



Taybeh info

www.taybeh.info

March/April 2008

The newsletter from Taybeh's latin parish

Edito

Here comes the newsletter! After a long while, we are happy to present you our newsletter from Taybeh Ephraim, the last and only one Christian village in the Holy Land. We are trying to make this newsletter more attractive, more punctual, more attractive for you with better information... The previous couple of volunteers in Taybeh, Guillaume and Clémence Piganeau have left Taybeh for Paris, and today, Marc and Alienor Lamoureux are living in the village to replace them. Alienor teaches French at the local Catholic school, while Marc is working with the Roman Catholic priest Abuna Raed on different kinds of projects. They are in Taybeh for two years, so you can plan a visit and come to meet them.

They are both employed by a French NGO, *la Délégation Catholique pour la Coopération* (DCC), which operates in various countries such as the Middle East, Africa, South America...

It is already summer time in Palestine. So it is the perfect time to get to know more about Taybeh and its population as you have ever wanted to. We do hope you will enjoy your stay in the Holy Land.

Marc Lamoureux
Volunteer DCC in Taybeh

On the one

See you soon, Monseigneur,

This event has some importance. As he was giving his traditional Easter message, the latin patriarch of Jerusalem, my Lord Bishop Michel Sabbah, announced his retirement. Michel Sabbah, aged 75, has been the Bishop of Jerusalem for the last 21 years. He has been the leader of all the Christians in the Holy Land. The diocese of Jerusalem, including Israël, Palestine, Jordan and Cyprus, was founded in 1099 by the Crusaders. Today 80 parishes, among which 28 are in Palestine, belong to this diocese. Taybeh situated in Palestine is the last and the only one fully Christian place in the Holy Land. Some people are saying that Michel Sabbah is expected to live in Taybeh as Jesus used to do in the past... But this is only in order to make you come and visit our village...

You can read Michel Sabbah's Easter message :

<http://www.lpj.org/newsite2006/patriarch/archives/2008/03/easternmessage08fr.html>



« We must believe in our ability to love, all together, Israélians and Palestinians. We are able to love and to do justice for ourselves, and for the others. » Michel Sabbah, on April 11th 2006



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The interview

Hanine is 17 years old. She is a schoolgirl in the latin school of Taybeh, and she will go on a trip to France this summer. She is telling us what she expects she will do there.

What do you think about your future trip to France?

It is the first time I ever go out of Palestine. I am very happy to go there without my parents. I have studied French for 7 years and I am looking forward to visiting this country.

How do you imagine France?

I imagine a wonderful life, with some beautiful natural spots by the river. I think that everything is full of colours such as yellow, orange, green. I think it is going to be a wonderful experience.



What kind of trip are you doing with your 10 friends?

We are going to see Paris, then Avignon, and Lourdes where we are supposed to meet other young people gathered for JMJ. We are very lucky because we will be able to see the Pope himself during the JMJ ! We will also sleep under tents, I am so happy because I have never done it before!

Do you like speaking French?

Yes i like this language so much, it is a beautiful one. I want to continue my sutudies in languages , because i am very interested in it. It will be very important to speak French in France, because French people do not speak arab, do they ?

Life in the village...

Happy Easter, though..!

... not for everybody ! As a matter of fact, our latin parish has not celebrated Easter yet. I have to explain it to you why. In our village, you will only find Christians, which means that there is no other religion in Taybeh. But even if we don't have a mosque and a synagogue, we have no less than three churches, so three different communities : ► a latin parish (almost 700 families) ► an orthodox parish (almost 450 families) ► a melchite community (greek catholics, almost 70 families).

In the name of oecumenicalism, things are made simple. The Orthodox celebrate Christmas with Roman Catholics, and the latter celebrate Easter with the Orthodox follow the oriental calendar.

So this year, Easter will be celebrated on 25th April, instead of 23rd march for catholics. Five weeks'delay, but if it is for oecumenical reasons...



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Projects in progress

The pilgrims' guest- house

Here is the latest big project in the village we have already spoken about. This guest- house, inaugurated in April will provide 35 beds for pilgrims, reminding us of Jesus and his disciples welcomed years ago in Taybeh. Fancy a night in Taybeh, 20 km away from Jerusalem, 25 km from Jericho, 15 km from Ramallah, with a fantastic view over the Judes Mounts, the Dead Sea, the Jordan mounts, will stand as a new attraction in the Holy Land.

Michel Sabbah is even expected to come and live on the third floor of this guest house... A new guest house, with the benediction of the latin patriarch of Jerusalem will certainly have a very good future! Michel Sabbah will be present on the open day in April.

Hopefully enough, we may have a new sister community which has already moved in the house ... look, you can see it on the third floor !



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