

מוסדות חינוך – מאר אליאס

ת.ד 102 אעבלין 30012 הגליל
טל' 04-8432104 פקס 04-8432105



مؤسسات مار الياس التربوية

ص.ب 102 عيلين 30012
تلفون 04-8432104 فاكس 04-8432105

Mar Elias Educational Institutions

P.O.BOX 102 Ibillin 30012 Galilee-Israel Tel 04-8432104 Fax 04-8432105

ע.ר 580168524

Ibillin Jan 03, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the USA who are associated with Pilgrims of Ibillin,

Normally today I would be flying to the USA to have the pleasure and the privilege to meet with many among you, instead I have a final appointment with the main doctor to decide about date and modality of surgical operation to remove my gallbladder. It has been causing me much pain and I was unable to act freely as I used to do during all my life.

I really apologize for this infirmity and I am full of hope that I will be in touch with our Executive Director to implement the postponed visit to the US.

I am writing to you today to give very brief description of life on the campus of MEEI. For three weeks the campus has been like a remote piece of desert. Everyone was in holiday. One week for our Easter celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, a second week for the Jewish celebration of Easter, and the third week to celebrate the Muslim "Iftar" at the end of "Ramadan". This is the longest holiday after the summer vacation. Indeed, we make it a strong point to celebrate all together our Christian Easter and the Jewish Easter and the Muslim Iftar, in order to honor all our constituency. Each one goes, if he wants, to their prayer in either the church, the synagogue or the mosque, according to their religious affiliation. That's why we all regardless our religious affiliation, we celebrate and enjoy with those who are supposed to celebrate the religious festivities.

This gives you a simple idea how do we respect each other and rejoice with each other without any attempt of proselytization. We learn to respect the differences among us and we thank God for our diversity and for our determination to create a unity remembering that we are all born babies on the Image and the Likeness of Almighty God. This is the main mission of Mar Elias Educational Institutions. It's just a glimpse of our dealing with each other, with utmost respect. This is to where your friendship is given and we need that friendship so much to include you in the beautiful rainbow of our human diversity. It's also where your financial assistance is directed through the good care of Pilgrims of Ibillin. It's vital to have your friendship and your assistance, mainly because being who you are, you represent the beautiful face of America which is much needed to be seen and respected outside your country.

We rejoice in welcoming groups of pilgrims to the Holy Land. We delight to welcome them at the school and have an exchange with them. Each time we do that in my mind grows the wish to have someday, hopefully in the near future, to welcome groups of Pilgrims of Ibillin, come and see with whom they are befriended and what has been achieved with your accumulated donation.

We nurture hope and pray for you all, for your beloved ones and we pray for your country to convert and become really what you represent for us: Beautiful face of America.

Yours with deep respect,

Abuna Elias Chacour

Archbishop em. of Galilee