



FACTS AT A GLANCE

FRANCISCAN FOUNDATION FOR THE HOLY LAND

PRINCIPLE PURPOSE AND MISSION

Founded in 1994, Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land (FFHL) was created and established by Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land to help stop the Christian exodus from the region. Through numerous humanitarian programs and projects, FFHL is working tirelessly to provide needed resources for Christians to remain in their land.

THE CHALLENGE

Today there are approximately 175,000 Christians living in the Holy Land, making up about .2% of the total population. Due to severe political and economic hardships, an estimated 300 Christian families leave the Holy Land each year. This steady emigration suggests that one day the Christian community and church may cease to exist in this part of the world. As the Christian population struggles to thrive, oftentimes survive, FFHL uses every available resource to connect Christians with jobs, education, housing, and other opportunities.

Church leaders predict that if the current exodus continues, Christianity could easily cease to exist in the Holy Land within 50 years.

One of the solutions to this problem has been providing financial assistance towards higher education, which leads to economic advancement and stability. We believe that our University Scholarship Program is the cornerstone of the solution.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Since 1997, FFHL has given full university scholarships to more than 573 students who were economically marginalized but had strong academic talent. FFHL underwrites four years of college including tuition and books. Hence, through the generosity of Christians in the U.S., FFHL is holding the 'educational doors of opportunity' open for the Christian community in the Holy Land.

PROGRAM GROWTH

Over the last 20 years, FFHL has given over \$6 million in both university scholarships and special educational grants to Christian students. The current graduation rate is 97%.

MOST POPULAR FIELDS OF STUDY

- ⊕ Business Administration
- ⊕ Engineering
- ⊕ Accounting
- ⊕ Law
- ⊕ Medicine
- ⊕ Pharmacy



OUR SPIRITUAL HOMELAND AT RISK

Population in the Holy Land (2019)

Israelis Muslims	6.77 million
	6.72 million (Includes Gaza, West Bank, Israel proper)
Christians	135,000 (Indigenous)

IN THE 1950'S, INDIGENOUS CHRISTIANS REPRESENTED 25% OF THE POPULATION. TODAY, CHRISTIANS ACCOUNT FOR LESS THAN 2%.

Jerusalem:

- 1945 | 31,300 Christians
- 1967 | 24,200 Christians
- 2019 | 12,700 Christians

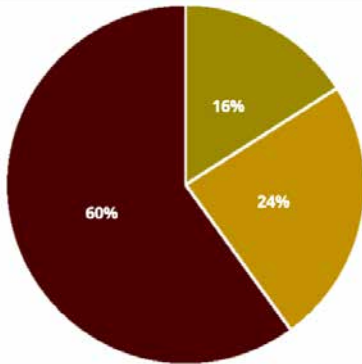
Bethlehem:

- 1950 | Christians 86% vs. Muslims 14%
- 2019 | Christians 12% vs. Muslims 88%

FINANCIAL BACKGROUND

Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land is principally supported by Individuals and Religious Organizations, Benefit Dinners, and other Public Relations Efforts.

SOURCES OF SUPPORT



■ Organizations 16% ■ Benefits Dinners 24% ■ Individuals 60%

*Based on 2019 analysis

DEDICATED LEADERSHIP

Father Peter Vasko has led FFHL since its founding in 1994. He is aided by a volunteer Board of Directors dedicated to helping Christians living in the Holy Land survive and prosper in the very place of Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection.

Father Peter is a strong champion and advocate for serving those in need. He ministers to many, and works tirelessly to bring people together in peace and security through serving as:

- U.S. Embassy and Municipality of Jerusalem liaison to the White House, including providing tours for presidents and many dignitaries.
- Chaplain for the Marine Security Guard for the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem.
- He was part of the Franciscan Custody Board of Directors, representing the care of the holy sites in the six countries it governs in the Holy Land.
- English definator for the Custody of the Holy Land for 13+ years.

Father Peter has lived in Jerusalem for more than 34 years. Prior to entering the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land in 1981, he had a 10-year career in marketing and public relations. He has been recognized by the Vatican for his work.



FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

The focus of FFHL is to keep the Christian presence in the Holy Land by providing education, housing and employment.

EDUCATION

- **University Scholarship and Special Educational Grants Program:** Provides funding for tuition and books for four years. 573 students and 45 students for M.A \$4,000 and \$6,000 per student per year.
- **Vocational/Trade Educational Grants:** Provides funding for tuition and books for a two-year program to learn plumbing, electricity, metal works, carpentry, auto mechanics, hotel management, telecommunications and culinary arts 276 students. The cost is \$2,000 per student per year.
- **Child Sponsorship Program:** Provides primary and secondary educational financial assistance for economically marginalized families. 600 Child Sponsorship In 2019. A child sponsorship is \$500 per year for seven years.
- **Music Scholarships:** Provides tuition for young children wishing to learn piano, violin, flute or composing.

HOUSING

- **Housing Development Program:** Provides subsidized housing to Christian families who would otherwise be forced to reside abroad. The Franciscan Custody, with the assistance of FFHL, has already completed over 100 apartment units in Bethlehem and 120 units in Jerusalem. There are plans for another 30 units in Jericho and 120 units in Jaffa.

EMPLOYMENT

- **Job Placement Program:** Creates new positions to employ Christians barred indefinitely from entering Israel. Placement includes a variety of fields including administration, clerical and custodial positions in Franciscan schools, churches, parish centers and medical facilities. New jobs are also created in construction trades as FFHL housing developments are built.

OTHER FFHL PROGRAMS:

- Bethlehem Boys Home
- Children Without Borders
- Children's "March for Peace"
- Children's Christmas Program - Bethlehem
- Christian Family Center - Nazareth
- Franciscan Family Center - Bethlehem
- Franciscan Social Services - Bethlehem



07/2020

Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land • P.O. Box 29086 • Washington DC, 20017-9086

Toll-free: (855) 500-3345 (FFHL) • Email: info@ffhl.org • www.ffhl.org

FFHL is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the U.S. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

EIN 33-0628775