

Hope for the Holy Land Midwest Tour, USA

September 2012

Join World Vision's Mae Elise Cannon as she hosts a conversation and discussion about Christian engagement in Israel and Palestine. Guest speakers include Lynne Hybels, one of the founders of Willow Creek Community Church, and Sami Awad, Palestinian Christian and executive director of Holy Land Trust. Global minded Christians committed to compassion and justice can bring hope to broken communities throughout the world. An important element that is often neglected is the role Christians can play as peacemakers and reconcilers in the midst of conflict. Learn how you can be an advocate of peace and justice while partnering with Israelis and Palestinians committed to security, freedom and dignity for all the people of the Holy Land.

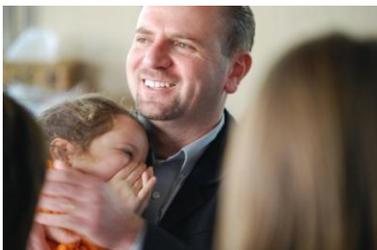


Co-sponsors:

World Vision: World Vision is a Christian relief and development organization dedicated to helping children and their communities worldwide reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty. Motivated by our faith in Jesus, we serve the poor—regardless of a person's religion, race, ethnicity, or gender—as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people.



The Holy Land Trust: Through a commitment to the principles of nonviolence, the Holy Land Trust seeks to strengthen and empower the Palestinian community in developing spiritual, pragmatic and strategic approaches that will allow it to resist all forms of oppression and build a future that makes the Holy Land a global model and pillar of understanding, respect, justice, equality and peaceful coexistence.



Keynote Speakers

Sami Awad: Sami Awad is the Executive Director of Holy Land Trust in the city of Bethlehem. Sami is active locally through promoting and engaging in nonviolence, and globally through visiting and speaking in different countries, communities, and political and religious organizations around the world.



Lynne Hybels: Since 1975, when Lynne & Bill Hybels started Willow Creek Community Church, Lynne has been an active volunteer at the church. For the last fifteen years she has engaged in ministry partnerships in under-resourced communities in Latin America and Africa. In her personal ministry, she has also traveled extensively in the Middle East and actively advocates for peace with justice in the Holy Land.



Facilitator

Mae Elise Cannon: Mae Elise Cannon serves as the Senior Director of Advocacy & Outreach - Middle East for World Vision USA. She is a pastor, writer, and academic who cares deeply about God's heart for the poor and the oppressed. She is the author of *Social Justice Handbook: Small Steps for a Better World* (IVP, 2009) and *Just Spirituality: How Faith Practices Fuel Social Action* (IVP, 2012).

Our Message:

We are Pro-Israel, Pro-Palestine, Pro-Peace, Pro-Justice, and Pro-Jesus

Guided by Christ's abundant love, we are committed to peace and justice for all people, including Palestinians and Israelis. We espouse Christ's heart for the poor and marginalized and take seriously their protection in times of conflict. Our message emphasizes compassion while upholding justice in pursuit of security, freedom, and dignity for all the people of the Holy Land.

"I feel compelled to tell the stories that rarely get told in the U.S. media—the stories of the Middle Eastern Christians, Muslims, and Jews who are committed to peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land."

- Lynne Hybels

We Promote a Sustainable Christian Church in the Holy Land

The Christian population in the Holy land is declining. Christians are major providers of social services and education in the Palestinian territories, promote peace and reconciliation between Muslims and Jews, and partner with Muslims in supporting non-violent activism. We believe in supporting Palestinian Christians as they pursue a radical calling from the Prince of Peace.

"Jesus could have suggested we make peace with our enemies or negotiate peace agreements or peacefully resolve conflict; those statements would have been as shocking to the suffering Jews of that time. Instead, he entreated them to go further: to "love" them. This was the word he chose — a command to all those who seek to follow him."

- Sami Awad

We Seek to Improve the Lives of Children and Communities

More than sixty years of conflict have had an especially destructive effect in the West Bank and Gaza. Infrastructure and basic services such as water, education, and healthcare are often in short supply in Palestinian communities. We promote a community-based, sustainable framework in which children, families, and communities move toward healthy individual development, positive relationships, and a context that provides safety, social justice, and participation in civil society.

"In any armed conflict, it is always the most vulnerable, particularly children, who suffer most. Both Palestinian and Israeli children have the right to live in safety; free from violence, fear, and want."

- Mae Cannon

A Night of Opportunity

- Explore the complexity of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict alongside Christian leaders with firsthand experience
- Discover ways to connect with our Palestinian brothers and sisters in Christ
- Find meaningful opportunities for churches and individuals to respond to issues of peace and justice in the Middle East
- Partner with us in pursuing peace and justice in the Holy Land

Hope for the Holy Land Midwest Tour Dates

Tuesday, September 18.....	Vineyard Columbus - Columbus, OH
Wednesday, September 19.....	Kensington Church - Troy, MI
Friday, September 21.....	STORY 2012 Conference & Pastor Luncheon- Chicago, IL
Friday, September 21.....	Willow Creek Community Church- Barrington, IL
Saturday, September 22.....	Roh's Street Café – Cincinnati, OH
Saturday, September 22.....	Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy – Cincinnati, OH
Sunday September 23.....	New Jerusalem Baptist Church – Cincinnati, OH
Monday, September 24.....	Wheaton College - Wheaton, IL
Monday, September 24.....	Wheaton Pastors' Gathering – Wheaton, IL
Tuesday, September 25.....	Leadership Gathering – Twin Cities, MN
Tuesday, September 25.....	Bethel University – Twin Cities, MN
Wednesday, September 26.....	Christ Presbyterian Church – Twin Cities, MN
Thursday, September 27-30.....	CCDA – Twin Cities, MN

“We Belong To Each Other: Americans, Israelis, and Palestinians pursuing peace. American church leaders committed to compassion and justice, bring hope to broken communities throughout the world. Equally important—but often neglected—is the role Christian leaders can play as peacemakers. Learn about a grassroots movement of American Evangelicals who are partnering with Israelis and Palestinians committed to security, freedom, and dignity for all the people of the Holy Land.”

– Lynne Hybels