

Activity and Financial Report to the Niwano Peace Foundation.

Project: *Dirasat*: Scripture and social transformation: Interfaith study on the path to political justice.

The amount received from Niwano Peace Foundation: \$US 8,400.

Program period: September 2008 - September 2009.

Introduction

This last year was a challenge both politically and financially. In the winter we witnessed terrible bloodshed when the Israeli Army attacked Gaza as a reaction to the constant missiles attacks on southern Israel. The atmosphere in the country was not favorable for dialogue meeting between Jews and Palestinian Arabs.

In addition the world experienced a financial crisis that affected our fundraising tremendously.

This last year the educational projects of Wahat al Salam ~ Neve Shalom received 50% of our expected funds.

Due to the circumstances mentioned above we had to change the structure of the program.

The program that we submitted to you was budgeted for \$US 22,700. In reality we received only \$12,500. (From Niwano \$8,400 and from Hessen Church in Germany \$4,000.

Another change was to cooperate with an interfaith NGO called "The Inter-Religious Coordinating Committee for Israel (ICCI).

We realized that with the difficult political atmosphere, we need to have another experienced NGO to help us to establish connections in the interfaith world.

The cooperation proved itself to be very successful and influenced us to change the target population of the project.

Instead of initiating open seminars for the public, we decided to approach, Jewish, Muslim and Christian seminaries and to start working with the faculty of these institutions.

This approach proved itself to be right and we received cooperation of 6 different institutions*.

We had a preparation period with 4 steering committee** meetings and a long weekend seminar with 20 people most of them, teaching faculty from Jewish, Christian and Muslim academic institutions.

We did not start the activity before we knew we had the minimum funds, so the activity actually started in December 2008 with the first planning meetings.

* The institutions

1. The [Hebrew Union College](#) : Jewish (reform stream) academic institute of religion in Jerusalem;
2. [Beit Morasha](#) : Jewish (orthodox) academic religious institution in Jerusalem;
3. The [Schechter Rabbinical Seminary](#) : Jewish (Conservative stream) academic religious institution- Jerusalem;
4. [Bethlehem Bible College](#) Bethlehem : Christian academic religious institution in Palestinian Authority;
5. The [Latin Patriarchate Seminary](#) : in Beit Jalla, in Palestinian Authority;
6. [Al-Qasemi Academic College of Education](#) : Muslim academic religious institution in Baqa al-Gharbiya, Northern Israel.

** Steering committee members:

The steering committee comprises the staff of The Spiritual Center of NSWAS , two staff of ICCI and representatives of the academic religious institutions that are taking part in the program. Its role is to plan all stages of the program, recruit participants, and determine content.

1. Ms. Dorit Shippin - NSWAS;
2. Mr. Abdessalam Najjar - NSWAS;
3. Rabi Dr. Ron Kronish - ICCI;
4. Mr. Ophir Yarden - ICCI;
5. Rabbi Prof. Yehodaya Amir - Hebrew Union College;
6. Father Dr. Jamal Khader - Latin Patriarchate Seminary of Beit Jalla;
7. Dr. Ahmad Ghabin - Al-Qasemi College;
8. Dr. Hanan Abu-Moch - responsible for Islamic Studies in Al-Qasami College;
9. Dr. Salim Munair - Bethlehem Bible College.

Schedule of activities

December 08 – January 09	Planning with ICCI staff
January - March	Enrolling the 6 religious academic institutions (separate meeting with each one)
March	Creating a steering committee
March - May	4 meetings of the steering committee
June	2.5 days seminar
June - September	Conclusion and planning for 2009-10 program

Financial Report

(All figures in \$US)

Item	Expenses	Income	Details
Personnel	4,000		
Collaborators	4,000		Simultaneous translation, text translation, academic consultation, documentation and evaluation
Associates	4000		ICCI coordination
Transportation and communication charges	1,000		
Payment to outside sources	4,000		Room & board for 4-6 June seminar for 20 people including hall rental, lunches and refreshments
Income from Niwano Peace Foundation:		8,400	
Income from Hessen Church, Germany		8000	
Total	17000	16400	

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Wahat Al salam~Neve Shalom