

*The Most Reverend Hosam E. Naoum
Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem
The Fifteenth Bishop of the Episcopal
Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem*



المطران حسام الياس نعوم
رئيس الأساقفة الأنجليكاني في القدس
الأسقف الخامس عشر لمطراينة القدس الأسقفية العربية

Appeal in Support of the Earthquake Victims in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

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Early in the morning of February 6, a devastating earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter Scale struck the region of southern Turkey and northern Syria. It was followed by many aftershocks, one nearly as catastrophic as the first.

Along with the rest of the world, we in the Diocese of Jerusalem have been horrified to see images of the massive destruction of city after city, and town after town. Collapsing buildings have killed thousands of unsuspecting victims, while leaving many thousands more buried amidst the rubble, awaiting rescue by teams of heroic workers. Hundreds of times that number are now without food or shelter and left shivering in the midst of the bitter winter cold.

The reports from northern Syria—a region that falls within the Diocese of Jerusalem—are especially dire. Because the territory is largely inhabited by refugees fleeing an eleven-year civil war, the situation there is literally “an emergency within an emergency,” as one of the local victims put it. That very war has made it particularly difficult for relief to reach those whose need is most desperate.

Thankfully, through our Diocesan church network, which was not directly affected by the earthquake, we have the ability to channel such aid and relief to those victims.

And so I would like to appeal to my fellow Christians and all those of goodwill to contribute to our diocesan relief effort, either directly or through one of our international partners. Given the extent of the devastation, no sum is too small—or too big. Any gift you can give will make a difference to those left with little or nothing in the aftermath of this natural disaster.

Also, I invite you to join us in lifting up those affected in prayer, asking for God’s healing, comfort, and strength upon them as they seek to survive the difficult days ahead. May God indeed bless and sustain them through these prayers and gifts of support, which we offer in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

The Most Reverend Hosam E. Naoum
Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem