



Greetings dear KYM,

I pray this email finds you well and blessed!

Warm greetings from all of us here at "Home of Jesus the King Church" in Nazareth, the beautiful hometown of our Lord Jesus Christ. We would like to wish you and your loved ones a very blessed and a merry Christmas, and may God flood your life with peace and joy during this time!

I would also like to sincerely thank you for all the love and financial support that you have shown us, our church, and our work for the Gospel here in the town of Nazareth. We really couldn't have done what we're doing without friends like you! During this past month have seen God move among the people of Nazareth and many lives were touched through our outreach and humanitarian projects. We were able to conduct a variety of impacting projects, and I'm so excited to share it with you in this letter.

We as a church stand upon the Word of God, and we believe that we should follow the example that Jesus set for us. We don't just hear the Word of God, but we live and act it out in our everyday lives to His glory. Amen!



Feeding Project

Through the generosity of our partners, we were able to prepare and distribute more than 200 food hampers to families in need in Nazareth. These families were so thankful and also surprised at the same time! They asked us why we are doing these deeds of kindness? We then explained to them that it's because of the love of Jesus that we reach out to all in need, to bring comfort and joy to those who are broken and discouraged.

We share with them about God's love for them, and how it is desire to provide in their needs, with physically and spiritually, and that He has a wonderful plan of salvation for them through His son, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus came to us and showed us what it means to give and to serve. He went about doing good, healing, feeding, comforting and delivering. He is indeed the good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep.

Matthew 20:28 - "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve"

Let us follow the Lord's example by reaching out and meeting the needs of those who are poor, hungry and destitute. Together, let us put our faith into action!





Elderly Outreach Project

We also had the privilege to reach out to the elderly people of Nazareth, and to bless them with Christmas gifts in celebration of the birth of Lord Jesus Christ. In cooperation with the Latin Scouts of Nazareth, as well as the nominal Christian community, we banded together, as one body in Jesus, to prepare many gift hampers consisting of chocolates, cakes, and other sweet treats to bless the elderly people with. The Latin Scouts also entertained these precious ones with wonderful Christmas songs, played expertly on many different instruments. It was a tremendous blessing!

We also wanted to touch the lives of these dear elderly ones, and let them know that Jesus loves them and has not forgotten about them in their old age. Often times the greatest enemy that the elderly face is loneliness. When we went to the old-age home, we spent quality time with these dear ones to assure them that they are not forgotten, but that they are loved and treasure, both by Jesus and by Home of Jesus the King Church. We read the Word of God to them and shared with them how Jesus is the reason for the Season. We even had time to spend with the nuns working at the old-age home, and we encouraged them in the Lord and also blessed them with Christmas gifts.

During this time there were also about 80,000 Jewish Israelis visiting Nazareth to see what Christmas means and how the people of Nazareth celebrate it. It was a wonderful opportunity to show the love of Jesus to them through our celebration and projects in honor of the King of Glory, Jesus Christ.







Visiting the Children's Department at Nazareth's French Hospital

Me and a team of 45 volunteers, family members, and youth from Home of Jesus the King Church went to visit the children's department at Nazareth's French Hospital, to bless and to encourage them. Our wonderful team of volunteers had prepared wonderful Christmas gift hampers consisting of chocolates and treats that would put a smile on the kids' faces.

When we arrived at the children's ward, it was overwhelming to see how happy the children were to see us. I felt in that moment how much Jesus loved the children, and how important it was for him to lay hands on the children and to bless them as it is written in Mark 10:13-16

"People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them."

The Lord also laid it on our hearts to sing Christmas songs in front of the hospital to bless all within the hospital. As we were praising the Lord, one of the doctors came out to us and asked us if we could perhaps move towards the emergency ward and to continue with our singing, since the people in the emergency ward were in desperate need of encouragement and healing. So we move all of our speakers and musical equipment and moved across to the emergency department.

As we started singing Christmas songs and glorifying Jesus, we saw something amazing happen. All the windows of the hospital opened and faces started peeking out to see what was going on and to be a part of the celebration outside. Even people from the surrounding areas came to investigate!

Our young people started to dance and to clap, and people from the hospital, as well as from the neighborhood came to join us in singing and dancing! Among them were Muslims, Christian and Jews! Even the nun who were in charge of the entire hospital came out to thank us, and to join us in song and dance. For 45 minutes we continued like this, and it was like heaven on earth. It was such a testimony of how people can be united in joy and peace when Jesus is glorified. He is indeed the reason for the season!



Blessing the patients at Nazareth's Italian Hospital

We also had the privilege to visit the Italian Hospital in Nazareth and to spend time with the patients. We presented them with Christmas gifts and tasty treats to enjoy. We also prayed for their healing with them, sang Christmas songs with them, and encouraged them in the Lord. They were so thankful for the time we spent with them, and many cried tears of joy and relief. It really is a blessing to be the hands and feet of Jesus, to be able to go into these places to shine His light and to share His love with all those in need.

These projects have proven to be such a powerful way to communicate the love and salvation of Jesus Christ. We would like to invite you to stand with us through your prayers and support.



Calendars

Our calendars outreach projects was a tremendous success! We printed 1,500 calendars depicting our Lord Jesus going about and doing good. It testified of His goodness and His love, drawing all people unto salvation and newness of life in Him. People loved these calendars and they were distributed among Christians, Muslims and Jews alike in Nazareth. The calendars ran out very quickly, because they were so popular! We would have loved to have printed more, but finances were limited. We thank our partners who contributed towards this successful project, and if you would like to see us continue with this project, and you would like to impact the Muslims, Jews and nominal Christians of Nazareth, then I would like to ask you donate here please:



Church Christmas Celebration

This past week we had a very special Christmas celebration at Home of Jesus the King Church in Nazareth. We spoke about the true meaning of Christmas, of how our Savior Messiah, Jesus Christ, came to earth to show us the way unto salvation, of how He came to bring us complete joy, love, peace, and hope in His name. We spoke about performing acts of kindness, of walking in love and forgiveness as Jesus did, and to follow His example in all that we do. It was as if the love of Jesus was renewed in our hearts and a fire was kindled within us to see Jesus lifted up, especially during this time of Christmas so that many will come to a saving knowledge of him, here in Nazareth, and also to the rest of the nation of Israel.



Merry Christmas from the Shalash Family!

I pray that you and your family will have a blessed and merry Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of our wonderful savior Jesus Christ. You are invited to come and visit us here in Nazareth, and to spend time with us in fellowship, participate in our projects, and walk the ancient paths of Nazareth where Jesus once walked. Me, my family, and all of us here at Home of Jesus the King Church appreciate your love and support so much. You are a part of our family, and you are making an impact for the Kingdom of God here in Nazareth.
God bless you!



Blessings,

Pastor Saleem Shalash

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I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your generosity in support of Church of Jesus the King's work for the Lord here in Israel. Your help means so much to us, but even more so to the people whom you are blessing. You are uplifting the broken, sharing the Gospel and feeding the hungry in Israel, and for that I thank you!