



Pastor Hani Sayegh (Akko Israel) Evangelical Baptist Church of Akko

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And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

Ahh...Christmas. A time of joy and peace in the celebration of the only begotten Son sent from the Father. This is a very busy time of year in the EB Church of Akko. One of our favorite things to do is to visit of the homes of the church members and also some homes in the communities of Akko and the surrounding villages. From December 13th - 23rd we brought the gift of celebration in song, a word of encouragement and time of prayer and blessing for the families and their homes. It was a joyous time not only for each family, but it was also an encouragement to us and the people in the church, as they heard testimony relating to this in our meetings.

This visiting was a special time of celebration to remind the people about Jesus. It is not about a tree or a party, but of God, who came in the flesh to give His life to redeem us from all our sins. People were very open. They opened not only their homes, but also their hearts. For some, it was an encouragement, for others, it was an occasion to hear the Gospel for the first time. Two of the homes that we visited were Muslim. After hearing the Good News, they received it with joy, prayed with us and are now new Believers attending our church. Hallelujah!!!

Recently, we had an offer from the Nazareth Bible College to train 3 people from our congregation free of charge. For attending the Bible College they will receive a 4 year Bachelors degree. This will start in February. Also we are looking forward to Wednesdays in February, when the College will be sending a professor to teach our members a course in systematic theology, "Who was Jesus".

On the 24th of December we had a special meeting where we read Christmas stories and sang songs.

On the 27th of December we had a visiting choir called, "Melody of Peace". Brother Fadi spoke an encouraging message. They also presented a wonderful puppet show for us. In one of the skits the puppets were joking about, what they call, the feasts. "What party are you going to? What gift are you bringing?" Then they found out what the gift really is, the gift of God that Jesus brought.

On the 31st of December, Pastor Harry and Fibi came to visit. Fibi gave a testimony about how she had been a Muslim and how during that time she had suffered very much. Her suffering continued until she met Jesus and Jesus set her free. There were 7 Muslim people visiting the Church that evening and they were very much encouraged by her testimony.

And finally, on the 2nd of January, we had our annual Christmas party at the church. There was a wonderful dinner prepared for us, and afterwards we enjoyed a time of games and Bible quote competitions.

ANSWERS TO PRAYER:

- A Bible College student from the States will be coming to Israel to help in the church. This young man, Brian, will be coming with the goal of raising up people for service and to help Pastor Hani. This is a huge answer to prayer that we have received.
- The Lord has blessed us in answering our prayers for training for a Pastoral team.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Prayer for the 3 members that will be attending the Bible College
- Prayer for the church to be built up, grow in faith and to evangelize
- The 24th of April - We will be starting Easter time home visitations. Prayer that the Lord will open doors and bring people to Him
- That the new year will be filled with new salvations
- We are asking for prayer for a new idea. Our prayer is that the Lord will raise up churches for people that have a history of a Muslim background. People that have formally been Muslim will feel more comfortable in this atmosphere
- Unity between the Arabs and Jews in Akko
- February's combined prayer meeting between the Arabic Christian, Messianic Jew and the Russian Church. We will be taking back the territory that the enemy has stolen. Preparing the ground for the Gospel to go forth in Akko
- Prayer for Raffat', a Muslim man that Pastor Hani shared the Gospel with. He was not ready to accept, but we pray that the Lord will speak to him directly and reveal Himself to him