

January 12, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I pray that all things are fine with you all, sorry for the delay of this news letter .

Let me start by saying that words could not describe the reality of our experience. I just wished that you were here to see and hear, to touch and feel what we felt. It was indeed a great work for the church in this holiday season. The preparation started in October, and demanded a lot of phone calls, visits, plans, and meetings with several leaders who are in charge, and thank Goodness some of our men took these responsibilities and did a great job (I'm referring to the "new spirits" that i mentioned previously).

Our first activity was "thanksgiving." This is the third year we gathered as one family to give thanks to God in prayers and sharing. Each one told the group how God blessed him this past year. We have 38 people, among those we had new families whom we invited. I'm happy to say that those families stayed and, even, participated and made an effort to help with our services after thanksgiving. I started the event with a brief sermon and then let each one say what is in their heart, and to share with the others. My wife, Inaam, cooked a wonderful meal with turkey that weighed 28 pounds, as well as a few side items. Everyone was excited; our men suggested that we invite a family or 2 in need to be hosted by the church next year.

On Sunday the 17th of December we had our Christmas party after the worship service. The Lord blessed us in number; we had 59 in attendance comprised of members and visitors. Gabi Tanous, one of our new attendees, opened the party with a speech that touched the hearts of all, quoting several passages from scripture. Afterwards, we sang several Christmas carols, and had a member from Romania who lives in Nazareth (other than Magdolina) and attend our services, speak about how they celebrate Christmas in Romania. She said words from her heart about the church in Nazareth replacing her family in Romania. This made many cry as she said "I do not have a family here in Nazareth you became my family. I felt the love and care of every member and I am honored to be part of this body." Lastly, we had someone dress up as Santa to give the members symbolic gifts such as chocolates, and then we had meal together! Every one was so happy and pleased.

On Wednesday the 20th of December at 4 PM, 16 of the church members took a bag filled with candy and chocolate to deliver to 50 sick children at the French hospital in Nazareth. We entered singing Christmas songs (as you can see in the pictures) to lift the children's spirits. The parents of these children were present and they also enjoyed our efforts. They thanked us and asked a few questions about who we were and where we meet. I included some pictures to show you the preparations that took place three days before the visit, and in those pictures you will see the men and women of the church partaking in the work.

We also finished some remodeling of the church building; we repainted upstairs and made a mural on two of the walls. We, also, changed one window in one of the rooms and slowly we will change all the windows upstairs. We are excited to start working on our parking lot this

spring since God blessed us with one generous member from Alabama who sent us a good starting gift. We were very pleased and thankful for God's hand in using him to accomplish His goals. We are planning to expand our parking lot to be used by us first and serve the people of Nazareth - since we have the space needed, and Nazareth has a huge parking problem. This will help the church to meet some of its liabilities.

In the first week in January we had our first American group visitors starting with Freed-Hardeman. To the people who are planning to come and visit the holy land in the years to come (individuals, families, and groups) please make a plan to stop and worship with us. Lord willing we will have 10 groups this year so we are prepared and looking forward to meet and worship with them.

There is a request from some of our new members and I will pass it to all of our supporting churches, maybe we can find some who are able to help them. We need a voice instructor to help some of our local members to find their place in singing. When they heard the American group members singing, they were overwhelmed and they wanted that to be able to worship like them in song. So they asked me if I can ask you to help them become better vocally as a church, and find their voice type. Hopefully, we can find a vocal instructor to come for a week or more and meet with them a few nights per week at the church building to guide them how to use their voices in worship. Please consider this, and we hope in the summer we can accomplish that mission.

We enjoyed having our son, Sandro, with us in this holiday season. He helped us a lot, not only in preparing the church for the holiday celebration, but every Sunday and Thursday bible study, and we can say that we are happy and pleased with his presence in the church. We are excited to do more activities in the coming months. I feel a strong sense of unity at the church. Almost everyone shows love and care for each other, participates with all and in all situations, words of appreciation that comes from those who are excited of being new members of this church, words which makes your tears fall when you hear them because it happened to me.

Thank you very much for your support. We honestly appreciate your care and prayers. You are our pride in the lord, our prayers to God for you have always been and will be of blessings upon you and to enable you to continue doing the work of the Lord from where you are. We love you dearly and hope to see you some day soon.

Love  
Maurice & Inaam Jadon  
Nazareth, Israel

