



ELCA E-ADVOCACY NETWORK
MIDDLE EAST/ INTERNATIONAL
ACTION ALERT

Middle East Network Newsletter

March 20, 2009

Bishop Margaret Payne, New England Synod, talks about the Bishops' Middle East trip on Interfaith Voices, this Sunday, March 22. In the interview, "A Call for Peace," Bishop Payne, "describes a troubled West Bank where roads are blocked, water is diverted, and families are divided by a 30-foot concrete wall" according to the program's web site. Go to www.interfaithradio.org to find out about the program on your local station, to listen on-line, or to download a podcast if you miss it on Sunday.

Bishops visit Gaza after being denied entry by Israeli authorities on earlier attempts. The Rev. Munib Younan, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), the Rt. Rev. Suheil Dawani, Anglican bishop in Jerusalem, and Greek Catholic Archbishop Elias Chacour were granted permission by the Israeli authorities and made their pastoral visit to the Al Ahli Arab Hospital and to other institutions serving the people of Gaza on March 10. On February 4, Dawani and Younan had been denied entry to Gaza.

In a press release from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land following their visit, Bishop Younan is quoted, "We urge our partners to continue to support our diakonia and relief work in Gaza," and he is said to have called for the implementation of international law and human rights in Gaza "so the border points will be opened and all the necessary building-material will be allowed in for rebuilding." To read the full story, go to www.elca.org/news.

Building Holy Land Peace at Home: Organize a District Advocacy Meeting April 6-17. Join Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) advocates from across the country in sending a strong pro-peace message to our elected officials during the congressional spring recess from April 6-17. The recess provides a unique opportunity for you to meet with your senators and representative to stress the need for bipartisan support for the U.S. diplomatic engagement needed to reach a just and lasting peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Go to www.cmep.org to sign up to attend or organize a meeting in your area.

Updated post-cards illustrated with maps of the region are available free. Order them as hand-outs for your next Middle East peace event. One side features four maps showing loss of Palestinian land from 1946 to 2009; the other shows the fragmentation of the West Bank, a quotation from Former Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs Shlomo Ben-Ami, and web addresses for Peace Not Walls, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and the Lutheran World Federation – Jerusalem. www.elca.org/peacenotwalls.



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Save the Date – June 7-9 – CMEP Advocacy Conference in Washington DC. Please plan now to attend this important event for Israeli/Palestinian peace. There will be an evening for denominational gatherings including a dinner for Lutherans. The Rev. Richard H. Graham, bishop of the Metropolitan Washington, DC Synod of the ELCA will offer a message at the prayer breakfast. Sign up at www.cmep.org.

Visit the web address below to tell your friends about this.

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