

Twinning Update Jan 03

Activity in 2002

- A preaching/teaching relationship-strengthening visit to the ABC pastors' conference and churches in April
- The establishing of a pastor-sponsorship scheme. Several churches in the UK are helping support the ABC pastors in Haifa (Philip Saa'd), Cana (Hani Bellan) and Akko (Hani Sayegh). A full brochure about the twinning relationship and sponsorship is available on request.
- A visit to the Baptist Assembly by Philip Saa'd and Saleem Ramadan (ABC representatives) to sign a Joint Statement of Cooperation between the ABC, BUGB, BU of Scotland, BU of Wales and BMS World Mission. Philip Saa'd spoke to the Assembly
- A speaking/relationship building visit to Central Association churches and the pastors conference in the autumn by pastors Hani Billan (Cana) and Azar Ajaj (Nazareth)
- A familiarisation tour to Israel and ABC churches for 13 church leaders from Bedfordshire and Sussex at the end of October.
- Interest in the twinning relationship has been expressed by individuals and some churches outside of the Central and Sussex Associations.
- Widening of the email prayer link.

Development

As time goes on the relationship is growing in depth and breadth, and is becoming more meaningful. The ABC are particularly thankful to the Lord for what is being built and those involved in the UK are being enriched too, the late October visit to Israel being "especially special".

As the work grows consideration is being given to structure, particularly whether 'Baptist Twinning in Israel' should become a registered charity. Attention will be given to this in the coming months.

Detailed planning of exchange visits is in hand.

Questions comments and suggestions are welcome, along with requests for a twinning brochure and for inclusion in the email prayer link.

Peter Eyre