

# HOPE

HOPE Outreach of Canada



Volume 6 • Issue 2 • Holy Land Connection

## THIS ISSUE:

GRACE'S PASSION FOR  
HER STUDENTS

1

PEACEMAKING AT BBC

2

PEACE AND  
RECONCILIATION

2

BBC BIBLICAL STUDIES  
GRADUATES

3



## New Website

HOPE Outreach has a new  
website at our same address:

[www.hopeoutreach.ca](http://www.hopeoutreach.ca)

Please stop by for a visit.

*We can cut expenses by sending you  
this newsletter by e-mail. Please send  
us your email address.*

## Teaching Bethlehem Believers to Hunger and Thirst for the Word

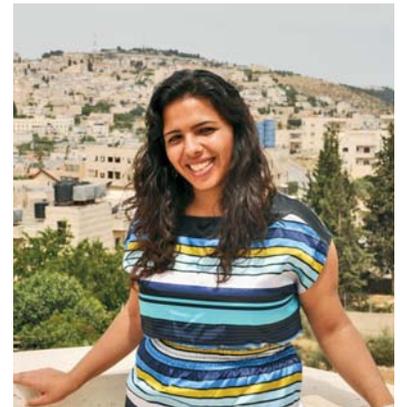
Bethlehem Bible College (BBC) begins another school year this month. How can you equip young believers that want to serve a pressured church that has to let its light shine in a non-Christian area ripped apart by conflict? Grace, “our young teacher from Bethlehem” shares her passion for her students at BBC:

I love the title I have been given: “Our teacher from Bethlehem.” It is fantastic being a teacher and fascinating to live in little Bethlehem. The two make a great combination. I can’t recount the number of times that I have felt thankful to the Lord for purposefully placing me in this part of the world. I started teaching at Bethlehem Bible College five years ago and found myself in the classrooms where I once sat as a student. Speaking of which, I was never a naughty student, not even lazy! Sometimes innocently mischievous though, but hey, laughter has to be an essential component in the equation!

Now I am a teacher, a strict one, my students might add, but rules are rules! Teaching makes my heart beat. I enjoy every bit of it. I enjoy preparing for my lessons; I enjoy challenging my students with the Word of God during my lectures as I am equally challenged by reading their thoughts and feelings articulated in their essays. Personally, I think teaching is never monotonous, especially when it comes to the Word of God. I feast on the Word of God like nothing else. It is healthy nourishment for the soul, good encouragement for the spirit and provides us with necessary motivation for our day to day life. Through my work at BBC, I would like to see more young believers hunger and thirst for the Word of God, that they might live by it, breathe it, use it as a guide and an inspiration for their daily thoughts, words and actions.

I feel a great sense of satisfaction, looking in the eyes of each of my students realizing that they have experienced for themselves that Jesus is “The way, the truth and the life.” In their daily challenges, amidst their limited freedom and restrictions and their shattered dreams, through their faith in Christ, their life is built on a rock that cannot be shaken: JESUS, what a beautiful name! As a minority of Christians

*continued on page 3...*



*Grace Zoughbi in Bethlehem*

# Peacemaking at BBC

BBC's inaugural year for its Master of Peace Studies program has been a fascinating journey for the participants. With a host of some of the most experienced professors in their field (who come from Palestine, Israel and around the world), students spent 9 months immersed in subjects such as reconciliation, conflict transformation, human rights and international law, peacemaking in Christianity, and non-violent activism.

While the majority of students are Palestinians, several local expats are also taking advantage of the opportunity to pursue an MA in this timely subject. Walter, from Canada, says that a combination of factors brought him to BBC:

*"I'm an Evangelical Christian who cares deeply about justice for the oppressed. I felt a personal calling to be a peacemaker, and I fell in love with Palestinian Christians. This combination put Bethlehem Bible College at the forefront of my mind. So when I discovered there would be an M.A. in Peace Studies, I dropped everything to come here."*

Haley and Rae are Americans living in Bethlehem, teaching school at a Christian academy. Neither came to Bethlehem to take part in the program, but both have become active participants since their arrival.

*"I decided to take the class to learn more about the conflict here and to meet Palestinians from all faiths who are committed to peace making" said Haley. "I think the thing I realized the most through this is how much culture affects us*

*ideologically. I have completely taken for granted my right to travel and live where I choose. The program has helped me to appreciate home in a new way—it is a symbol of security...an intimate part of identity."*

Hagob Benian, who grew up in the Armenian Quarter of the old city of Jerusalem found the program through Google search.

*"Our current hard situation, the ongoing conflict and hatred for so many years made me tired and drove me to a place*

from Jerusalem each day after work to attend the evening classes. He has plans to continue his work in peace activism after achieving his Master's degree.

*"I am a co-founder of a new non-profit organization, United Hands For Children...After this program, my vision towards other people has been changed. I am now looking at everyone as human beings first, and not their background or where they are from. I will be implementing some peace programs in our organization and will be working hard to change our painful reality; to help this land shift from a hateful to a peaceful daily life."*

Some Christians might question the need to work for peace on earth when we are promised heaven after we die. Arlette has a great answer to that question: *"The sole emphasis on our (individual) right relationship with God that leads to salvation—as important as it is, being the core of our Christian belief—misses that God's redemption includes all creation, and that He expects us to act accordingly. The result of neglecting these subjects leads to a dichotomy in living. What we do and preach on Sunday is not reflected in what we do between Monday and Saturday in many areas of our lives. People looking from the outside criticize us for being big on theory, short on practice."*

In a world where anyone can have a theory, it is our actions that ultimately prove who we are. Hagob echoes this

thought: *"Being a peacemaker is much harder than being a trouble maker, but our broken world needs peacemakers now more than ever."*

Here's to a new generation of Christians who are big on both theory and practice, leading the way for the establishment of biblical shalom/salaam in the Holy Land—now, more than ever.



*Some of BBC's Peace Studies students stand with Professor Edy Kaufman, second from right.*



*With Professor Mubarak Awad, fourth from left, back row.*

*where I started to believe that hope no longer existed. I almost gave up, until I decided to think out of the box and started to look for new ways to develop my thinking for a better future and to make a change—no matter how small. The changes will only come through us, the people."*

Despite the time-consuming process of entering and exiting Bethlehem through the checkpoint, Hagob drives

# Peace And Reconciliation

By Johan Companjen, former President of Open Doors International

**“W**e are two nations living in one house. We share the living room, the kitchen, the corridor, the bathroom, the toilet, but not the bedroom. The fact is, we do not like one another; worse still, we hate one another.”



Dr. Salim Manayer

These are the words of Dr. Salim Manayer from Israel pictured here. He is the leader and founder of the MUSALAHA movement for reconciliation. I met him a few years ago in

Bethlehem. Now he has come to the Netherlands together with ninety-four Messianic Jews and Palestinian Christians (including children).

Like many others, I responded to the invitation to come and meet our brothers and sisters from Israel. What a special evening it turned out to be! From the start, it was clear what Musalaha stands for. The name is taken from an Arabic word, which encompasses forgiveness and reconciliation. They recognise and confess that you cannot love God and hate your brother. The circle of hatred must be broken. Through Jesus' death on the Cross, as Christians we have become part

of the same family. On the basis of this, we must forgive one another and be reconciled to one another. We must demonstrate our unity in Christ to those around us. Only then will the world believe that Jesus came to the earth as the Son of God (see John 17:20-21).

Deeply moved, I listen to the story of David, a wonderful Jew with a big beard. Abraham might have looked like that, I think. He begins, “We’re here because we’ve made a mess of things in our own country.” He is not telling us anything new. I’ve seen the pictures on the news of the destruction that Israeli troops caused in Bethlehem, Ramallah and Jenin. Again and again we have seen shocking images of corpses and weeping relatives as a result of the attacks by Palestinian suicide bombers. Will there ever come an end to this dreadful spiral of violence? How can the hatred which is being sown ever be negated, I ask myself.

*“I came to realise that I cannot love God and at the same time hate my brother,”* David continues. *“God showed me that I’m responsible for my brothers. Palestinians, just like Jews, are sons of Adam and Abraham. They’re my brothers. However, in the last year, so much has happened in our country and we’re all so*

*wounded. We realise that we need healing and rest. In a country, which is at war, a movement, which promotes reconciliation, is soon misrepresented. You’re easily taken as someone who’s collaborating with the enemy.”*

How good it was to be inspired by our Jewish and Palestinian brothers and sisters. For them it is immeasurably more difficult than for us to put this commandment of Jesus into practice. But the same rules apply to us too.

We sang a song together that evening, in English, in Hebrew and in Arabic that took on a deep meaning:

He is our peace - we will be one  
He is our reconciliation  
The dividing wall is broken down  
He is our peace - we will be one

Reconciliation is the ministry, which Jesus has given to us (2 Cor. 5:18), to Jews and Palestinians; and to Dutch and Canadian people too.



Musalaha participants enjoying a meal in the desert.



Teaching Bethlehem from page 1

of less than one percent, living in a war-torn land, Jesus has to be number one.

When He is our only passion, doors open, lives are transformed and hearts are encouraged.

I am too humbled to express how grateful I am to our risen Savior at whose feet I always want to be a student.



# BBC Grads: Thus Far The Lord Has Helped Us!



long, because I want to get started ministering in the field of the Lord.” John is excited to become a pastor and work in ministry full time. “At BBC, no matter what is your denomination or your background, you are a very important human, and your existence at the college matters to everyone,” pointed out 22-year-old Mariam, while commenting about the college’s atmosphere.

An impact assessment research study about BBC graduates in the last 10 years concluded that 51% of Biblical Studies graduates are involved in ministry. Whether by being a religious education teacher, a pastor or a full time minister at

The students pictured here completed their 4-year training in Biblical Studies at Bethlehem Bible College and graduated this past June at BBC’s 29th Commencement Ceremony. They are now preparing for the good work that God has prepared in advance for them to do. Every day more than 360 alumni are using what they learned at Bethlehem Bible College to fully be the presence of Jesus in the Holy Land and beyond.

Patricia is working diligently with children’s ministry and is also the worship leader at her local church (not to mention a working mum with three children). She commented, “I have mixed feelings, I am happy and yet sad. I’m happy that I’m done with my studies, but sad that I’m leaving the college and my classmates.”

John agreed and added, “This is the day I was waiting for so

a local church or religious organization, students are impacting our society with Kingdom values. This year is no exception, most of our students are already in ministry or applying for jobs in local churches and religious organizations.

Many future graduates also expressed their desire to sign up for Bethlehem Bible College’s Christian Leadership MA program. “I don’t want to leave the family of BBC, so I’m planning to sign up for the Masters in Christian Leadership program. In addition, I want to be a full time minister,” said John from Beit Jala, who shared his plans for the future.

Please join the family of Bethlehem Bible College in prayer for the lives and future ministries of these valued students. And remember you can further impact current students by funding our HOPE Outreach BBC scholarship program.

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please pray for Beverley Timgren and Yujeong Cho, our Canadian missionaries as they begin work again at Bethlehem Bible College this month. Pray also for all students, faculty and staff...for a good start to a new school year.
- Pray for Musalaha as they carry out our “Women of Aboud” project.
- Pray for the special “Arab Deborah Arising” women’s conference to be held in Nazareth September 22-24 led by HOPE House of Prayer.

Donate securely through our new website: [www.hopeoutreach.ca](http://www.hopeoutreach.ca). While there you can read more about our ministry to the Holy Land.



HOPE Outreach of Canada  
PO Box 32010 RPO Northland  
London, ON N5V 5K4  
Phone: 519-473-4267  
Email: [info@hopeoutreach.ca](mailto:info@hopeoutreach.ca)