

Upcoming Events

- Nursery Available (Ages 0-5) - Parents > attendant will escort you
- Every Sunday - L.I.F.E. Groups @ 9-10AM - All Ages
- July 8th (Tues) - Monthly Board Mtg. @ 7PM (in-person/online)
- Aug 11th -15th - Family Retreat
 - IF YOU HAVE RESERVED A ROOM(S) →
 - Please email Laura @ Laura.Dolhansky@gmail.com with -
 - (1) Your address (2) # of adults (3) Ages of any kids under 17
 - Adults (18+) > \$335 per person (Includes gratuity)
 - Ages 12-17 > \$200
 - Ages 5-11 > \$155
 - Ages 0-4 > Free
- Now through Aug 31st - Gift Donations for Ladies Retreat (Ramie Hood)
 - All donations in foyer please
- 10% of ALL our Giving goes to Global Missions
Designated Offerings can be made to - Local Outreach, Changemakers etc.
- Get CONNECTED with God, His Church & His People see - CONNECT Card
- Wednesday nights @ 7:00PM - Bible Study & Prayer
www.fairmeeting.net/fbcblackwood

— MISSIONARIES —



Romania

- Cristian & Vanessa Martinez
- martinezinromania@gmail.com

Persecuted Christian

- ISRAEL -

LOOKING FOR PEACEMAKERS ON "BOTH SIDES"

A pastor & his church are providing food for their community in Gaza to spread the love of God. "Each day brings more loss & even basic food is becoming harder to find," said Pastor Hanna, a Christian from Gaza. "Yet, in the midst of darkness, God's light continues to shine." Pastor Hanna coordinates teams that prepare & distribute food inside Gaza amid the current conflict. The food is given to Christians & also to the wider community in the territory as the team works to share God's love in the warzone. "On May 22, we provided 880 hot meals" Pastor Hanna said, adding that the logistics of providing the meals are challenging & costs have been increasing. He asks for prayer for everyone in the region. "May God raise up peacemakers on both sides, in Jesus' name."

The decades-long conflict between the Israeli government & Palestinian authorities over the city of Jerusalem, the temple, the land & the status of Palestinian refugees remains among the world's most volatile issues. During this conflict, both Jews & Muslims have been coming to faith in Christ despite their religions' instructions to reject Christ as Lord & Savior. Christian activity is routinely opposed by Islamists among the Palestinian Arab populations of the West Bank & Gaza, & occasionally opposed by ultra-Orthodox & other anti-missionary Jews in Israel proper. Despite this opposition, some churches include both Jews who have accepted Christ as the Messiah & Arabs who have left Islam & placed their faith in Jesus. Active ministry efforts among both groups involve Bible distribution, discipleship, evangelism, church planting & theological education. The Palestinian Authority maintains some control over the West Bank under Israeli federal authority, while the militant Muslim group Hamas controls the Gaza Strip. Both groups are adamantly opposed to Christian activity & indoctrinate their populace to hate the West. Jews & Christians. The 2 major religions in Israel are Judaism & Sunni Islam, with Christians composing a 2% minority.

In Muslim regions, Christian converts from Islam face severe persecution from their families, society, Palestinian government authorities & Hamas. In Jewish communities, Jews who follow Christ risk rejection, social pressure & occasional violence from ultra-Orthodox Jews & organized anti-missionary groups.

Jewish anti-missionary groups, especially Yad L'Achim, sometimes protest outside churches, cursing Christians & vandalizing their buildings. The anti-missionary activities have at times included violence against Christians.

Bible societies operate in Israel, including the areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority & Hamas. Christians have access to Bibles throughout the country, though they are dangerous for Christians or seekers to possess in Islamist-controlled areas.

PLEASE PRAY -

That Christians in Israel will be witnesses to God's love in a region dominated by hatred & extremism.

For Pauline Ayyad, who has ministered to widows like herself since her husband was killed by Islamists in 2007

That churches targeted by Jewish anti-missionary groups will be bold witnesses to their persecutors & for Christian converts from Islam, who face violent opposition from family members & local governments.

That Christians in Islamist-controlled areas will have access to God's Word without fear of detection

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