

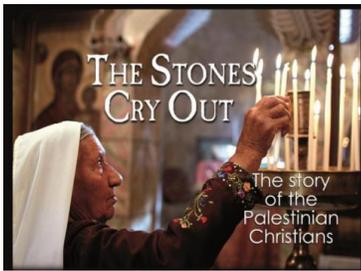
MennoPIN Resource List

Suggested Materials for your Congregation

The following is a brief representation of some of the excellent resources that congregations can use to move further along the path of peace and justice for all those living in Palestine and Israel. And because we all come to the issue from differing perspectives, there is no single starting point. A documentary film followed by a discussion is often the first step for churches; a Sunday School class can easily be organized around a study guide. Whatever you determine for your congregation, the important point is to begin. We all must start somewhere—and there is no better time than now.

To Get Started ...

The Stones Cry Out (DVD)



Christianity was born in Palestine two thousand years ago. From there it spread throughout the Middle East and to the rest of the world. Yet many are unaware Christians still live in the land.

For more than 60 years the Palestinians - Christians and Muslims - have suffered displacement, expulsion, wars, occupation, and oppression. The voices of Palestinian Christians have all too often been drowned out in the turmoil of events.

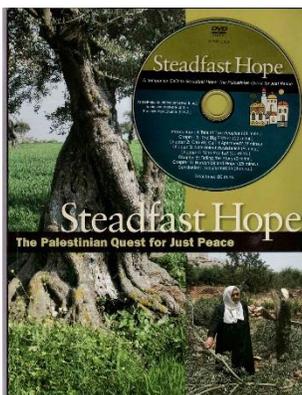
From 1948 up to today, through wars and uprisings, leading Palestinian Christians, including the late President of Beir Zeit University Gabi Baramki, Palestinian leader Hanan Ashrawi, civil society activist Ghassan Andoni, Patriarch Emeritus Michel Sabbah and others recount the unwavering and sometimes desperate struggle of all Palestinians to resist Israel's occupation and stay on their land. 55 minutes.

Available from Middle East Books:

<http://www.middleeastbooks.com/products/the-stones-cry-out-the-story-of-the-palestinian-christians>

Steadfast Hope: The Palestinian Quest for Just Peace (Study Guide)

Expanded second edition, April 2011

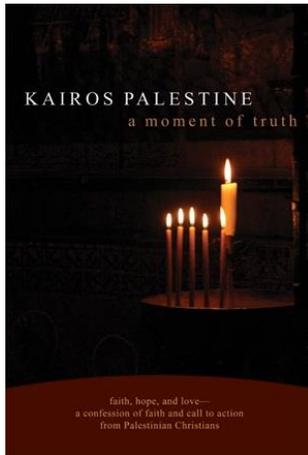


What are the origins of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? What are the common myths and misperceptions about the conflict? What is the role of the US government in the conflict and the peace process? What challenges and opportunities lie ahead in the quest for peace? How can congregations contribute to the cause of just peace for the people who share the Holy Land? Steadfast Hope presents a compelling snapshot of the current situation on the ground, highlighting the tragic human costs of war and occupation. The booklet also offers an inspiring view of cooperation among Muslim, Jewish, and Christian peacemakers working for justice and reconciliation. This 48-page, richly illustrated booklet is accompanied by a free companion DVD with short segments for group viewing and discussion. The booklet also includes a study guide for weekly lesson plans.

Available from the Israel Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church USA:

<http://www.israelpalestinemissionnetwork.org/main/study-resources/publications>

Kairos Palestine: A Moment of Truth (Study Guide)



In 2009, Palestinian Christian leaders wrote a “word to the world about what is happening in Palestine.” It is a call for Christians around the world to recognize the struggles of the Palestinian people and to stand with them against injustice. The Mennonite Church USA responded to the document with the following letter, urging Mennonite congregations to read and discuss it together:

<https://mennopin.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/mc-usa-2011-kairos-response-to-u-s.pdf>

The introduction states that the document was “requests the international community to stand by the Palestinian people who have faced oppression, displacement, suffering and clear apartheid for more than six decades. The suffering continues while the international community silently looks on at the occupying State, Israel. Our word is a cry of hope, with love, prayer and faith in God. We address it first of all to ourselves and then to all the churches and Christians in the world, asking them to stand against injustice and apartheid, urging them to work for a just peace in our region, calling on them to revisit theologies that justify crimes perpetrated against our people and the dispossession of the land.”

The document can be downloaded from the Kairos website: <http://www.kairospalestine.ps/>

A three-session study guide is available from the Israel Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church USA: <http://www.israelpalestinemissionnetwork.org/main/study-resources/publications>

A six-session study guide is available from Kairos USA: <http://kairosusa.org/study-guide/>

A study guide from a Mennonite perspective is forthcoming. Keep posted!

For Further Study ...

With God on Our Side (DVD)



With God On Our Side takes a look at the theology of Christian Zionism, which teaches that because the Jews are God’s chosen people, they have a divine right to the land of Israel. Aspects of this belief system lead some Christians in the West to give uncritical support to Israeli government policies, even those that privilege Jews at the expense of Palestinians, leading to great suffering among Muslim and Christian Palestinians alike and threatening Israel’s security as a whole.

This film demonstrates that there is a biblical alternative for Christians who want to love and support the people of Israel, a theology that doesn’t favor one people group over another but instead promotes peace and reconciliation for both Jews and Palestinians. 1 hour, 22 min.

See website to purchase the video. Website includes a free study guide with seven sessions for use with the video. <http://www.withgodonourside.com/>

Zionism Unsettled: A Congregational Study Guide (Study Guide)



What role have Zionism and Christian Zionism played in shaping attitudes and driving historical developments in the Middle East and around the world? How do Christians, Jews, and Muslims understand the competing claims to the land of Palestine and Israel? What steps can be taken to bring peace, reconciliation, and justice to the homeland that Palestinians and Israelis share?

Zionism Unsettled embraces these critical issues fearlessly and with inspiring scope. The booklet and companion DVD draw together compelling and diverse viewpoints from Jews, Muslims, and Christians in Israel, Palestine, the US, and around the globe. By contrasting mainstream perceptions with important alternative perspectives frequently ignored in the media, Zionism Unsettled is an invaluable guide to deeper

understanding.

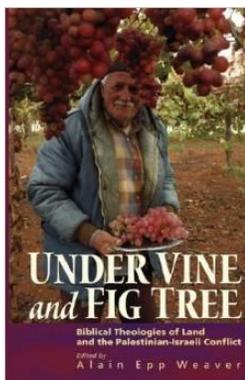
Released in January 2014 to immediate critical acclaim, Zionism Unsettled consists of a 74-page illustrated booklet and a free companion DVD.

A how-to guide for class leaders and focused discussion prompts make it an ideal resource for multi-week exploratory education programs in churches, mosques, synagogues, and all classroom settings.

Available from the Israel Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church USA:

<http://www.israelpalestinemissionnetwork.org/main/study-resources/publications>

Under Vine and Fig Tree: Biblical Theologies of Land and the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict



Alain Epp Weaver, ed.

Rooted in Mennonite Central Committee's nearly six decades of work alongside Palestinians and Israelis, *Under Vine and Fig Tree* examines ways in which the Bible has been used to justify violence and dispossession and ways it can be received as a life-giving word for Palestinians and Israelis wishing to live securely under their own vines and fig trees.

Available from Cascadia House:

<http://www.cascadiapublishinghouse.com/uft/uftauth.htm>

Additional Resources ...

For additional resources: <http://mennopin.wordpress.com/resources>

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