

Teaching our Children

The mission and goals of the Schools and Educational Programs of the ELCJHL reflect the spirit of peacemaking and bridge building that respects both tradition and innovation. Promoting academic excellence through holistic learning, our schools have always educated Christians and Muslims of both sexes. Of the present enrollment of about 2100, 45% are girls; 40% are Muslim. Our students come from families with a wide variety of backgrounds. Some have rich histories in their villages going back hundreds and thousands of years; others are political refugees from all over Palestine-Israel, who live in refugee camps located in the Bethlehem and Ramallah areas. More than half of our students receive financial aid to cover their tuition fees.



Ministry in the Shadow of the Wall

Creating Hope

Our strength and our hope is our God, our churches and our schools, which seek to create concrete signs of hope in the midst of despair. Through its ministries and programs, people are supported and encouraged to grow in faith and life: women's empowerment; youth development including international exchanges; music, arts and crafts programs; international conferences for education, culture and peacebuilding; services for the elderly and needy; learning and dialogue opportunities; building economic and spiritual community and jobs.



Peace-Building

ELCJHL schools and programs build mutual respect between Christian and Muslim students through dialogue and teaching tolerance. Abraham's Herberge (guesthouse) in Beit Jala invites all of the children of Abraham - especially youth - to dialogue and build mutual understanding. Through programs like Redeemer's Christian-Jewish family dialogue and the Christian-Jewish Jonah Dialogue Group, Jewish-Christian understanding is built and developed.

Keeping Local Christians in the Holy Land

If nothing is done to change the trend, the Christian churches here will be museums in 10 or 20 years. Please help us keep local Christians in the Holy Land Pray for us, stand with us, come and see us. Bishop Munib Younan



Witnessing for Justice

The occupation is a sin against God and humanity. It dehumanizes first the occupier and then the occupied. Help us liberate both Israelis and Palestinians from the bondage of occupation, fear and violence.
Bishop Munib Younan

Our faith communities are our saving grace. Despite checkpoints and closures, people go to great lengths to gather together for worship, fellowship, learning and serving. Our faith and our church gives us the hope and the strength we need to face the unknown future.

One of the most tragic consequences of the almost 30-year Israeli occupation has been the flight of Palestinian Christians from the Holy Land. Ongoing land confiscation, home demolitions, movement restrictions and now the Separation Wall have shattered the social, economic and political fabric of Palestinian life, driving the Christian population down from about 15% in 1948 to under 2% now.