

Immanuel Church Haifa

September-October 2009 Report

Dear Friends of Immanuel Church,

Thank you for your faithful prayers one-half of Elisabeth and Najeeb over the past few months, which have been very busy and fruitful. We would like to update you on what the Lord has been doing, and what we believe **He** is wanting for the future.

At the invitation of a Romanian woman who had worked and lived in Ruth's house Najeeb, Elisabeth and Ruth Nessim from Nahariya visited Romania for 10 days in September. The lady originally came to faith in a Seventh Day Adventist Church in Romania, but during the last period of her stay in Israel, she began to attend and very much enjoy the Nahariya Assembly. During our visit to Tecuti, her home town (which outside looks like a set from Fiddler On The Roof!), Pastor Najeeb was invited to preach twice in the Adventist Church where he spoke on Reconciliation between Jews and Arabs, and what God is doing in the land in this respect. His message was well received, and we believe we made good contact with some of the people there. The following day (Sunday), we received an invitation to the Baptist Church, where also Najeeb spoke twice, and was warmly received. It was a joy to meet these Romanian Christians, who have experienced great persecution in the past, but are now enjoying freedom and growing in numbers. The Mountainous areas and scenery are all exceedingly beautiful, but the cities are full of stark contrast. Everything is available to those who have money, but the poor beg around the restaurants, and will eat scraps from the plates! The contrast between this and Ceaușescu's opulent palace was sickening, and the after-effects of his despotic reign are still very evident.

Firstly, we wish to share with you our vision for the future of Immanuel Church, the new Theological school which has been opened in Haifa, and our vision for future co-cooperation between Jews and Arabs in the bonds of Messiah's love.

Our Congregation which has increased in numbers has been asked to evacuate the shed which has been our home for the last few years. A new meeting place is needed and we have been looking for a place for some time to meet the needs of the growing congregation.

Secondly, and even more importantly, a new **Theological School** has begun here in Haifa, under the auspices of **The Israel College of the Bible**. This new extension college is the inspiration of a number of Arab believers, who wish to see unity between Arabs and Jews, and refuse to teach **Replacement Theology**, which has no place for Israel in its teachings, but instead believes that God has finished with the Jews, and the Church is now the new Israel. Thomas Damianos, a gifted man (Thomas is trained Engineer, and Theologian, and is also just completing a law degree) has already commenced teaching with eight Arab students, and at the end of the first semester, he hopes to have an intake of a number of Jewish students, who will learn together with the Arab students in the Hebrew language. The vision is to train and equip Arab and Jewish students who will become future leaders in the congregations in Israel and be teaching truly Biblical doctrines and God's plan for Israel in the end-times. This is something which most of the other colleges in Israel and the territories do not do. Some even teach a political theology which can only fortify anti-Israel feelings. This new initiative comes entirely from the Arab sector, and is born of an understanding for, and loves to the Jewish people, and the knowledge that God has not forgotten them. These Arabs and Jews who share this vision have a great love for one another as one family in Yeshua.

At the present time, the college is meeting in the temporary Immanuel Church building, but will have to vacate when the Immanuel Church vacates! However a **building in a prime place in Haifa has been put up for sale**. It has a basement at ground level of 80 square metres, and above that another three floors of 200 square metres each, a total of 600 square metres. The space on the ground floor could be used for Sunday schools. The idea is that the Theological School take one floor, the church the next for their meetings and also for conferences, and the third as guest or student accommodation. It has 19 parking places, plus plenty of public parking places round about.



The Cost of this building is **\$400,000** (plus taxes), and is truly a bargain, though it will also need renovation. The owner has given Pastor Najeeb 90 (now about 80) days to come up with the money. As we believe that this may be a strategic project for the extension of the Kingdom here in Israel, we are turning to all our friends and those who believe God is calling them to assist, to aid us in obtaining this place in the next month or so. Any who wish to visit us and see the building are most welcome.

Gifts for this purpose should be sent to:

Bank Leumi
Kikar Meirhoff 8
Kiryat Eliezer
Haifa 35153
Immanuel Evangelical church LTD
Malkar no 513930339
Bank account 167300/01
Branch 877
Swift code LEUMIILITXXX
IBAN Number
i198 0108 7700 0001 6730 001

Please pray for us. We are well aware that this is a tremendous undertaking, and it can only come to fruition by the grace of God and the help of God's people. We will keep you all informed.

We send our greetings to you all in the name of Yeshua,

Ruth Nessim on behalf of Pastor Najeeb and Elisabeth Atteih