



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Palestine/Israel Resources

February 2012, *Equipping* #123



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Dear Pastors and members of Mennonite Church Canada congregations.

For many years Mennonites have witnessed to the good news of Jesus Christ in Israel and Palestine. Mennonite Church Canada has been a part of this witness. Hinke Loewen-Rudgers, a Witness worker now returned from three years of service in the city of Nazareth, Israel, has helped to initiate a partnership with several congregations in the Galilee region. We also continue to support the work of Bethlehem Bible College, a school in the West Bank that trains leaders of Arab Christian churches.

Through this work, as well as the work of other Mennonite agencies there, we are aware that the human rights situation in Palestine/Israel continues to be miserable and unjust. We have witnessed that a power imbalance of Israelis over Palestinians has failed to provide the longed for security in the region. The Israeli government's system of forced segregation, which some have called apartheid, plus the resulting oppression and violence, call us to advocate for a more just peace.

Be it resolved that Mennonite Church Canada work with Mennonite Central Committee to provide congregations with resources to help churches and individuals discern and seek Christ-like responses to the ongoing lack of peace in Palestine/Israel.

A resolution moved, seconded and passed at the Mennonite Church Canada Assembly, Waterloo, Ontario, July 7, 2011.

In response to the this situation, and a resolution at the Mennonite Church Canada Assembly in Waterloo, Ontario in July 2011, we urge our churches to explore resources that will give understanding into the lack of peace in Palestine/Israel and to seek ways to be involved in building peace in this region. In cooperation with Mennonite Central Committee, a list of resources has been compiled to help congregations and individuals to gain understanding and to advocate for a more just peace in the "Holy Land". In addition to the attached list additional resources to be highlighted in future editions of *Equipping*. Please consider how your congregation, Sunday School, or small group can use some of the listed resources attached.

Mennonite Church Canada continues to relate to church partners in Palestine and Israel, and is collaborating with other Mennonite agencies active in the region. Your continued prayers and support are important as we together seek to be faithful followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Resources for Palestine/Israel

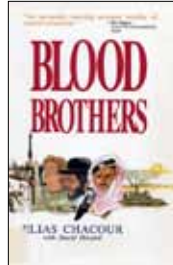
Compiled January, 2012, by Hinke Loewen-Rudgers

The Mennonite Church Canada Resource Center is a one-stop source of material on issues relating to Palestine/Israel and the church in the Middle East. Please see our website at www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1718 for the following and many more available resources.



What is Palestine/Israel?

Published by Herald Press, 2004. comprehensive introduction and summary of the political, economic and social situation in Palestine. Mennonite Central Committee has been working in the Middle East since 1949: www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1704



Blood Brothers,

by Elias Chacour, Baker Publishing Group 1984. A wonderful story that introduces the issues at hand in a very readable format:

www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1618



Churches for Middle East Peace,

a website that contains valuable resources for further study on advocacy and hope in Palestine/Israel: www.cmep.org/content/palestinian-christians

Zionism



Christian Zionism and Peace in the Holy Land, Mennonite Central Committee publication, 2005. A newsletter devoted to highlighting how Zionism has become something that hinders Christians from being good bridge builders: www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1705



Evangelicals for Middle East Understanding

has a very good list of books that approach Zionism theologically from the perspective of a variety of authors: www.emeu.net/reading.html



With God on our Side,

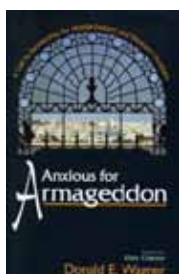
produced by Rooftop Productions 2010. A very good introduction to the effects of Zionism on the situation in Palestine/Israel: www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1706



Under Vine and Fig Tree,

Mennonite Central Committee's compilation of essays on the topic of land and its place in the conflict in Palestine/Israel:

www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1684



Anxious for Armageddon,

Donald E. Wagner, Herald Press, 1995. An easy-to-read account of the author's trip to the Holy Land and the challenges to Zionism his visit uncovers: www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1707

Advocacy



Mennonite Central Committee Ottawa Office
- The Ottawa office has very good resources available on its Palestine-Israel website:
ottawa.mcc.org/palestine-israel



Mennonite Central Committee link.
A selection of letters written to advocate for peace and justice in Palestine/Israel: middleeast.mcc.org/statements-and-letters-palestine-israel

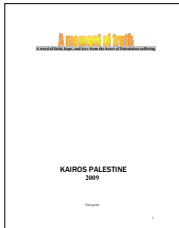


Witness in Palestine,
Anna Baltzer, Paradigm Publishers, 2007.
Human rights as seen by a Jewish journalist with day to day observations of life in the West Bank. Good diagrams and descriptions of the issues:
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1708

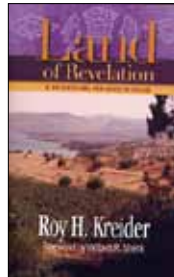


The Dividing Wall,
Mennonite Central Committee 2004.
The history of the dividing wall and its impact on Palestinian communities:
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1709

Church in Palestine/Israel



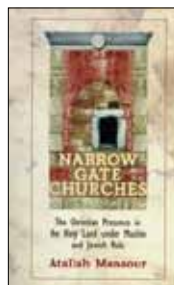
A Moment of Truth: A word of faith, hope, and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering,
KAIROS Palestine document.
A unified voice of the church in Palestine:
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1710



Land of Revelation,
by Roy H. Kreider, Herald Press, 2004.
The experiences of Mennonite workers with believing Jewish communities in Israel:
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1711



God's Love Builds Peace, 2011.
A short overview of Mennonite Church Canada's work in Palestine/Israel since 2008:
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1712



Narrow Gate Churches,
by Atallah Mansour, Hope Publishing House, 2004. A historical account of the author's own biographical journey as a Palestinian Christian:
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1713



Walking the Path Jesus Walked,
Mennonite Central Committee 2003. A very good picture of the church in the Middle East, including the story of a woman in Palestine:
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1714

Worship Resources



A good source of information for further study related to Arab Christians:

www.cmep.org/content/advent-2011-peace-love-justice-hope-joy%20



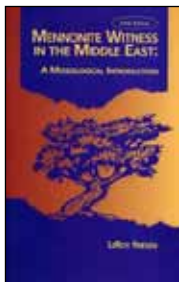
Washington Memo, an online Mennonite Central Committee resource. A wonderful compilation of worship pieces that highlight the conflict situation but emphasize unity in Christ. Compiled by Ken Nafziger: washingtonmemo.org/newsletter/fall10/worshipresources/



Mennonite Church Canada Mission Sunday Resource that highlights the Arab Christian church and gives topics for discussion and further study: www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1571

Additional Resources:

Mennonite Church Canada's Resource Centre contains many related resources. A small selection includes:



Mennonite Witness in the Middle East, by LeRoy Friesen. Mennonite Board of Missions, 2000. A comprehensive history of Mennonite involvement in the region:

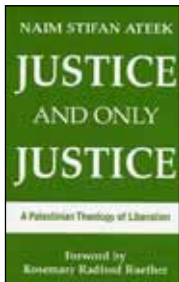
www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1715



Christ at the Checkpoint.

An annual conference produced this collection of theological reflections by local and North American presenters. See website for details on how you can attend the conference and support the church in Palestine:

www.christatthecheckpoint.com/index.php/multimedia/lectures-2010



Justice and only Justice, by Naim Ateek, Orbis books, 1989. Liberation theology as recounted by a local Palestinian pastor and director of Sabeel:

www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1716



The Lemon Tree,

by Sandy Tolan, Bloomsbury 2006. The tale of a simple act of faith between two young people - one Israeli, one Palestinian - that symbolizes the hope for peace in the Middle East:

www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1717