



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

Israel/Palestine Mission Network Highlights

www.IsraelPalestineMissionNetwork.org

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Steering Committee met May 21

As we move into summer and some of our activities slow down, it is time to remind ourselves that the situation for Palestinians does not slow down while we take a break. We continue to receive updates from various organizations such as Churches for Middle East Peace and Jewish Voices for Peace to make phone calls or send letters through the summer. Please respond as you can.

We need the clarity of your Spirit, O God, to break through the fog of our collective confusion to remind us of that for which Christ came into our midst. Empower all your people with a genuine desire to be moved by your Spirit to find common ground upon which we can journey, shining new light on old struggles, and pointing towards new visions that are inclusive of all human needs.

We pray for both Palestine and Israel. We pray for our network, and for the Just Peace it seeks to accomplish. We pray for the Presbyterian Church (USA), that our internal dialogue may bring new insight and action. And we pray for your Church Universal, that it may in one voice declare that in Israel and Palestine, and in all places of oppression and great need throughout the world, that you are a God of justice, compassion and peace and that we ignore this truth at our own peril.

Excerpt of the opening prayer for the IPMN Steering Committee on May 21 by the Rev. Jeff DeYoe.

IPMN ANNUAL MEETING - Oct. 20-22

The time for our annual meeting will soon be upon us. Since it will be a year between meetings, this will be an important opportunity to bring together IPMN members and friends to continue our important advocacy work for peace with justice in Israel/Palestine. Using the theme of *Being an Audacious Church*, our meeting will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Thomas, KY (www.ftthomasfirstpres.com), just across the river from Cincin-

nati. The meeting will begin at 3 pm on Tuesday, October 20 and conclude at noon on Thursday, October 22. Housing will be at the Country Inn and Suites in Wilder, KY (www.countryinns.com/wilderky). The hotel is about six miles from the church. Registration details will come to you soon.

FACTS ON THE GROUND RESOURCE

Work on this important new resource is going along full steam with the Steering Committee and editors in the final review process. The plan is to get this project to the printer near the end of June. The resource (yet to have an official name) will have a 48 page booklet and supplementary DVD. You will be the first to know when it is available for distribution and sale. We want this resource spread as widely as possible so we look for each of you to make contacts with your own congregation, your presbytery and other congregations.

IPMN WEB PAGE UPDATE

Thanks to Pauline Coffman, Marthame Sanders and our Communication Committee, the updated IPMN web page will go "live" soon. Please check out www.israelpalestinemissionnetwork.org to review the valuable resources within.

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES WEEK OF PEACE IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE

June 4-10

The World Council of Churches has call for a week for peace in Israel/Palestine. You can find all sorts of resources, including a press release, prayer, litany for peace at www.oikoumene.org/en/events-sections/wppi.html Check it out for ways you can participate.





The June 2009 issue of *National Geographic* feature article is entitled *The Christian Exodus from the Holy Land*.

The magazine is already in the mailbox of subscribers. Check it out.

WORLD MISSION CELEBRATION '09

Oct. 22-24

Following our annual IPMN meeting, the PC(USA) World Mission work area and the wide variety of mission networks are sponsoring a celebration of mission. You can check out the details at www.pcusa.org/missioncelebration. We hope that many IPMN members will be able to attend this biennial event immediately after our annual meeting in Cincinnati.

HALF AGAIN CAMPAIGN FOR IPMN

Thanks to all of you who have supported our Half Again Campaign to support IPMN and projects/agencies in the Occupied Territories, West Bank and Gaza. To date, \$41,000 has been pledged surpassing our goal of \$35,000. We ask that you continue to share gifts with IPMN as the needs are never ending. The address in the box below will get your gifts to the right place. Many thanks to our campaign committee of Don Maclay, David Yeaworth and Bob Stoddard.

PRAYERS FOR PC(USA) STAFF

During the period of May 16-25, the staff of the Presbyterian Center in Louisville was on mandatory unpaid furlough. This was a money saving strategy that will save a considerable amount. During that time, the staff was instructed not to conduct any business, including phone calls and emails. This is a stressful time for the staff. Please keep all of them in your prayers, especially those with whom IPMN works closely.

THIS AND THAT

- Jan Everett has resigned from the Steering Committee due to an overload of commitments. We thank Jan for her work with IPMN and the Travel Committee and look forward to working with again at another time. Don Mead is now the chair of the Travel Committee
- Every effort is being made to update and expand our

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

data list of names, addresses, email addresses, etc. for folks interested in the work of IPMN. If you have names of interested persons, please forward them to Carolyn Harris, IPMN communicator, at harriscarolyn@sbcglobal.net.

- The Advocacy Committee is working intentionally to enhance our relationships with other religious and secular organizations working on the issues of I/P.
- Keep the Middle East Study Group in your prayers as they take on their very important assignment from the 2008 GA to prepare a comprehensive study, with recommendations, that is focused on Israel/Palestine within the complex context of the Middle East. The first meeting was in early April. They will report to the 2010 GA.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance continues

to respond to vulnerable people impacted by January's violence in Gaza in cooperation with Action by Churches Together (ACT) International. \$100,000 from One Great Hour of Sharing and designated funds are helping to meet the basic humanitarian needs of food, clean water, medical care and psychosocial assistance to the thousands of people in need. Gifts are still needed and can be done online at www.pcusa.org/pda (Account #DR000081).

- Help tending the IPMN booth at the Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering, July 11-15 in Louisville is still needed. If you will be at the gathering, please contact Polly Johnson at phj5@insightbb.com.

The Steering Committee will meet next on June 23. Please be in touch with any concerns or questions.

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