



## Hope in the Holy Land | Early Adult Vision Trip

August 15 – 25, 2013

This ten day discipleship journey seeks to engage young Christians from the United States and Canada with the realities of this conflict by traveling alongside Israelis and Palestinians committed to peace and justice.

There are many impassioned narratives that surround this conflict; we will approach this trip soberly, acknowledging that we are witnessing an escalating tragedy. Israelis, still bearing scars of the Holocaust and centuries of anti-Semitism, seek short and long-term security. Palestinians, a people displaced and marginalized, long for their voice to be heard and justice to be restored. We believe Christians in the region, around the world, and particularly in Canada and the United States, can make a positive contribution toward justice and peace for both sides.

As young Christians called to be ministers of reconciliation, come engage in the struggle of these two communities, see World Vision's ministry, and learn how you can further contribute toward peace and justice in the Holy Land. Hear Israeli voices. Hear Palestinian voices. Explore the facts on the ground and lay a foundation as an advocate for peace and justice in the Holy Land.

### Facilitators:



**Dr. Charlie Abou Saada** joined the WV Jerusalem office on February 09 in the role of Church Relations Coordinator. Charile holds PhD & MA degrees in Canon Law from the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome and a BA degree in Philosophy and Theology from the Pontifical University of St. Tommaso D'Acquino in Rome. He also holds a Diploma in operatic music. The founder and director of the youth forum "Juthouruna" in Bethlehem since 2005, Charlie also has various experiences working as the Director of the Palestinian Children Club in Beit Sahour for two years, and teaching music, history and theology at Bethlehem University. In addition to this, he is active in leading local and international conferences, leading concerts and choirs and accompanying pilgrims visiting the Holy Land. Charlie is fluent in English, french and Italian, lives in Bethlehem and is married with three lovely children.



**Rev. Mae Elise Cannon** Serves as the Senior Director of Advocacy & Outreach - Middle East for World Vision USA, and previously lived and worked with the Church in Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel/Palestine. She is a pastor, writer, and academic who cares deeply about God's heart for the poor and the oppressed. She is currently a doctoral candidate in American History with the minor in Middle Eastern studies at the University of California – Davis, focusing her dissertation on the history of the American Protestant church in Israel and Palestine. She is also the author of *Social Justice Handbook: Small Steps for a Better World* (IVP, 2009) and *Just Spirituality: How Faith Practices Fuel Social Action* (IVP, 2013).

### Spiritual Directors



**Julia Sandstrom** Julia Stein Sandstrom is the Director of Ministry Support for the Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada. She is a pastor who's ministry involves furthering the Kingdom of God through discipleship initiatives across the Covenant churches in Canada.



**Jarrod McKenna** is an internationally recognized speaker, peace award recipient, blogger and activist based in Perth on the Christian Engagement Team at World Vision Australia. He writes and speaks about key issues in our world today – of the huge disparity between the rich and the poor, about peace and justice; and reminds us that through the hope and love offered to us through Christ we have the power be a part of God's transformation of the world.

## World Vision:



has been active in the region since 1975 and is committed to partnering with both Palestinians and Israelis to enact sustainable solutions for the future of children, families, and communities. World Vision has long recognized that the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is one of the most enduring causes of poverty in the region. Strategic, well-informed advocacy rooted in the best development programming is crucial for World Vision to properly address the underlying causes of poverty.

## Vision Trip Purpose:

We are firm believers in experiential learning. Time and time again we have seen that a personal encounter with the Holy Land is a transformational experience where our spiritual heritage and conviction crash into the tangled complexities of an identity based conflict. The result is an encounter that demands our best intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. We pursue this end by focusing on three primary goals:

**SEE THE FACTS ON THE GROUND** Engage this challenge by exploring traditional narratives and building relationships on both sides of the conflict. We maintain emphasis on the unsung heroes, from multiple perspectives, who choose to actively pursue peace and reconciliation. After thirty – seven years of transformational community development work in Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza, we must acknowledge the large disparity in economic opportunities and personal freedoms between Israelis and Palestinians. Knowing these disparities, we are still resolute in our conviction that reconciliation demands learning and entering into the historic suffering of both communities.

**GROW IN OUR WALK WITH CHRIST** In order to positively contribute to peace-building and reconciliation we must look to the life, words, and works of Jesus Christ for wisdom and transformation. Throughout our time in the Holy Land, we will return to the scriptures and to prayer. We do not just engage in the pain of the conflict, we pursue a response founded on a hope in Christ and his promise of restoration.

**LEAD** Following this trip, we will be sharing our knowledge and experience with Covenant Churches and communities in the United States and Canada. This is an opportunity to bless our congregations with the message of peace and justice.

## Trip Details:

**Date:** Thursday, August 15 - Sunday, August 25, 2013  
(15<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> are travel days)

**Participants:** 8-10 Young People (approx. 18-35 years old) from the United States and Canada

**Price:** \$1,950 plus airfare. This price covers food, lodging, and transportation; however, incidental and personal purchases will need to be covered by the participants. Financial assistance may be available, please contact Julia Sandstrom for more information at [directoreccc@gmail.com](mailto:directoreccc@gmail.com)

### What to expect:

- **Tent of Nations** – Palestinian Christian organization dedicated to reconciliation under the slogan, “We Refuse to be Enemies”
- **The Parents’ Circle** – a coalition of Palestinian and Israeli Parents who have lost children in the conflict
- **Yad Vashem** – Israel’s Holocaust Museum
- **Breaking the Silence** – A group of former Israeli soldiers speak about the realities of military occupation
- **Palestinian Church Engagement Initiative** – See World Vision’s efforts to strengthen the church community in the Holy Land
- **Holy Sites** – See ancient Holy sites such as the Old City of Jerusalem