



# NEWS/ UPDATE

Encouraging  
the body of  
Christ in Israel  
and the UK

June 04

## Israeli churches ask for UK twin fellowships

Three Israeli Baptist churches asked for twinning relationships with churches in the UK during a visit by Revs Peter Eyre and Philip Hill to the Baptist Association (ABC) just before Easter.

One of the churches is a recent church plant near Akko, another a well-established congregation in Nazareth, and the other is near Tel Aviv.

One development in ABC life has been an application for membership from an evangelical congregation that was formerly a Closed Brethren Arabic church which is building relationships with Jewish believers. Its teaching elder, Milad, said, "We need to repent of the exclusiveness in which we lived, and we wanted to reach out as widely as we could to our fellow

believers in Israel and elsewhere."

Peter and Philip visited 10 churches in the Galilee area, a Philippino church in Tel Aviv, the Nazareth Baptist School where about 50-60 students give their lives to Christ each year, and met with representatives of the ABC Council to discuss future plans for twinning relationships.

"These relationships can be a great blessing to everyone concerned," said Philip, pastor of Hockliffe St Baptist Church Leighton Buzzard. "They stimulate prayer for a difficult part of the world, increase awareness of the complex problems of Israel, and offer wonderful opportunities for strategic fellowship with our Arab and other brothers and sisters," he added.

[www.centralba.org.uk/Twinning](http://www.centralba.org.uk/Twinning)

## Cornhill Trust training

Hanna Eid, a recently married young man from the Baptist Evangelical church in Eilaboun, an Arabic town of 4000 people near the Sea of Galilee, will be completing a year's training at the Cornhill Trust in preaching, pastoring and church leadership skills in July, and returning with his wife Lina and new baby daughter to take up ministry in his home town. Hanna and Lina have a vision for planting congregations in ten nearby villages.

A partnership between the Cornhill Trust and Leighton Buzzard Baptist Church has enabled the time in the UK, and in September a second student, Rani Espaniole from Turan Baptist church, will undergo training and work as an assistant pastor on his return to Israel next year.

## UK churches build links

A group from Bromham Baptist Church will be staying with members of Akko Baptist Church from 29<sup>th</sup> June to 10<sup>th</sup> July to build relationships and explore ways of developing the twinning link. It is hoped that some from Akko will be able to visit the UK in the future.

Haifa Baptist Church hold their annual conference at the end of July and a team from Hockliffe St Baptist Church will be joining them to build on the twinning relationship that began four years ago.

Following a visit by Hanna & Lina Eid earlier this year, Zion Baptist Church at Creech St Michael near Taunton want to develop a link with Eilaboun Baptist Church and representatives will be joining the Twinning Familiarisation visit to Israel in October (see below).



## Ramallah pastor to visit CBA

Munir Kakish, the pastor of Ramallah Baptist Church in the West Bank, will attend the CBA ministers' conference at High Leigh in October (11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>). He is also the pastor of Ramla Baptist Church near Tel Aviv, one of the churches that has asked to twin with a UK church. Main goals are to win souls, disciple believers, start homegroups and theological

studies. The churches run the Home of New Life for needy Palestinian children ([www.hnlife.org](http://www.hnlife.org)). Munir has a unique perspective on the Middle East as one who lives "between a rock and a hard place." He will be available to preach in CBA churches on 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> October. Requests please to Peter Eyre. ➔

## Familiarisation visit to Israel

20<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> October 2004

A special programme for those wanting to explore or develop a twinning link with an Israeli Baptist Church, and time is given to be with leaders and congregations as well as visiting some Biblical sites. Eilaboun and Cana churches share a baptism service at the River Jordan on the Saturday.

Travel in Israel is by private transport, is subject to Foreign Office advice and total cost of the visit is around £625.

**Twinning enquiries** please to Rev Peter Eyre: 01767 312667 [peyre@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:peyre@globalnet.co.uk)

**Baptist Twinning in Israel is a Reg Charity (No: 1100407)**