

Jesus Christ Liberator Then And Now

FACING THE LEGACY OF INJUSTICE



THE 10TH INTERNATIONAL SABEEL CONFERENCE
MARCH 7-13, 2017

120 YEARS MARKING THE FIRST ZIONIST CONFERENCE

100 YEARS MARKING THE BALFOUR DECLARATION

70 YEARS MARKING THE PARTITION PLAN

50 YEARS OF OCCUPATION

30 YEARS MARKING THE FIRST INTIFADA

10 YEARS OF PALESTINIAN DIVISIONS

2017, A YEAR OF JUBILEE



Name:

Bethlehem

Bethlehem Hotel

MONDAY MARCH 6TH
RECOMMENDED DAY OF ARRIVALS

2:00 pm

Check-in & Registration

6:00 – 9:00 pm

Dinner at hotel (3rd floor dining room)



Jesus Christ Liberator Then And Now

Bethlehem

Bethlehem Hotel

TUESDAY, MARCH 7TH BETHLEHEM

6:00 am	Checkpoint experience visit with EAPPI (optional)
5:30-9:00 am	Breakfast (3 rd floor dining room of the hotel)
8:00 am	Optional sightseeing tours in Bethlehem (Political or Religious)
11:00 am	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) briefing on the Humanitarian Situation in the West Bank and Gaza. Speaker: Catharine Cook (2 nd floor meeting hall)
12:15 pm	Lunch at Bethlehem Hotel
1:30 pm	Depart hotel to Church of St. Catherine for worship
2:00 pm	Opening Worship at Church of St. Catherine Sermon: Rev. Naim Ateek
3:00 pm	Depart for Bethlehem Hotel
3:20 pm	Welcome – Vera Baboun , Mayor of Bethlehem (2 nd floor meeting hall)
3:30 pm	<i>The Background and Resulting Impact of the Balfour Declaration</i> 1) Roger Spooner : The Theological Underpinnings of the Balfour Declaration 2) Peter Shambrook : The Historical and Political Context that Produced the Declaration 3) Lesley Orr : The Practical Steps Necessary to Address Balfour's Legacy Today Moderated by Mark Battison (UK)
4:30 pm	Coffee break
5:00 pm	Q&A
5:30 pm	<i>The Balfour Declaration</i> 4) Xavier Abu Eid : The Possibilities of Political Action at the Level of the PLO/PA 5) Nour Odeh : The Political Possibilities at the Level of Civil Society Moderated by Tarek Abuata (US and Palestine)
6:20 pm	Q&A and Announcements
7:00 pm	Dinner (3 rd floor dining room of the hotel)
8:00 pm	Optional Debriefing

Hebron/Bethlehem

Bethlehem Hotel

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8TH

6:00 am	Checkpoint experience visit with EAPPI (optional)
5:30-7:45 am	Breakfast (3 rd floor dining room)
8:00 am	Depart for tours covering the Impact of Balfour: <i>information on page 20</i> (NOTE: Umm el-Hiran departs at 7:00 am) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Umm el-Hiran• Tent of Nations / Hebron• Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp / Hebron• Khirbet Zakaria / Hebron• Taqu' / Hebron
1:00 pm	Box lunches Return to Bethlehem Hotel
2:45 pm	Time for Reflection (2 nd floor meeting hall)
3:00 pm	<i>Islamic Extremism</i> 1) Mustafa Abu Sway : The Challenges Facing Muslims Locally and Internationally 2) Ghada Karmi : Religion and the Palestine Struggle: The Case of Islam 3) Patriarch Michel Sabbah : Concerns of Palestinian Christians in The Sate of Palestine Moderated by Hans Morten Haugen (Norway)
4:15 pm	Coffee break
4:45 pm	Q&A and Announcements
5:15 pm	Free time to visit Resource Room
7:00 pm	Dinner (3 rd floor dining room of the hotel)
8:00 pm	Optional Debriefing

Jerusalem Day

Bethlehem Hotel

THURSDAY, MARCH 9TH

- 6-7:15 am Breakfast (3rd floor dining room)
- 7:30 am Depart for Jerusalem
- 9:00 am Visit Haram al-Sharif via Lion's Gate
Sheikh Azzam al-Khatib al Tammimi
- 10:30 am Visit the Church of the Resurrection
Bishop Theophanes
- 1:00 pm Lunch at Notre Dame
- 2:30 pm Time for Reflection (Notre Dame Auditorium)
- 2:45-4:00 pm **Jewish Extremism**
 - 1) **Sahar Vardi**: The Influence of the Military on Israeli Society
 - 2) **Nurit Peled-Elhanan**: Israeli Textbooks and Curriculum's Contribution to Extremism
 - 3) **Adam Keller**: A Way Forward – An Israeli Perspective
Moderated by Catherine Nichols (USA)
- 4-4:30 pm Coffee Break
- 4:30 pm Q&A
- 5-5:30 pm A Way Forward – A Palestinian Perspective
Estephan Salameh
Introduced by Ernst-Ludwig Vatter (Germany)
- 5:30-5:45 pm Q&A
- 6:00 pm Bus to Bethlehem
- 7:00 pm Dinner and Announcements (2nd floor meeting hall)
- 8:00 pm Optional Debriefing

Bethlehem Focus Groups (Terra Sancta School) & Travel to Nazareth

The Golden Crown Hotel - Nazareth

FRIDAY, MARCH 10TH

- 6-8:00 am Breakfast (3rd floor dining room of the hotel) and check out from Bethlehem Hotel
- 8:15-11:30 am Bethlehem workshops/focus groups will include the following, and participants will choose three sessions.

1	Voices and perspectives from inside Syria: Are we listening?	Andrew Ashdown
2	Business Under Occupation	Sam Bahour
3	Rekindling Palestinian Hope, Asserting Palestinian Rights	Omar Barghouti
4	The Humanitarian Situation in Gaza	Catherine Cook
5	The Military Industrial Complex	Jeff Halper
6	Our Land, Our Hope	Barbara Hill & Nora Carmi
7	Spirituality of the Land	Barbara Hill & Nora Carmi & Katalina Tahaafe Williams
8	Military Prisons	Gerard Horton
9	Islamophobia in Western Countries	Ghada Karmi
10	Sabeel Nazareth and Palestinian Citizens of Israel	Violette Khoury
11	The Iona Community Statement	Peter McDonald & Lesley Orr
12	The History of Palestinian Non-Violent Resistance	Mazin Qumsiyeh
13	Beit Sahour Non-Violent Resistance	George S. Rishmawi
14	Competing Perspectives: the Historiography of Britain and Palestine, 1917-1948	Peter Shambrook
15	Christian Zionism: A Deeper Look	Robert Smith
16	How will Britain mark the centenary of the Balfour Declaration?	Roger & Monica Spooner
17	Origins and Implications of the Fatah-Hamas Divide	Nathan Stock
18	Spiritually and Activism from Palestine to Ferguson to Standing Rock: Deepening Continuous Resistance	Sarah Thompson
19	50 years of Exporting Occupation	Sahar Vardi
20	Palestinian Christians Today	Sami Yousef

- 12:00 pm Lunch at Terra Sancta School
- 1:00 pm Depart for Nazareth

3:00 pm	Check into The Golden Crown Hotel - Nazareth
3:30 pm	Optional sightseeing tours in Nazareth (Political or Religious)
5:30 pm	Bus to hotel
5:45 pm	Dinner (in King's Table dining room)
	The People Who Remained (in the King Louis Ballroom)
6:45 pm	Aida Touma-Suleiman: Identity Crisis of Palestinian Citizens of Israel
7:30 PM	Ayman Odeh: A Jewish State? Moderated by Manal Hazzan Abu-Sinni (Jerusalem)
8:15 pm	Q&A and Announcements
8:45 pm	Optional Debriefing

Nazareth/ Occupied Syrian Golan Heights

The Golden Crown Hotel-Nazareth

SATURDAY, MARCH 11TH

6-8:00 am	Breakfast (in the dining room of the hotel)
8:00 am	Bus to Golan Heights
10:00 am	Choice of site visits: <i>information on page 22.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church worship in Ain Qinya. • Banias • Al Ghajar • Quneitra Crossing
12:15 pm	Lunch (in Majdal Shams)
1:15 pm	Syria/Golan Hights: the suffreing of the people Majdal Shams Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nizar Ayoub • Shefaa' Abu-Jabal • Wael Tarabieh
2:00 pm	Bus to Nazareth
4:30 pm	Coffee break
4:45 pm	Time for Reflection (in King Louis Ballroom)
5:00 pm	Andrew Ashdown: Voices from Syria - Perspectives from inside the Country Introduced by Rhadia Qubty (Nazareth)
5:30 pm	Christian Extremism <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Katalina Tahaafe-Williams: Colonial Christianity and Indigenous Societies: Australia and Palestine in Comparison 2) Robert Smith: Comprehending Christian Zionism: Understanding the Movement and its Effect on Palestinian Life 3) Violette Khoury: Extremism in the Palestinian Christian Community Moderated by Cedar Duaybis (Jerusalem)
6:30 pm	Q&A and Announcements
7:00 pm	Dinner (in King's Table dining room)
8:00 pm	Optional Debriefing

The Galilee

The Golden Crown Hotel - Nazareth

SUNDAY, MARCH 12TH

Jesus Christ Liberator -Then and Now

6-8:00 am	Breakfast (in King's Table dining room)
8:00 am	Travel to the Sea of Galilee
9:00 am	<i>Jesus Christ Liberator</i> (in Magdala Church) Agnes Abuom Barbara Dumont Hill Naim Ateek Moderated by Habib Karam(Nazareth)
11:00 am	Leave for Church of the Primacy
11:15 am	Closing Worship at the Church of the Primacy
12:30 pm	Lunch at Mount of Beatitudes and Announcements
2:30 pm	Optional Walk from Capernaum to Tabgha, approximately 3km, 30 minutes (or return to Nazareth)
4:00 pm	Return to the Golden Crown Hotel
6:45 pm	Dinner (in King's Table dining room)
8:00 pm	Cultural event in Nazareth

Day of departure

MONDAY, MARCH 13TH

6-9:00 am	Breakfast (in the dining room of the hotel) and check out of Hotel
10:00 am	Travel to Jerusalem (lunch at Notre Dame) or Travel to Bethlehem (lunch at Bethlehem Hotel)

Transfers to the airport, depending on flight times

Conference Speakers & Focus Group Presenters

Xavier Abu Eid – Xavier Abu Eid is a political scientist who was born in Santiago de Chile to a family from Beit Jala, Bethlehem District. Currently he serves as a communications adviser to the PLO – Negotiations Affairs Department in Ramallah, Palestine, and is their spokesman to Latin America.

Mustafa Abu Sway – Professor Dr. Mustafa Abu Sway is the first holder (2013) of the Integral Chair for the Study of Imam Al-Ghazali’s Work at Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa and at Al-Quds University. He has been Professor of Philosophy and Islamic Studies at Al-Quds University in Jerusalem, Palestine since 1996. Prof. Abu Sway earned his BA from Bethlehem University (1984), and MA (1985) and PhD (1993) from Boston College, USA. He taught at the International Islamic University in Malaysia (1993-96), and was a visiting Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence at the Wilkes Honors College at Florida Atlantic University (2003-4), as well as a visiting professor of Islamic Studies at Bard College, NY (Fall 2008 and 2010/2011). Prof. Abu Sway is a member of the Hashemite Fund for the Restoration of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, and a member of the Islamic Waqf Council in Jerusalem.

Agnes Abuom – Dr. Agnes Abuom was elected unanimously by the WCC 10th Assembly on 8 November 2013 to serve as moderator of the WCC Central Committee. She is the first woman and the first African in the position in the history of the World Council of Churches. She has served on the WCC Executive Committee, representing the Anglican Church of Kenya. She is also a development consultant serving both Kenyan and international organizations coordinating social action programs for religious and civil society across Africa. Abuom was the Africa president for the WCC from 1999 to 2006, and is a co-president of the Religions for Peace and the National Council of Churches of Kenya. Her areas of work include economic justice, peace and reconciliation.

Andrew Ashdown – Rev. Andrew Ashdown is an Anglican priest who has been visiting the Middle East since 1982, including countless visits and leading groups to Israel /Palestine. He took several groups to Syria prior to the conflict, and has visited Syria six times since April 2014, meeting with hundreds of people from all communities, many of the faith leaders, and internal opposition and government figures. He was most recently in Aleppo just before Christmas as the city was liberated, and visited East and West Aleppo, meeting with many refugees from East Aleppo. Andrew has recently stepped aside from parish ministry to undertake three years full-time PhD research into Christian-Muslim relations in Syria.

Naim Ateek – Rev. Dr. Naim Ateek is co-founder of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem and the first Palestinian to articulate for the international community a Palestinian theology of liberation in *Justice and only Justice: A Palestinian Theology of Liberation* and again in *A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation*. Rev. Ateek currently serves as Chairperson of the Sabeel Board. His forthcoming book is *A Palestinian Theology of Liberation: The Bible, Justice, and the Palestine-Israel Conflict*.

Vera Baboun – Vera George Mousa Baboun is a Palestinian politician and the first female mayor of Bethlehem. She has a master’s degree in African-American literature, and prior to her election, was headmistress of the Roman Catholic High School in Beit Sahour and was an English literature lecturer at Bethlehem University, where she was also the dean of student affairs. Additionally, she is the chairperson of the Board of Directors for the Guidance and Training Centre for Family and Children as well as a gender studies researcher looking at the role of information technology in empowering women in the Arab world. At the time of her election, she was a PhD candidate in Arab-American women’s literature. Baboun is the mother of five children.

Sam Bahour – Sam Bahour is a Palestinian-American business consultant based in Al Bireh/Ramallah, Palestine. His firm, Applied Information Management (AIM), specializes in business development with a niche focus on start-ups and providing executive counsel. He serves in several community organizations, including as a policy adviser to *Al-Shabaka*, the Palestinian Policy Network, a secretariat member of the Palestine Strategy Group, a member of the core Local Reference Group of EAPPI, co-founder of the community foundation, Dalia Association, and Chairman of Americans for a Vibrant Palestinian Economy. Sam writes frequently on Palestinian affairs and has been widely published. He is co-editor of *HOMELAND: Oral History of Palestine and Palestinians* and blogs at www.epalestine.com.

Omar Barghouti – Omar Barghouti was born in Qatar, grew up in Egypt, and moved to Jaffa, Israel, as an adult. He is a founding committee member of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) and a co-founder of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. He actively lobbies for the worldwide economic, cultural and academic boycott of Israel. His books include *Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions: The Global Struggle for Palestinian Rights*, and *The Case for Sanctions Against Israel*.

Nora Carmi – Nora Carmi is a Palestinian Christian, who was born in Jerusalem in 1947 and became a refugee in her own divided city. From her late father, a survivor of the Armenian Massacres of 1915, and her Christian upbringing, she learnt the value and sanctity of human life as she grew up in the land termed “holy,” where conflict and strife have prevailed throughout her life. Nora’s work with the YWCA, Sabeel Liberation Theology Center and Kairos Palestine have engaged her in empowering women and the wider Palestinian community, activities that caused her to be chosen to address His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI during his visit to the Holy Land and to be a sought after speaker locally and internationally.

Catherine Cook – Catherine Cook is the Head of OCHA’s Advocacy and Communications Section and has been with OCHA in the oPt since 2007. Prior to joining the UN, Ms. Cook worked as a researcher, analyst and communications professional with a number of non-profits and donor-funded projects in the Middle East and the US. She holds an MA in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Chicago.

Barbara Dumont-Hill – Barbara Dumont-Hill, a First Nation Algonquin, was born on the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Reserve. She is the tenth of 13 children, born to courageous Algonquin parents and is descended from a long line of Anishinabeg. Barbara is Turtle Clan and has been following the red road for over 30 years. She was humbled by being asked to serve as a Grandmother with the 2015 Walking With Our Sisters memorial installation, and is currently the Elder of Algonquin College's Mamidosewin Centre. She continues to work with various organizations including the Circle of Change (Royal Canadian Mounted Police), Justice Canada, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, and the Public Service Alliance of Canada to educate and promote reconciliation. She is also a community volunteer. Barbara continues to deepen her culture by studying mamiwinimowin, drumming and singing the songs that honor her ancestors.

Jeff Halper – Jeff Halper is an anthropologist, author, lecturer, political activist, and nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, and he was the co-founder and Director of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions. His books are *An Israeli in Palestine*, *Between Redemption and Revival: The Jewish Yishuv of Jerusalem of the Nineteenth Century* and *War Against the People: Israel, the Palestinians and Global Pacification*.

Gerard Horton – Gerard Horton is a co-founder of Military Court Watch (MCW) and has worked on the issue of children prosecuted in the Israeli military court system for over six years. Gerard has authored a number of reports on the subject for non-governmental organizations and UN agencies, as well as three UN shadow reports to CAT, HRC and the CRC. Prior to co-founding MCW, Gerard worked for Defence for Children International and practiced as a barrister at the Sydney bar specializing in commercial and criminal law.

Ghada Karmi – Ghada Karmi was born in Jerusalem and was forced to leave her home with her family as a result of Israel's creation in 1948. The family moved to England in 1949, where she grew up and was educated. She practised as a doctor for many years, working as a specialist in the health of migrants and refugees. She held a number of research appointments on Middle Eastern politics and culture at the School of Oriental and African Studies, and in the Universities of Durham and Leeds. From 1999 to 2001 she was an Associate Fellow of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, where she led a major project on Israel-Palestinian reconciliation. In 2009, she became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. Currently Ghada Karmi is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter. She lives in London.

Adam Keller – Adam Keller is an Israeli journalist and peace activist who was among the founders of Gush Shalom (Peace Bloc), of which he is a spokesperson. A long-standing supporter of Yesh Gvul, a movement that opposes military service in the occupied territories, Keller has served several prison terms for refusing reserve military duty in the 1967-occupied territories.

Violette Khoury – Violette Khoury has served as coordinator and manager of Sabeel Nazareth since it started in 1994. Born in Nazareth, she attended high school in Jaffa and studied Pharmacy in Rome. She ran a pharmacy in Nazareth for 45 years. Having seen most of the residents of Nazareth come through her pharmacy door, she recognized the need for a center focusing on the identity of Palestinian citizens of Israel, and thus Sabeel Nazareth was born. Today Sabeel Nazareth focuses on spreading Palestinian Liberation Theology among the Palestinian citizens of Israel as well as on ecumenical and interfaith work.

Peter McDonald – Peter McDonald has served as Leader of the Iona Community in Scotland since 2009. He is married to Lesley Orr, who is also a member. Iona is an ecumenical Christian community of women and men who seek to live out the Gospel in a way that is radical, inclusive and relevant to life in the 21st century. They have recently issued a position statement on Israel/Palestine in solidarity with Kairos Palestine.

Ayman Odeh – Ayman Odeh is an Israeli-Arab lawyer and politician. He is a member of the Knesset, and currently serves as leader of Hadash, and head of the Joint List, a political alliance of four Arab-dominated parties: Hadash, Balad, the United Arab List and Ta'al. Odeh was born in 1975 and raised in Haifa, within the Kababir neighbourhood. He was the only Muslim student in his Christian school, but now describes himself as having transcended the confines of ethnicity and religion. He identifies as a socialist. He has been listed in the top 100 leading global thinkers by Foreign Policy magazine as well as rated 9th among the *100 influential* by The Marker magazine.

Nour Odeh – Nour Odeh is a Media Professional and Communications Consultant, CEO and founder of Connect Consulting. In 2014, Ms. Odeh founded Palestine's first Strategic Communications Consultancy firm. Before that, she was the Director of the Palestinian Media Centre and Spokesperson for the Palestinian Government. In 2003, Ms. Odeh set up and led Ramattan, Palestine's first video news agency, based in Gaza, serving clients worldwide. In 2006, she became the Al Jazeera English correspondent in Gaza, where she was the only resident correspondent for an English-speaking channel. In 2008, her coverage of the internal fighting in Gaza was recognized in the Monte Carlo Television Festival and won Al-Jazeera Network's first Golden Nymph award. In 2011, Odeh was a senior communications consultant for the Palestinian leadership, ahead of Palestine's application for membership at the United Nations.

Lesley Orr – Dr. Lesley Orr is Duncan Forrester Fellow and Associate Director at the Centre for Theology and Public Issues, University of Edinburgh. She is a historian, theologian and activist for gender and social justice. Her current research interests include war resistance and peace movements in 20th century Scotland, and the relationship between Scottish churches, civil society and the British Empire, and she is co-editing a major handbook on *Religion, Peace and Peacebuilding*. Lesley convenes a working group of church, university and civil society representatives which is planning a commemoration of the 2017 Balfour Centenary in Scotland. As a member of the Church of Scotland and the Iona Community, Lesley is involved in efforts to promote greater understanding of the situation in Palestine-Israel, Kairos Palestine and solidarity actions in support of a just peace.

Nurit Peled-Elhanan – Prof. Nurit Peled-Elhanan is a lecturer in Language Education at the Hebrew University and David Yellin Academic College, Jerusalem Israel. In 2001, she was awarded The Sakharov Prize for human rights and the freedom of thought, awarded by the European Parliament. Her many research interests include ‘Multiculturalism and Racist discourse in Israeli education.’ In 2012 she published *Palestine in Israeli School Books: Ideology and Propaganda in Education* (I.B. Tauris, London). She also served as Co-initiator of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine 2009-2014.

Mazin Qumsiyeh – Mazin Qumsiyeh teaches and does research at Bethlehem and Birzeit Universities. He is director of the main clinical cytogenetics laboratory and director of the Palestine Museum of Natural History and Institute for Biodiversity Research. His written works include *Popular Resistance in Palestine: A History of Hope and Empowerment* and *Sharing the Land of Canaan: Human Rights and the Israeli-Palestinian Struggle*. He also has an activism book published electronically on his website (<http://qumsiyeh.org>).

George S. Rishmawi – George S. Rishmawi is a Palestinian activist from Beit Sahour, who believes in and works for peace using non-violent methods. He is promotion manager and coordinator for Siraj Center and the Executive Director of Masar Ibrahim Al-Khalil, a program which brings people from all faiths to walk along the Steps of Abraham Path and learn about Abrahamic values and traditions. George has undertaken speaking tours throughout Europe and the USA, and has given training in non-violence to groups all over Palestine, continuing in the tradition of non-violent resistance that began in Beit Sahour during the first *intifada*.

Michel Sabbah – H.B. Patriarch Michel Sabbah served as the Archbishop and Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem from 1987 to 2008. He was ordained a priest for the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem in 1955, and was a parish priest for a few years before being sent to the University of St. Joseph in Beirut to study Arabic language and literature. Shortly thereafter, he became director of schools for the Latin Patriarchate. In 1980, he was named President of the Bethlehem University. In 1987, Pope John Paul II appointed him Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, making him the first native Palestinian to hold the office in centuries. From 1999-2007, Sabbah was the International President of Pax Christi, a Catholic organisation promoting peace. He is currently the Grand Prior of the chivalric Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, one of the knightly orders founded in 1099. Sabbah is co-author of the Kairos Palestine Document.

Estephan Salameh – earned his PhD in Urban Planning and Public Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is currently the Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister of Palestine and an adjunct professor at Birzeit University. Dr. Salameh has served as a Policy Advisor to the Minister of Planning and as Head of the Aid Management and Coordination Directorate in the Palestinian Authority. During his tenure with the government, he has played a key role in the development of several national plans and sector strategies and policies and has worked closely with over 80 donor countries and agencies on developing the capacity of Palestinian institutions in the areas of national planning and development, policy making, and budget oversight. Dr. Salameh co-founded the Seraj Library Project, has published in American and Palestinian newspapers and serves on the board of several community organizations.

Peter Shambrook – Dr. Peter Shambrook was born in 1949 and educated at the universities of East Anglia and Cambridge, where he gained a PhD in Modern Middle Eastern History. He served as Programme Director of British-Arab Exchanges (1974-1987), and is a life-long student of 19th/20th century French and British involvement in the Middle East. Dr. Shambrook is the author of *French Imperialism in Syria, 1927-1936* (Ithaca Press, 1998) and is the Historical Consultant to the Balfour Project (www.balfourproject.org).

Robert O. Smith – Robert O. Smith was appointed Director of the Jerusalem Global Gateway in October of 2014. He holds concurrent faculty appointments in the Keough School of Global Affairs and in the Department of Theology at Notre Dame University. Smith served for eight years in the Global Mission Unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), overseeing church engagement in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. Prior to being called to this national role, Smith had served as Lutheran Campus Pastor for the University of Chicago. He is author of *More Desired than Our Own Salvation: The Roots of Christian Zionism*, and editor, with Swedish scholar Göran Gunner, of *Comprehending Christian Zionism: Perspectives in Comparison*.

Roger Spooner OBE and Monica Spooner – Professor Roger Spooner OBE and his wife Dr Monica Spooner are co-founders of the Balfour Project. Roger was a research veterinarian specializing in the development of a vaccine for a tropical disease of cattle. Monica worked in the UK as a clinical medical officer specializing in community pediatrics. Becoming increasingly interested in the Israel-Palestine conflict, they made visits to the region, engaging with people from both sides. This culminated in the creation of the Balfour Project, which highlights British participation in the history of the conflict.

Nathan Stock – Nathan Stock was appointed Director of The Carter Center Israel-Palestine Field Office in December 2013. He leads Carter Center efforts to facilitate the reunification of the Palestinian political system and to assert Palestinian sovereignty via international fora. Stock joined The Carter Center in 2008 as an Assistant Director in the Conflict Resolution Program. He was based in Atlanta, GA, while traveling regularly to the Middle East. He has designed and managed programming targeting the Fatah-Hamas conflict, as well as the Syrian civil war and the Palestinian community in Gaza.

Katalina Tahaafe-Williams – Katalina Tahaafe-Williams works with the World Council of Churches in Geneva on its migration, indigenous, and multicultural ministry programs. Prior to moving to Geneva, she worked as a Consultant for Multicultural Ministry with the Uniting Church in Australia, and with the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom as assembly secretary for Racial Justice, Multicultural Ministry, and Inter Faith Relations. She has a PhD in Multicultural Mission and Ecclesiology from Birmingham University in the UK, and has taught in theological seminaries. Her experience includes working with Indigenous peoples in New Zealand and Australia.

Sarah Thompson — Sarah Thompson is the Executive Director of Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT). Through her work in the international peace movement as a public-speaker and community organizer, she is adept at bringing people together across lines of difference and building momentum for positive social change. Her Christian church involvements include six years of volunteer work as the North American representative to Mennonite World Conference's Youth and Young Adult Executive Committee and Global Youth Summit planning group, as well as service with Mennonite Central Committee in Jerusalem, among other venues.

Aida Touma-Suleiman — Aida Touma-Suleiman is a Member of the Knesset for The Joint List (Hadash). Prior to becoming an MK, she was Director-General of Women Against Violence, the largest Arab women's NGO in Israel, and editor-in-chief of Al-Ittihad, an Arab-language daily newspaper. She is committed to promoting legislation that promotes feminist values, democratic values, and support for the rights of the marginalized and oppressed.

Katalina Tahaafe-Williams — Katalina Tahaafe-Williams works with the World Council of Churches in Geneva on its migration, indigenous, and multicultural ministry programs. Prior to moving to Geneva, she worked as a Consultant for Multicultural Ministry with the Uniting Church in Australia, and with the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom as assembly secretary for Racial Justice, Multicultural Ministry, and Inter Faith Relations. She has a PhD in Multicultural Mission and Ecclesiology from Birmingham University in the UK, and has taught in theological seminaries. Her experience includes working with Indigenous peoples in New Zealand and Australia.

Sahar Vardi — Sahar Vardi is a Jerusalem based activist. She publicly refused her military service and was imprisoned in 2008. Since then she has been active with Israeli anti-militarist groups such as New Profile and today works as the Israel Program Coordinator for the American Friends Service Committee based in Jerusalem. Sahar is part of Boycott from Within (a group of Israelis supporting the Palestinian call for boycott) and has been active with direct action groups such as Taayush and Anarchists Against the Wall. Today much of her work focuses on the economic aspects of Israeli occupation and military industry, and Israel arms export.

Sami El-Yousef — Sami El-Yousef is Regional Director of the Jerusalem field office of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine. After a long academic career, he now devotes his efforts to humanitarian projects via the churches, believing that maintaining the Christian presence in the Holy Land depends upon strengthening such institutions, which serve all Palestinians without any form of discrimination.

Options for Site Visits in The Bethlehem Area and in The Golan Heights

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8:

All groups except the one to Umm el-Hiran will visit Hebron.

Hebron is the second largest city in the West Bank and with Jerusalem is the only city which has an Israeli settlement inside it as well as settlements around it. Traditionally, the Old City of Hebron served as the commercial center for the entire southern West Bank. Israeli forces have made the Palestinian population suffer in the process of protecting Israeli settlement in the city. The authorities impose a regime intentionally and openly based on the “separation principle”, the result of which is legal and physical segregation between the Israeli settlers, about 500 in number, and the Palestinian majority, more than 135,000. This policy led to the economic collapse of the center of Hebron and drove many Palestinians out of the area. The main elements of Israel’s separation policy are the dominating military presence, the severe and extensive restrictions on Palestinian movement and the military’s systematic failure to enforce law and order on violent settlers attacking Palestinians.

Umm el-Hiran is a Bedouin village located in the Wadi Attir area of the Negev desert in southern Israel. The Bedouin were settled there in 1956 by order of the Israeli authorities. It is one of 46 unrecognized Bedouin villages in Israel. In 2003, the state ordered its demolition to make way for a Jewish town, and the removal of inhabitants to the Bedouin township of Hura, where they would have no way to sustain themselves economically. The Regional Council of the Unrecognised Villages, along with many NGO’s, have unsuccessfully tried to stop the destruction but actually the village was razed to the ground within the last month. The villagers refused to leave the site and remain on their land.

Tent of Nations is a Palestinian farm whose mission is to build bridges between people and between people and the land and is located on ‘Daher’s Vineyard’. It is owned by the Nassar family, which has been fighting a legal battle to keep its land since it was classified as ‘Israeli State Land’ and thus threatened with confiscation in 1991. The struggle is ongoing. However, with a commitment to peaceful resistance and through the solidarity of those who have visited the land, it continues to work to protect and develop the farm as a place where people can meet, learn, work together, and inspire one another.

Al ‘Arrub Refugee Camp, which lies between Bethlehem and Hebron, was established in 1949 by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), following the Palestinian Catastrophe, ‘Al Nakba’, when Palestinians were driven from their original villages in Palestine by the Zionist underground forces and their villages confiscated in 1948. Its population is 9,850 and it has an abundance of fresh water springs. UNRWA still provides essential services including health, education and humanitarian assistance. Al ‘Arrub camp has one of the highest numbers of Israeli army incursions of all refugee camps in the West Bank. NOTE: Two groups may choose to visit Al ‘Arrub, one going first to the camp and then Hebron, the other going in reverse order.

Khirbet Zakaria is a Palestinian village near Bethlehem under threat of complete destruction by Israel. Because it is totally surrounded by illegal Israeli settlements, villagers cannot travel freely outside of the village without being harassed by Israelis and are not allowed to develop infrastructure, including schools and hospitals or completion of the local mosque, nor can they build with stone, so their residences are temporary structures which are cold in the winter. The Muslim call to prayer has been banned, children have no place to play, transportation is lacking, and walking is dangerous because of attacks by settlers in the surrounding settlements.

Taqu’ is a Palestinian village located 12 km southeast of Bethlehem and is part of the Arab al-Ta’amira village cluster with 98.5% of the village’s land classified under the Oslo Agreement as Area A (under total Israeli military and civil control) and 1.5% as Area A (under Palestinian Authority control). The village is located in what is believed to be the home of the Hebrew prophet Amos, in the region known by its Hebrew name of Tekoa, which is also the name of an illegal Israeli settlement that is part of the large Gush Etzion bloc that controls much of the Bethlehem Governate.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

The Golan Heights, a part of Syria, was occupied by Israel in 1967 at the same time as the West Bank and Gaza and was illegally annexed by Israel in 1981.

Ain Qinya was a mixed Druze- Christian village before 1967. Naim Ateek and participants will celebrate the Eucharist in the Maronite church of St. George with the Assaf family, one of two Christian families remaining in the entire Golan Heights. The family remained in 1967 when other Christians were forced to flee.

Banias sits near the spring at the foot of Mt. Hermon, which is a site of worship from ancient times and a major water source for the entire region. The name comes from a temple to the Greek God Pan and is the site of the Biblical Caesarea Philippi. Because of its value as a water source, it has been a place of ongoing conflict between Syria and Israel. In June 1967 Israel broke the UN ceasefire accepted by Syria hours earlier, and captured the village from which the villagers fled, as all homes were destroyed, leaving only the mosque, the church and ancient shrines, along with the Ottoman house of the sheikh perched high atop its Roman foundations. The ruins of the village have been incorporated into one of Israel's many 'nature reserves' on the Golan.

Al Ghajar is an Alawite-Arab village on the Hasbani River on the border between Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied portion of the Golan Heights, internationally considered to be *de jure* part of Syria. In 2015 it had a population of 2,484. When Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria in 1967, Ghajar remained a no-man's land for some time until an unusual political arrangement was put in place. After various Israeli invasions into Lebanon, in an attempt to demarcate permanent borders between Israel and Lebanon, the United Nations drew up what became known as the Blue Line, leaving the northern half of the village under Lebanese control and the southern part under Israeli control, though all hold Israeli citizenship. However, residents consider themselves Syrian and resent the divisions and external control.

Quneitra Crossing is a border crossing between the Syrian-controlled and the Israeli-occupied portions of the Golan Heights. The UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) monitors the crossing. The opening of a crossing at Quneitra took place after the Yom Kippur War in 1973 when UNDOF established its headquarters along the border. In order to carry out its work, UNDOF needed to move freely between Israel and Syria. Syrian Druze from the Golan Heights are permitted to cross through the passage to study, work and live in Syria. Since 1993, sixty-seven Syrian brides have crossed into the Golan Heights and eleven brides from the Golan have crossed into Syria through the Quneitra crossing. This issue was the topic of the award winning movie, *The Syrian Bride*.



■ Palestine

■ Israel

Lebanon

Golan Heights

Syria

Tiberias

Nazareth

Mediterranean Sea

Tel-Aviv

West Bank

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

Hebron

Gaza Strip

Gaza

Dead Sea

Al Nakab

Jordan

Egypt

Jordan River

Eilat