

## *Israel - Palestine*



Since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, struggles for land and property rights have characterized this Biblical land. Wars fought in 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973 caused a significant number of Palestinians to be displaced from their homes. In some cases, people were displaced more than once. Despite peace agreements between Israel and Egypt, and Israel and Jordan, Israeli-Palestinian efforts to solve this long-standing conflict have thus far not achieved a lasting resolution of the major issues of Jerusalem's status, Jewish settlements, sovereignty, and refugees, all of which remain divisive. Local and international, including U.S. and church supported, efforts to end Israeli occupation and create a just two-state solution remain key to future peace and development throughout the region, yet continue to suffer political obstacles and tragic violence.

Pray for: The spirit of justice and peace as political leaders discuss, debate, and negotiate the future of these lands, and as Israelis and Palestinians continue to live as apprehensive neighbors.

The churches of these lands, especially as the Christian population diminishes.

The MECC's Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees, the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center, the YWCA and YMCA, Rawdat El-Zahur primary school, and the many courageous individuals who speak out about the situation from their deep faith.

### **A Christian Call for Peace**

We pray for peace in the Holy Land.

We are Christians called to express our concerns for peace in Israel and Palestine.

We believe that one of the primary outcomes of negotiations in the Middle East must be a viable Palestinian state living in peace alongside the state of Israel. For a Palestinian state to be viable and for Israel to be secure, Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza must end. All Israeli settlement activity in the Occupied Territories must cease.

We believe in the vision of a shared Jerusalem as the heritage, hope and home of two peoples and three religions. Jerusalem should be a shared, open city—a sign of peace and a symbol of reconciliation for the Abrahamic faiths.

We call for an immediate end to the cycle of violence. We support a negotiated agreement for an Israeli-Palestinian-Arab peace based on international law.

We strongly support the presence of international observers as one immediate means of discouraging further violence between Palestinians and Israelis.

We urge our country's leaders to do all in their power to prepare the road for a just and durable peace.

***Cathy Nichols will be in the Southland Easter Week: M-Th, Call Susan Richardson for appointment/talk:(714) 685-6827***