

Palestine

The Living Stones Project



Overview

The Palestinian Bible Society are working through the Living Stones Centre in the Ramallah District to strengthen the faith of Christian women, and by doing so, to impact the future of their community. They are embracing the Christian community through effective, Bible based programs, and seeking to be 'salt and light' in society, especially in times of crisis.

The Need

The Palestinian Bible Society recognise the needs of young girls and women in The West Bank and Gaza areas. They are a very important part of the community that is vulnerable, forgotten and greatly undermined by gender inequality. Some women in the Ramallah district on the West Bank know little about the Bible, while others who are already leaders at churches feel that they are burnt out and there is nothing offered to them. There is a need for activities which gather these women together, both to celebrate at Christmas and Easter, to read and learn about the Bible together, and to be strengthened and encouraged. Furthermore, children and youth in the same areas comprise more than 50% of the community, and are a vulnerable group who are also traumatised, as a result of unrest, violence and war. Finally, families in the West Bank are the centre of learning for many generations. When families are strong, societies and communities are strong too. There is a need to invest in families, in order to invest in the future of communities.

47K

Christians in Palestine (2017 PCBS census), close to 98% are living in the West Bank

< 1%

of the Palestinian population are Christians.

> 50%

of the Palestinian community comprise of children and youth – a vulnerable group, and considered a 'good soil' for investment and development

Goals

The Palestinian Bible Society aim to strengthen and encourage women, children and youth, and whole families in Bir Zet and the larger Ramallah District, so they may build a healthy stable community. This will be done through discipleship programs. The goal is to strengthen the faith of all Christians, and help them to practice it on the ground, by engaging them with the word of God and uplifting their spirits.

In 2024, the Living Stones project will:

- Hold weekly Bible study/meetings for women, as well as two overnight Bible Conferences

- For children, weekly Bible studies will be held at schools, and monthly Sunday school at the Living Stones centre. 3 - 4 excursions to biblical sites will also be held, as well as a Bible Summer Camp (5 days).

- For youth and students, weekly meetings for young women (including young mothers) as well as separate weekly meetings for young men will be held. Bible Society will conduct 8 trips to biblical sites (4 for males and 4 for females), and 4 overnight conferences.

- For families, Bible Society will hold weekly meetings and Bible Studies,

conduct 3 Field Trips / excursions, and hold one Conference

- For university students, this project will run a Bible training conference, a Book Fair, monthly Bible studies, and two trips to biblical sites.

- To support churches, Bible Society will run Holiday Programs (at Christmas and Easter), print a monthly village newsletter and hold a Bible competition.

Impact

The impact of this project will be seen ultimately in the changed lives of those who are reached. The women's meetings seek to enable participants to understand what they read by themselves in the Bible and teach them how to lead a small Bible study within their homes and small communities. The intention is to help women see themselves through the eyes of the Lord, realising their value, and to understand that there is a crucial role for them in life in building the Kingdom of God. To do this, the Palestinian Bible Society teaches them how to understand and find answers to their questions and not take what they hear for granted.

- Women who have participated in the various programs have learnt the need to have a companionate heart for those around us, and to pray for them. They have learnt to pray as they raise their children, and have taught them how to live well, through the Bible's teaching.
- 4,000 students and young people experience Christian love and witness through the daily centre gatherings.
- 100 women's groups gather monthly for activities and Bible Studies, strengthening them and encouraging them towards a better lifestyle. Special emphasis is placed on a new group of young mothers, who will also be exposed to parenting skills.
- Supporting the active Bir Zet Christian Youth groups with monthly Bible Studies in the Living Stones centre is investing in the next generation
- Equipping university students with Christian outreach skills by holding monthly meetings for them
- Strengthening the relationships of youth and children – with God and each other – and providing them with different skills.
- The community are engaged in spiritual discussions to gain a better knowledge of their Bibles.
- A number of Biblical field trips for different groups help people connect the Bible with the location and read it differently.
- Bible Society stays connected with the larger village community through special Seasonal/Holiday Church and village events, including Christmas and Easter.

Prayer Needs

- Pray for the Palestinian Bible Society team to be true 'salt and light' to the people in the Ramallah District.
- Continue to pray for the women's group, that they will grow to know the Lord more and more. Pray for newcomers to the meetings and for them to reach out to their children, families and the whole household
- Pray for the project leaders in the program and the team members to have God's wisdom in leading this project.
- Pray that from 2023 the team would be able to develop three rooms to be an interactive centre that teaches the young generation the importance of the word of God and how the Bible came to us.

