



AFEDJ

American Friends of the
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Building Hope in the Holy Land

Spring 2021

Welcome Bishop Hosam Naoum

At his installation service on May 13, he will become the fifth Palestinian bishop since the founding of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem in 1845



Ascension Day, May 13, will mark the rise of a new leader in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem as Bishop Coadjutor Hosam Naoum is installed as the 15th Bishop of Jerusalem - with the historic title of Archbishop. He will succeed the Most Rev. Suheil Dawani who has led the diocese since 2007.

Elected by clergy and lay members of the diocese at a special convention in January 2020 and consecrated at St. George's Cathedral in June, Bishop Naoum served as dean of St. George's Cathedral since 2012. Prior to becoming dean of St. George's, he was pastor of the Arabic congregation at the cathedral from 2005 to 2012. He was educated at Rhodes University in South Africa and holds masters and doctorate degrees from Virginia Theological Seminary.

In a recent conversation with AFEDJ trustees, Bishop Naoum expressed his hope for the future even in the midst of challenges brought on by

the pandemic. "We know the wider church stands with us as we face challenges here. We have a lot to celebrate and thank God for as we look forward to walking together to do God's mission in this world."

He added, "We are entrusted with this mission in the Holy Land - to be a beacon of hope, love, and peace in this world. So we are doing a lot on your behalf! We do this ministry not only for ourselves, but we do this on behalf of every single Christian. I trust not only that the Lord is with us but I take comfort also that we have wonderful friends surrounding the diocese with so much love, affection, and support. How do you expect me not to be hopeful?"

Archbishop Suheil S. Dawani leaves a rich legacy of ministry in the Holy Land

In April Archbishop Suheil Dawani joined AFEDJ trustees by Zoom to reflect on his 14-year episcopate and the Diocese of Jerusalem's long partnership with American Friends. "I think I am leaving the diocese in much better shape than when I first became bishop. I thank God for this. With the help of God and the teamwork with you and others we were able to maintain our ministry and to strengthen the Christian presence in the region."



Archbishop Dawani shared the three pillars of his ministry: pastoral care and Christian witness, strong humanitarian institutions, and building bridges with leaders of diverse groups across the region.

Looking to his upcoming retirement, he said, "Dear friends, brothers and sisters, may God bless you all as we continue to partner together to make this holy city of the resurrection a center of hope for all the world. Our institutions give hope to all underprivileged people we serve. Thank you very much for your love and your support for the Lord's ministry in this land."

St. Luke's Hospital celebrates the delivery of an ultrasound machine and the friendship of many American friends

The power of churches joining together

Last fall when clergy and members of St. John's Norwood in Chevy Chase, MD, learned that their friends at St. Luke's Hospital in the northern West Bank city of Nablus needed to raise more than \$114,000 to purchase a critically needed 4D ultrasound machine, they called upon a tried and true strategy. Just two years before, St. John's rector, the Rev. Sari Ateek, enlisted support from churches across the D.C. region to fund an ambulance for St. Luke's.

"When you consider the realities on the ground in Israel and Palestine, you realize just how precious something like hope can be," said Ateek. "The work of a charitable hospital like St. Luke's, which brings high quality medical care and attention to the most disadvantaged in

the community, is truly the work of God. It is the remarkable work of bringing light and love and hope to the least of these."

By Christmas Eve, through the generosity of many St. John's members and a dozen other churches in Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia, sufficient funds were raised to allow St. Luke's leaders to open a competitive bidding process, and a GE Logiq E10s ultrasound machine arrived in April. Dr. Walid Kerry, director of St. Luke's, made



his gratitude clear. "We thank all who contributed to this campaign and who so selflessly took it upon themselves to offer aid to complete strangers in need the world over. The counterpoint is that we do not feel, at all, like strangers. This was an act of community, of family, and we are proud to consider all of you the family of St. Luke's Hospital."

As the only charity hospital in Nablus, a city of 350,000 people, St. Luke's Hospital is the only health care option for many impoverished people and, increasingly, because of the economic downturn caused by the pandemic, many middle class families. With a new ultrasound, St. Luke's staff will no longer have to turn people away.

Dr. Kerry added, "We thank God for sending you to us, and as much as we are humbled by your example, we are equally honored to carry the responsibility of putting your good works into action on the ground."

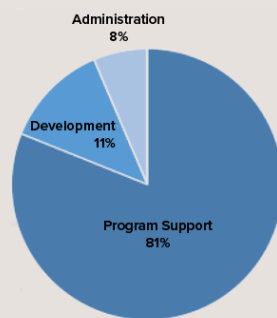
Your generosity in 2020 set records

Over the course of the most unsettled and unsettling year in memory, you - the supporters of the schools and hospitals in the Diocese of Jerusalem - responded with incredible generosity. Your gifts - and many, many of you made multiple donations when called upon - enabled AFEDJ to send almost 50% more financial support to Jerusalem than in 2019.

Thank you!

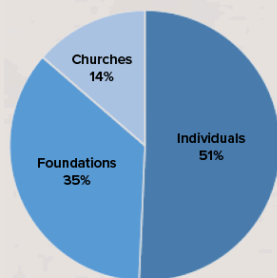
2020 USE OF FUNDS

- Program Support \$1,796,641
- Administration \$186,364
- Development \$253,259



2020 SOURCE OF FUNDS

- Individuals \$1,130,901
- Churches \$302,590
- Foundations \$802,773



Our Gold Seal of Transparency from Guidestar means we're accountable, transparent, and financially healthy! We invite you to give generously at www.afedj.org

Sign up for the AFEDJ monthly e-newsletter at www.afedj.org

ETVTC empowers West Bank women to start home-based businesses

Almost every class of the adult culinary arts diploma program offered at the Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center (ETVTC) in Ramallah includes a few women. Some are housewives who want to supplement family income by starting a home cooking or baking business. Others, like Hanan Hassouneh and Sandi Bahbah have a more entrepreneurial vision. They are now proprietors of their own pastry shop, Brookies Cookies.

Inspired by Hanan's and Sandi's success, Giovanni Anbar, ETVTC's founding director, wondered if a culinary arts program particularly designed for women might be the Center's next offering to the wider community. The new course designed for women meets in the mornings to accommodate their children's school schedule and enrolls 22 women from three West Bank villages.

Anbar explained that ETVTC staff approach village councils to share the opportunity with residents. "One woman might convince family members or friends to participate with her. They can travel together and perhaps go into business together or at the very least support one another's efforts." He added, "This is very empowering for women whose main focus has been at home. Because of high unemployment and low salaries in Palestine, the additional income brought into the household from their



Hasan Hassouneh with Brookies Cookies

home cooking or baking business is of great support to the family."

In addition to culinary arts skills, women learn basic accounting, digital marketing, social media, packaging, and technical English. Anbar said, "We have noticed that this group is different from our course for younger adults. They take things more seriously, ask more questions, take more notes and all the trainers are happy to work with them."

Anbar believes the demand for such a course will always be high, however, the \$1,500 full tuition for the program puts it out of reach for many women. "Most women can't pay and wouldn't be able to participate unless offered a full scholarship. Their households are already under financial stress," he said.

Interested in helping women entrepreneurs wishing to enroll in the next class? Please contact AFEDJ Executive Director John Lent at jlent@afedj.org.

American friends make tech upgrades possible at St. George's School

Established in 1899, St. George's School in East Jerusalem is known for its many notable alumni. Originally a school for boys, St. George's now provides 700 boys and girls an excellent K-12 education at an affordable cost.

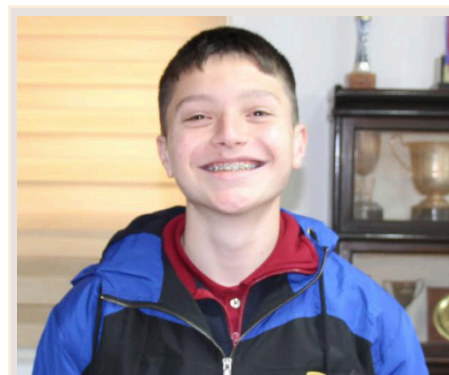
St. George's School's academic standards are rigorous. The school seeks to prepare young men and women for higher education and, ultimately, to assume leadership roles in Palestinian society.

In early 2020, as St. George's transitioned to distance learning due to the pandemic, the 120 year-old school needed to upgrade its technology infrastructure. Late last year, when asked to share a pressing need at one of the Diocese of Jerusalem's schools, Bishop Coadjutor

Hosam Naoum identified the need at St. George's.

Through your generosity American Friends was able to provide the \$39,000 necessary to install high speed wireless connectivity through the school and provide interactive whiteboard and other equipment necessary for teachers to instruct, assess, and support their students.

Najwa Kreitem, an English teacher at St. George's, explained, "Interactive projectors and whiteboards make possible for us to do what before was impossible. Integrating technology in the classroom makes a significant difference in our teaching methods. It enhances the way we teach as it enhances the way students learn."



"Having a very efficient internet connection with no interruptions at the school has enabled us to integrate modern learning methods from watching videos to solving math or physics problems and language worksheets on the whiteboard. I am certain that these interactive projectors will play a fundamental role in the education of the generations of students to come." — Ahmad Sultan

St. George's 11th grader

25 Old King's Highway North, Suite 13
Darien, Connecticut 06820

Address Correction Requested

Inside this issue

- Welcome Bishop Naoum, Farewell Archbishop Dawani
- Congregations join together to provide a life-saving ultrasound at St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus
- Culinary arts training empowers women in the West Bank
- Technology upgrades transform teaching and learning at St. George's School in Jerusalem
- Your generosity in 2020 set records

AFEDJ Trustees — Welcome and Farewell

American Friends has long been blessed with trustees who generously share their talents, expertise, and passion for the Holy Land in support of our mission. At the end of May we bid farewell and thank you to four trustees who have completed their second three-year term.

Our gratitude goes to AFEDJ's current vice-chair **Robert Drumheller** of Washington, D.C.; **Christopher Hayes** of San Francisco, CA; **John Nasir** of Tuscaloosa, AL; and **Solomon Owayda** of Arlington, MA.

We're thankful they will join the AFEDJ Trustee Alumni group, so many of whom continue to support our work with Diocese of Jerusalem ministries.

We are pleased to welcome three new trustees who begin service in June. **Donald Crawshaw** of Salisbury, CT; Bishop **Anne Hodges-Copple**, suffragan bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina; and **Endicott Peabody III**, of Scottsdale, Arizona.

Mr. Crawshaw, a life-long Anglican/Episcopalian, is a lawyer with Sullivan & Cromwell in New York. He

recently competed two terms as a director of Episcopal Charities of the Diocese of New York and holds a MA in Biblical Studies from The General Seminary.



Ordained to the priesthood in 1988 and consecrated as bishop in 2013, Bishop Hodges-Copple has served in the Diocese of North Carolina throughout her ordained ministry. She has led three pilgrimages to the Holy Land in recent years. A member of The Episcopal Church's Executive Council, she also served as chair of the 79th General Convention Committee on Social Concerns.

Mr. Peabody returns to the AFEDJ board after serving from 2014 to 2020 and chaired the Development Committee as well as represented AFEDJ at the Diocese of Jerusalem's annual Majma gathering. Since his retirement from a long career in banking and finance, he has led pilgrimages to the Holy Land and enjoys sharing his passion for our work with everyone he meets.

Welcome!

Top to Bottom Anne Hodges-Copple, Cotty Peabody, Don Crawshaw
(Photo by Michelle Yee)