

CJFM Newsletter for October 2009

Shalom again to all our friends over the wide world!

When we think of how many people this letter reaches, we realise that in spite of everything, God's children are one big family and we want to greet you all where ever you are and whatever your circumstances. Sometimes here, our circumstances are not what we could wish, with Iran threatening our instant extinction as a nation, and one of our soldiers kidnapped and held prisoner for over three years by the Hamas. We wonder what will happen next. But all is in God's hands, and His kingdom marches on.

The last two months have been like a whirlwind. The trip to Romania went very well, and Najeeb was able to speak four times, with me translating into English and someone else into Romanian! The churches we visited were well attended with many young people, and we were invited back.. For Sandra, our Seventh day Adventist friend, it was the first time she had visitors in her home, and her Church also invited us to speak. The next day we were at the Baptist Church, and found them very warm. Romania is a beautiful country, but still suffering the after effects of [Ceausescu's](#) mad rule, and the country is very corrupt.

For those who have been interceding with us for rain, while we were in Romania, Israel was blessed with early rains, and in the Golan, more rain fell in two days that the usual amount for the whole of September and October. Pray that this may continue to replenish our parched and dried out water resources and the badly depleted Lake of Galilee.

Returning home to Nahariya, the meetings have been filled, with people sitting on the stairs for lack of space and chairs! A number of young Spanish speaking immigrants (plus some older ones) have joined us, and recently we had an influx of Americans! We are very privileged to have a professor from the States, as well as M...from Holland as our teachers, and Avi continues our mid-week studies on the Epistle to the Hebrews. A number of unbelievers are attending with various degrees of interest, and old Shoshana has indicated that she wishes to join us for a meeting too. She has been very open lately, and listens with interest to most of what I tell her. Cindy tells everyone she is the Congregational Opposition Party, but loves us and is a regular visitor! Our Arab friends continue to be regular at the meetings, and are always happy when Najeeb or one of his co-workers turns up and plays the Tabuka. We have truly become international.

On the 15th of this month, we are expecting a visitor from the States, Georgia from CJF Ministries. Together with Najeeb, Georgia and I hope to visit our friends over the border, **ABDM** and this time, hopefully, his brother **Z** will come with him. He has asked to see me on a number of occasions, and we hope to get him to Bethlehem. For those who have only recently joined our list, **Z**. ended up in the bed next to my husband in the intensive care unit, after he was shot by a rival terrorist group. After my husband's death, we all became friends. I have seen **ABDM** a number of times, and we talk on the phone, but I have never seen **Z** since he recovered consciousness. He has shown an interest in the Gospel, and Najeeb has visited him in his home in the West Bank, since when he has read a number of Christian books. Please pray for this upcoming visit, and while we are in Bethlehem, we hope also to visit The House of Hope again, and a number of other precious Palestinian friends.

One most important happening over the last few weeks, is the beginnings of a new Arab led and inspired Theological College in Haifa, under the auspices of The Israel College of the Bible, and led by **Thomas Damianos**, Najeeb's nephew, who is a trained theologian, with an engineering degree and very soon also a degree in Law! The first eight Arab students are already learning in Arabic, but after a few months, they hope to have an intake of Hebrew speaking students, and the course will be in Hebrew, so that Jews and Arabs will learn together and train together as future leaders of the Arab and Jewish Body in Israel. And the most wonderful thing is that these Arab students and their Jewish companions will not be taught Replacement or Political Theology, as in several other Arab colleges, but will be taught what God's Word has to say about Israel, and learn to live and work together and love one another. And this is an Arab inspired and led Theological School, which in itself is nothing short of the grace of God. They would ask you to prayerfully consider supporting this work.

At the present time the college is operating from the Immanuel Church Hall, which is a makeshift place and soon has to be vacated. A suitable building however has been seen for sale in a good location in Haifa. It is three (four for Americans, as we don't count the ground floor) stories high. Each floor is 200 square metres, (650 square feet), plus an 80 (220 square feet) square metre ground floor storage space and permission to build another story on the roof. It was a sick fund clinic and is a stable building with plenty of parking space both round the building, and public parking outside. It is on sale for **\$400,000** (\$450,000 including taxes) and they have 90 (now about 80) days to come up with the funds. Dr Erez Soref, principal of the Israel College of the Bible, visited it and said that if that building were in Tel-Aviv, he would buy it, as it really is a bargain. If this building can be obtained, it could then be registered in the name of the Immanuel Church Haifa, and there would be space for the congregation, the Bible School and a dormitory/guest centre on the three stories. It seems to be an ideal place, and now they are appealing for funds for this project, which could be a turning point in the history of Arab Jewish relations in Israel. Of course, they don't expect any one person to come up with the entire sum, but **if any one has anything to spare** for this work, and **the Lord lays it on your hearts, please let us know.**



The building (shown above) needs some renovations but is at an exceptionally good price.

Gifts for the Bible College 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

We thank all those who have contributed to our new fund in Nahariya, and other gifts. Funds designated for Nahariya Congregation can be sent by direct transfer to:

OZ LAMO
Bank Ben Leumi, Nahariya, Branch 052
Account No 372439
IBAN IL97031052000000372439
Swift Bank FIRBILITXXX

Cheques for small amounts (where it is not worthwhile to send by direct transfer due to bank charges) can still be sent to Ruth, but **please state clearly** if you intend the gift as personal, or for the Congregation as then it can be allocated correctly.

Please do not send **personal** gifts for Ruth (or Avi and Esther) to the Oz L'AMO account as (being board members of the non-profit organisation) legal restraints prohibit them from receiving them. It is better to send these to Ruth.

Thank you for all your help and prayers on our behalf.

With our love in Messiah

Avi, Esther and Ruth

PS. For those in the British isles only, once more my itinerary

From November 4-27th, God willing, I plan to be in England. I am invited to speak at a **CFI** day conference in Torquay on the **Saturday 7th November**, plus Brixham Baptist Church on the following day.

After this I shall be available for visiting some friends or meetings, but please contact **Tom and Esme Lori at**

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