



THIS ISSUE:

A VISION TO STRENGTHEN
CHRISTIAN YOUTH

1

REPORT FROM NAZARETH
EVANGELICAL COLLEGE

3

REPORT FROM
HOPE STAFF, BEVERLEY

3

GAZA

4

SHEPHERD SOCIETY'S
SPECIAL PROJECT JORDAN

4



HOPE Outreach of Canada
is actively searching for a
Director/CEO. For information
or to apply, contact Board
Chairman, Paul Estabrooks, at
the address below:

1101-1985 Richmond St.
London, ON N5X 0A6
519-473-4267
paule@od.org

A Vision to Strengthen Christian Youth

Jabra is a lively, enthusiastic, twenty-something Palestinian Christian, with a lot of ideas, both creative and challenging. Writing Christian rap songs in the Palestinian language, for example, is just one of the many ideas he has for serving the youth of Palestine. But Jabra is not simply on his own mission. He brings all his ideas before God in prayer and says, "I'm willing to do what He asks of me."

Jabra's dedication to the Lord was tested and made clear when he decided to give up a very good job, not something that is easy to come by in the West Bank, to start his studies at Bethlehem Bible College. His family was reluctant to see him give up the certainty of a good job in exchange for a future that was not as clear or certain. But Jabra took the step of faith to pursue a vision of becoming a Christian counsellor in Palestine.

On top of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which puts pressure on the society as a whole, Christians in the West Bank have to deal with the fact that they are an increasingly small minority. Jabra shares what this looks like in day-to-day life: "I was the only Christian in my class and at some point even the only Christian in my school. I didn't have a Christian education, but my classmates kept asking questions about my faith and inviting me to convert to Islam. I didn't really know how to respond to that."

"I didn't really know how to respond to that." – This is exactly what Jabra hopes to address as a Christian counsellor in Palestine, once he has completed his studies. It is clear, when one meets Jabra, that he is very passionate about the youth of his country. Although he has many ideas, the most important way in
continued...



Jabra

which he hopes to serve them, in staying faithful to the Lord's calling on their lives, is through Christian counselling. As Jabra says, "My country needs more counsellors, and I'm dedicated to become one of them" — one who will be able to show the Christian youth of Palestine how to respond in a Christ-like manner in their families, classrooms and work situations. One who will help them to know how to respond when someone invites them to convert to Islam.

In order to attain his vision of becoming a counsellor, Jabra is currently in his fourth year of studies at Bethlehem Bible College. Jabra was one of the participants in training aimed at providing the students with 'a taste of trauma counselling.' It was a first step in equipping the students to understand trauma better and how to practically deal with it. Jabra excitedly tells about the creative component of the training: photography. He felt like the world had opened up to him. "I immediately went out and started taking pictures in the old city, like crazy." Learning to be creative, Jabra believes, could really help Palestinian youths with expressing themselves. "I noticed it myself, you see the world differently if you're looking at it through the lens of a camera."

One of the photography assignments called for the students to photograph what they understood to be Palestinian Christian identity. Jabra, himself from a Christian family, took a picture of an old church to express how deeply rooted Christianity is in his country: "It's important that Christians in this country realise this: we were here before Islam even existed and we shouldn't shy away from confronting ourselves with issues that we took from [Muslim culture], but actually don't belong in our Christian culture, like the position of women in society."

Since Jabra's dream is to become a counsellor, the trauma care training has helped him to be better equipped for his future job, because he has learned about the basics of supporting those who've experienced trauma. Jabra also believes that it is important for every Christian youngster to be in touch with a counsellor, but for this vision of his to be realised, there are far too few counsellors in the country at present. "I want to teach our youth that it is important to have a living relationship with Jesus — it will keep their faith alive."



Jabra reviews photos from trauma counselling through photography

After Jabra visited a school recently, his vision about his future in counselling was further confirmed. "I went to the class where they gave Christian education, and I wasn't surprised to see that there was just one 13-year-old girl sitting there. I knew how it felt to be the only Christian, so I talked to her and encouraged her to keep following the classes, although she was the only one attending." He stops talking and thinks for a while. "That's what I want to do: encourage the youth to hold on to their faith and be the change in society, even though we are a minority."

It is now some months since the trauma care trainers were at the college, but Jabra is still taking pictures. He has also stumbled upon some Christian rap songs while surfing on the internet, and is thinking of pursuing the idea of writing Christian rap songs in the Palestinian language. "It's one of those ideas that might be a bit unusual, but that I think could really work for the youth here," he says.

In whatever way the Lord works together His plans in Jabra's life, it is clear that he is not worried about standing out in the crowd, but that he has a deep desire to follow Jesus in his life. Our support is strategically helping Jabra and other Palestinian leaders pursue the vision of strengthening the youth of their country in the faith, so that they can be a witness for Jesus despite increasing pressures.

Report from Nazareth Evangelical College

We are still waiting to hear back from the Ministry of the Interior concerning our registration. We filled out all the forms and answered their questions; now we are waiting for the formal registration.

On June 27th we had our graduation with eight graduates this year – five women and four men. Among the graduates are: a pastor of a church in Haifa, a worship leader, two women involved in children and prison ministry, and two women with special needs who persevered all the way with serious challenges from time to time. In the coming newsletters we will be sharing more about our graduates and students.

An unprecedented encounter of Arab Evangelicals and Jewish Reform Jews was held on Monday, July the 13th in the Nazareth Evangelical College in Nazareth. We shared with the guests about evangelical Christianity as well as the history and vision of the college. Rabbi Zohar then shared about the history and doctrine of



2015 graduating class Nazareth Evangelical College.

Reformed Judaism. We praise God that in this difficult time in the country we at the college can be advocates for peace between people from different ethnic, religious and cultural groups.

The new academic year will start on the third week of September. We will have 13 students in our MA program and 26 students for our BA program. Our leadership program is also continuing this year in four

different churches in Galilee with almost 85 participants.

Please continue to pray for:

1. Our graduates and their different ministries in the country.
2. The preparation of the new academic year. Please remember our students, staff and faculty in your prayers.
3. Our financial needs for this coming year.

Report from HOPE Staff, Beverley

I will return to Bethlehem Bible College (BBC) early September to teach two academic English courses for the BA biblical studies program, as well as a community English course. During November I will also lead a Bethlehem Encounter trip for a group from Peoples Church (photo from last year's trip).

I may also help with the next "Christ at the Checkpoint" conference in March 2016.

Thanks for your prayer, support and encouragement. It is a joy to serve at BBC through HOPE Outreach.



Beverley teaches ESL at BBC

Gaza

You might be surprised to know that there is a very small group of Christians in Gaza. They are poor but they have a church and are grateful for it. Due to the geo-political situation, they are cut off from the rest of the world and they feel very spiritually isolated. Though these Gazan believers are mighty in faith, they feel that the world doesn't know about them or has forgotten them. They fear that the believers around the world might not be praying for them because they have very little access to believers outside of Gaza. Only when believers can come into Gaza to bring some aide, can they share about their struggles. Please pray for the believers in Gaza: Ask that their church will be strengthened and that their witness will reach the Muslim population



Closed Bible book store in Gaza.

surrounding them. Pray that their leadership will have wisdom in how their church can reach other Gazans with the Good News.

Ask that the believers in Gaza will receive encouragement that the Church has not forgotten them, but is standing with them.

Shepherd Society's Special Project Jordan

The Shepherd Society at BBC has been organizing mission trips to Jordan to serve among the Iraqi and Syrian refugees who escaped from their countries since the civil war started. The Iraqi refugees are suffering from difficult living conditions and are in need of urgent help. Most of them are Christians forced to leave Iraq because of the persecution. The Iraqis experienced the betrayal, beating, and kidnapping by the radicals. As well, most lost their money and their properties in Iraq.

They arrive in Jordan traumatized with a sense of isolation, concern for the future, and hopelessness. The Shepherd Society in Bethlehem would like to organize a mission trip to Jordan to help these people. It costs at least \$10,000 USD for such a trip. This amount is used to purchase food parcels, medicines, milk for children and pay the travel expenses of the Shepherd Society's team.

Will you help our Palestinian brothers and sisters as they reach out to aid these refugees? Please designate your donation for PROJECT JORDAN.

Donate securely through our website: www.hopeoutreach.ca. While there you can read much more about our ministry to the Holy Land.



HOPE Outreach of Canada
PO Box 20033
Woodstock, ON N4S 8X8
Phone: 519.473.4267 **NEW NUMBER**
Email: office@hopeoutreach.ca