



10 Reasons to Support the Palestinian Christians of the Holy Land

1. **The indigenous Christians are descendants of the first faithful**, and trace their roots back to those first to embrace the transforming message of our Lord Jesus Christ. These Christians remain our ancestral link to the early church. *“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.... And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?... and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and **Arabs**, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.” Acts 2:1-11*
2. **They continue to live out the faith**, and for more than 2000 years they have preserved the Christian Heritage in the Holy Land for **all** Christians world- wide.
3. **The presence of Arab Christians ensures that churches and holy sites remain places of Christian worship**, unlike other places in the world where the holy sites and places of Christian worship have become cold, empty museums, devoid of the living body of Christ.
4. **We must ensure that the younger generation is raised in Christ.** Primarily, youth learn the teachings of Christ and the importance of Church through a solid education in the Holy Land’s Christian schools. Western churches can **help keep the Christian schools open.**
5. **They are our brothers and sisters in Christ.** Arab Christians are our roots to Christianity. Scriptures tell us that the church is like a living body with many parts *“and the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.” 1 Cor. 12:21*
6. **Our shared Christian faith will be deepened.** As our eyes are opened to **our Christian heritage which began in the Holy Land**, our faith is deepened as we are connected with our Christian roots- the first followers of Jesus Christ – the Arab Palestinian Christians and their present-day experience.
7. **Arab Palestinian Christians are a natural bridge to peace.** As Palestinians, they share the same culture, history, language and aspirations of Palestinian Muslims, and as Christians they can connect with Jews as they understand and share a history of faith. With the support of the Western Christians, Arab Palestinian Christians are more empowered to be the natural bridge for peace.
8. **Arab Palestinian Christians are suffering.** As a result of the separation wall, checkpoints and border closures, living conditions in the Holy Land are dire. Freedom of movement is severely restricted and very few can get adequate medical care, or afford housing.
9. **Arab Palestinian Christians are leaving their home.** With an extremely high unemployment rate it is difficult to provide for the well-being of families, and young adults have increasingly dim prospects for the future. Thus many are leaving the Holy Land.
10. **Our faith compels us to help those in need.** Just as Jesus ministered to the needs of the poor, the afflicted, and the oppressed, He compels us to **put our faith** in action to do the same. It is our duty as Christians to help sustain our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land sustain and preserve OUR Christian roots. ***Let us work together to replace despair with HOPE, fear with Human SECURITY and humiliation with DIGNITY.”***