates. The students are celebrating success in their studies and are beginning a new stage in their live. These young men and women are starting a new journey and are looking ahead to university and employment and thus contributing their part in society.

Bishop Suheil Dwani was able to attend and along with the Head Mistress Du'aa Al Bisharat, encouraged the whole school, both staff and students, to continue in the work and achievements so far and to look to the future aiming only for the best. Bishop Suheil thanked the Head Mistress and the staff for their efforts during the past year and offered his support as they continued to serve the School.



Saviour School, Zarka - Graduation

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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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