



... love one another as I have loved you  
John 13:12

# Israel/Palestine Mission Network Highlights

[www.IsraelPalestineMissionNetwork.org](http://www.IsraelPalestineMissionNetwork.org)

January 2009  
Volume 1, Issue 2

## Steering Committee met January 6

With great concern and sadness, the IPMN Steering Committee met earlier this month via conference call. In the midst of the horrifying violence between Hamas and Israel in Gaza, we have been called to step up our advocacy, actions and prayer for justice in the region..

Our advocacy for justice in I/P over the last several weeks includes the following:

- **Letter to President-Elect Obama;** After circulating this letter for a couple weeks amongst IPMN members and friends and well beyond, a total of 421 signatures from Presbyterians from all over the country were included with the letter. Thanks to all of you for your efforts to get signatures. You can find the final letter on our IPMN web page.
- **Obama letter to be in *Presbyterian Outlook*.** Through the generous gifts of Steering Committee members, about two-thirds of the cost of having our letter in *Outlook* was underwritten. If you wish to help defray this cost, you can send your gift to the address below with "Obama-Outlook" notation. Look for the letter to appear early in February.
- **Statement regarding the current situation in Gaza.** The Advocacy Work Group prepared a statement on Gaza which was approved by the Steering Committee and released throughout our network and beyond. You can find this statement on the IPMN web page.
- **Immediate help for Gaza.** The Steering Committee strongly encourages gifts for



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**  
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

rebuilding to be given through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). An account has been set up with a goal of \$1 million. Go to [www.pcusa.org/pda](http://www.pcusa.org/pda) to give online (Account DR000081-E1). Individual gifts to go the address at the bottom of the second page of this newsletter. Your gifts can also go through your congregation.

- **Other links on Gaza.** Go to <http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/israelpalestine/> This site will give you more suggestions for contacting your congresspersons, sign other letters, get study resources and pray. The letter about Gaza from Stated Clerk, Gradye Parsons is also linked. Click on the box above the I/P map to get to many resources.



**Churches for  
Middle East Peace**

- **Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)** has been very responsive on the issues of Gaza. Check out their web page at [www.cmep.org](http://www.cmep.org) for their resources and letters of advocacy. The IPMN Steering Committee is encouraging members and friends to join CMEP with a contribution and to encourage their presbyteries to do so as well. A gift of \$2,000.00 is being sent by IPMN.
- **Jerusalem: The East Side Story of Dispossession, Occupation and a Challenge to Survive** is a new resource from the same producer at *The Iron Wall*. Go to [www.eastsidestory.ps](http://www.eastsidestory.ps) for details on ordering. The DVD is \$25/including shipping but can be ordered in quantity for a discount.

- **IPMN Communications:** Over some weeks, several of our IPMN members and friends have chosen to remove their names from the IPMN Yahoo Group because of the exceedingly heavy number of emails. This is of concern to the Steering Committee as we work to identify various ways to communicate information and have discussions about issues/articles related to I/P. To alleviate some of the email overload and frustrations, we are suggesting the following communications options from which you can select all or part:
    1. **IPMN BLOGSPOT:** This is the place where articles and statements can be posted with discussion/comments about them. This new blogspot can be found at <http://myipmn.blogspot.com/> Check it out and make it one of your favorites and then make as many comments as you would like. Anyone can comment on something posted by clicking on “comment” at the bottom of each post and then click “submit.” If you would like to be an “author” and submit articles/statements for discussion/comment, you need to send an email to Noushin Framke from the blog to let her know and she will designate you an author. All authors must have a free gmail account from [google.com](http://google.com). Many thanks to Noushin for setting this up. Let us see if we can transfer discussion/comments to this place and reserve the Yahoo Group for announcements.
    2. **IPMN Yahoo Group:** This is the place to make announcements and share information. If you click on either “reply” or “reply all,” your response will go to the entire group. If you wish to respond to an individual, it is best if you write an email directly to that person rather than clogging up this method of communication.
 

You can choose to receive the Yahoo group emails in several ways:

      - a. Instantly, as each message comes through. This is what most of us have at this time.
      - b. Daily summaries come to you each morning with all of the previous day’s posts in one email with a summary at the top. You can choose to look quickly or read more closely. You can change the setting to this in your Yahoo account. If you have a problem, check with Pauline Coffman (P.coffman@sbcglobal.net) for help.
      - c. Weekly summary works the same as daily. You can change your setting in your Yahoo account.
- Our **IPMN Half Again Campaign** is underway to raise an additional \$30,000 for 2009 to support the IPMN infrastructure and designated projects in I/P. To date, pledges and payments total \$22,750. If you would like to contribute, use the address below with account EC052802 (notation Half Again). Many thanks to those who have already contributed.
  - **Good news from IMPORT PEACE FOR 2008** Peter Mann reports that \$11,000 from Import Peace olive oil sales has been sent to the Ahli Arab Hospital in Gasa, the Palestine Fair Trade Association, Douglas Dicks (PCUSA regional liaison) and to IPMN operating expenses. A great year of sales with the help of many of you!
  - IPMN will have an **exhibit booth at the Presbyterian Women’s Churchwide Gathering** (July 11-15, 2009 in Louisville). Polly and Dave Johnson have agreed to coordinate this project. If you are going to be in Louisville for the gathering and can volunteer to assist in the booth, please contact Polly at [phj5@insightbb.com](mailto:phj5@insightbb.com).
  - The **fall 2009 IPMN meeting** will be held in conjunction with the PC(USA) Global Mission Celebration. IPMN will meet October 19-21 with the mission celebration from October 21-24. More details to come but please get the IPMN dates on your calendar.
  - Finally, we recognize the retirement of the Rev. Glenn Dickson as senior minister of Westminster Church in Gainesville, FL on January 15. Glenn is serving as the IPMN vice-moderator and says he will have more time for IPMN and sailing soon. Congratulations, Glenn!



Carol Hylkema, Moderator (chylkema@wowway.com)  
Pauline Coffman, Secretary (P.coffman@sbcglobal.net)

#### Gifts to Israel/Palestine Mission Network

All individual gifts to IPMN should be sent to the following address using ECO account #E052802 (specific project notated on memo line):

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
P.O. Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700