

**Minutes of Meetings between CAMECT and Noursat Members**  
**September 19, 2008 10:30 am – 1:30 pm**  
**October 10, 2008 12:00 noon – 12:45 pm**

A Meeting was held September 19, 2008 regarding the proposed Symposium on Christianity in the Middle East to be held on February 20-22, 2009 in Detroit, Michigan. Those present were Archbishop Ochagan Choloyan, Bishop Anoushavan Tanelian, Bishop Gregory Mansour, Mr. Gaby Habib (CAMECT) and Dr. Bassam Rizk (Noursat).

The Meeting began with prayer. The discussion began by following up on the minutes of the CAMECT meeting which was held August 6, 2008, as well as a report on a meeting that Dr. Bassam Rizk, a member of the Noursat USA Board of Directors, had with Mr. Jacques Kallassi, General Manager, Raymond Nader, Noursat Manager, and Archbishop Roland Aboujaoude, Maronite Patriarchal Vicar General, of Telelumiere/Noursat in Lebanon.

This meeting was then followed by two other meetings that Dr. Rizk had with Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim of the Chaldean Church and three lay members appointed by him to coordinate with Dr. Rizk for the Symposium (Saher Yaldo, Steve Konjo and Fawzi Dalli) in Detroit. The fruits of those meetings were then discussed and approved at a meeting held with Dr. Rizk, Archbishop Ochagan and Bishop Gregory Mansour on Friday October 10, 2008 by conference call. The following is the fruits of these meetings:

**Name of Symposium:** *Christianity in the Middle East: Ancient, Yet Ever New*

**Aim of the Symposium:**

To raise awareness of the historical continuity of the presence and witness of Christians in the Middle East from the time of Pentecost and find means to support their presence and their contribution to the people of their region.

**Organization:**

The Symposium is co-sponsored by CAMECT and NOURSAT. It is done in collaboration with the National Council of Churches (NCCC/USA) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to indicate that those organizations and their member churches are deeply concerned with the life of and witness of the Middle East Christians. It will be hosted by the Chaldean Church

**Place:**

**Hampton Inn Hotel**, 169 Loop Road, Commerce Township, MI (248)-624-8100  
**Shenandoah Country Club**, 5600 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48323  
(248)-683-6363  
**Chaldean Cathedral**, 25585 Berg Road, Southfield, MI 48034, (248)-356-0565

## Schedule

(At the Shenandoah Country Club)

### Friday, Feb. 20

6:00 pm **Dinner** for all out of town guests and clergy, Bishop Ibrahim to give us invitation list.

7:30 pm **Introductions and Brief talks by:**

- Archbishop Oshagan Cholayan: The Moderator of CAMECT
- Mr. Jacques Kallassi Representative of Noursat
- Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim of the Chaldean Church
- Fr. Ron Roberson: USCCB Office of Ecumenism
- Rev. Dr Michael Kinnamon: General Secretary of NCCC/USA.

### Saturday, Feb. 21

(All events Saturday at the Shenandoah Country Club)

9:00-10:00 am **Christian Contribution to Life in the Middle East  
Monasticism, Education and Service**

Moderator: Fr. Nicholas Dahdal  
Speakers: Fr. Shenuda Maher – Monastic Contribution  
Msgr. Robert Stern - Charitable Contribution  
Bishop Elias Chacour – Palestinian Experience

10:00-10:30 am Discussion

10:30 – 11:00 am Break

11:00 – 12:00 pm **Christians Today in the Middle East– How can we help?**

Moderator: Msgr. Sharbel Maroun – Noursat Board of Directors  
President  
Speakers: Mr. Nehmet Frem - Philanthropist  
Fr. Youssef Toma – Chaldean Priest  
Dr. Hikmat Hakim – Chaldean Activist

12:00 – 12:30 PM Discussion

12:45 pm Lunch

2:00 – 3:15 pm      **Ecumenism, Interfaith Dialogue and Peace.**  
Moderator:    Mr. Gabriel Habib  
Speakers:      Fr. Ron Roberson: Ecumenism  
                    Yvonne Haddad: Muslim-Christian Dialogue  
                    Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon: Ecumenism and Peace  
                    Shiek Ayad Jamaledina – Shiite Member of Iraq  
   Parliament and Interfaith champion

3:15 – 4:00 pm      Discussion

8:00 pm              **Banquet** - Guest Speakers  
                            Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim (Chaldean)  
                            Archbishop Celestino Migliore (Holy See)  
   Mission to the Holy See  
                            Mr. Jacques Kallassi ( Noursat)  
                            Archbishop Ochagan (CAMECT)

**Sunday, Feb. 22**

(All Sunday events at Chaldean Cathedral)

9:30 – 10:30 am      **Christian Communication**  
Moderator:    Mr. Bassam Rizk (Noursat)  
Speakers:      Fr. Mitch Pacwa S.J. (EWTN)  
                    Mr. Jacques Kallassi (Noursat)  
                    Nina Shea (Religious Freedom Advocate)

10:30 – 11:00 am    Discussion

11:00 am              **Press Release** by Archbishop Ochagan Cholayan (CAMECT)

12:00 pm              Closing **Chaldean Divine Liturgy**

**Speakers and Panelists:** Each one would be reimbursed for travel and lodging and receive a modest stipend. They would be contacted as follows:

Bishop Elias Chacour	-	Dr. Rizk
Fr. Ron Roberson	-	Bishop Gregory
Mrs. Yvonne Haddad	-	Mr. Gaby Habib
Mr. Gaby Habib	-	
Archbishop Migliore	-	Bishop Gregory
Fr. Shenuda	-	Bishop Ochagan
Msgr. Stern	-	Bishop Gregory
Fr. Dahdal	-	Dr. Rizk
Fr. Touma	-	Dr. Rizk
Fr. Pacwa	-	Dr. Rizk

Mr. Michael Kinnamon	-	Mr. Gaby Habib
Nina Shea	-	Bishop Ibrahim
Dr. Hikmat Hakim	-	Bishop Ibrahim
Sheik Ayad Jamaledine	-	Bishop Ibrahim

**Press Release:** In advance of the Symposium a Press Release announcing the Symposium and inviting everyone will be prepared by CAMECT and Noursat. A second Press Release, to be read by Archbishop Ochagon Sunday February 22, 2009 before the Chaldean Divine Liturgy, will be developed soon and given to all CAMECT members for their input.

Invitations should go out from CAMECT and Noursat together, along with the one page outline that gives the purpose of CAMECT and the Churches involved as well as a one page outline of the work and mission of Noursat. CAMECT and Noursat see this as an ongoing partnership to support Christians in the Middle East.

Minutes submitted by Bishop Gregory J. Mansour

October 10, 2008