



## **Pastor Hani Sayegh Evangelical Baptist Church of Akko, Israel**

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*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*

*Matthew 11:28*

How many of you are weary and burdened? Many of us, even if we are doing the Lord's work, can become like this. We go and go and go, producing fruit, and yet all the while in diminishing numbers, or experience burnout in one way or another to the detriment of ourselves and or those around us. It is akin to a bucket that starts off full. In our case, it is full with the Holy Spirit. As time goes by, the bucket gets progressively empty. And this is mostly because we give and give but never take the time to receive, to rest, to recharge ourselves or refill the bucket. A good piece of advice people is to take some rest. Get alone with God. Do something you enjoy. Refill your bucket. If you do this, you will find that your time will be more fruitful and you will be less weary in well doing.

This, as with many other pastors, is the case with Pastor Hani. He has served from 2002 till the present without a vacation. He has seen much fruit but at the expense of weariness and opposition. So, he has chosen to take a two and a half month sabbatical in order to rest, spend time with his family and seek the Lord as to the future. Before this decision was made, he had been in the process of raising up ministry leaders, which they call committees. As God would have it, this coincided perfectly in time to benefit in helping with the responsibilities and ministries in the church. Additionally, each week we will have a guest pastor to minister in the Word. Pastor Hani will continue to minister in the daughter church in Bekea.

Pastor Hani has been attending the Nazareth Evangelical Theological Seminary College to obtain his Masters degree in Theology. He is taking two courses there, one at the college and another is being done online from Hope International University. As with Masters level degrees, the course is intense. To add to this difficulty, the courses are in English, which for Pastor Hani, is not his first language. So he has a mentor, me, Howie to help with this.

Now, regarding the church, Pastor Hani met with Shimon Lancry who is the Mayor of Akko. In answer to your prayers, Mr. Lancry has agreed to and granted land to the church for a kindergarten and school. However, we will still need to show that we have the money to build. More prayer needed for this. As to land for a church, he has decided not to donate the land, for this falls under the jurisdiction of the State.

The church Bookstore is in the process of having a new security door built for it. Thanks to your prayers and a donation of money, once the door is in place, we will be able to buy a new LCD TV to replace the one that was stolen. The LCD has been a great resource for evangelism. The bookstore has also had the daily experience of seeing many Muslims and Jews drop by to take free tracts and Bibles.

At Easter time we had the local leaders of Akko come to the church to say hello and pay their respects. These included the head of the police department, along with many of the police and among others, the head Sheik of the Mosque. Interestingly, the Sheik asked why there were no pictures of Saints in our church and what our beliefs were. Gee... what an open door that was. The Police chief, whom is Jewish said, "I'm so happy to be here with you, it feels comfortable here, kind of like home".

Interesting news: A well known Christian judge who lives near Bekea wrote a book with his testimony about how he became a Christian. A Druze judge and a Muslim Sheik have requested a copy.

## PRAYER POINTS

- ✚ Please pray for a place for Pastor Hani to bring his family for a week to rest and seek the Lord for the future of the ministry. Also pray that donations will come in to pay for this.
- ✚ Please pray for money for Pastor Hani's salary. He drew a salary for half of March and has not received anything since then.
- ✚ Please pray for an increase in tithing in the church.
- ✚ Please pray for two people in the Bekea church that want to be baptized.
- ✚ Keep the bookstore in prayer that God would graciously continue to send Muslims and Jews that are hungry to hear the Good News.
- ✚ Please keep in prayer the future vision of a new church, kindergarten and school
- ✚ And finally, please pray for those who heard the Gospel at Easter and for the Sheik and judge that requested the Judges book. Pray that God would open their eyes to see and ears to hear unto salvation.