



Hope for Christians in the Holy Land

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Signs of Hope in the Holy Land By Marc Cavaliere - Program Manager

Marc Cavaliere is a seasoned international executive following a distinguished 43-year career in the global aviation industry.

I've just returned from an intensive week on the ground in the Holy Land, visiting with the ministries that we support and meeting with our partner organizations, the key shepherds of our Christian faith—including at the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, the ecumenical Bethlehem Bible College, and discussions with the Apostolic Vicariate of Lebanon. Listening to our brothers and sisters across these communities, three clear truths emerged:

- **The need remains urgent.** Until pilgrimages fully resume and the dependent economy is at least partially restored, families are enduring severe daily hardship.
- **Your generosity makes a tangible, measurable difference.** Every contribution counts. It is seen, felt, and deeply appreciated—in every hot meal served, every orphaned child sheltered, and every medical exam provided.
- **Hope is resilient.** We are beginning to witness the very first pilgrims return to these sacred streets. While this recovery may not be an overnight rebound, the local Christian community remains steadfast in faith and deeply committed to staying rooted in their homeland. We're helping to make that possible.

In our last newsletter, we spotlighted our mission pillar Select to Respond. Thanks to your dedicated support, we are actively delivering on that promise by broadening our direct aid across these key pillars:

- **Select to Care:** Expanding specialized care and facility support at the Hogar Niño Dios orphanage in Bethlehem and providing direct

humanitarian assistance and relief to marginalized and suffering Christian communities in Southern Lebanon.

- **Select to Educate:** Funding tuition and operational grants for Christian elementary schools across Bethlehem and Gaza.
- **Select to Heal:** Financial aid to meet the critical needs of the Christian children's hospital in Gaza.
- **Elder Care Initiative:** Extending vital relief to a struggling nursing home serving impoverished elderly residents in Jerusalem.

Looking toward 2027, on-the-ground developments give us genuine cause for optimism that regular pilgrimage travel will steadily resume. We invite you to stay actively engaged through three of the most impactful ways to stand with our Living Stones:

- **Join a Pilgrimage:** Whether for a first time or returning to walk the holy sites. This provides jobs for vital economic recovery and emotional communion for local Christian families.
- **Sustain Charitable Support:** 100% of your donor dollars go directly to relief projects on the ground.
- **Serve as a Volunteer:** As our volunteer programs resume, come lend your time and your heart directly to our on-site initiatives in the Holy Land.

Thank you for your enduring prayers, your trust, and your generosity. Together, we are keeping hope alive where our faith began, and where our faith endures.

Select to Care!

Helping Needy Seniors in East Jerusalem

East Jerusalem is where Jesus wept, prayed in agony before His arrest, taught the Our Father, and ascended into Heaven. Today, the Home Notre-Dame des Douleurs, a nonprofit Catholic geriatric and nursing facility, accompanies and houses vulnerable seniors by providing “medical, physical, and pastoral care regardless of social status, religion, or background.”

The residents, from Jerusalem and the West Bank, are often forgotten, lacking family or financial support and facing limited government assistance due to their social status.

Led by Sr. Claire-Emmanuel, the Catholic home serves both Christian and Muslim seniors. It offers hope to its 28 residents and has the space to serve more, but lacks the funding to meet the needs of additional residents. They are also committed to opening a small outpatient clinic within their facility to serve the growing number of West Bank seniors who desperately need their help.

Select to Give, in partnership with the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, is committed to supporting the Daughters of Our Lady of Sorrows in caring for these seniors with the human dignity they deserve.

Year to date, Select to Give has given the Home Notre-Dame des Douleurs \$25,000.00.

More details are coming soon. Click [HERE](#) and earmark your donation for "Seniors."

Helping Children with Special Needs



We are excited to announce a new partnership that will bring much needed care to special needs children living in Gaza and East Jerusalem.

“Since October 2023, Jerusalem *Princess Basma Centre* has been providing services for children with disabilities and their families in Gaza, through the initiative ‘Heart to Heart- Jerusalem to Gaza’.”

As you can imagine, the needs of children in this region during these times are especially great. Select to Give is committed to supporting emergency care and ongoing therapy for the people the *Princess Basma Center* serves in Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem.

Year to date, Select to Give has given \$17,000.00 to the Princess Basma Centre.

Help Us Care for These Children!



Nurturing Hope in the Holy Land: Supporting the Mor Aphrem School

Nestled in the hills of Beit Jala within the Bethlehem Governorate, the Mor Aphrem School stands as an indispensable pillar of our Christian faith, learning, and cultural survival. Founded in 2003, this private K–12 institution is one of the very few Christian schools in the region and proudly educates the area's largest Christian student body—comprising roughly 90% of its enrollment. Alongside its rigorous academic instruction and national curriculum, Mor Aphrem serves a sacred cultural mission: preserving the ancient Syriac language (Middle Aramaic), the very tongue spoken by Christ. Despite profound geopolitical challenges and an increasingly fragile local economy, the school achieves extraordinary academic excellence, with approximately 90% of graduating seniors earning acceptance into universities.

Yet academic promise alone cannot overcome economic hardship. Operating entirely without state funding, Mor Aphrem relies solely on private tuition and charitable goodwill. Today, with the local economy severely strained, roughly 60% of students rely on financial aid just to step through the school doors. For several years, Select to Give has walked alongside this vital community, bridging the gap between struggle and opportunity. As the 2026–2027 academic year begins, we are blessed and humbled to announce that Select to Give is once again sponsoring the tuition for 50 deserving students—keeping young scholars in their classrooms, protecting families from devastating financial strain, and preserving a thriving Christian presence in the cradle of our faith.

None of this would be possible without the heartfelt generosity of our pilgrims and donors. Your steadfast support touches the lives of these children every single day, giving them a foundation of dignity, hope, and purpose. As we look ahead, Mor Aphrem urgently needs to raise capital to introduce modern smart boards into its classrooms, bringing essential interactive learning tools to these bright minds. We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who makes this mission possible, and we invite our Select to Give family to continue standing with us as we equip the living stones of Bethlehem with the tools, technology, and faith to build a brighter tomorrow.

Year to date, Select to Give has given \$50,000.00.



Give gifts from the Holy Land! **Juthour of Kando**

The holidays are just around the corner. Want to give family and friends something truly unique? How about a gift handmade by Christian artisans living in the Holy Land and sold by someone directly connected to one of the greatest Biblical discoveries of the modern age?

[Juthour of Kando](#) is a store in Bethlehem that specializes in antiquities, jewelry, olive wood, and icons made by the local Christian community. When you buy from them, you are directly supporting the Christians who make these beautiful items. The founders' story is like something straight out of Hollywood!



The Kando family fled their homeland during the Hamidian massacres against Christians in 1895 in Turkey, finally settling in Bethlehem. The founders'

grandfather, Khalil, was working as a cobbler in 1947, when two shepherds brought him some leather to make into sandals. Archaeology was his passion, and Khalil could tell right away this was no ordinary leather.

The leather contained Biblical passages written in Aramaic. These strips of leather would later become known as the Dead Sea Scrolls. If you would like to learn more about this fascinating story, or if you would like to make a purchase and support the Christian artisans and shopkeepers, please click on the link below to their website. Be sure to use code **STGF1** at checkout for 10% off!

[Visit Juthour of Kando](#)

More News from the Holy Land

- [The Voice of the suffering in Middle East](#)
- [Holy Land: “Living space for Christians is getting smaller and smaller”](#)

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