

THE HOLY LAND CHRISTIAN ECUMENICAL FOUNDATION  
Holy Land Christian Support Network (HCSN)

*Welcome to*  
*the* **HCEF**



**14<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**



promoting peace, justice, and reconciliation in the Holy Land by  
*replacing despair with hope, fear with security, and humiliation with dignity.*

IN MEMORIAM

Our Beloved Friend & Volunteer

**Mary Elizabeth Beahn, LCHS**



*Awards Banquet Chair*



*2009 HCEF President's Award Recipient*

**W**ith great sadness, the Lord took home one of our most precious jewels, our dear and most beloved friend *Mary Elizabeth Beahn*. Mary was a wonderful person! She devoted so much time to helping others, supporting the Christians of the Holy Land through volunteer efforts at her parish, Shrine of St. Jude in Rockville and with us at HCEF.

The promise for peace and justice in the Holy Land was advanced through Mary's personal efforts. Mary was an HCEF pioneer as she was the first person to create a **Holy Land Outreach Committee** and establish it as a credible church program and activity. A member of the **Shrine of St. Jude**, Mary served as Chair of St. Jude's, still thriving, Holy Land Outreach Committee and she was effective in encouraging other leader volunteers to come on board with HCEF.

Mary also developed the **Parish Partnership program** between St. Jude's and Birzeit, Queen of Peace, the sister parish in Birzeit. She organized numerous Holy Land Days and strengthened support for the **Jesus Loves the Children Program** through the annual **Christmas Tree Giving Project** at St. Jude's. Mary had a heart for Palestinian Christians and Palestinians at large.

Mary was an outstanding Chair for the HCEF Awards Banquet and the International Conference Registration! Her attention to detail, organizational skills and professionalism were second to none! Year after year, Mary and Tom would labor together, painfully counting and labeling each and every Holy Land Gift item in the HCEF storeroom. HCEF was honored by their level of commitment and support in this capacity. Her grace, input and skill always helped us to make each event even more successful!

We have only listed a few of the many, many ways in which she has blessed us. Her involvement and faithful support of HCEF at our conferences, planning events, and area symposia are the epitome of an outstanding volunteer and an even more outstanding person. Mary was a great leader who took initiative in serving in whatever capacity needed. We will miss her spirit, her presence, her smile, her grace, her kindness.

Thank you, Mary, for your love, your friendship, your loyalty and support. With the love of Christ in your heart you always let your light shine. Our lives at HCEF will not be the same without you.

On August 14, 2012, while on vacation with her husband Tom and their family, Mary suffered a sudden stroke. She went home to be with the Lord later that same day. Please pray for her wonderful husband and best friend Tom, their children and grandchildren.

The LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away;  
Blessed be the name of the LORD. *Job 1:21(b)*

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*Rateb & Rocio Rabie, KCHS/LHS,  
The HCEF Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers*



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## HCEF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I warmly welcome you to the **14th International Conference: 3rd Business, Investments & ICT Conference**. HCEF endeavors to build bridges and opportunities between and for our Holy Land brethren and their partners, all around the world.

Everything we do begins and ends with people. This year's theme, '**Continuing our Commitment to Peace, Prosperity and Dialogue**,' reflects our commitment to stimulate the peacemaking and economy building in every aspect. Our discussions are intended to promote healthy dialogue on interreligious faith, as well as promote positive avenues for effective collaboration and partnerships. We will have the opportunity to meet and network with the international and national experts and professionals as they share the various and diverse opportunities for doing business and investing in Palestine during the **3rd Business, Investments, and ICT Conference**.

I warmly congratulate all of our 2012 Awardees, **Mr. José Said Saffie, HCEF Palestinian Diaspora Award** recipient, **Mr. Mario Nazal Momares, HCEF Award** recipient, '**Path of Peace Award**' recipient **Rev. Canon Dr. Trond Bakkevig, The Living Stones Solidarity Award** recipients **Deacon Tom and Mary Fox**, on behalf of the **Pilgrim Center of Hope**, and **Mr. Jim Ransom**, recipient of the **HCEF President's Award**, all of whom have committed themselves to bettering the lives of others in their respective capacities and spheres of influence.

I offer my most sincere thank you to all of our conference sponsors, donors, partner organizations, distinguished speakers, volunteers and friends for your commitment and your moral, spiritual and financial support!

Whether you have traveled from near or from afar, your presence with us this weekend is not only inspiring and most valuable to us, but it plays an intricate and critical role in the success of our mission to 'replace despair with hope, fear with security and humiliation with human dignity'.

Thank you for joining us and we hope your experience at our 14th International Conference is most enriching!

God bless,



Rateb Rabie, KCHS  
President/CEO



# 14<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



## HOLY LAND CHRISTIAN ECUMENICAL FOUNDATION'S **Fourteenth International Conference**

### **INFORMATION**

#### CONFERENCE MODERATORS

**Saliba Sarsar, Ph.D.**, *Secretary HCEF Board of Directors,  
Associate Vice President for Global Initiatives, Monmouth University*

**Hugh Dempsey, D.Ed., K.M. Ob.**

*We hope your experience will be enriching and you will be encouraged to join us in our support of the Christians in the Holy Land. To make your experience more enjoyable, please note some of the services available to you.*

#### **FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS**

Coffee, Tea and Water are available for you throughout the day.  
Boxed lunches will be available in the Cafeteria  
at the Kellogg Building across the campus.

#### **EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS**

Books are available at the conference through our bookseller  
**Washington Report on Middle East Affairs**  
**American Educational Trust**



## There is Room at the Inn

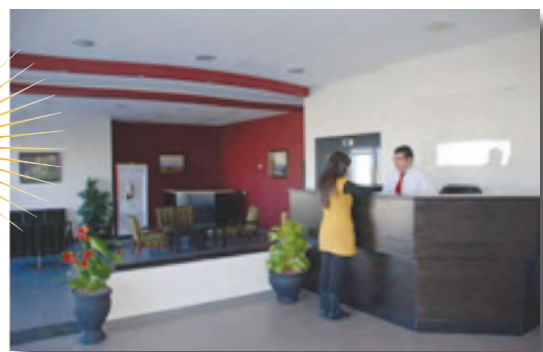
As the headquarters for the HCEF Bethlehem office, The Ecumenical Center for Research and Development (ECRD) is the perfect meeting place with its spacious conference and meeting rooms. This center will not just encourage and welcome HCEF pilgrims, but will also fulfill a vital role as a training facility in support of the local community through the empowerment of agents for social justice.

The ECRD building and resource center, with its new lobby and 25 sleeping rooms, capable of accommodating 56 people, warmly welcomed its first guests, a group of pilgrims from Russia. The INN is equipped with internet, cable TV, dining rooms other amenities to provide full service and an enjoyable visit for participants of workshops, conferences, symposiums, etc. Groups are invited to contact HCEF if they would like to be hosted in the beautiful HCEF INN during their visit to Bethlehem.



## The HCEF Inn & CONFERENCE CENTER

The *HCEF Inn and Conference Center*, right in the heart of Bethlehem and steps away from the Church of the Nativity. The guest rooms, all with full private bathrooms, are a home away from home. Each single or double occupancy guest room is furnished with all of the modern conveniences, including cable TV and wifi. The inn affords stunning views of the Bethlehem area, home cooking and an opportunity to experience the daily life of the Arab Christians (*referred to in the Bible as the Living Stones*) and walk through the streets where Jesus once walked.



For more details about HCEF Programs visit us at

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

For more information on planning your HCEF Living Stones Pilgrimage contact:

### HCEF OFFICES

#### BETHESDA

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#### BETHLEHEM

46 Alatan Street,  
Greek Orthodox Building  
PO Box 14152, Jaffa Gate, Jerusalem  
Bethlehem, Palestine  
US Number 301 534 8561



*From the depths of our hearts,  
we say  
Thank you!*



## CONFERENCE Sponsors & Partners



## BANQUET TABLE SPONSORS

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*Mr. Raja Khoury & Mr. Maher Chalibi  
PILLAR CONSTRUCTION*

*Dr. Hanna & Mrs. Reem Hanania*





THE HOLY LAND CHRISTIAN ECUMENICAL FOUNDATION

*A Living Hope*

## Housing Rehabilitation Program (HRP)

*Building Homes, Building hope!*

### *Program Goals*

- Rehabilitating uninhabitable homes for those who cannot afford it
- Creating jobs and job training
- Supporting small-scale workshops and suppliers to boost the local economy

**Before**



**After**



**Before**



**After**



**Before**



**After**



### **How HRP makes a difference:**

- Improved living conditions for 1850 family members
- Repaired over 370 houses
- Created jobs for 675 people
- Generated income for 2980 family members



"My three children were always sick and felt depressed and sad. They always dreamt of a clean and healthy kitchen and bedroom like other children. We are so thankful to HCEF for achieving that dream for my family".

*Suheir*

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

HCEF seeks to replace despair with hope, fear with security, and humiliation with human dignity.

301 951-9400 • [hcef@hcef.org](mailto:hcef@hcef.org)

# HCEF 14<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

## **CONTINUING OUR COMMITMENT to Peace, Prosperity & Dialogue**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Business, Investment & ICT Conference: ICT, Investment, Banking/Finance & Religious Tourism**

**FRIDAY - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9-10, 2012**

Join us to explore the vast resources available in the Palestinian business community. HCEF is conducting its 3<sup>rd</sup> *Annual Business, Investment and ICT Conference* in conjunction with its 14<sup>th</sup> *Annual International Conference*. Previous HCEF business conferences resulted in successful partnerships and business transactions between Palestinian businesses, Palestinians in the Diaspora and Americans. To capitalize on the success of past HCEF conferences and to yield even greater results, this year's HCEF Business, Investment and ICT Conference will include U.S. Corporations from a variety of business sectors involving more business leaders, corporations and institutions with interests in Palestine. A variety of sectors and topics will be discussed, including: Banking and Finance, Information and Communication Technology, Religious Tourism and many others, presented by expert speakers from Palestine and the USA.

#### **Highlights:**

- Showcase participating Palestinian start-ups, entrepreneurs, and corporations
- Introduce the highly educated workforce in the Palestinian Territories
- Workshops and Round table discussions with professionals from Palestine, the Diaspora & U.S.
- Presentations to encourage brainstorming, exchange of experiences & best practices
- Information & education on conducting business in Palestine, the USA and other Countries
- Creative one on one partnering between Palestinian, Diasporas, USA and Global business professionals
- Featured sectors: Finance, Banking, Stocks, Real Estate, ICT, Manufacturing and Tourism.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Attract and encourage investment in the Palestinian market
- Participate in building the infrastructure of the State of Palestine
- Build new relationships and connections between business leaders inside Palestine and the U.S.
- Outline best practices for dealing with Palestinians and their ICT business sectors
- Showcase Palestinian ICT sector competitiveness and potential areas for investments
- Promote Palestine as a destination for religious tourism for the three monotheistic religions
- Inform investors about new grass roots investments in untapped communities and real estate developments in Palestine
- Facilitate in matching Business to Business/ Investor to Investor
- Inform Palestinian-Americans and Americans about the progress and achievements of the Palestinian economy
- Form business ventures and service entities to continue developing and overseeing the development of new business
- and investment ventures between Palestine, US & Other Countries







*Thank you for joining  
with us!*







## 14<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

### Honorary Committee\*



**HE Archbishop Khajag Barsamian**

Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)

**Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson**

Archbishop of St. Louis

**Most Reverend William E. Lori**

Archbishop, Archdiocese of Baltimore

**Most Reverend Denis J. Madden**

Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Baltimore

**The Most Reverend Metropolitan Philip Saliba**

Primate, Self-Rules Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

**HB Patriarch Fouad Twal**

Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem

**Bishop Dr. Munib A. Younan**

The Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan & the Holy Land (ELCJHL)

The President of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

\* Honorary Committee members are listed alphabetically

# SEE the Holy Land in a New Way



***“Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,***

I eagerly invite you to come to the Holy Land and be the guest of the Jerusalem church and its congregations. The Arab Christians are the Living Stones of the Holy Land. They are the first believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, and they feel they are the forgotten faithful. Join us in Christian fellowship and solidarity in the Holy Land! Come with the HCEF Living Stone Pilgrimage. This program is a unique opportunity to share in the daily trials and joys of your brothers and sisters living in the Land of Christ and proclaiming His message. Come reflect on our shared faith as you visit our churches and homes.

Right Rev. Munib A. Younan, *Bishop,  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Palestine and Jordan, Jerusalem  
President, The Lutheran World Federation*



***“Welcome my dear friends!***

I invite you to be the guest of the Church in the Holy Land and to be in communion with the Christians of the Holy Land. Share in their reality and their joys, reflect and consider your opportunity to serve your Mother Church. There is no substitute for a real tangible experience. Come, see and enjoy! A pilgrimage is a great experience, but what is most important is that we encourage a pilgrimage where you can meet, break bread and visit the home of one of the Living Stones, the children of the Bible. I await your visit!”

H.B. Patriarch Fouad Twal, *Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem  
Chair, HCEF Advisory Board*

## ***What Makes the HCEF Living Stones Pilgrimage Unique?***

By responding to the invitation of H.B. Patriarch Twal and H.E. Bishop Younan, you will be guests of the Church of Jerusalem and the Holy Land Arab Christians.

*You will enjoy the benefits of a well-planned and organized trip which includes land transportation, accommodations, all visits, meals and planned activities. Flights from your hometown airport can also be arranged.*

- Your pilgrimage will be customized to meet individual group needs, including the creation of a service project as part of the pilgrimage.
- You, as a pilgrim, will have an opportunity to learn about Biblical sites; worship in the most spiritually uplifting places; and meet local Christians in the company of local priests and clergy.
- You will be welcomed into the home of a local Christian family for an overnight stay.
- You will be a part of HCEF's Ecumenical emphasis on Christian solidarity.
- You will support Christian businesses in local Christian communities.
- You will benefit from the years of HCEF's presence in the Holy Land through personal knowledge of the Holy Sites and Christian community in the Holy Land.

For more details about HCEF Programs visit us at [www.hcef.org](http://www.hcef.org)

*Living Stones*  
**Pilgrimage Program**

For more information on planning your HCEF Living Stones Pilgrimage contact us at [pilgrimage@hcef.org](mailto:pilgrimage@hcef.org)

**Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc. (HCEF) is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization that provides support to the Christians of the Holy Land through a variety of programs.**



## About HCEF

*"People should regard us as servants  
of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God."  
1 Cor 4:1*

### MISSION STATEMENT

**HCEF is committed to the presence and well-being of Arab Christians in the Holy land and to developing the bonds of solidarity between them and Christians elsewhere.**

*In response to witnessing the teaching of our Savior Jesus Christ the mission is demonstrated through:*

- ✠ EDUCATING CHRISTIANS around the world about the presence of the Arab Christians in the Holy Land, and reminding them of their moral obligation to the Mother Church.
- ✠ BUILDING COMMUNITY between Christians throughout the World and Arab Christians through pilgrimages, publications, and communications.
- ✠ DEVELOPING BONDS OF SOLIDARITY through church-to-church, family-to-family, and person-to-person partnership programs to bring Christians together in community for future cooperation.
- ✠ PROMOTING PEACE AND JUSTICE IN THE HOLY LAND by removing the causes of the human suffering to replace despair with hope fear with security, and humiliation with human dignity.
- ✠ SELECTING AND OVERSEEING SPECIFIC PROJECTS designed to provide better living conditions for the Arab Christians in the Holy Land. Project areas will focus on creating employment, advancing education, building and rehabilitating houses, and supporting the growth of children of the Holy Land.





# THE HOLY LAND CHRISTIAN ECUMENICAL FOUNDATION

## *A Living Hope* CHILDREN'S PEACE PROGRAM



### Building a Living Bridge of Peace

- Welcome students from Palestine as Ambassadors of hope & understanding
- Educate western Christians about the plight of Arab Christians in the Holy Land
- Learn about our own Christian heritage
- Break down walls of misunderstanding through the power of prayer & friendship
- Change hearts & lives forever; Yours, the children, families, church, community
- Deepen understanding of other faiths



### Host Children from the Holy Land at Your Church & School

HCEF is committed to maintaining the presence and well-being of the Arab Christians in the Holy Land, and to develop bonds, of solidarity between them and Christians elsewhere.

We seek to replace despair with hope, fear with security, and humiliation with human dignity.

[www.hcef.org](http://www.hcef.org)  
[301.951-9400.cpp@hcef.org](mailto:301.951-9400.cpp@hcef.org)



## INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ACTIVITY Award



### HCEF's *Children's Peace PROJECT (CPP)* Recognized by the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council



**Supreme Knight Carl Anderson with members of the Chelsea Council and their wives**

On August 8, 2012, the Knights of Columbus, the largest Catholic benefit society in the world, recognized the vision and excellence of its Chelsea Michigan Council, which sponsored the HCEF Children's Peace Project—the 4-week visit of 5 Palestinian students and their teacher chaperon—in the summer of 2011. Supreme Knight Carl Anderson conferred the *only* award for international impact from the Knights of Columbus at the 130<sup>th</sup> Supreme Convention in Anaheim, California.

The award was accepted on behalf of the Chelsea Council by past Grand Knight Owen Ballow, who was also a host father for one of the Palestinian Students. Palestinian children, with their innocence and their values, are the seeds and the prophets of peace between Palestine and the U.S.A. They embodied joy and painted smiles on the faces of their American host families. This project is one of the foundations' ways of touching American hearts, and telling them more about the Palestinian reality. The HCEF Children's Peace Project enables American churches and schools to work for greater understanding and solidarity with churches and schools in the Holy Land. The hosts invite a small group of Palestinian students and a teacher to reside in the parish or school community for six to eight weeks if during the school year, or a shorter period if during the summer. The objective of the CPP is to build a bridge of understanding and peace between the Holy Land and the West and between the children of both lands.



**Father Turner**, pastor of St. Mary Parish and host of the summer 2011 Children's Peace project, insists "It is important to connect with the descendants of Jesus' time. To see the world as we are seen by others. The Christians in the Holy Land are diminishing in numbers, as the Israelis continue to hem them in and restrict their movements...but we have created a bridge for them. They know that we are willing to support them and their various projects, livelihood, and works. Our people came to better understand their plight as a people under occupation, and unable to live in dignity."

Father Turner is a true Holy Land priest and recently joined the HCEF Board of Directors.





Leadership Program

## EXPLORE & LIVE PALESTINE



As Delegates of *Know Thy Heritage* these young Dispora Palestinians went home and were transformed by their experiences.

*Isn't it time for you to do the same?*

**APPLY NOW for next summer !**



**KNOW THY HERITAGE is a leadership program that** empowers young Palestinians in diaspora by strengthening their knowledge of their homeland. The program is open to youth of all faith backgrounds in diaspora, who have at least one Palestinian parent and want to connect in a real and lasting way with their heritage.

**Sound like you or someone you know?**

Request an application today by sending us an e-mail at [kth@hcef.org](mailto:kth@hcef.org).

Be sure to indicate your name, address, phone number, date of birth , profession, and which of your parents is Palestinian



**Expenses are paid by HCEF. Delegates are responsible ONLY for airfare, registration fees, and personal expenses.**

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A program of the  
Holy Land Christian  
Ecumenical Foundation

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مجموعة الاتصالات الفلسطينية  
PALTEL GROUP





## ✠ Arab Christians of the Holy Land ✠

After two thousand years, Christian families are still living and worshiping in the land where Jesus was born, died, and was resurrected. These Christians are not immigrants. They are not converts from Judaism or Islam. They are the descendents of those who first believed in Jesus Christ. They live in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, and other places in the Occupied Territories and Israel. They are Arab Palestinian Christians – Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant. Together, they comprise the Mother Church.

Their plight is twofold. First, these Christians have lived for more than fifty years under an unrelenting military occupation, and their living conditions today are desperate. Palestinian Christians face the daily threat of personal violence. Their homes are often confiscated or demolished, and they are rarely issued permits to build new homes. There are few job opportunities for Palestinians, and unemployment is rising. Medical care is inadequate, and supplies and patients are held at military checkpoints without permission to pass. Roads are closed in and out of villages — some roads are designated for Israeli use only. Palestinian identity cards are often confiscated, preventing Palestinians from moving freely within their own territories. Water is periodically cut off and cisterns have been destroyed, and Palestinian Christians are denied access to their places of worship, particularly to those in Jerusalem. Second, Christians in the Holy Land feel that they are the forgotten faithful. Many Christians from around the world do not even know that there is an indigenous Arab Christian population in the Holy Land. Even fewer know the severity of the conditions they are forced to endure. The mainstream media simply do not depict the daily lives of Palestinian Christians.

It is easy to see how the Palestinian Christians have come to feel as though they suffer in solitude, without the solidarity of the rest of the Body of Christ. It is also easy to see why Christians are leaving the Holy Land in vast numbers. In 1948 the Christian population of the Holy Land was over 18%. Today, it is less than 2%. In Jerusalem, in 1944, Christians numbered 30,000. Today, that number has dwindled to 2,000.

The Christian population shrinks daily as Christians emigrate to safer conditions. In a study conducted in 2001 by the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem (the Roman Catholic diocese), it was determined that 53% of the Christian residents of Beit Sahour (a predominantly Christian town adjacent to Bethlehem) had taken steps within the last year to acquire emigration visas. The Holy Land Christians are the living church in the land where Jesus was born, died, and was resurrected. They do not want to leave the land that their families have lived on for centuries. If they continue to leave at their current rate, there will soon be no living church in the Holy Land. There will always be holy sites to visit, but there will be no living stones, no living Body of Christ.

# CONGRATULATIONS!

## HCEF Palestinian Diaspora Award Recipient



*JOSE SAID SAFFIE*  
*President, Palestinian Foundation Bethlehem*

## Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation Award Recipient



*MARIO NAZAL MOMARES*  
*Director, Palestinian Foundation Bethlehem*

## PALESTINIAN FOUNDATION BETHLEHEM • CHILE



The Palestine Bethlehem 2000 Foundation -Chile seeks to ignite a flame which will open a path of light to young people and children in order to convey the value of justice, courage, and the Palestinian dream for fair and respectful peace.

Also in the same spirit, this institution seeks to build a bridge of communications with Chilean society, especially with the most disadvantaged sectors, which require a greater social commitment and solidarity in the economic, educational and cultural fields, hereby contributing to making Chile a stronger and more developed country.

**PALESTINIAN FOUNDATION BETHLEHEM- CHILE**  
ROSARIO NORTE 555 OF 805; SANTIAGO, CHILE; 562 719 0500  
[www.palestinos.com](http://www.palestinos.com)





# Thank you!

We wish to extend our warmest and deepest 'Thank You' to the National 4H Conference Center, Chevy Chase, MD, The Bank of Palestine, Paltel/REACH and all of our other generous sponsor partners and advertisers.

Please help us to thank them by supporting their businesses!

A sincere thank you also goes to the churches, organizations, and individuals who donated time and talent in support of the Conference.

We are especially grateful to those who brought groups to the conference and who have sponsored tables at the Awards Banquet.

We also wish to thank the volunteers of the Holy Land Christian Support Network (HCSN). They are advocates for peace, serving the Mother Church in so many ways around the world.

We also thank all of the staff in the Bethlehem Office for their hard work and diligence!

Words cannot adequately express our depth of appreciation, but we humbly say '**thank you**' for your countless hours of work and your singular dedication on behalf of the Holy Land Christians.



## CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

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**Hugh Dempsey, KM.Ob, KHS**

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Rocio Rabie, LHS

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### Documentation

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### Administration

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Karen Gainor  
Chiara Cardone

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**Administrative Manager**

Lutfi Abu Zelof  
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**Site Supervisor, Housing Rehabilitation Program (HRP)**

Shawkat Shomali  
**Procurement and Labor Department**

Engineer Khalil Hanania  
**Projects Engineer; Housing Rehabilitation Program (HRP)**

Samer Nasser  
**IT / Webmaster Administrator**



# Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation

## A Planned Gift

*"Let your light so shine before men,  
that they may see your good works,  
and glorify your Father which is in heaven."*

Matthew 5:16

## CALVARY FUND

Planned gifts include a variety of ways that assets can be given to the Christians of the Holy Land through HCEF.

They are a means through which anyone concerned about the wise use of their resources can determine that their life's interests will be respected into the future.

**A Will Bequest** : Perhaps the easiest way to make a gift for the future, naming HCEF in your will can help provide security for future generations of Christians in the Holy Land. After your family needs are satisfied, plan for your brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

**Life Insurance and Retirement Accounts** : You can create a new insurance policy naming HCEF as beneficiary. You can also make HCEF the owner of an existing policy. Your Retirement Account remainder value can be heavily taxed when left to friends and family but can pass tax-free to HCEF on your death.

**A Life Income Gift:** These types of gifts provide you or your designated beneficiary income for life in exchange for your gift.

• Pooled Income Fund:

• Charitable Gift Annuity

• Charitable Remainder Trust

• Charitable Gift Annuity

• Savings and Brokerage Accounts:



### HCEF Awarded Seal of Excellence



Of the 1,000,000 charities operating in the U.S. today, it is estimated that fewer than 5% have been awarded this seal. HCEF is one of the top 2,000 or (5%) of U.S. charities to meet the highest standards of public accountability, program effectiveness and cost effectiveness.

HCEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable organization

[www.hcef.org](http://www.hcef.org)  
301 951-9400 • [hcef@hcef.org](mailto:hcef@hcef.org)



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## *Office of the President*

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3100 • FAX 202-541-3166

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan  
Archbishop of New York  
*President*

July 25, 2012

Mr. Rateb Y. Rabie, KCHS, President/CEO  
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc.  
6935 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 518  
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear Mr. Rabie,

As President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I send greetings to the participants in the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF). You have chosen a timely and forward looking theme, "Continuing Our Commitment to Peace, Prosperity and Dialogue."

It is no secret that the work of building peace and prosperity in the Holy Land can be frustrating and discouraging, but as people of faith we are sustained by a hope that never fails. Faith allows us to hope even when there are not immediate reasons for optimism. In faith we know dialogue is the way to a better future for all God's children.

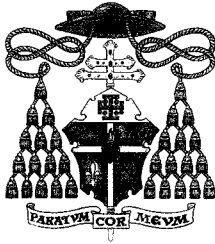
As our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, said in his 2012 Address to the Diplomatic Corps, "In the Holy Land, where tensions between Palestinians and Israelis affect the stability of the entire Middle East, it is necessary that the leaders of these two peoples adopt courageous and farsighted decisions in favor of peace." He went on to praise dialogue as a path to "lasting peace which guarantees the right of the two peoples to dwell in security in sovereign states and within secure and internationally recognized borders."

The Conference of Bishops shares your commitment to peace, prosperity and dialogue. With prayerful best wishes for a successful conference and kindest personal regards, I am

Faithfully in Christ,

— + *Tim. Card. Dolan*

Timothy Cardinal Dolan  
Archbishop of New York  
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



## PATRIARCHATUS LATINUS - JERUSALEM

بطريركية القدس لللاتين

Prot.N. (3) 995/2012

November 9, 2012

Sir Rateb Rabie, KCHS  
President/CEO  
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation  
6935 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 518  
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear Rateb, the HCEF Board of Directors, Staff and volunteers,

I send to all of you my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for a successful 14th International Conference. I thank you on behalf of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem for your good work in providing moral, spiritual and financial support for all people of the Holy Land.

Your continuing commitment to Peace, Prosperity and Dialogue gives hope to everyone who seeks peace and justice in a region that has experienced so much turmoil and suffering. Our Lord Jesus Christ compels us to make every effort to live in peace with one another. He exhorts us to think and trust accordingly as God has given to every man the measure of faith, and to look at others as our brothers and sisters with love and compassion.

Our faith in our Lord motivates us to seek peace. I commend all of you at HCEF for putting your faith in action, by developing programs that support job creation and capacity building. You have worked at building bridges of peace and strengthening relationships between all Americans and Palestinians, the Christians in particular.

May you all continue to *"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."* (Mt 5:15-17)

Thank you and be assured of my prayers for the success of your conference. May your efforts be a fruitful witness of New Evangelization during our Year of Faith. God bless you!

In Christ Our Savior,



+Fouad Twal, Latin Patriarch





OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

## ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

5001 EASTERN AVENUE  
POST OFFICE BOX 29260  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017

September 2012

Dear Friends,

As you gather for the Fourteenth International Conference and Awards Banquet of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, I offer a warm greeting and my pledge of prayers for the success of this year's gathering and for all those participating. The theme, *Continuing Our Commitment to Peace, Prosperity and Dialogue*, provides a fitting context for the celebration of the enduring work of HCEF to establish solidarity between Arab Christians in the Holy Land and Christians elsewhere.

Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, in his message for the 2012 World Day of Peace spoke about the importance of educating ourselves and others and the significance of working together in order to continue the dialogue of justice and peace. "Peace...is not merely a gift to be received: it is also a task to be undertaken." Pope Benedict encouraged all people throughout the world to feel a shared responsibility for educating present and future generations to be "people of peace and builders of peace."

As you gather for this conference, may this be an opportunity to examine with our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land the various challenges to peace and to pray for the courage to stand boldly and joyfully in building and safeguarding peace and prosperity, as well as encouraging dialogue today and into the future.

With assurances of pastoral solidarity and prayers, I am

Faithfully in Christ,

Archbishop of Washington

Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc.  
Fourteenth International Conference



**The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese**  
OF NORTH AMERICA

358 MOUNTAIN ROAD, P.O. Box 5238, ENGLEWOOD, NJ 07631-5238

TELEPHONE (201) 871-1355 • FAX (201) 871-7954

WEBSITE: WWW.ANTIOCHIAN.ORG • EMAIL: ARCHDIOCESE@ANTIOCHIAN.ORG

May 17, 2012

Mr. Rateb Rabie  
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc.  
6935 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 518  
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear Ratab,

Greetings and blessings to you and all your coworkers in the name of the Ascended Lord.

I am in receipt of your letter dated May 1, 2012 concerning the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the conference and the awards banquet. The theme of your conference is very, very challenging. St. Paul is urging us not to be weary in well doing, 2 Thess 3:13. In this exhortation, St. Paul is emphasizing the importance of work in our Christian life. Of course we are saved by faith and work according to St. James the Apostle. But what we Christians lack today, is to translate our Christianity into concrete action and read and reread Matthew 25.

Finally, may our ascended Lord who is sitting at the right hand of the Father continue to inspire us to do what is pleasing to the Almighty God.

Yours in His service,

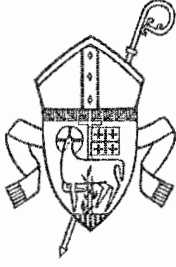
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Metropolitan Philip", with a small cross symbol to the left.

Metropolitan PHILIP, Primate  
Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

p.s. I will be honored to serve on the Honorary Committee for the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference.

*"...the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch." ACTS 11:26*





الكنيسة الإنجيلية اللوثرية في الأردن والأراضي المقدسة  
*The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan & the Holy Land*  
المطران الدكتور منيب أ. يونان

Bishop Dr. Munib A. Younan

المطران الدكتور منيب أ. يونان

Jerusalem on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

**Mr. Rateb Rabie, President**  
**Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc.**  
**6935 Wisconsin Ave, Suite 214**  
**Bethesda, MD 20815**  
**USA**

Subject: Letter of Support.

Dear Mr. Rabie,

Salaam and grace to you from Jerusalem in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It our pleasure to greet you on the occasion of the HCEF 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference & Awards Banquet with the theme:

**"Continuing Our Commitment to Peace, Prosperity & Dialogue"**

that will be held November 09-10, 2012 at the National 4H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, MD.

We continue to pray for you that the Almighty God bestow upon you and give you the strength to continue your endeavors towards peace and justice and to support Christians and Christianity in the Holy Land.

Please greet all participants in your conference.

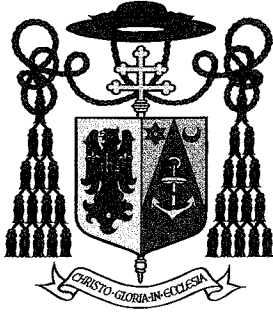
May God bless you all.

With my prayers and blessings,

**Bishop Dr. Munib A. Younan**

The Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan & the Holy Land (ELCJHL)  
The President of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF)





## ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

November 2012

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am pleased to offer you my greetings and best wishes as you gather for the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference & Awards Banquet of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation.

As the Christian population in the Holy Land continues to suffer from persecution, it is essential that our brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus know of our support and solidarity. The theme for this year's conference, *Continuing Our Commitment to Peace, Prosperity & Dialogue*, is a reminder of the need to explore ways in which we may be of practical and spiritual help to build a future of hope and peace for Christians in the Holy Land. Thank you for the important work you are doing in educating others about the plight of Christians in the Holy Land and for the good that you continue to achieve for them.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Deacon Tom and Mary Jane Fox, who are being recognized for their accomplishments in striving to achieve justice and peace for Holy Land Christians, among many other good works for the Universal Church. Thank you for your example of service and love for the members of the Body of Christ.

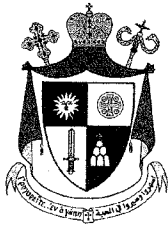
With you, I continue to pray for Christians in the Holy Land and for all who are united with them in prayer and solidarity. You and those you love are also in my prayers; please keep me in yours.

Sincerely yours,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.  
Archbishop of Chicago

*14<sup>th</sup> International Conference & Awards Banquet  
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation  
November 9–11, 2012*





# P A T R I A R C A T

GREC - MELKITE - CATHOLIQUE  
D'ANTIOCHE ET DE TOUT L'ORIENT  
D'ALEXANDRIE ET DE JÉRUSALEM

Prot. N. 347/2012D

Damascus, June 29, 2012.

Mr. Rateb Y. Rabie, KCHS  
President  
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation  
6935 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 518  
Bethesda, MD 20815  
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. President,

The contribution of the Holy Lands Christian Ecumenical Foundation to the preservation of the Christian presence in the Holy Land is of vital importance for all the Holy Land Christians, of all Churches and denominations.

Such a contribution is every time more essential, especially in periods of local and regional crisis, as it is unfortunately the case now.

As this 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference rightly underlines, dialogue must be promoted in all fields of the life in the Holy Land, along with communion between ourselves and the testimony of our lives, in order to achieve a real peace in all the Middle East and prosperity for all the inhabitants of that land blessed by Jesus Christ Himself, his Holy Mother and the Apostles.

With my best wishes and prayerful blessings.

+ Gregorios III  
Patriarch of Antioch and all the East,  
of Alexandria and of Jerusalem



DIocese OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA (EASTERN)  
ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ ՀԱՅՈՑ ԱՄԵՐԻԿԱՅԻ ԱՐԵՒԵԼԵԱՆ ԹԵՄԻ

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

A MESSAGE FROM HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP KHAJAG BARSAMIAN  
*Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)*

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE to extend my greetings to the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF), on the occasion of its 14th International Conference. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are indeed “Continuing Our Commitment to Peace, Prosperity, and Dialogue,” as the theme of this year’s gathering proclaims.

Nowhere is that message more compelling, and more *needful*, than in the Holy Land itself. I commend you for reflecting on our common roots and bonds in this solemn, intellectual, and public manner.

This conference is yet another example of how HCEF—with its many charitable and humanitarian efforts—continues to be a blessing to all Christians, and to all people, living in the regions where our Lord once walked and preached—and where his ministry continues to this day.

The Holy Land’s Christian communities are hardly strangers to difficulty, as I witnessed during my years at the seminary of Jerusalem’s Armenian Patriarchate.

But ours is also a story of achievement and endurance—and above all, a story of different peoples illuminated by a single Light, seeking in common a tranquil way on a turbulent sea. I was reminded of this as I led a group of young adults on a pilgrimage this summer, and saw the excitement they felt as they viewed the treasures of their faith in the Holy Land.

May our Risen Lord guide and protect you all, as you continue to answer his call and perform his will.

With prayers,

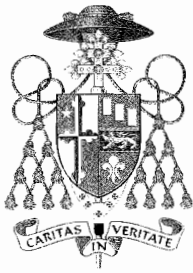
*Abp. K. Barsamian*

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian  
Primate

November 9, 2012

630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10016-4806 TELEPHONE 212.686.0710 FAX 212.779.3558  
[www.armenianchurch-ed.net](http://www.armenianchurch-ed.net)





OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

## ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

320 CATHEDRAL STREET • BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201 • 410-547-5437 • FAX: 410-547-8234

August 20, 2012

Mr. Rateb Y. Rabie, KCHS  
President/CEO  
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc.  
6935 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 518  
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear Mr. Rabie,

On the occasion of the **14<sup>th</sup> International Conference & Awards Banquet** of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc., I am delighted to send my warmest greetings to all those participating in the events of this Conference.

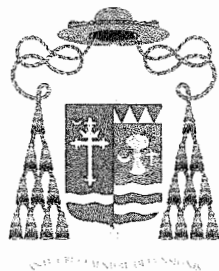
It is an honor for me to serve as a member of the Honorary Committee for this 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference. I am grateful for this opportunity.

I applaud your continued commitment to supporting all Christians in the Holy Land and to encouraging them in their own outreach to Christians around the world. The promotion of peace, justice and reconciliation in the Holy Land continues to be your priority and I offer my prayers and ask that the Lord bless you with success.

With every best wish, I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Lori  
Archbishop of Baltimore



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20 ARCHBISHOP MAY DRIVE  
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ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

November 9, 2012

Sir Rateb Rabie, KCHS  
President, Holy Land Christian  
Ecumenical Foundation,  
6935 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 518  
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear Sir Rateb,

I am honored to offer my words of support in honor of the good work you do at The Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation and the occasion of your 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Awards Banquet.

HCEF's '**Continued Commitment to Peace, Prosperity and Dialogue**' is commendable as we all share the responsibility of working together to achieve peace, prosperity and dialogue. As a member of the HCEF Advisory Board, I am honored to lend my support to your Foundation as you continue to develop programs and create jobs to provide economic, moral and spiritual support and endeavor to ameliorate the living conditions for our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

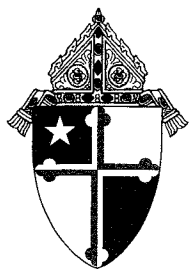
May the Lord continue to grant His grace and much success in all your endeavors to '*replace despair with hope, fear with security and humiliation with human dignity*' for the Christians and all people of the Holy Land.

Thank you for all of your efforts and please accept my heartiest *Congratulations* and best wishes for a successful 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson  
Archbishop of St. Louis





## ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

AUXILIARY BISHOP OF BALTIMORE  
OFFICE OF THE NEUMANN VICAR

August 24, 2012

Mr. Rateb Y. Rabie, President  
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc.  
6935 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 518  
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear Rateb,

All good greetings to you and all gathered to celebrate this 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Awards Banquet of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation.

You must be congratulated for remembering consistently over the years our Christian brothers and sisters of the Holy Land. These are the ones so fortunate to live in that Land made sacred by the very footsteps of Our Lord Jesus Christ, His Blessed Mother, the Apostles and so very many saints. At that same time these same ones endure great sufferings and many trials so often because they are Christians.

Thank you and the Holy Land Ecumenical Foundation for reminding our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land that we will not forget them. Your aid is a great source of hope and encouragement to that community. Thank you also Rateb for reminding all of us that while the situation in the Holy Land may seem like a struggle without end, there is much each of us can do to support those living in that place where God chose "to pitch his tent among us."

I pray that God will continue to bless you and the Foundation for your many great works. I pray that God's blessings will be with you always.

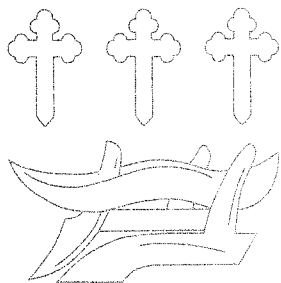
With warmest best wishes and blessings, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ 

Most Reverend Denis J. Madden  
Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore

Archdiocese of Cincinnati



Office of  
The Archbishop  
100 East Eighth Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202  
513-421-3131

October 1, 2012

Dear HCEF participants:

Greetings as you gather for the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation.

It is my pleasure to extend support to HCEF as it works to preserve the Christian presence in the Holy Land by addressing the social, spiritual, and material needs of the Christian community. Your foundation and its outreach programs have continued to foster solidarity between Western and Holy Land Christians and provide relief in difficult situations. I commend your educational efforts about the plight of the Holy Land Christians.

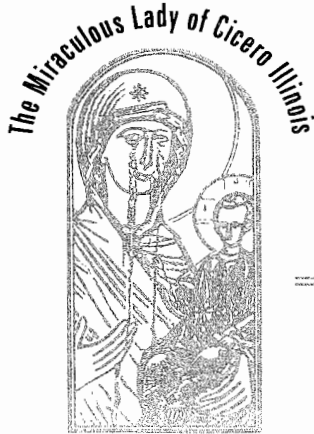
As you gather to focus on "Continuing Our Commitment to Peace, Prosperity & Dialogue," the clergy and laity of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati join me in praying that you have a very successful Conference. May God continue to bless all of you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dennis M. Schnurr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr  
Archbishop of Cincinnati





## St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

1220 S. 60th Court • Cicero, Illinois 60804

Phone: (708) 656-2927 • Fax: (708) 656-1166

*Very Rev. Fr. Nicholas Dahdal, Pastor*

---

August 30, 2012

Mr. Rateb Rabie, President

Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc.

6935 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 214

Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear to Christ,

Blessings and best wishes to you and your organization for all of your hard work in supporting our brother Christians in the Holy Land.

In your most important work, you are helping to preserve God's true people, the followers of His Son, in the land where His Son revealed Himself to mankind. Our ancestry traces back to before the time of Christ in Palestine, and we shall remain there until Christ comes again.

The Good News of the Christ's words are peace and love, and we must mimic His actions in all that we do. **We** must be bring peace to where there is no peace, and love to where there is hate. We may be the only Christ that some may ever see, so in all we do, we must be like Him. This is how we must keep Christ in the Holy Land.

May God continue to bless you, and reveal His will to you, especially during your 14<sup>th</sup> International conference.

In Christ's service,

The Very Reverend Ekonomos Nicholas Dahdal

Pastor, St George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Cicero, IL



**Archdiocese of Los Angeles**

Office of the Archbishop  
Office: (213) 637-7534  
Fax: (213) 637-6510

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2241

November 9-11, 2012

Dear Participants of the 14<sup>th</sup> Holy Land Christian  
Ecumenical Foundation International Conference,

Receive my warm greetings and prayerful best wishes for the Holy Land Christian  
Ecumenical Foundation 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference, as well as my support for its work on  
behalf of Christians in the Holy Land.

With hope and trust in the grace of God and goodwill found in people, you gather in  
continuing commitment to "Peace, Prosperity and Dialogue" for the benefit of the people in  
the Holy Land. Christian persistence in charity is based on what Our Lord has already  
accomplished by His example.

I would also like to offer my congratulations to the recipients of this year's awards for their  
efforts and dedication in support of the Holy Land.

It is my hope that your attendance at this year's conference may be a source of blessings for  
each one of you.

May Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, grant you peace and joy,

+ José H. Gomez

Most Reverend José H. Gomez  
Archbishop of Los Angeles



## Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Office of the Cardinal

July 17, 2010

Sir Rateb Y. Rabie, KCHS  
President, Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation  
6935 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 518  
Bethesda, Maryland 20815

Dear Sir Rateb,

For fourteen years, you, along with the board of directors of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, its staff, volunteer leaders and supporters, have faithfully raised awareness, developed programs and created opportunities for Americans and foreigners around the world to build bridges of material and spiritual support for our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

Assuredly, your conference theme, *"Continuing Our Commitment to Peace, Prosperity & Dialogue,"* reflects the Foundation's steadfast commitment and devotion to advancing its mission to *"replace despair with hope, fear with security and humiliation with human dignity."* On behalf of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, I am pleased to continue our enduring support of HCEF and its many praiseworthy endeavors to encourage open and productive dialogue among the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian people in the Holy Land.

Please be assured of a special remembrance in my prayers of the participants and organizers of the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation. Expressing my prayerful best wishes in the Lord for the fruitfulness of the International Conference, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Daniel Cardinal DiNardo

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo  
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston

DND:ael





*The Roman Catholic*  
*Diocese of Phoenix*

400 EAST MONROE, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85004-2336 TELEPHONE (602) 257-0030  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

July 24, 2012

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My prayers are with you, as you gather for the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference & Awards Banquet of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation.

As we constantly pray for peace in the region, we are painfully aware of how the rights of Christians in the Holy Land are being suppressed and their lives burdened by governmental restrictions. At this critical time, it is essential that the conditions that are faced by our brothers and sisters in Christ are made known and the educational efforts of HCEF provide an important means to ensure that citizens of the world are properly informed.

Peace without justice fails to look beyond an end to violent hostilities to embrace the dignity of every human person. As Christians, we honor in a special way the faith traditions that trace their origins back to God's revelation to Abraham and we seek to work with people of every faith who are truly committed to the free expression of religious practice in a manner that is faithful to the conscience of all who reside in the Holy Land.

May God guide the hearts of those who exercise roles of religious and secular leadership in the region to work together to promote the rights and human dignity of every man and woman.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Thomas J. Olmsted  
Bishop of Phoenix

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*Encountering the Living Christ*

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# Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

305 E Street NW Suite 300 Washington, D.C. 20001

P: 202.417.3678 W: metrodcelca.org

The Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation  
C/o Rateb Rabie, President and CEO

October 11, 2012

Dear friends,

It is a great pleasure to write and to congratulate you on the occasion of your Fourteenth International Conference and Awards Banquet.

Knowing as I do the burden that you carry for peace and justice in all the Holy Land, I am always grateful to see the success of your practical efforts to support Palestinian Christians. Faithful people of every religious persuasion long for healing in the countryside that is precious to all three of the Abrahamic faiths. And many people believe that the strong presence there of a vibrant Christian community is vitally important if the future is to be worthy of our common dreams of hope and reconciliation.

May all your works flourish, and may the events of this November ninth and tenth bring new ideas and new encouragement for you and all who share your purpose. In Jesus, I am

Sincerely yours,

The Rev. Richard H. Graham, Bishop  
Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

In Partnership with:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia,  
The Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche in Namibia, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Slovakia, and The Lutheran Church in El Salvador

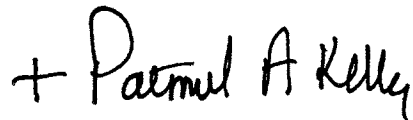
ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE  
LOWOOD  
CARNATIC ROAD MOSSLEY HILL LIVERPOOL L18 8BY  
Tel: 0151 724 6398  
Fax: 0151 724 6405

### Letter of Support

Only foolish people would claim even to begin to offer a definitive interpretation, assessment and evaluation of the consequences for every one of tumultuous events across the Middle East in recent months.

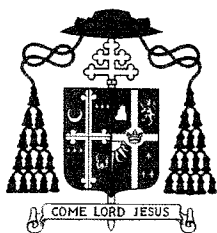
There is one clear imperative: that we keep before us, the Holy Land and the pivotal place justice and peace for all its people plays in establishing peace across the whole region. It is so small a land but not for the first time in human history it is a key to unlocking the gateway to justice, security and peace for many.

The Christian Family is mandated by Our Lord to be the bearer of that full reconciliation accomplished on Calvary and which is the source of that Spirit which can so renew minds and hearts that we can be the agents who renew the face of the earth. That is why there is good cause to put on record deep gratitude for all those involved in the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation as they come to the aid of our sisters and brothers in the Holy Land.



Archbishop of Liverpool





## ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS

4900 LASALLE ROAD

HYATTSVILLE, MD 20782

July 31, 2012

The Honorable Rateb Rabie, KCHS  
President  
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc.  
6935 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 518  
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear Rateb,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity of offering my support for the work of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation. The work which you continue to do with enthusiasm and devotion is a work which is so important for the peace of the world and in a special way for the accomplishment of peace in the land that we call Holy.

These are difficult days as we pass through many crises in the Middle East. The Arab Spring, which has brought so much hope to many people, has also brought uncertainty and in some places even disappointment. It touches the Holy Land only indirectly, but there is a true sense of newness in the area that is at the present time both hopeful, fearful and confused. The Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, under your leadership and with all the good people who form its assembly, must be one of the elements in defining what the new situation should be for those people who have suffered so much over the years. I thank you for never abandoning them and I thank you for helping them in a most generous way.

I know that you will continue to serve as you have in the past and I pray that Our Lady, the Queen of Peace, will shine on us in the coming months and years and help us to obtain from her Beloved Son the great gift of peace in the Holy Land and throughout the world.

With every good wish and kindest personal regards, I am

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick  
Archbishop Emeritus of Washington

# THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 3, 2012

Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation  
6935 Wisconsin Avenue  
Suite 518  
Bethesda, MD 20815

Congratulations on holding the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation.

The National Presbyterian Church cherishes the long association we have had with HCEF, and is honored and humbled that elder Jim Ransom will be receiving this year's President's Award.

Thank you for the energy, effort, and faith that you offer to God as you continue the Christian mission of HCEF in bringing "peace, prosperity, and dialogue" to the Holy Land.

May God bless you richly,

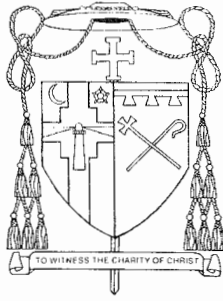


David A. Renwick  
Senior Pastor

---

4101 NEBRASKA AVENUE, N.W. ♦ WASHINGTON, DC 20016

202/537-0800 ♦ FAX 202/686-0031 ♦ WWW.NATIONAL.PRES.ORG



## DIOCESE OF VICTORIA

1505 E. Mesquite Lane • P. O. Box 4070 • Victoria, Texas 77903

(361) 573-0828 • FAX (361) 573-5725

July 18, 2011

Mr. Rateb Y. Rabie, KHS  
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation  
6935 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 518  
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear Mr. Rabie,

On behalf of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas, I am happy for the opportunity to congratulate you and the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation as you gather together for HCEF's 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Awards Banquet.

I am pleased to endorse this year's conference with the theme *Continuing Our Commitment to Peace, Prosperity and Dialogue* ~ 'But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing,' 2 Thess 3:13, which reflects so well the continuous support for the Holy Land Christians by HCEF.

The HCEF programs of education, job creation and training, home rehabilitation, health, and solidarity are key to preserving a Christian presence in the Holy Land; and the presence of the Christian notion of love and forgiveness is essential to promote peace and security in this troubled region.

HCEF's tireless dedication to these programs is a strong sign of its commitment to peace, prosperity and dialogue. May this year's HCEF conference be successful in promoting these virtues to all in attendance.

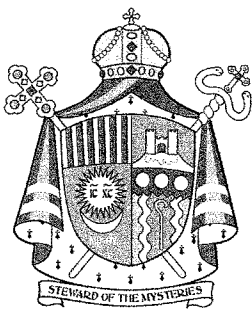
The Diocese of Victoria has been actively involved in supporting HCEF through the Olive Wood Sales and the Child Sponsorship programs since 2003. I continue to applaud your efforts and wish you much success with your conference and future HCEF activities.

Sincerely yours,

Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer  
Bishop of Victoria in Texas

DEF/ceb





EPARCHY OF NEWTON  
MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

July 20, 2012

Mr. Rateb Rabie, KCHS, President  
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation  
6835 Wisconsin Ave, Suite 518  
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear Mr. Rabie,

I greet you personally, the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers at the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation as you gather at the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference of your association.

The theme of this conference, "Continuing Our Commitment of Peace, Prosperity and Dialogue" is truly what is needed throughout the Middle East – the extended Holy Land where Christians are rooted. I applaud your efforts to educate Christians in the West and call them to supporting the Christians in the Holy Land. This can only be done through education and dialogue.

I offer my personal prayers, and the prayerful support of my clergy and laity across the USA for the success of this conference. May it be another key to opening understanding, charity, peace and love to all who participate and to all who believe in the good news of Jesus Christ as spoken by St. Paul: "...be not weary in well-doing."

I also congratulate those receiving the Path of Peace Award, the Living Stones Solidarity Award, and the President's Award at the Grand Banquet.

With my loving prayers, good wishes and blessings, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ God,

*+ Nicholas*

Most Reverend Nicholas J. Samra  
Eparchial Bishop of Newton



BISHOP EMERITUS OF SPOKANE

Most Reverend William S. Skylstad  
221 E Rockwood Blvd, #7  
Spokane WA 99202

July 5, 2012

Mr. Rateb Rabie, KCHS  
President/CEO, HCEF  
6935 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 518  
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear Mr. Rabie:

On the occasion of the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Awards Banquet of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, I wish to extend my prayers and support for the success of this special event. The theme of "Continuing Our Commitment to Peace, Prosperity and Dialogue" gives a clear indication of the ongoing need for Western Christians to work for peace and justice in the land of Jesus' birth. Continuing education about this sad situation for decades is a great need. The International Conference and Awards Banquet this coming November will certainly assist in that effort.

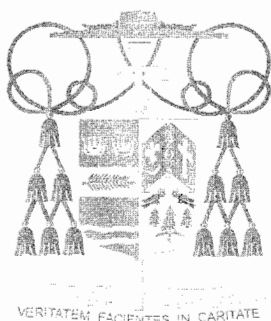
My several visits to the Holy Land while I was Vice-President and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops gave me a first hand experience of the challenge facing Christians in the Holy Land and the continuing need to work a peaceful and just resolution to that ongoing difficult and complex situation. I wish to congratulate and thank you, Mr. Rabie, and HCEF for the great service you have rendered and continue to do so on behalf of our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

Our solidarity with the Holy Land Christians in prayer, education, and advocacy will, please God, be successful in the long term. The perseverance of HCEF in supporting this cause deserves gratitude and appreciation. I applaud that continuing mission and ask God to bless you in your very good work of serving our brothers and sisters in that part of the world who are in great need.

With every best wish and prayers, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+William S. Skylstad  
Bishop Emeritus of Spokane



## DIOCESE OF PALM BEACH

9995 North Military Trail • P.O. Box 109650  
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410-9650

(561) 775-9595 Fax (561) 775-7035

Office of  
THE BISHOP

November 9, 2012

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

It is a joy for me to offer you my prayerful greetings and best wishes as you begin the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Awards Banquet hosted by the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc.

Your commitment to peace, prosperity and dialogue is a testament to your rich faith and abiding trust in God. During this *Year of Faith*, recently inaugurated by our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, we seek to strengthen and deepen the beautiful gift of faith received from God. Our faith challenges us to love, to forgive and to cooperate with our brothers and sisters in the works of salvation here on earth.

The Second Vatican Council Fathers wrote that this cooperation “should contribute to a just appreciation of the dignity of the human person, to the promotion of the blessings of peace, the application of Gospel principles to social life, and the advancement of the arts and sciences in a truly Christian spirit” (*Unitatis Redintegratio*, 12). Thank you for your efforts to bring dignity to the marginalized in the Holy Land, to promote peace in the Holy Land and to apply Gospel principles in the lives of those in need.

May God bless you and all who work with the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation. Your efforts on behalf of those living in the Holy Land make the Gospel of Jesus Christ come alive and testify to your faith, hope and love. I offer my prayerful thanks to Sir Rateb Y. Rabie, KCHS and to the Board of Directors for their fine leadership as well as my congratulations to all the award recipients.

With every prayerful wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerald M. Barbarito  
Bishop of Palm Beach





SHADYSIDE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

September 4, 2012

Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc.  
Fourteenth International Conference  
c/o President Rateb Y. Rabie, KCHS  
6935 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 518  
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear Rateb and Friends of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation,

It is with honor and pleasure that we are writing in support of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation's 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference as you continue the call to support the Christians in the Holy Land. HCEF has introduced us to our mother church, and it is also through you that we have met the Living Stones of the Holy Land. HCEF is dear to all of us at Shadyside Presbyterian, and we look forward to our next pilgrimage and our continued partnership. We pray that this year's conference strengthens your efforts of developing bonds of solidarity among Christians.

We appreciate the invitation to walk alongside you as you continue the journey of replacing despair with hope, and conflict with peace. Because of your efforts toward peace and reconciliation, HCEF is a beacon of hope both in the Holy Land and in our land. We remain humbled to stand alongside you at this year's conference of *"Continuing Our Commitment to Peace, Prosperity, & Dialogue."*

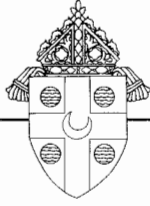
May God continue blessing your ministry as your ministry continues blessing those you encounter. Know that you will remain in our prayers during and beyond the International Conference.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Todd E. Leach  
Associate Pastor for Missions

Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes  
Senior Pastor  
Meneilly Professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

5121 Westminster Place  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15232-2116  
Telephone 412. 682. 4300 · Fax 412. 682. 1257



## Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Catholic Pastoral Center • 1615 West Washington Street • Springfield, Illinois 62702-4757  
www.dio.org 217-698-8500 FAX 217-698-0802

Office of the Bishop

October 11, 2012

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Amid the turbulence of the present day, you have chosen as your theme for the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Awards Banquet of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation the phrase, "Continuing Our Commitment to Peace, Prosperity and Dialogue."

Such a focus is more than just timely. It is a hallmark of our Christian faith and a requirement of authentic discipleship that we seek to establish peace between peoples, that we seek to improve the lot of the least of these and that we recognize in each other a person loved by God.

I thank you for the many good works you do and regret that I am unable to join in this important endeavor. Please be assured of your remembrance in my prayers. May the Lord bless and direct your efforts in support of our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki  
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

Rateb Y. Rabie, KCHS  
President/CEO  
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc.  
6935 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 518  
Bethesda, MD 20815  
USA

Brussels, November 2012

Dear President R. Rabie,

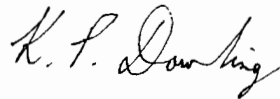
Pax Christi International is happy to support the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation to be held November 9-11, 2012 at the National 4H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, MD. Your theme, "Continuing Our Commitment to Peace, Prosperity and Dialogue" speaks to all of us who are engaged in efforts to build a more peaceful and just world.

Pax Christi members around the world pray that peace will soon break out in the Middle East. Our member organizations in many countries are working to build understanding of the situation in the Holy Land, particular of the Christian community.

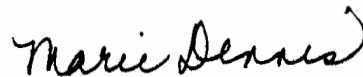
In many ways, Pax Christi International is involved in trying to build bridges between the different communities in the Holy Land. Through local actions in Israel and Palestine, members of Pax Christi International express their solidarity with the victims and the oppressed and make efforts to bring people from different cultures and faiths together. Through national and international advocacy and campaigning, our movement brings the urgent need for a negotiated and just peace before the international community.

We hope that your conference will be successful in every respect.

In peace,



Bishop Kevin Dowling, C.S.S.R.  
Co-President



Marie Dennis  
Co-President





SHADYSIDE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

September 4, 2012

Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc.  
Fourteenth International Conference  
c/o President Rateb Y. Rabie, KCHS  
6935 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 518  
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear Rateb and Friends of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation,

It is with honor and pleasure that we are writing in support of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation's 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference as you continue the call to support the Christians in the Holy Land. HCEF has introduced us to our mother church, and it is also through you that we have met the Living Stones of the Holy Land. HCEF is dear to all of us at Shadyside Presbyterian, and we look forward to our next pilgrimage and our continued partnership. We pray that this year's conference strengthens your efforts of developing bonds of solidarity among Christians.

We appreciate the invitation to walk alongside you as you continue the journey of replacing despair with hope, and conflict with peace. Because of your efforts toward peace and reconciliation, HCEF is a beacon of hope both in the Holy Land and in our land. We remain humbled to stand alongside you at this year's conference of *"Continuing Our Commitment to Peace, Prosperity, & Dialogue."*

May God continue blessing your ministry as your ministry continues blessing those you encounter. Know that you will remain in our prayers during and beyond the International Conference.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Todd E. Leach  
Associate Pastor for Missions

Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes  
Senior Pastor  
Meneilly Professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

5121 Westminster Place  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15232-2116  
Telephone 412. 682. 4300 · Fax 412. 682. 1257

# ANERA

Improving Lives in the Middle East

Since 1968

Dear Rateb,

With each election or seizure of land, the Christians of Palestine wonder if their fate will be that of Iraq. On a recent visit to Beit Sahour, some people voiced the concern that they have no future, they have no control over their lives.

The focused programming of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation provides a sense of direction. Without your pilgrimage of walking with them, many more may give up and emigrate.

I find this particularly fruitful when aimed at youth. The *Know Thy Heritage* program establishes crucial links between diaspora and local youth, the end result is that one educates about their cultural background while the other provides a much needed solidarity. The *Call Center* enriches in another way because jobs put flesh on dreams.

I congratulate you on the place that HCEF fills in the West Bank. My encouragement to all supporters would be to enhance and broaden your impact. Much more could and should be done by the international Christian community to offer the tools of building a future.

Gratefully,



Bill Corcoran  
President

---

Headquarters 1111 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW, # 400 Washington, DC 20005 +1-202-842-2766 [www.anera.org](http://www.anera.org)

West Bank | Gaza | Lebanon | Jordan



## Clergy Beyond Borders

"One Ark, One Humanity"

P.O. Box 1976  
Frederick, MD 21702 USA

202-277-7258

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

### Board of Directors

Imam Yahya Hendi,  
Founder/President  
Rabbi Gerald Serotta,  
Executive Director

Imam Abdullah Antepli  
Imam Mohamad Bashir Arafat  
Reverend Dr. Adam Bunnell  
Reverend Carole Crumley  
Imam Talal Eid  
Rabbi Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer,  
Rabbi Marc Gopin  
Reverend Michael Kuchinsky  
Reverend Constantine White

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Rabbi Amy Eilberg  
Reverend Joe Eldridge  
Rabbi Reuven Firestone  
Rabbi Steven Jacobs  
Imam Mohamed Magid  
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Reverend Steven D. Martin  
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Imam Hassan Qazwini  
Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf  
Rabbi Sid Schwarz  
Rabbi David Shneyer  
Imam Muzzamil Siddiqi  
Rabbi Amy Small  
Rabbi Alana Suskin  
Reverend Doug Tanner

### International Religious Advisors

Reverend Majid Abel,  
Lahore, Pakistan  
Imam Umer Ilyasi,  
New Dehli, India  
Imam Khaled Ramzi Salem Karim,  
Amman, Jordan  
Imam Mohamed Mufti,  
Amman, Jordan  
Rabbi David Rosen,  
Jerusalem, Israel  
Imam Abduljalil Sajid,  
United Kingdom  
Imam Muhammad Zabair Abid,  
Islamabad, Pakistan

Rateb Rabie  
President and CEO  
HCEF

May 29, 2012

Dear Dr. Rabie,

We are pleased to express our support for work of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF) and in particular its 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference to be held in November, 2012.

We have been pleased to participate in previous conferences and look forward to the opportunity to work together on projects of mutual interest in support of efforts to enhance all forms of religious expression throughout the Holy Land of Palestine/Israel and everywhere in the world.

Please share our greetings and blessings with all of the participants in your conference.

Imam Yahya Hendi  
President  
Clergy Beyond Borders

Rabbi Gerald Serotta  
Executive Director





WARREN CLARK  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Churches for MIDDLE EAST PEACE

ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS  
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE  
COMMITTEE

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF  
NORTH AMERICA

ARMENIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF  
MAJOR SUPERIORS OF MEN'S  
INSTITUTES

CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
COMMON GLOBAL MINISTRIES BOARD

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
IN AMERICA

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GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES:  
WOMEN'S DIVISION

August 8, 2012

Rateb Rabie, KCHS  
President  
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation  
6935 Wisconsin Ave, Suite 518  
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear Mr. Rabie,

Churches for Middle East Peace thanks you and the many volunteers who have organized once again a wonderful and powerful conference. The Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation conference provides an opportunity for American Christians from across the country and spectrum of Christianity to gather for education and fellowship in common cause for Middle East peace.

The conference theme, *Continuing Our Commitment to Peace, Prosperity and Dialogue*, is well-chosen and holds the promise of strengthening the commitment of American Christians to do what must be done to convince our own government to also walk the path of peace. We have no doubt that peace is possible, that justice can prevail and that the understandings of policymakers can be changed.

Sincerely,

Warren Clark  
Executive Director



# IOCC®

August 20, 2012

Mr. Rateb Y. Rabie, KCHS  
President/CEO  
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc.  
6935 Wisconsin Avenue  
Suite 518  
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear Mr. Rabie,

On behalf of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), I extend my best wishes to the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation for a successful 14th International Conference, and heartfelt support for your continued commitment to peace, prosperity and dialogue in the Holy Land.

Unity of faith is a powerful force, and bonds us in our support of this common cause. As IOCC helps our vulnerable Christian brothers and sisters to cultivate their land for sustenance and to nurture their children's future through learning, we praise your continued efforts to sow the seeds of peace and justice through understanding and pray that together, the Christian community remains spiritually sustained through Christ's love and ultimate sacrifice for us.

Sincerely,

Constantine M. Triantafilou  
Executive Director & CEO

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INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

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International Headquarters: 110 West Road, Suite 360 • Baltimore, MD 21204 USA  
Tel: (410) 243-9820 • Fax: (410) 243-9824 • E-mail: [relief@iocc.org](mailto:relief@iocc.org) • <http://www.iocc.org>



September 14, 2012

Mr. Rateb Y. Rabie, President  
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation  
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear Rateb,

The staff and Board of the Arab American Institute and AAI Foundation extend our heartfelt congratulations on the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation's 14th International Conference.

It is so important, and so apt, that this year's attendees will focus on Continuing the Commitment to Peace, Prosperity, and Dialogue. The ongoing challenges facing our friends and families in the Middle East can be disheartening. But our own commitment to work on their behalf is, in itself, an act of faith. Each time we take our children to learn about their heritage, each time we work with partners to invest in the region, each time we call on our government to provide resources and guidance, each time we march for peace and each time we talk to our neighbors about our "home"—in every gesture we reflect our commitment to the people of the Holy Land. We show our brothers and sisters there that we stand together—and we will work together—to create a future that embraces our common history, our common goals, and our shared humanity.

We thank HCEF for your continued commitment not just to the people of the Holy Land, but to all those who cherish the region's past and look forward, with hope, to its glorious future.

Sincerely,

James J. Zogby  
President

George R. Salem  
Chairman



## Clergy Beyond Borders

"One Ark, One Humanity"

P.O. Box 1976  
Frederick, MD 21702 USA

202-277-7258

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

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Imam Muhammad Zabair Abid,  
Islamabad, Pakistan

Rateb Rabie  
President and CEO  
HCEF

May 29, 2012

Dear Dr. Rabie,

We are pleased to express our support for work of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF) and in particular its 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference to be held in November, 2012.

We have been pleased to participate in previous conferences and look forward to the opportunity to work together on projects of mutual interest in support of efforts to enhance all forms of religious expression throughout the Holy Land of Palestine/Israel and everywhere in the world.

Please share our greetings and blessings with all of the participants in your conference.

Imam Yahya Hendi  
President  
Clergy Beyond Borders

Rabbi Gerald Serotta  
Executive Director





228 West Lexington Street · Baltimore, MD 21201-3443 · 410.625.2220 · 800.235.2772 · [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org)

June 1, 2012

Mr. Rateb Y. Rabie, KCHS  
President/CEO  
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc.  
6935 Wisconsin Ave, Suite 518  
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear Mr. Rabie,

On behalf of Catholic Relief Services, it is a pleasure to send warm greetings as you prepare for the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference & Awards Banquet.

The theme of this annual event, “***Continuing Our Commitment to Peace, Prosperity & Dialogue***” is of critical importance given the continuing uncertainty in the Holy Land and in the region. This work is never easy. It is a continual struggle to overcome exclusion, political tensions and injustice. Yet it is through opportunities for dialogue and shared acts of love that the spirit of unity is fostered among all people. This event promises to be an important contribution in the journey towards peace.

We join with you and the Church around the world to pray for Christians in the Holy Land. May this event also be an opportunity to join with others of good will to renew our shared commitment towards peace and dialogue.

Thank you for your tireless efforts to promote hope and peace for future generations.

May blessings overflow,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Carolyn'.

Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo  
President & CEO



September 14, 2012

Mr. Rateb Y. Rabie, President  
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation  
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear Rateb,

The staff and Board of the Arab American Institute and AAI Foundation extend our heartfelt congratulations on the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation's 14th International Conference.

It is so important, and so apt, that this year's attendees will focus on Continuing the Commitment to Peace, Prosperity, and Dialogue. The ongoing challenges facing our friends and families in the Middle East can be disheartening. But our own commitment to work on their behalf is, in itself, an act of faith. Each time we take our children to learn about their heritage, each time we work with partners to invest in the region, each time we call on our government to provide resources and guidance, each time we march for peace and each time we talk to our neighbors about our "home"—in every gesture we reflect our commitment to the people of the Holy Land. We show our brothers and sisters there that we stand together—and we will work together—to create a future that embraces our common history, our common goals, and our shared humanity.

We thank HCEF for your continued commitment not just to the people of the Holy Land, but to all those who cherish the region's past and look forward, with hope, to its glorious future.

Sincerely,

James J. Zogby  
President

George R. Salem  
Chairman



American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

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Yasir A. Shallal  
Norman Tanber  
Omar Turbi

#### In Memoriam

Hala Salaam Maksoud, PhD  
(1943-2002)  
  
Alex Odeh  
(1944-1985)

September 24, 2012

Rateb Y. Rabie, KCHS  
President/CEO  
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation  
6935 Wisconsin Ave, Suite 214  
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear Rateb,

On behalf of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), I am honored to recognize the achievements of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF) as it prepares to celebrate its 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Awards Banquet, *Continuing our Commitment to Peace, Prosperity and Dialogue*. We commend the tireless efforts of HCEF to maintain the security of the Holy Land Christian community, and to ensure its vibrant future.

ADC values your mission to cultivate peace and human security for the preservation of the Palestinian Arab Christian presence in the Holy Land. HCEF's humanitarian outreach has advanced the living conditions, educational opportunities and employment in the region.

Your endeavors are vital to building bridges and solidarity among Holy Land Christians, and we commend your efforts in promoting peaceful dialogue and in developing investment and business opportunities in Palestine.

ADC thanks HCEF for its devotion to peace and justice, and wishes you a most successful conference.

Kindest regards,

Warren David  
ADC President

## General Delegation of the PLO

1732 Wisconsin Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20007  
Tel: (202)974 - 6360 • Fax:(202)-974-6278



المفوضية العامة  
لمنظمة التحرير الفلسطينية  
واشنطن

هاتف: (202)974-6360 • فاكس: (202)974-6278

October 21, 2012

**Mr. Rateb Y. Rabie, President/CEO**  
**Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc.**  
**6935 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 214**  
**Bethesda, MD 20815**

Dear Mr. Rabie,

On behalf of the General Delegation of the PLO to the United States, I would like to extend to you our best wishes on the occasion of your 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Awards Banquet, “*Continuing our Commitment to Peace, Prosperity and Dialogue*”.

The General Delegation of the PLO commends the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation on their steadfast commitment to preserving the Christian presence in Palestine and abroad. Your organization is an important example of how tireless work and dedication manifests into tremendous results and becomes a source of inspiration for others to follow and emulate.

The General Delegation of the PLO proudly supports the work of HCEF in the United States and in the Holy Land and we look forward to seeing continual successful conferences in the years to come.

Best Wishes,

**Ambassador Maen Rashid Areikat**

**PLO Representative to the U.S.**





EMBASSY OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN  
WASHINGTON D.C.

*No.* .....

*Ref.* .....

*Date* .....

**The Honorable Rateb Rabie**  
**President /CEO**  
**Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation**  
**6935 Wisconsin Avenue, NW Suite 518**  
**Bethesda, MD**

**October 2, 2012**

**Dear Mr. Rabie,**

It gives me great pleasure to write to you on the occasion of the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Awards Banquet of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation. I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to you and the members of your esteemed foundation.

There are many challenges that confront us each day in promoting peace and security in the Holy Land. Nevertheless, we in Jordan appreciate and admire the important role that the mission of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation plays in building peace through interfaith dialogue and promoting programs of hope for the youth. The Amman Message and Common Word Initiatives called upon the need for tolerance and understanding through interfaith dialogue, as we are constantly faced with ignorance and acts of defamation against any religion. This led His Majesty King Abdullah II three years ago to stand at the UN General Assembly and put Jordan's conviction into action by calling all members to observe the 1<sup>st</sup> week of February as the World Interfaith Harmony Week, which was unanimously adopted by the UN on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2010. This achievement stems from Jordan's true devotion towards religious harmony as custodians of the holy religious sites in the Holy Land.

The success that your organization has achieved over the years is attributed to the hard dedicated work by educating your community is commendable and I applaud your efforts in raising awareness for the Western Christians to support Christians in the Holy Land. Once again, allow me to congratulate you on your 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference and to wish you continuous success in the years to come.

**Sincerely,**

**Alia Bouran**  
**Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**  
**Washington, DC**

GERALD E. CONNOLLY  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4611**

October 16, 2012

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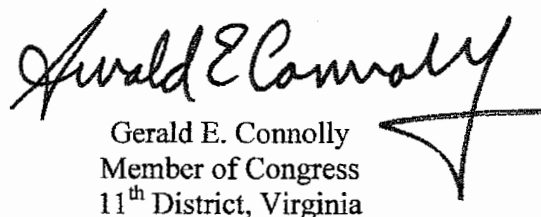
Mr. Rateb Y. Rabie, President  
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation  
Bethesda, MD 20815

It is my pleasure to welcome attendees to the National Capital Region for the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference. As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and a member of the International Religious Freedom Caucus, I appreciate the role that organizations such as the Foundation and its partners play in supporting and sustaining the Arab Christian community in the Middle East.

I represent the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in Northern Virginia, which is home to a diverse community in which one-in-four residents is foreign born. Our community also boasts a robust international business community comprised of both large foreign-owned firms and small businesses looking to expand their operations overseas. In addition to promoting religious unity and peace through this conference, the Foundation also is fostering new relationships and providing partnership opportunities through its 3<sup>rd</sup> Business, Investment, and Information and Communication Technology Conference, which is being held in conjunction with this gathering.

Our community is attuned to the situation in the Middle East and the sea change taking place as a result of the Arab Spring. In this tumultuous time, the work of the Foundation and its partners offers hope that stability can and will be achieved through the development of personal and economic relationships that respect all faiths and cultures. I thank the Foundation and conference attendees for your efforts to advance this cause. I hope you enjoy your stay in the National Capital Region, and I wish you continued success.

Sincerely,

  
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress  
11<sup>th</sup> District, Virginia

**JAMES P. MORAN**  
8TH DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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November 1, 2012

Mr. Rateb Y. Rabie  
President  
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation  
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear President Rabie:

I am pleased to extend to you and to participants of the 14th Annual International Conference of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation a heartfelt welcome and best wishes for a successful conference.

The Holy Land – cradle of the prophets and birthplace of the world's great monotheistic faiths – is also a land of real people, struggling to provide for their families and build a better future. The Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation has never lost sight of the fact that it is the "living stones" that breathe life into our shared faiths today. I commend your efforts to encourage investment in enterprises that will showcase the vast potential of the Palestinian people, while highlighting the urgency of peace.

The national capital region, a portion of which I am honored to represent in Congress, is home to a diverse community with deep ties to the Middle East. I am pleased you have selected this region to conduct your conference and know many within the community look forward to working with you and the conference's participants on successful endeavors in the Holy Land.

Sincerely,

  
James P. Moran



# 14<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

November 9-10, 2012



## 2012 Conference Program

### 3<sup>RD</sup> BUSINESS, INVESTMENT & ICT CONFERENCE

Friday, November 9, 2012

9:00 - 10:00 am

**Registration**

10:00 - 10:30 am

**Introduction to Conference**

**Jad Daniels**, *Partner & Vice President, IBM Global Business Service*

**Christine Hill**, *HCEF Business Coordinator, Vice President, Service Elements*

**Opening Remarks**

**Rateb Rabie**, *KCHS, HCEF President and CEO*

10:30 am- 1:00 pm

**Doing Business in Palestine is Investing in Peace**

This session will address the current state of the Palestinian economy and workforce as well as a multitude of business and investment opportunities in Palestine. Discussion will include the business sectors of **banking services (e.g., financing and loans) and Palestine stock market, ICT and Call Centers, hospitality and tourism**. Focus will also be on products, services, and outsourcing opportunities. Expertise and requirements are available from representatives of Palestinian companies.

**Speakers:**

**Hashim Shawa**, *Board Chair and General Manager, Bank of Palestine.*

**Hassan Qasem**, *Chairman, Palestinian IT Association,*

**Ghassan Anabtawi**, *CEO/General Manager, REACH/Paltel Group*

**Dr. Jad Daniel**, *Partner & Vice President, Industrial Sector – Global Business Services IBM*

**Muneif Treish**, *CEO Amaar Real Estate Group/Palestine Investment Fund (PIF)*

**Eng. Amal Masri-AlMoghrabi**, *Chair, Business Women Forum, Palestine*

**Mr. Sami Abu-Dayyeh**, *Chair, Holy Land Incoming Tour Operators Association, (HLITOA ) and President/CEO of Netours Co.*

1:00 – 2:00 pm

**Lunch**

#### AFTERNOON SESSIONS:

2:00 – 3:30 pm

**Concurrent Breakout Workshops (Please choose ONE to attend):**

1. **ICT (IT and Call Center)**
2. **Business (all others- RE, hospitality, investment, banking tourism, etc.)**

Two interactive and facilitated sessions between professionals from Palestine and professionals and potential investors from the United States and abroad. These sessions will be an exchange of expertise, experience, and best practices. Other highlights will include benefits of working with Palestinian companies and education on conducting business in Palestine. Participants will learn about niche product services in the U.S., expectations of American consumers and businesses, and current success stories. Participants will have the opportunity during these sessions to sign up for “Saturday One-on-One” meetings for more specific action-oriented discussions with a targeted business/organization/individual in going forward.

3:30-4:00 pm

**Forward Moving Actions - Where Do We Go from Here?**

6:00 pm

**AWARDS BANQUET**

**Washington Marriott**

**1221 22 Street, NW**

**Washington, DC 20037**



## Saturday, November 10, 2012

- 8:00 - 8:30 am      **Registration, Refreshments, Exhibits Open**
- 8:30 - 8:50 am      **Opening Prayer: Father George Rados**, *Pastor, Saints Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church*  
**Introduction to the Conference**  
**Dr. Saliba Sarsar**, *Secretary, HCEF Board of Directors and Associate Vice President for Global Initiatives, Monmouth University*  
**Dr. Hugh Dempsey, K.M. Ob., KHS**
- 8:50 - 9:00 am      **Welcoming Remarks:**  
**Sir Rateb Y. Rabie, KCHS**, *HCEF President/CEO*
- 9:00 - 10:00 am      **The Role of Religious Institutions and Leaders in Peace-Building**  
The essence of religion is to worship God and to respect life and the dignity of all human beings, regardless of religion, nationality and gender. The role of religious institutions is to put those values into practice. This session will address how religious institutions are playing a vital role in peace-building, including education, housing, social services, and reconciliation efforts.  
  
**Moderator:**      **Rev. William Turner, Ph. D. KCHS**, *Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Chelsea, MI, HCEF Board of Directors*  
  
**Speakers:**      **Rev. Canon Dr. Trond Bakkevig** *Convener, Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land and Dean of Vestre Aker, Oslo - Church of Norway*  
                         **Bishop Richard Graham**, *Lutheran Bishop of Washington*
- 10:00 - 10:40 am      **Christians of the Holy Land: Who Are They? And Why They Do Need Western Christians**  
  
**Speakers:**      **Jeff Abood, KHS**, *Education Master, Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, Cleveland Section*  
                         **Rev. Dr. Craig Barnes**, *Senior Pastor, Shadyside Presbyterian Church, HCEF Advisory Board*
- 10:40 - 11:00 am      **Break**
- 11:00 - 12:00 noon      **Palestinian Geopolitical Status under the Israeli Occupation**  
Jewish settlements and the Israeli wall on Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, have complicated Palestinian life and have been serious impediments to peace between Palestinians and Israelis. This session will focus on their impact on Palestinian daily life and the larger issue of peace.  
  
**Speakers:**      **Dr. Jad Isaac**, *General Director, Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem (ARIJ)*  
                         **Amb. Philip Wilcox, Jr. (Ret.)**, *President, Foundation for Middle East Peace (FMEP)*
- 12:00-12:30 pm      **Visual Presentation: HCEF & KTH DVD**
- 12:30 - 1:30 pm      Lunch
- 1:30 - 2:15 pm      **Special presentation**
- 2:15 - 3:00 pm      **Noa Baum**, *Jewish Storyteller, Promoting Peace through the Art and Practice of Storytelling*

3:00 – 4:30 pm

## CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

### 1. Investment Environment and Business Opportunities in Palestine

*(3rd Business, Investment & ICT Conference Workshop)*

People are at the heart of society. Investing in people pumps positive energy into society and brings hope to the future. This workshop will examine business opportunities, especially investments, job creation, and international development as they relate to Palestine. It will review actions underway in Palestine, which advance a vision of investment, leadership for investment, and resources for investment in people. These build on the strong foundations of financial management and transparency that are necessary for promoting economic well-being and prosperity.

### 2. Know Thy Heritage: Youth Leaders

This workshop will include presentations by KTH Delegates, Palestinian American youth leaders who have “visited and lived Palestine” during summer 2011/2012. They will share their life changing experience of going to Palestine for the very first time. KTH is an annual HCEF program that empowers Palestinian youth in the Diaspora by strengthening their knowledge of their Palestinian identity, culture, history, traditions, as well as their understanding of Palestinian economic environment, political landscape, and social structures and conditions.

### 3. Religious Tourism

By taking a pilgrimage, people of faith fulfill important spiritual and personal needs. The Holy Land is one of the most sacred spots on earth, which has deep meaning for the followers of the three monotheistic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. This panel will explain the importance of promoting pilgrimages to the Holy Land.

**Moderator:** Rateb Rabie, KCHS, HCEF President/CEO

**Speakers:** Mary Jane Fox, *Pilgrim Center of Hope, Founder and Co-Director*  
Sami Abu Dayyeh, *CEO, Near East Tourist Agency (NET), Owner, Ambassador and Ritz Hotels, Jerusalem*  
Sami Khoury, *Tourism Consultant, “Visit Palestine”*

4:30 – 5:45 pm

### U.S. Presidential Election Results: Implications and Prospects for Peace in the Middle East

Historically, U.S. presidents have played key roles in Middle East affairs. The presidential election results on November 6 will be significant as they will indicate possible shifts in U.S. policies. This panel will explore the implications and prospects for peace in the Middle East given a Barack Obama 2<sup>nd</sup> term or a Mitt Romney 1<sup>st</sup> term.

**Moderator:** Mr. Saba L. Shami, *Principal, Washington Works, LLC*

**Speakers:** Dr. Asad Abdul Rahman, *Member, Executive Committee of the PLO, Chairman, Palestinian International Institute*  
Dr. James Zogby, *President, Arab American Institute (AAI)*

5:45 – 6:00 pm

Closing Remarks and Prayer

6:00 pm

### Know Thy Heritage Reunion & Youth Networker

The alumni of the 2011 & 2012 KTH Delegations welcome other youth to join them in a cultural, professional and activist networking event following the conference. This is an invitation to Diaspora Palestinians to connect with their origins, and their heritage, and to support their nation as one people, regardless of background, geographic location, religion, or political affiliation, and to build solidarity with other supporters.

The networker will be followed by a Palestinian cultural *heflah!*

*All youth are welcome to attend!*

Speakers and viewpoints expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, but are intended solely for the purpose of providing a forum for dialogue.

# AWARDS BANQUET

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2012

Reception at 6:00 pm • Dinner at 7:00 pm

WASHINGTON MARRIOTT  
1221 22nd Ave, NW • Washington, DC 20037

## WELCOME

**Dr. Hugh Dempsey, K.M. Ob., KHS**

## INVOCATION

## OPENING REMARKS

**Rateb Y. Rabie, KCHS**

*President/CEO, Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation*

## HCEF PRESIDENT'S AWARD

**Jim Ransom**

*Former Co-chair, Middle East Committee  
National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC*

## HCEF AWARD

**Mario Nazal Momares**

*Director, Palestine Foundation 2000 Bethlehem - Chile*

## DINNER

## Visual Presentation

## LIVING STONES SOLIDARITY AWARD

**Pilgrim Center of Hope**

**Deacon Tom & Mary Jane Fox**

*Founders and Directors  
San Antonio, Texas*

## PALESTINIAN DIASPORA AWARD

**José Said Saffie**

*President, Palestine Foundation 2000 Bethlehem - Chile*

## PATH OF PEACE AWARD

**Rev. Dr. Canon Trond Bakkevig**

*Convener, Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land  
and Dean of Vestre Aker, Oslo - Church of Norway*

## CLOSING REMARKS

## BENEDICTION





The Holy Land Christian Support Network (HCSN)  
Ambassadors of the Mother Church (AMC)

## 14<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Each year, on occasion of the International Conference, HCEF grants awards to people and institutions who have accomplished extraordinary work in support of the Christians in the Holy Land.



## Congratulations to 2012 HCEF AWARDS

MASTER OF CEREMONY  
Dr. Hugh M. Dempsey, K.M. Ob., KHS

### **HCEF Palestinian Diaspora Award**

This award is given to individuals who have sustained commitment to revitalize the Palestinian essence with its cultural heritage, core values, current needs, and future aspirations, and sustained commitment to being a sturdy bridge of solidarity with and support to Palestinians.

**José Said Saffie**

### **HCEF Path of Peace Award**

The Path of Peace Award has been established to honor an individual who throughout his or her life has vigorously championed the cause of Peace in the Middle East. The award is conferred on an individual who through tireless personal efforts has promoted the peaceful reconciliation between Arabs and Israelis, amongst Muslims, Christians and Jews in the Holy Land. The honoree is eminent as a statesman, a member of the clergy or a citizen of any country who is locally or internationally recognized as a visionary and humanist in this role.

**Rev. Dr. Canon Trond Bakkevig**

### **Living Stones Solidarity Award**

The Living Stones Award was established to honor institutions that have made a sustained and extraordinary effort to love, support, and stand in solidarity with the Christians in the Holy Land. These institutions through their acts of love and action, have demonstrated their determination to preserve the Living Stones in the land of Christianity's birth.

**Tom and Mary Jane Fox**

### **Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation Award**

The HCEF Award is given to an individual who has dedicated his or her life to preserving the presence of Christians in the Holy Land, and has demonstrated courage, determination, and action to advance the cause of justice, sustenance, and spiritual support for the Living Stones.

**Mario Nazal Momares**

### **HCEF President's Award**

This award is given annually to honor volunteers who have demonstrated their solidarity with the Christians of the Holy Land through acts of love and support on their behalf.

**Jim Ransom**



*These beautiful Mother of  
Pearl Awards were hand-  
crafted in Bethlehem,  
Palestine*





# 2012 HCEF AWARD RECIPIENTS

## PALESTINIAN DIASPORA AWARD

**José Said Saffie**

President, The Palestinian Bethlehem 2000 Foundation -Chile

José became involved in his extended family's operations at an early age. During the 1940s, the Said family relocated to Chile to develop a textile industry there, and José Said was an active participant in their first business, Industrias Químicas Generales. José Said is the founder and current head of Parque Arauco S.A., which is one of the largest real estate developers and operators of shopping malls in both Chile and Argentina. In addition, he is President of BBVA (Banco Bilbao Vizcayas Argentina) Bank, Chile; Director Mega Plaza (Sociedad de Centros Comerciales) Lima, Peru; Acting Director of the Banking and Financial Institutions Association (Asociación de Bancos e Instituciones Financieras); Advisor to the Alberto Hurtado Jesuit University; Director of the Chile-Peru Business Council; and President Chile-Arab Business Council. Mr. Said has also received numerous awards as a outstanding businessman, investor and public-spirited citizen.

## PATH OF PEACE AWARD

**Rev. Dr. Canon Trond Bakkevig**

Convener, Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land and  
Dean of Vestre Aker, Oslo - Church of Norway

Rev. Dr. Canon Bakkevig is a pastor of the (Lutheran) Church of Norway. Since 1996, Rev. Trond has facilitated dialogue between Christians, Muslims and Jewish religious leaders in Palestine/Israel. He is currently the convener of the Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land – which is composed of the main religious institutions of Israel and the Palestinian Areas: The Chief Rabbinate of Israel, Bishops and Bishopsrics of Jerusalem and Muslims appointed by the President of the Palestinian Authority.

## HCEF AWARD

**Mario Nazal Momares**

Director, The Palestinian Bethlehem 2000 Foundation -Chile

Co-founder and Director of “Bethlehem 2000 Palestinian Foundation”, the most important Chilean non-profit organization created to help Palestinian children in the Holy Land. Mr. Nazal is a Chilean businessman, first generation born in Santiago of Palestinian parents from Taybeh, and a distinguished member of the Chilean business community. He is also President of the Chilean Textile Industries and Counsellor of “Sociedad de Fomento Fabril.” Mr. Nazal is also the founder of Al Damir, the only Chilean magazine directed towards the Arab community, entrepreneurs and business leaders.

## LIVING STONES SOLIDARITY AWARD

**Pilgrim Center of Hope, San Antonio, TX**

Deacon Tom and Mary Jane Fox

In 1993, Deacon Tom and Mary Jane Fox founded **Pilgrim Center of Hope** as a response to John Paul II's call for a “new evangelization” to encourage Catholics to live and share their faith. The ministry has received the blessing of Archbishop Emeritus Patrick Flores, Archbishop José Gomez & Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller. The Ministry has also received an Apostolic Blessing from Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI. Tom and Mary have traveled to the Holy Land more than 40 times since 1984. Their work includes travel to parishes in California, Kansas, Louisiana, Mexico, and within Texas to give presentations on their ministry experiences. In June 1989 and June 1990, they assisted the pastor of St. Ignatius Parish

## HCEF PRESIDENT'S AWARD

**Jim Ransom**

Former Co- Chair Middle East Committee, National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC

Jim has volunteered with HCEF since 2000. Initially, he worked with the Holy Land Gifts program and served as the assistant treasurer. From 2002 through 2005, he served on the HCEF Board of Directors, and as the Board treasurer. Jim helped promote the establishment of the HCEF Birzeit Senior Citizens Center and continues to help in promoting and implementing the annual HCEF International Conferences.

## AWARD RECIPIENTS 1999-2011

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD

**2003**  
Julia James

**2004**  
William Peecher

**2005**  
Kristin Woodard / Pamela Trush

**2006**  
Gail Freeman / Nancy Hemminger

**2007**  
Patty Parma/Cindy Brewer

**2008**  
Grace Abularage  
Eve Van Sickle

**2009**  
Mary E. Beahn, LHS

**2010**  
Sr. Anne Guinan, MSHS  
Sr. Caritas Kennedy, RSM

**2011**  
Mr. Elias and Mrs. May Shomali



### PATH OF PEACE AWARD

**2007**  
Dr. Marwan Musher  
Senior Vice President, External Affairs, World Bank

**2008**  
His Eminence Theodore Cardinal McCarrick

**2009**  
Archbishop Pietro Sambi  
Apostolic Nuncio to the United States

**2010**  
Mr. George R. Salem, Esq.  
Law Offices of George R. Salem, PLLC

**2011**  
Dr. James Zogby-President,  
Arab American Institute



### LIVING STONES SOLIDARITY AWARD

**1999**  
National Presbyterian Church of Washington, D.C.

**2000**  
First Presbyterian Church of Houston, TX  
United States Conference of  
Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

**2001**  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls, SD  
World Vision

**2002**  
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit, MI  
Peachtree Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, GA

**2003**  
Shrine of St. Jude Parish of Rockville, MD  
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

**2004**  
Knights of Columbus  
St. Andrew Catholic Church of Milford, OH

**2005**  
Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America/  
Division for Global Mission

**2006**  
Market Square Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg, PA  
Catholic Near East Welfare Association/Pontifical Missions for Palestine

**2007**  
St. Matthew Catholic Church  
Charlotte, North Carolina

**2008**  
Archdiocese of Cincinnati

**2009**  
The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre  
of Jerusalem

**2010**  
Bethlehem University

**2011**  
The Ajram Foundation

### HCEF AWARD

**2000**  
Fr. Labib Kobti  
Donald Kruse

**2001**  
Rev. Canon Drew Christiansen, S.J.  
Rev. Dr. Donald Wagner

**2002**  
H.B. Michel Sabbah  
Rev. Dr. Craig Barnes

**2003**  
Albert Bateh  
Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb

**2004**  
His Excellency Riah Abu El-Assal, B.D.D.D.  
His Grace Munib Younan  
Fr. Alex Kratz, OFM

**2005**  
Fr. Emil Salayta  
Rev. Dr. Roy Enquist

**2006**  
Claudette Habesch  
Archbishop Elias Chacour

**2007**  
Fr. Robert Waller

**2008**  
Musa Nasir, MD

**2009**  
Samir Abu-Ghazaleh, MD

**2010**  
Osama Kishek & Rula Kishek

**2011**  
Raja Khoury



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*Avera Women's Center, Sioux Falls, SD*

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*Pastor, Shadyside Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, PA, Meneilly  
Professor, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary*

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*CEO, Global Adaptation Institute*

**Fr. Nicholas Dahdal**  
*St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church*

**Nicola Khamis**  
*Honorary Consul of the Republic of Honduras in Palestine  
President of Jala Investment Group  
Deputy Mayor of Beit Jala*





**Sir Jeffery Abood,**  
**KHS** has been knighted by the Vatican in the Equestrian Order of the Holy

Sepulchre of Jerusalem. He is in the North Central Lieutenancy and currently serves as his Section's Education Master. He has most recently published a literature review on the Churches perspective regarding the current situation of the Christians in the Holy Land. It is currently in use throughout the North American Order.

Jeffrey was selected as the lead-in speaker for the Latin Patriarch, on His Beatitude's most recent visit to the US. He has also received a certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for his leadership in working with the Palestinian Christian communities in the Holy Land. Jeffrey serves as Chair, of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation's International Speakers Bureau. He has also served as former Director for the U.S. chapters (HCSN's) of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation. He is currently Co-Chair of the Council on Global Solidarity - Diocese of Cleveland.



**Sami Abu-Dayyeh** is a leading figure in the tourism industry in Occupied Palestine. With a background in business

administration, Mr. Abu-Dayyeh is the CEO of NET Near East Tourist Agency, owner of the renowned Ambassador and Ritz Hotels in Jerusalem and is in the process of constructing new hotels in Jaffa and Tiberias. He is on the board of numerous prestigious and influential institutions including the International Chamber of Commerce, Palestine Chapter. Most recently, Mr. Sami Abu-Dayyeh was elected president of the Holy Land Incoming Tour Operators Association (HLITOA), which aims to increase the numbers of incoming tourists, promote a diverse tourism product and provide an action-oriented coordination channel to address the potentials of the tourism sector.



**Ghassan Anabtawi** is the CEO of REACH Company, The First Unified Contact Center in Palestine employing

around 600 well trained, full-time employees plus around 300 students working as part time employees. REACH was launched by integrating the different call centers of Paltel Group companies, mainly the fixed, mobile, and the data and internet call centers, into one converged and specialized contact center that serves the group companies in addition to other companies in various industries.

## BIOGRAPHIES

### SPEAKERS & MODERATORS

In addition, he was the VP for Development affairs at the PALTEL Group; in charge of the restructuring of PALMEDIA company, the media arm of the Paltel group that provides media support services to companies operating within Palestine as well as connecting its operations elsewhere in the world. Before that he was the Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) at Paltel, the National Telecommunications provider in Palestine. Today the Paltel Group offers a range of services including Fixed, Mobile, Data, internet, and content, media and IT business solutions.



**Rev. Canon Dr. Trond Bakkevig,**  
Convener, Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land and

Dean of Vestre Aker, Oslo - Church of Norway will receive the 2012 HCEF Path of Peace Award in recognition of his life's work, his dedication, and the remarkable contributions he has made through his leadership with the Council of Religious Institutions in the Holy Land and in establishing a dialogue of peace and reconciliation with the Council of Religious Institutions in the Holy Land. Rev. Canon Dr. Trond Bakkevig is a pastor of the (Lutheran) Church of Norway.

Through his leadership, Dr. Bakkevig exemplifies the important and significant role faith plays in contributing to peace amongst



## SPEAKERS' & MODERATORS' BIOGRAPHIES

people. Since 1996, Bakkevig has facilitated dialogue between Christians, Muslims and Jewish religious leaders in Palestine/Israel. This has also involved extensive contacts with political and religious leaders in that area and in other parts of the Middle East. He is currently the Convenor of the Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land - which is composed of the main religious institutions of Israel and the Palestinian Areas: The Chief Rabbinate of Israel, Bishops and Bishopricks of Jerusalem and Muslims appointed by the President of the Palestinian Authority. His strong leadership role with the review of *'Textbooks in Israel and Palestine'* has been significant in facilitating dialogue towards mutual understanding.



**Reverend Dr. M. Craig Barnes** was raised on Long Island, New York. After graduating from the King's

College and Princeton Seminary, he received a Ph.D. in The History of Christianity from The University of Chicago. He has served as a pastor to three congregations including The National Presbyterian Church in Washington D.C. In the fall of 2002, he became the Robert Meneilly Professor of Pastoral Ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. While continuing in that role, he also serves as the pastor of The Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh.

He has seven published books including *'Searching for Home,' 'The Pastor as Minor Poet,'* and *'Belonging*

*Body and Soul.'* He also serves as an Editor at Large and frequent contributor to The Christian Century. He is married to Dawne Hess Barnes who is an interior decorator. They have three delightful children and a hairy dog named Esau.



**Noa Baum** was born and raised in Jerusalem. Noa is an award-winning storyteller and educator, focusing on the power of narrative

to heal across the divides of identity. She was an actress with the Khan Repertory Theater of Jerusalem, trained in theater at Tel Aviv University and with Uta Hagen in NY, and received an MA in Theater-in-Education from NYU. Her one-woman show *'A Land Twice Promised'* relives her heartfelt dialogue with a Palestinian woman, illuminating the complex and contradictory history and emotions surrounding Jerusalem for Israelis and Palestinians alike.

Noa performs and teaches internationally, highlights include: The World Bank, Mayo Clinic, US. Defense Department, Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Fabula Festival, Sweden, Jewish Theological Seminary, NYC, GWU Law School, DC, Brandies and Stanford Universities, Hebrew University and The Kennedy Center. Noa is a winner of a Parents' Choice Recommended Award and a recipient of numerous Individual Artist Awards from Maryland State Arts Council and Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County.



**Dr. Jad Daniel** has over 25 years of experience in the fields of software development, systems integration and business

consulting. For the past decade, Dr. Daniel has been advising, and leading large complex implementations for multinational clients in the Electronics industry. He has worked with clients in North America, Europe and Asia.

Dr. Daniel is a Partner & Vice President at IBM Global Business services. Prior to its acquisition by IBM, he was a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers Consulting (PwCC), and a leader in developing its systems integration capability. Dr. Daniel joined PwCC from Oracle Corporation, where he was Director of Commercial & International Programs. Dr. Daniel holds a Bachelors degree in Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Masters in Digital Communications and a Doctorate in Digital Communications from the University of Manchester, UK.



**Deacon Tom and Mary Jane Fox**, in 1986, left their respective

careers in hotel management and the travel industry to work full-time for St. Matthew Catholic Church. For the first seven years, their main ministry was door-to-door home visitation; they also helped establish other outreach ministries at St. Matthew Parish. In 1993, they founded Pilgrim Center of

## SPEAKERS' & MODERATORS' BIOGRAPHIES

Hope as a response to John Paul II's call for a "new evangelization" to encourage Catholics to live and share their faith. The ministry has received the blessing of Archbishop Emeritus Patrick Flores, Archbishop José Gomez & Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller. The Ministry has also received an Apostolic Blessing from Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

Tom and Mary have traveled to the Holy Land more than 40 times since 1984. Their work includes travel to parishes in California, Kansas, Louisiana, Mexico, and within Texas to give presentations on their ministry experiences. In June 1989 and June 1990, they assisted the pastor of St. Ignatius Parish in Belize City, Belize, in a parish-wide evangelization effort. Tom was ordained to the permanent Diaconate in August 1988. Their ministry work has been featured in five nation-wide Catholic periodicals and on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) show, *'Living His Life Abundantly'* in 1995 on the video *'I Am the Bread of Life,'* produced by Stepstone Productions, Inc. In February 2008, they received of the Catholic Television of San Antonio (CTSA) Leadership Award. In March 2011; they received the "Pescador de Hombres" Award from Guadalupe Radio Network for their service in the South Texas. In October 2011, they were invested into the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, a Papal Order.



**Rev. Richard H. Graham** was elected to a six-year term as bishop of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C.

Synod of the ELCA on June 8, 2007, by the 2007 Synod Assembly. He took office on September 1, 2007, and was installed on October 14, 2007.

Bishop Graham most recently served as pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in College Park, Maryland. Additionally, he has been Assistant Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Hagerstown, Maryland; and Associate Pastor of St. Martin, Ås Lutheran Church, Annapolis, Maryland. Bishop Graham received a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1977 and a Master of Arts degree in Church History from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. in 1989.

Prior local leadership included as synod secretary, member of the synod, Ås Candidacy Committee and member of the Board of Trustees of the National Lutheran Home for the Aged, Rockville, Maryland. Bishop Graham succeeded the Rev. Theodore F. Schneider who retired from the position after serving two terms following his election in 1995.

Bishop Graham is married to Nancy Ann Graham and has two adult daughters.



**Christine Hill** is the Business Conference Outreach Coordinator for The Holy Land Christian Ecumenical

Foundation. Ms. Hill has worked for the

past ten years in her own company as Executive Vice President & Co-Founder of ServiceElements, a corporate training organization that specializes in "core skills" training. Topics include: customer service, communications, teamwork, leadership, diversity, empowerment, coaching, etc. Customers include dozens of Fortune 50 and Fortune 100 companies and industries trained include: aviation/aerospace, banking, construction, hospitality, real estate, call centers, and OEMs to name a few. She helped build the company into what it is today through the various phases of administrative duties, curriculum development, facilitation of workshops in the US and abroad, training of facilitators and all the related entrepreneurial duties of running a service business.

She has a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration from the University of Evansville and is currently working toward her Masters in Human Relations at Northern Arizona University. She is very excited about the opportunity to work with HCEF on Outreach to explore opportunities for engagement between the US and Palestine. Ms. Hill is a member of the Mission Committee and former Deacon at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale, Arizona. She is also an active member in her community serving on a variety of charitable and service boards in Scottsdale & Phoenix, including the International Rescue Committee (IRC) which works with refugees, Open Table and the Grand Canyon Presbytery Committee for Peace & Social Justice. Christine writes articles on service for several publications including a weekly article for Cygnus Media.

## SPEAKERS' & MODERATORS' BIOGRAPHIES



**Dr. Jad Isaac** was born in 1947 in Beit Sahour to a middle class family that traces its roots to 1563

AC in this Shepherds field town. Dr. Isaac was born in Beit Sahour. He joined the faculty of agriculture at Cairo University and graduated with honors from the food science department in 1968. He also worked as an extension agent in Ramallah at the Department of Agriculture until he resigned in 1969 to work as chemistry teacher in Bethlehem secondary schools. In June 1974, he married Ghada Andoni and they were blessed with four children.

In 1973, he pursued his post graduate studies at Rutgers University where he graduated with a M.Sc. degree in food science. He returned to Palestine to resume his work and joined Bethlehem University as part-time instructor of biology. In 1976, he organized the first science educational expo in Bethlehem which included a large collection of Palestinian flora and fauna as well as a large number of scientific demonstrations and experiments. In 1976, he received a scholarship from the British Council to pursue his Ph.D. studies at the Food Research Institute at the University of East Anglia. He joined Bethlehem University as an assistant professor and headed the Department of Life Sciences. He later became the Dean of Science at Bethlehem University.

In 1985, he co-founded the Economic Development Group as a non-profit finance institution to promote entrepreneurship and authentic

development in Palestine. He initiated and was the Editor in chief of Bethlehem University Journal from 1980 until 1987. In 1986, he was awarded the Abdul-Hamid Shuman's prize for Arab Biologist of the Year. In 1987, the first intifada broke out and Dr. Isaac became a leader in the non-violent civil resistance, for which he was arrested. Following his release, he co-founded important institutions in Palestine, including the Orient House, the Palestinian Center for Rapprochement Between People, and the Applied Research Development Group-Jerusalem, which promotes technology transfer in the Palestinian community.



**Mr. Hassan Qasem** is a Chairman of PITA (Palestinian Information Technology Association) which

represents the ICT companies in Palestine and Chairman of PICTI (Palestinian Information technology incubator). Furthermore, Mr. Qasem is the Chairman of Young Scientist Club, and Board member of PSD (Partners For Sustainable Development). Experienced entrepreneur and CEO of several companies in IT, software, and web, he is currently the chairman of Dimensions Company which was established in 2007 by Palestinian businessmen, providing exceptional business and health care consulting services.

Prior to forming Dimensions Consulting Company, Mr. Qasem worked as an IT Instructor in Birzeit University from 1992 until 2000. In 1996, he established his own company Arab Technology Systems (ATS) which was sold to PALTEL Group in 2006. Mr.

Hassan Qasem holds a Master degree in computer science from The American University – Washington D.C. 1992.



**Mario Nazal Momares** is Co-founder of "Bethlehem 2000 Palestinian Foundation," the most important

Chilean non-profit organization created to help Palestinian children in the Holy Land, Mario Nazal is a Chilean businessman, first generation born in Santiago of Palestinian parents from Taybeh.

After high school, he studied chemistry and pharmacy at the University of Chile, but had to stop before receiving his final diploma because of his father's illness. From that point on, however, he became fully involved in his family business, and became counselor of "Sociedad de Fomento Fabril," the most important Chilean industrial businessmen group in the country, president of the Chilean Textile Industries, a founding member and currently Director General of "Bethlehem 2000 Palestinian Foundation," and founder of Al Damir, the only Chilean magazine directed towards the Arab community, entrepreneurs and business leaders. He received several awards for successful industrial entrepreneurship. He is fund-raising for major projects for Palestine, such as *Macklube*, the traditional and annual dinner for the Arab community in Santiago; an annual fashion show, and a complete system of donors to afford health and education programs for the most



## SPEAKERS' & MODERATORS' BIOGRAPHIES

needed. He is in partnership with the Palestine Children's Relief Fund, providing health support in two ways; sending Chilean volunteer medical missions for surgical work in Palestine, and receiving in Chilean homes Palestinian young people who need to receive medical care in Santiago.



**Eng. Amal Masri Moghrabi** is the general manager and founder of Al Moghrabi Consulting Engineering Office.

She is also an architect who graduated from Jordan University, Amman, in 1986. In 1987, Amal, along with her husband, established their own engineering office, Al Moghrabi Consulting Engineering Office in Ramallah, which is now one of the most well-known engineering offices in the governance.

Through her career life, Amal designed and supervised many distinguished, residential and commercial, buildings such as the 'Best Eastern Hotel,' the 'Paltel' building in Al-Masyoon, 10 buildings at the new Riham neighborhood, many famous projects and buildings cooperating with Al-Quds Company, as well as many villas in Ramallah and all the surrounding villages. Mrs. Moghrabi was chosen to be one of the consultants in Rawabi city, the first Palestinian planned city, which is the largest private sector project ever carried out in Palestine. In addition, she has been an engineering consultant of the following: Deir Dibwan Municipality, Beir Nabala

Municipality, and the Palestinian Bar Association.

As a business woman, Amal is one of the 7 founders of the Business Woman Forum (BWF) in Palestine, becoming chairwoman in 1990. She has represented the BWF in many local and international conferences and meetings. Moreover, Amal is a national team member at the Ministry of National Economy, participating in the Project for the Advancement of National Product. She's a member in the steering committee of the Jericho Project, and a member of the national dialogue of the income tax law, which is held by Dr. Salam Fayyad, the Prime Minister.



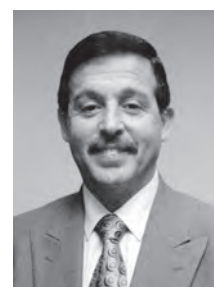
**Rateb Y. Rabie, KCHS** is the President of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation. He was

born in Amman, Jordan to Palestinian parents. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1976. He is a U.S. citizen. He holds a degree in business administration. From 1981 to 1986, he was the Director of Operations for Saudi Support Services, Ltd. In 1988 he moved to Washington, DC where he is manager and proprietor of several businesses.

Being a life long advocate for peace and justice, in 1999 he joined with others to establish the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF). This was based on the firm conviction that if American Christians became aware of the desperate conditions of the Christians in the Holy Land, they would reach out and help.

He is the past National President and

current board member of the Birzeit Society and Vice President, Treasurer and co-founder of the Institute for Health, Development and Research in Palestine. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and a Knight Commander of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. In 2006, he received the *Birzeit Society Award* and the *Faith and Tolerance Award* from the Arab American Anti-discrimination Committee.



**Dr. Asad Abdul Rahman** is Executive Chairman and member of the Board of Trustees of the Palestine

International Institute (P.I.I.). In his very distinguished career, he has served as Executive Committee Member (P.L.O.), Ex- Minister of Palestinian Refugees and Head of Palestine Refugee Negotiation Team in the Final Status negotiations.

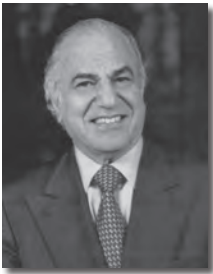
He has also served as Director General of Abdul Hamid Shoman Scientific & Cultural Foundation, a Member of the Supreme Palestinian Political Leadership in the "State of Palestine" – Government in Exile; and an Independent Member of the Palestine National Council and an Independent Member of the Palestine Central Council. His titles also include Chairman, Board of Trustees & Director General, The Encyclopedia Palestina, and Member, Board of Directors of the Foundation.

Dr. Rahman's academic credits include a Ph.D. in Political Science – University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada (1973),



## SPEAKERS' & MODERATORS' BIOGRAPHIES

and his MA in Public Administration – American University of Beirut, Beirut – Lebanon (1967). He was a Full Professor at the University of Kuwait – Political Science Department – 1983; and a Visiting Professor at the – University of Jordan (Part-time) - 1992-1994; University of Jordan (summer semester) Amman, Jordan – 1976; and American University – Washington, USA - 1980. Dr. Rahman is the author of (19) books and more than (46) refereed academic studies dealing with different aspects of Comparative Government, International Politics, Palestine issue, the Zionist Movement, the Arab Israeli politics. He has been a regular contributor for the last 35 years, on a weekly basis, to a number of Arab newspapers.



**José Said Saffie** is President of the “Bethlehem 2000 Palestinian Foundation,” the most important Chilean non-

profit organization created to help Palestinian children in the Holy Land. José Said, born in Perú, is the founder and current head of Parque Arauco S.A., which is one of the largest real estate developers and operators of shopping malls in both Chile and Argentina.

Mr. Said has a law degree from the University of Chile. In addition, he is President of BBVA (Banco Bilbao Vizcayas Argentina) Bank, Chile; Director Mega Plaza (Sociedad de Centros Comerciales) Lima, Peru; Acting Director of the Banking

and Financial Institutions Association (Asociación de Bancos e Instituciones Financieras); Advisor to the Alberto Hurtado Jesuit University; Director of the Chile-Peru Business Council; and President Chile-Arab Business Council. Mr. Said has also received numerous awards as an outstanding businessman, investor and public-spirited citizen.



**Dr. Saliba Sarsar** is Associate Vice President for Global Initiatives at Monmouth University, NJ. He is a Middle East scholar

and commentator on the region. He received and/or directed grants from the Fulbright, the Kellogg, the Dodge, and the Peace Development foundations. He is co-author and co-editor of books on political life, world politics, leadership, and Palestinian affairs. He is co-editor with Fr. Drew Christiansen, S.J., of an anthology entitled, *H. B. Patriarch Michel Sabbah: Leading with Faith, Witnessing for Peace with Justice*. Among his published articles are “Palestinian Christians: Religion, Conflict and the Struggle for Just Peace” in *Holy Land Studies* and “Palestinian Christians—In Their Own Words” in *Sightings*, published by the Martin Marty Center of the Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Sarsar is the recipient of numerous awards including the *Global Visionary Award* from Monmouth University in 2007, the *Stafford Presidential Award of Excellence* from Monmouth University in 2006, and the *Humanitarian Award* from the National Conference for Community and Justice in 2001. This organization has

brought Arab Americans and American Jews together to stimulate dialogue and peaceful coexistence initiatives. He serves on the boards of directors of the Two Rivers Film Festival, the American Task Force on Palestine, and the Jacob Landau Institute.

Born in Jerusalem, Dr. Saliba's early education was at the Christian Brothers Academy and St. Joseph College in the Old City of Jerusalem. He earned a B.A. in Political Science and Interdisciplinary History, *summa cum laude*, from Monmouth College in 1978. He earned a Ph.D. from Rutgers University in Political Science, specializing in international relations and Middle Eastern affairs in 1984.



**Saba L. Shami** has over 26 years of government relations and state government work in Washington and Richmond advising

an ambassador, a president of a grass roots national organization and working for two Virginia Governors, first as key campaign advisor and then as top political appointee. Mr. Shami served the Commonwealth of Virginia for 10 years in several key positions under Governors Mark R. Warner and Timothy M. Kaine - Assistant Commissioner at the DMV, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, Chief Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture & Consumer Services and Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation. Most recently he served as Director of Special Projects at the

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Virginia Port Authority between January 2009 and August 2011.

Before joining the Warner Administration Mr. Shami served as principal/owner of *Washington Works LLC*, a public affairs firm, working with different interest groups and promoting their points of view on Capitol Hill, in the different departments and federal agencies in Washington, and with the Virginia State Government

Mr. Shami is a graduate of Goshen College in Indiana, attended Bethany Theological Seminary in Oak Brook, Illinois and is a graduate of the Virginia Executive Institute - VEI. He is fluent in several languages.



**Hashim Shawa** is the Chairman and General Manager of the Bank of Palestine, assuming this position in 2007.

The Bank is the first and largest national bank of Palestine. After receiving the B.Sc. (Honors) from University College of London, Mr. Shawa began his banking career at Citigroup in 1997. There he held various management positions in corporate and private banking working in the UK, Italy, Spain and Switzerland. In 2005 he joined HSBC in Switzerland as a director of the bank's Middle East and North Africa business. He developed the HSBC private banking business in the Gulf and established its onshore presence in Kuwait.



**William Joseph Turner** studied at the University of Windsor, formerly Assumption University, which included a scholarship

to Rome, attaining a Bachelors Degree in Philosophy and Education in 1972. He held teaching positions at Assumption College School, Windsor, and then at Trinity High School in Louisville Kentucky. While in Kentucky, he was honored by the Governor of the State in 1973 and also named an honorary citizen of Louisville in 1974.

In the fall of 1973, he entered Mt. St Mary Seminary in Cincinnati and was ordained a deacon on April 23, 1977. He was ordained priest at the Peterborough Cathedral on April 1, 1979, and served in various capacities, including Master of Ceremonies for the Diocese, Chair of the Liturgical Commission, parochial vicar at two parishes and Director of the Television Mass Outreach (1980-84.)

In 1984 he was given permission by his bishop to serve a six year term as chaplain in the Canadian navy. While in that capacity he served on three bases and as Fleet Chaplain. He was honorably released in 1990 with the rank of Commander. In the fall of 1997 he was incardinated into the Lansing Diocese, while serving as parochial vicar at St. John Church in Fenton, Michigan for 11 months. In March of 1998 he was appointed pastor of St. Mary Church in Chelsea, Michigan, where he still resides. In addition to his pastoral duties in Chelsea, a parish of over 1150 families, he earned a PhD in Cultural Anthropology in 2000 with studies and research conducted nearby at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

He was appointed an Associate Professor in 2001, and currently mentors graduate students of anthropology in the completion of their degrees. He has been published in numerous articles and has written two books in the study of culture, faith, ethnicity and their relationships. He is a charter member of the Society for Catholic Liturgy. He holds citizenships in the United States, Canada and the European Community. Father Turner continues to promote the cause of peace and understanding for the Holy Land Christians and among the people of the Holy Land through annual pilgrimages to visit the peoples there and by supporting the ministry and other programs of the Patriarch.



**Ambassador Philip C. Wilcox, Jr. (Ret.)** is President of the Foundation for Middle East Peace, a Washington

D.C.-based foundation devoted to fostering peace between Israelis and Palestinians. He retired from the U.S. Foreign Service in September 1997 after 31 years of service.

Born in Denver, CO on February 1, 1937, he attended public schools there. He graduated from Williams College with a B.A. in History in 1958, and obtained an LL.B. from the Stanford Law School in 1961.

Ambassador Wilcox entered the Foreign Service in 1966. He has served abroad at U.S. embassies in various capacities: as Press Attaché in Vientiane (Laos), Political and Economic/Commercial Officer in Jakarta (Indonesia), and as Chief of the Economic/Commercial

## SPEAKERS' & MODERATORS' BIOGRAPHIES

Section in Dhaka (Bangladesh). His last overseas assignment was as Chief of Mission and U.S. Consul General in Jerusalem. At the U.S. State Department, Ambassador Wilcox has served as Special Assistant to the Undersecretary for Management, Deputy Director for UN Political Affairs in the Bureau of International Organization Affairs, Director for Regional Affairs in the Bureau for Middle Eastern and South Asian Affairs, Director for Israeli and Arab-Israeli Affairs and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs. He also served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research and as Ambassador-at-Large and Coordinator for Counter-Terrorism.

After his retirement, Ambassador Wilcox was appointed by the Secretary of State to serve as a member of an Accountability Review Board, chaired by Admiral William Crowe (Ret.) to examine and make recommendations concerning the terrorist bombing of the American Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya on August 7, 1998.

Ambassador Wilcox speaks French and Indonesian. He is a graduate of the National War College, and has been awarded the U.S. State Department's Meritorious, Superior, and Presidential Honor Awards. He is a board member of the Middle East Institute and Americans for Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) and a member of The Washington Institute for Foreign Affairs and Dacor-Bacon House. He and his wife Cynda live in Bethesda, MD.



**Dr. James J. Zogby** is founding president of the Arab American Institute (AAI), a Washington, D.C.-based organization that serves as the political and policy research arm of the Arab American community. Since AAI's founding in 1985, he and AAI have led Arab American efforts to secure political empowerment in the U.S. Through voter registration, education and mobilization, AAI has moved Arab Americans into the political mainstream.

For the past three decades, Dr. Zogby has been intimately involved in Arab American issues. He was co-founder and chairman of the Palestine Human Rights Campaign in the late 1970s. Later he co-founded and served as the Executive Director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. In 1982, he co-founded Save Lebanon, Inc., a private non-profit, humanitarian and non-sectarian relief organization that funds health care for Palestinian and Lebanese victims of war, and other social welfare projects in Lebanon.

In 1993, following the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord in Washington, at the request of Vice President Al Gore he lead Builders for Peace, a private sector committee promoting U.S. business investment in the West Bank and Gaza. As its co-president, he frequently participated in delegations led by the Vice President and the late Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown to the Middle East. In 1994, with former U.S. Congressman Mel Levine, co-president of Builders for Peace, he led a U.S. delegation to the signing of the

Israeli-Palestinian agreement in Cairo. That year he chaired the Palestinian Economy Forum at the Casablanca Economic Summit. After 1994, through Builders, he worked with a number of US agencies including AID, OPIC, USTDA, and the Departments of State and Commerce to promote and support Palestinian economic development,

Dr. Zogby has been active in U.S. politics for many years. In 1984 and 1988 he served as deputy campaign manager and senior advisor to the Jesse Jackson Presidential campaigns. In 1995 DNC Chairman Don Fowler appointed him as co-convener of the National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee (NDECC), an umbrella organization of Democratic Party leaders of European and Mediterranean descent. In 1999 and 2001 he was reelected to that post. In 2001, he was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Democratic National Committee (DNC). In 2006 he was named co-chair of the DNC's Resolutions Committee.







# *In a Nutshell:* Christians of the Holy Land

## Who are they?

For two thousand years, Christian families have lived and worshipped in the land where Jesus lived, died, and was resurrected. These Christians are not immigrants or converts. They are the descendents of those who first believed in Jesus Christ (Acts 2:11). Ethnically, whether they live in Israel, the West Bank or Gaza they are overwhelmingly Palestinian. Denominationally, they are Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant. Together, they remain the first Church, the “Mother Church”. Many Christians from around the world are unaware there is an indigenous Arab Christian population in the Holy Land. Even fewer know the severity of the conditions they endure.

*“We are thinkers, we are theologians, we are philosophers, we are teachers, we are believers in the Bible and in Jesus Christ and we are rolling up our sleeves and are making a difference by shedding light in a bleak situation because nothing will stand between us and the Lord”. Fr. Firas Arideh, Palestinian Christian*

## Why are they leaving?

In the last 60 years the Christian population has gone from 18% of the population to less than 2% today.

In 2004, all the Heads of all the Churches in Jerusalem came together to address the cause of this stating: “Occupation remains the root cause of the conflict and of the continued suffering in the Holy Land”. (*Statement on the Wall*)

HCEF leaves the politics to the politicians – our focus is the people. And in our service to the people, we must bring to light the things that harm them, in this case the Israeli occupation. With this military control came the confiscation of Christian lands and the demolition of Christian homes. With this came the building of concrete walls of separation, separating Palestinians from Israelis, from other Palestinians and even at times from their own families. With the building of these walls came the loss of food and water resources. Many have lost their jobs or have become deprived of medical care at hospitals which are no longer accessible. Christians are often denied the freedom to worship. Many church leaders have been prevented from passing through checkpoints to minister to the sick or dying.

The inability of families to cover the basic cost of living, to cope with high inflation, to educate their sons and daughters, has increased emigration. If current trends continue, in 20 years there may be no Christians left in the land Jesus walked. The Christian community of the Holy Land, the people of Calvary, will not allow their hope to die. Neither can we.

## HOW CAN I HELP?

As Christians, we are called to be “a voice for those who have no voice”. As an arm of the Latin Patriarchate in the United States, HCEF is uniquely equipped in providing varied ways for Christians to personally connect with their brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. Below are some of our programs.

*Please contact us to begin experiencing the Christians of the Holy Land in a more personal way.*

HOLY LAND CHRISTIAN ECUMENICAL FOUNDATION

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Fax: (301) 951-9402

Email: [hcef@hcef.org](mailto:hcef@hcef.org)

6935 Wisconsin Ave, Suite 518 Bethesda, MD 20815



### **Child Sponsorship Program: Christian Educational Support**

HCEF's Child Sponsorship Program links a sponsor in the West with a student in the Holy Land. Christian schools in the Holy Land have a large role in preserving the Christian presence.

### **Living Stones Pilgrimages to the Holy Land**

With HCEF, you will travel as a guest of Holy Land Christian Churches, as well as, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem. Becoming more than just a visitor; you will experience spiritual enrichment walking in the steps of our Lord, sharing meals, worship and fellowship with Arab Christians of the Holy Land.

### **Bethlehem Heart of Christmas Program**

- **Jesus Loves the Children Program** offers an opportunity to provide modest Christmas Gifts each year to Holy Land Christian children during the Christmas season. Each \$10 donation ensures that a Christian child will receive a gift. Receiving Christmas gifts from Christians outside the Holy Land is a sign of hope for these children and enables them to know the joy of Christmas. This program also supports annual visits to Bethlehem and Jerusalem by Christian children from many villages of the West Bank.
- **Journey to Bethlehem/Journey to Jerusalem** brings Christian children from Palestine, Jordan, and Israel to Bethlehem during Advent and Christmas and to Jerusalem during Lent and Easter. Over the course of several years, HCEF has overcome the obstacles of the Israeli checkpoints and the Separation Wall to bring thousands of children on a pilgrimage to the holy sites in Bethlehem and Jerusalem.
- **Simulcast Joint Message of Peace between Washington DC and Bethlehem-** a celebration in honor of the Birth of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace- in the City of Bethlehem

### **Holy Land Gifts Program**

Artisan crafted olive wood and mother of pearl religious items is a rich cultural tradition. Income from sales helps stave off emigration and provide relief from the difficult conditions of their homeland.

### **Birzeit Senior Citizen Center**

In today's conditions of unrest, they are some of the most vulnerable citizens in the region. The Senior Center helps provide meals, health care and activities for these faithful witnesses to our Faith.

### **Housing Rehabilitation Program**

The Housing Rehabilitation Program helps provide suitable housing for needy Christian families in the Holy Land and provides employment for Christian craftsmen and laborers struggling to make a living.

### **Educational Outreach**

HCEF's local groups (Holy Land Christian Support Network) work by developing means of local support, outreach and education. They further help educate Americans about the plight of Holy Land Christians.

### **Ambassadors of the Mother Church**

"Ambassadors" help support our common Christian heritage - spiritually, physically and monetarily. They support the many programs that help maintain the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

### **Special Projects**

Special projects target funds for job creation, housing projects, community development, and micro and macro development programs, helping develop long-term solutions to real life crises.

### **Church Partnerships**

These partnerships foster a mutual, on-going relationship between churches in the US and churches in the land of Christ's birth. Partnerships are blessings for both sides providing solidarity and excellent opportunities to learn from one another.

### **Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF)**



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## **REASONS TO SUPPORT the Native Christians of the Holy Land**

- 1. The native Christians are the Palestinian Arab descendents of the first faithful.** They were present at Pentecost (Acts 2:11) and are present there today. For 2000 years, they have maintained a continuous living witness in the land Jesus walked. Among an increasingly non-Christian population they bear witness to the Christian heritage of the Holy Land.
- 2. We are brothers and sisters in Christ.** As Paul wrote, the Church is like a body. It has many parts but remains one Body united by one Spirit. As our eyes open to other cultures, perspectives, and ways of worshiping the same Lord, our shared faith is deepened.
- 3. Christian Palestinians are a bridge to peace for a troubled region.** They alone share the Old Testament with Jews and the same culture, history and language as Muslims. They act as bridges between those mired in political conflict and offer hope for a peaceful resolution.
- 4. They ensure the younger generation is raised in Christ.** The continuity of the Christian presence in the Holy Land depends upon the preservation of its schools. In addition, these offer young Christians a place to interact with each other and share and grow in their faith.
- 5. They ensure Churches and Holy Sites remain places of Christian worship.** Without the indigenous Christian presence in the Holy Land, these would turn into empty museums, devoid of the warmth of the people or be appropriated for other uses.
- 6. More Christians are leaving the Holy Land.** The pressures and economic conditions created by the long term occupation of communities, by the Israeli military, cause many to leave. This has further reduced a Christian population that was already a minority.
- 7. Christians are being oppressed.** Living conditions in the Holy Land are dire as a result of this occupation which drastically restricts freedom of movement; cutting these Christians off from the larger world. Few can travel to work, find medical care, afford housing or worship freely.
- 8. We are called to help those in need.** Jesus ministered to the needs of the poor, the afflicted, and the oppressed. He calls us to do the same. It is our duty to help sustain our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land before there are none left.

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# REASONS TO SUPPORT the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF)

1. **We focus on Christians.** HCEF specifically addresses the needs of Christians in the Holy Land. We exclusively target Christians in our programs while maintaining good relations with other faith traditions as well.
2. **We focus on the Holy Land.** We work strictly in the Holy Land. This enables us to be especially familiar with and to develop programs for its people.
3. **We work on a personal level.** HCEF local committees support its' work on a grassroots level, where positive change can best be affected. Clergy, churches, organizations, families, and individuals work with us through our Holy Land Christian Support Network (HCSN).
4. **We help build effective long term relationships.** HCEFs' projects and programs help Christians in the West connect with Christians in the Holy Land. We help build personal, family, church, and school relationships, rather than simply "giving money"
5. **We share about our faith which is rooted in the Holy Land.** Many in the West are not aware of an Arab Christian presence in the Holy Land to which they can trace their roots. We work to increase awareness about how we can connect with these "living stones" of the Holy Land.
6. **We are peace makers.** HCEF is focused on the religious, not political dimensions of the situation in the Holy Land. We advocate for peace by promoting equality, dignity, and human rights in the region.
7. **We are ecumenical.** We work with Christians of all denominations in support of Christians in the Holy Land. We focus on what unites us in Christ, in order to most effectively support our brothers and sisters.
8. **We are good stewards.** All HCEF programs directly benefit the Christians of the Holy Land. We work to replace despair with hope, fear with security, and humiliation with human dignity.



*14 Years of  
Seeking Peace,  
Pursuing Hope, Security  
and Human Dignity!*

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HCEF is committed to maintaining the presence and well-being of the Arab Christians in the Holy Land, and to developing bonds of solidarity between them and Christians elsewhere.

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and humiliation with human dignity.***

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**Sr. Anne Guinan, MSHS**

and



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Very best wishes to The Holy Land Ecumenical Foundation for a successful *Living the Faith* International Conference. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all award winners on the 14th Anniversary of this outstanding event.

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## Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc.

### Fr. Anton Buzo/ Birzeit Senior Citizen Center

*Birzeit, Palestine*



*"I was lonely, now I have a family, friends, people who care about me."*

*Center Senior Citizen Member*

In a society which faces widespread isolation and travel difficulties, the elderly tend to be hardest hit. And when the general population struggles just to meet basic needs, programs like social security are non-existent. Here at the **Birzeit Senior Citizen Center**, we offer much more than social/cultural activities or medical screening. We invite our beloved seniors to regain their importance in our community, to develop a feeling of belonging. Collectively, we strive to fulfill the commandment to honor thy mothers and fathers, our role models who have shown us how to maintain courage and faith during turbulent times ... those that persevered and remained in our homeland.



*"We live our lives in moments, and the best moments are spent in this place."* Member, Birzeit Senior Citizen Center

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***We seek to replace despair with hope, fear with security,  
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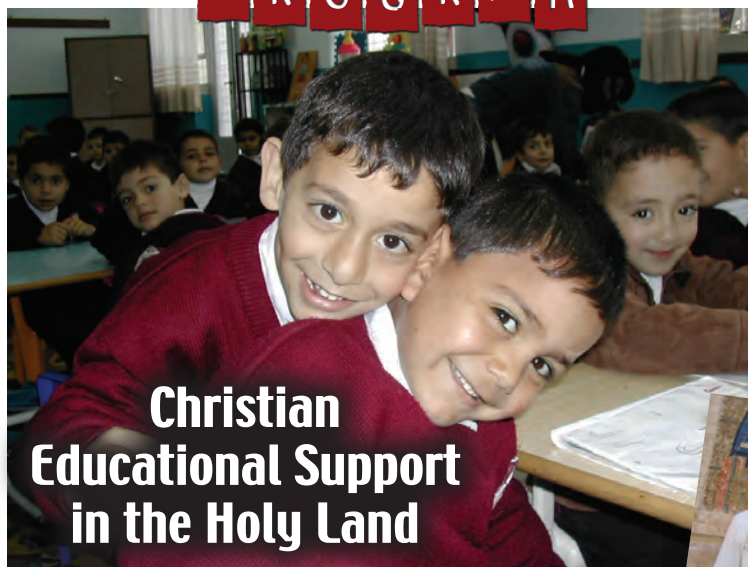
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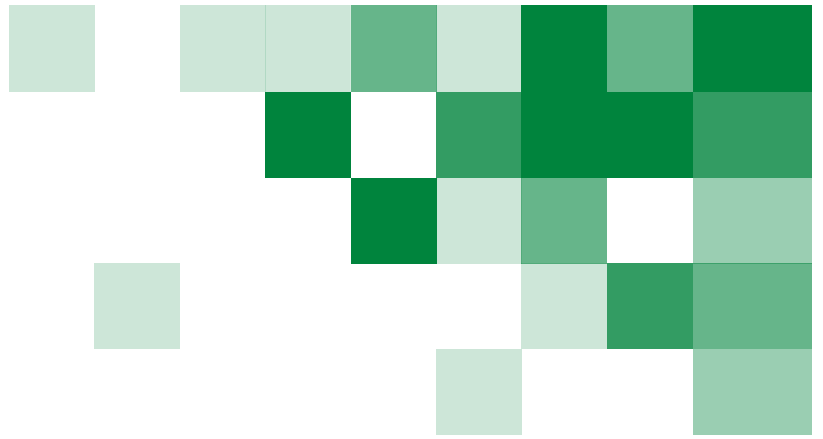
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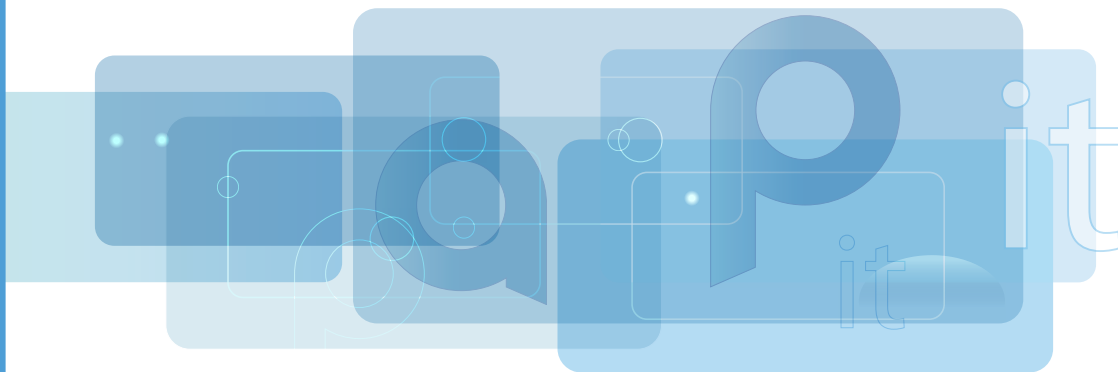
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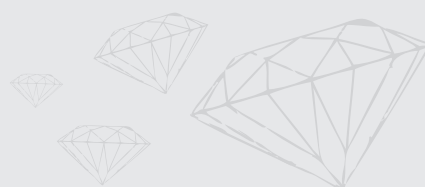
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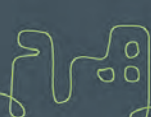
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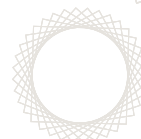
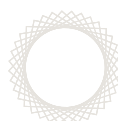
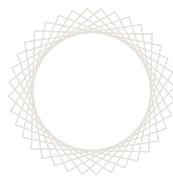
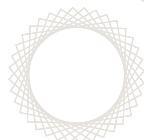




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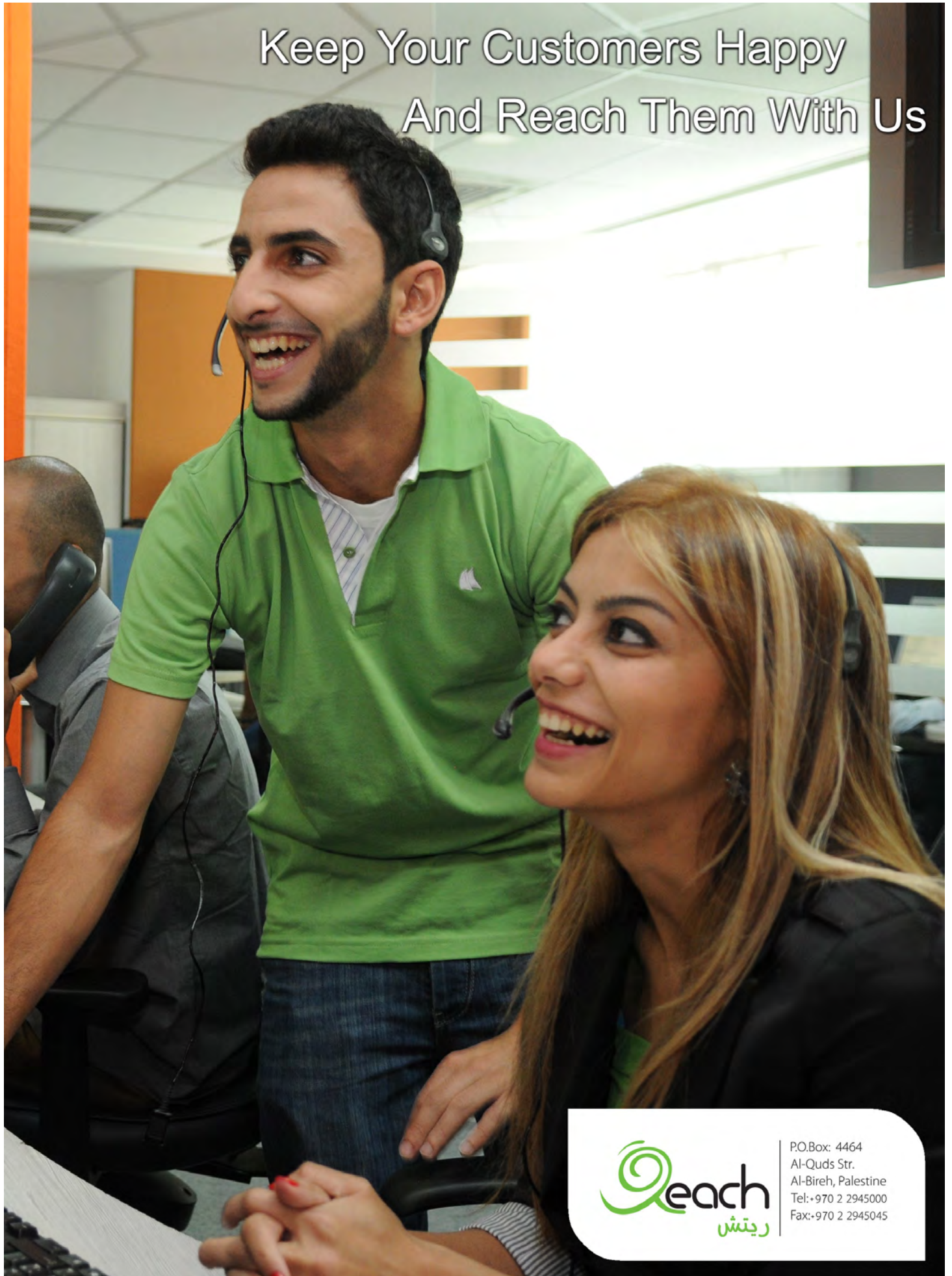


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