



*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4:10 (NRSV)*

## **BBC Autumn 2008**

Dear friends and supporters,

Greetings from Bethlehem Bible College

The 2008-2009 Academic Year has gotten off to a good start with 14 new students registered for the 1<sup>st</sup> year and along with the continuing students they are on the journey to gaining a BA degree. We have also interviewed and accepted 16 students for our 2-year Tour Guide course. This is in addition to 15 students who are continuing their second year. Additionally, we have 16 students in the Media program. Overall, we are working with approximately 130 students at our Bethlehem and Nazareth campuses. These students have been entrusted to us by the Lord to guide in His ways.



### **Faculty, Staff and Student News**

Munther Issac, our Assistant Academic Dean, left for the UK on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. to commence his PhD with Oxford University in the UK. Munther has obtained sponsorship and is thankful for this opportunity to complete his studies. He will be away for 6 weeks at the start and then return to continue here with follow up visits during his 5 year course.

Wael Khoury and Ramzi Massou, two of our students have traveled to the UK to be part of the South West Youth Ministries training program. This will be for one year and involve practical assignments and placements with Youth organizations and local Churches. This scheme is sponsored by the EU and the organization SWYM.

New staff members include, Daniel Aqleh, who is serving as the Scholarship Liaison representative, as well as Gift Shop assistant. We also have William Michael, formerly of Gaza, working in the maintenance department, Hester Van Rooyen from South Africa serving for a second time as overseer of the BBC Guesthouse, and Tim Seid, visiting professor from Earlham School of Religion, who is teaching a course on the book of Hebrews.

### **Baby Boom !!!**

Sarah (English Administration), Salaam (Media Studies), Shireen (Lecturer) and Christine (wife of faculty member, Rami Fellemon) have all been blessed with new babies.



They are all first time mothers and all of them have delivered girls!! We now have Haba, Meroun, Marian and Rachel as new members of our extended Bible College family. Congratulations all around!

### **So what happens in the Summer?**

During the summer we welcomed many visitors. We had groups from Sweden, the UK, many from the US and others who came to see the college and encourage us here in Bethlehem with their presence and prayers. We are so pleased to see our sisters and brothers from abroad who have taken an interest in the College.

Summer is also the time for Camps. This year we had 122 young people with ages ranging from 5-12 years who spent 2 weeks having a great time playing games, learning computer skills, listening to stories and creating craft work. The most important activity was the spiritual hour which included prayers, Biblical stories, songs, Biblical verses and games. Volunteers and regular staff assisted in providing this opportunity for the young people and much fun was had by all.



### **Family Conference**

Bethlehem Bible College continues to be a leader in the evangelical community. During August, in cooperation with members of the Council of Local Evangelical Churches, a series of evangelistic services were held in Ramallah, Jerusalem and Bethlehem with the goal of strengthening and encouraging the local churches' memberships. Evangelist and teacher, Rev. John Constantine from Birmingham, Alabama spoke about the significance of prayers in the life of the Believer, the Church and the Nation. His illustrations of God answering prayers in his life, his family's and his congregation's were very powerful. In short, he was a real blessing to the Christian community.

### **News from the President**

Dr. Bishara is now traveling in the U.S. where he has a varied speaking itinerary in the states of AR, AZ, CA and WA. He will be sharing in several venues at churches and organizations that have a connection with Bethlehem Bible College, and also at John Brown University and Azusa Pacific University. This is a great opportunity for him to share about the recent happenings at BBC, in particular the building of the new student center.

### **Palestinian Memories' Book Signings**

Rev. Alex and Brenda Awad returned from a recent trip to the USA where Alex was the main speaker at two United Methodist sponsored mission events in Alabama. Rev. Terry Hill and Rev. Bill Etheridge, pastors of Calera UMC and Alexander City First UMC were the inviting pastors. In addition the Awads shared in many other venues in KS, MO, AL, GA, NY and MD and Rev. Awad did several book signings for the launching of *Palestinian Memories*. The first book signing took place at Village Presbyterian Church near Overland Park, KS, where several Awad family members live. The General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church (NY, NY) also hosted the Awads for a book signing, which followed a corporate worship in the chapel at which Rev. Awad spoke. For copies of *Palestinian Memories*, please contact our English administration office: [info@bethbc.org](mailto:info@bethbc.org).



Another highlight of their trip was a visit to the Office of International Religious Freedom located in the State Department. In addition, there were many opportunities to connect with family and friends, among them Jerry and Sis Levin, and meet with diverse groups to promote peace and justice in Israel/Palestine.

### **Update on New Student Center**



In a few weeks, tenders will go out to local companies for finishing the interior design of the new student center. Once they are returned, the Board will make a decision as to which company to hire. The College has been encouraged by a number of pledges and we are grateful for every gift.

### **Upper Room Devotionals**

Since the new term began, devotionals have restarted in the Upper Room of the Administration building. Every morning at 8 AM, members from the faculty and staff, as well as guest house visitors, gather for 30 minutes of praise, sharing and prayer. If you have a prayer request, this group would be glad to bring it before the Father's throne.

In closing, we covet your earnest prayers for the College and its outreach. Your friendship and support is so important! The contribution of your talents and gifts in building and establishing God's kingdom in Bethlehem, Jerusalem and beyond is invaluable. Thank you so much.

In our Savior's name,

Bishara Awad

P.S. Attached is BBC's "*Christmas Gift Shop Flyer*".