

Christ's life is the light
that shines through the
darkness—and the
darkness can never
extinguish it.

John 1:5

Living Bible

He is not here; he
has risen, just as
he said.

Matthew 28:6





<https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/Political-Map-of-Countries-of-Western-Asia.htm>

The Presbyterian Church (USA)
works with partners in:
Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Kuwait,
Bahrain, Oman, Egypt, Jordan, and
Palestine/Israel.

PCUSA/WM
Partners in
the Region
Elmarie
serves

National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL)	Assembly of National Evangelical Churches in Iraq	Middle East Council of Churches (MECC)	Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches (FMEEC)
World Student Christian Federation (WSCF-Beirut)	Near East School of Theology (NEST) in Beirut, Lebanon	Lebanese American University (LAU) in Beirut and Byblos, Lebanon	Blessed School in Lebanon (working with students who have disabilities)
Home of Hope in Lebanon (working with social orphans)	Joint Christian Committee (JCC) working with Palestinians in Lebanon	Compassion Protestant Society (CPS) working in Lebanon and Syria	Jinishian Memorial Program (JMP) working with Armenians in Lebanon and Syria
Arab Institute for Women (Program of LAU)	Bible Society of the Gulf	Forum for Development, Culture, and Dialogue (FDCD) based in Lebanon	Al-Amana (Interfaith) Centre (Muscat, Oman)
Contact & Resource Center working with the physically disabled community (Lebanon)	MENA Trauma Resource Center (Byblos, Lebanon)	Adyan in Lebanon	Synod of the Nile (Egypt)
	Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt	Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS) in Egypt	

PCUSA/WM
Partners in
Palestine-
Israel

Department of
Services for
Palestinian Refugees
(DSPR)

Ahli Arab Hospital,
Gaza City, Episcopal
Diocese of Jerusalem

The Evangelical
Lutheran Church in
Jordan and the Holy
Land

Bethlehem Bible
College

Dar al-Kalima
University in
Bethlehem

B'Tselem – The Israeli
Information Center for
Human Rights in the
Occupied Territories



Gaza Up-Close



Source: UN Ocha, 2023

BBC

Gaza In Context


After Israel-Egypt peace treaty, 1982



BBC

An Update from DSPR and Ahli Arab Hospital

- PCUSA Middle East/Europe Office will be sending a grant to support the work of Ahli Arab Hospital (\$30k+)
- DSPR is also supported with grants through our office



Easter Greetings from Bishop Dr. Sani Ibrahim Azar

Evangelical Lutheran Church in
Jordan and the Holy Land



Easter Greetings from Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb

Holy Week and Easter Message



Lebanon

✘ NESSL Congregations

★ Education/Community Centers for Syrian Refugees



Impacts of the War in Lebanon

- Over 90,000 people displaced from the southern border of Lebanon (early March 2024)
- Israel's shelling of Lebanon has killed nearly 270 Hezbollah fighters, but it has also killed about 50 civilians – including children, medics and journalists – and hit both UNIFIL and the Lebanese army. (end of March 2024)
- Over 80% are taking refuge in the city of Tyre/Sour



Destruction in Aalma El Chaeb



Impacts of the War in Lebanon

- Southern Lebanon accounts for 37% of the country's agricultural production
- 2,447 Israeli strikes on southern Lebanon between the Hamas attacks on 7 October 2023 and 1 January 2024 (National Council for Scientific Research-- <https://en.majalla.com/node/310791/culture-social-affairs/israel%E2%80%99s-scorched-earth-policy-hits-southern-lebanon-hard>)
- 800 hectares (1,977 acres) of land burned in same period of time
- More than 60,000 olive trees (many between 150-250 years old) burned as of early March 2024 (Israeli shelling, airstrikes (2,200 instances), incendiary flare bombs (107), and phosphorus bombs (73) have all been counted.)
- 343.9 hectares (850 acres) of mature pine forests burned
- Banana and Citrus plantations damaged

Work of Adyan and MECC

- \$25k PDA Grant to Adyan being used to supply generator fuel to last hospital operating in the far south.
- MECC, through ACT Alliance and other partners, is helping over 10,000 displaced persons access blankets, food kits, hygiene kits, diapers for children and the elderly, cleaning kits, diesel for lighting and heating the shelters, and dignity kits for women as well as multi-purpose cash






Work of NESSL Community/Education Centers

- The Centers support 1000 Syrian Refugee Children across four education centers, Minyara, Tripoli, Qob Elias and Tyre/Sour.
- Focus is on children under the age of six who cannot be schooled yet
- The centers also offer tutoring for older children whose education lags behind standard school curriculums.
- NESSL also is supporting 100 families displaced from Aalma El Chaeb, Deir Mimas, and Marjayoun areas for \$100/month each



PCUSA Learning Opportunities

- Wednesday, April 3, 12 noon EDT: Please join the Office of Public Witness, the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, and the World Mission Middle East Office for a webinar discussing the Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza.
 - Speakers include Nader Abu Amsha , Director, Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (Middle East Council of Churches)
 - Bill Deere, Director, UNRWA Washington Representative Office
 - Hassan El Tayyab, Legislative Director for Middle East Policy and Advocacy Organizer, Friends Committee on National Legislation
 - Moderated by Catherine Gordon, Representative for International Issues, Presbyterian Office of Public Witness
- Saturday April 6, 2pm EDT: The Middle Eastern Intercultural Office for Congregational Support and the National Middle Eastern Presbyterian Caucus (NMEPC) invite you to hear Middle Eastern PCUSA People voice their concern regarding the U.S.A., Gaza, and the Church.
 - Speakers: Rev. Fahed Abuakel, Elder Amgad Beblawi, Dr. Mirna Wasef.
 - They will discuss the contemporary dynamics of the situation, provide background to the current events and U.S. involvement, as well as share their own experience travelling in the region and meeting with Palestinians and Israelis, Christians, Muslims, and Jews.
- Thursday, April 18, 12noon EDT: Christian Zionism Webinar—a discussion unpacking the history and impact of this theological paradigm on realities in Israel and Palestine, as well as in the USA and other countries. Details will be forthcoming.



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