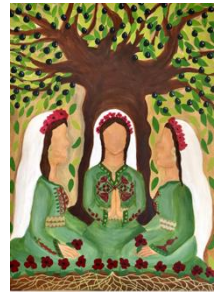




WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – 1st MARCH 2024

“I Beg You ... Bear With One Another in Love”

Service from Palestine



PROJECTS TO BE SUPPORTED

Each year World Day of Prayer offerings throughout the world go to projects chosen by the National Committees. World Day of Prayer Aotearoa New Zealand worked with the following organisations when selecting projects: Christian World Service, the Bible Society and the Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy

Christian World Service – The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) of the Middle East Council of Churches – programme for women’s co-operatives in the West Bank.

Under military occupation, Palestine went through a development process that is different and slower than many other countries not facing occupation, violence, and economic stagnation. Because of the unique environment, development efforts have taken many forms and shapes over the years, focusing on different actors including NGOs, civil society, private sector, and government institutions. Through these efforts women have even gained ground and have become more likely to take on more non-traditional roles, in addition to traditional housekeeping duties. Times of closures and restrictions, the loss of employment opportunities for men, and the freeze on taxes for the public sector have forced women to develop coping strategies that made many enter the formal and informal labour force. Many women engaged in co-operatives and associations to gain an increased income opportunity. These co-operatives are a significant social and economic contributor to the West Bank economy, with 10% of families benefiting from their efforts.

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Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy in New Zealand

Chaplains are available for all patients, their families or whanau and members of staff, for people of all faiths and none,

- to offer time to listen
- to encourage
- to support
- to help in looking at life issues
- for prayer
- for sacramental ministry
- for blessings

www.ichc.org.nz/chaplaincy.htm

The Bible Society – Child of Bethlehem Project

Background

The Palestinian Bible Society’s “Child of Bethlehem” project has been running since 2006.

It is a mainstay project for them, and it aims to reach all Palestinian children and youth in churches, schools and youth groups who are living in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip.

All funding for the project is very much appreciated. We are very grateful for the support of World Day of Prayer in supporting this project in 2024.

Context

Out of a population of 5.4 million living in the West Bank and Gaza, one third are aged under fifteen years old, but only one per cent are Christian. At its heart, this project is about educating children and youth about Christianity and Christian values and how to deal with emotions such as change from a Christian perspective.

The Bible Society team is experienced in running Bible camps, biblical trips, and events, with the latter often taking place at Christmas and Easter. It also runs programmes in schools and does puppet shows. The project includes the distribution of age-appropriate Scriptures to children and young people.

Among many Christmas programmes organised by Bible Society in December 2021, was one for disabled children living in the Ramallah area. (Ramallah is a city in the central West Bank about ten kms north of Jerusalem). (see photo on website)

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DSPR will assist women's initiatives in the West Bank to enhance their skills and production towards improving their socio-economic wellbeing. This will indirectly benefit family members, in addition to cooperative/society members, and the community at large. Technical accompaniment to women cooperatives will include on-site coaching, providing inputs to contribute towards enhanced production (tools like drying, packing or grinding equipment, labelling, vacuum shrink etc. small scale, easy to use units that help them improve their production to take it to the next level), and enable improved access to markets. DSPR's West Bank programme team will carefully assess the need with a brief feasibility study prior to providing support.

CWS first funded relief for Palestinian refugees in 1949 and has supported programmes for Palestinian refugees through the Department of Service to the Palestinian Refugees (DSPR), Middle East Council of Churches for over 30 years.

<https://cws.org.nz/>

Over the past few years, over 50,000 Bibles and Scriptures have been distributed through the "Child of Bethlehem" project, with around 50 summer camps supported, and more than 40,000 children reached.

The project is led by a team of committed regional directors and volunteers in the areas of Ramallah, Bethlehem, Jericho, Nablus, Jenin, Gaza, and Jerusalem. Through this project, barriers of theological differences are being broken down and Bible Society is helping to unite the body of Christ under one banner: "The Bible"!

www.biblesoc.org.nz