

Dear Friends,

Imagine rebuilding a family's demolished home in one week, or replanting a burned down forest in a day. How about challenging discrimination with the mischievous fun of a solidarity flash mob. These are the sorts of things that will be happening in Palestine and Israel during July 1st – 6th, 2013.

Next summer, we hope to launch a **Global Young Adult Festival**, gathering together around **500 young people**, between the ages of 18 – 35. Uniting from all over the world, we will address important human issues, through both faith-based and secular lenses, in a fresh and active way. The theme of the event will be **Moving Mountains, Reshaping the World**. We will celebrate the life-giving beauty of *Environmental Sustainability, Economic Justice, Human Rights, and Community*, by enacting small miracles to counter injustices in these areas. The event we envision is not just an academic conference or worship experience, but will incorporate these elements *and* immediate creative action. We want to help young people take a good look at unjust realities and examine how Christian theologies are immediately relevant to them. Then we want to actualize these ideas in real life, walking in the footsteps of Jesus to move mountains in global contexts.

Diakonia and Sabeel have been discussing this exciting opportunity, and we invite you to move forward with us. What makes this event unique is that we cast a vision for young people of combining deep contextual understanding with practical, holistic response to the pressing global challenges of their generation. Not only this, but we hope that this year's festival will serve as a springboard for **an annual global young adult festival in locations all over the world!** In other words, the miracles don't stop here. We envision future festivals in many corners of the world – bearing each other's burdens in communal collaboration toward true liberation, a sustainable world, and a just love of neighbor.

If you share this vision, then let's work together to make this happen! First, let's all **endorse this year's festival** on our websites and in our mailings, informing all potential participants and donors. Second, let's all **recruit and/or sponsor** a minimum of **three passionate participants** to the 2013 festival. Third, let's **keep dreaming for future global festivals** and consider hosting them in our own cities. With our shared resources and energy, we can dream big together to establish a lasting way for young adults to grow personally and accomplish real change all over the world. **Please get in touch with us promptly to confirm that you have received this letter by emailing sv.jansson@diakonia.se & youth@sabeel.org.** We would love to talk with you further as you consider. **If you desire to join us in this effort, we will need a firm commitment to partnership within a month after you receive this letter.**

This year's events will take place around Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron, and Jericho, and we are trying

not to exceed \$550 for the registration fee. We warmly welcome anyone to participate regardless of faith background if they share the four common values discussed above (Environmental Sustainability, Economic Justice, Human Rights, and Community), and if they want to respectfully participate in all portions of the festival.

In past years, both Sabeel and Diakonia have separately held many successful and diverse youth conferences. But now, this new and breathtaking outworking of faith, hope, and love has caught our

attention. If you will join with us, we can all develop new and increasingly effective forms of responding to injustice. Partnering together, we can initiate 500 or more young people into active service toward a more just and peaceful world.

As you consider this opportunity, please pray for Sabeel, Diakonia, and the many organizations we trust will find this vision irresistible. Pray that we would hope deeply, believe foolishly, plan fervently, and witness the fruit of child-like faith by realizing these dreams. Above all, we pray that as one body all of us would persevere in the ministry of the church, and that we would embody a just peace and active love to the world.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We thank you with heartfelt sincerity for considering full partnership with us in this endeavor.

In love and solidarity,

Naim Ateek



Director of Sabeel
Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center

Bo Forsberg



General Secretary
Diakonia Head Office

