



FRANCISCAN FOUNDATION FOR THE HOLY LAND

# FRANCISCAN FOUNDATION FOR THE HOLY LAND NEWSLETTER

SPRING #55

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The Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land is a tax-exempt non-profit organization pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible. Please remember us in your will.



Native Christian Holy Land shop owner sells handmade woodwork nativity scenes to tourists on pilgrimage. (Photo CR: Renee Mills)

## KEEPING THE SPIRIT OF LENT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

**T**he Lenten season is an annual commitment to focus on renewing our heart, mind and soul in the weeks leading up to Easter. It is a time to pray, fast and respond with a charitable spirit to the needs of the vulnerable. Considering the recent tragic events in our world, we might not always understand how God is still calling us toward Himself. Natural disasters and the pandemic have brought out great suffering but also unprecedented compassion and charity.

The 40 days of Lent is an opportunity to open our hearts to trusting that God can bring out the best in us as we pray, fast, and respond with kindness to those who need help. It's a reminder to bless others throughout the year and remember their hardships. As steadfast supporters of our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, let us keep in mind all that they have endured and sacrificed to remain in the birthplace of our Savior.

For centuries, Christians living in the Holy Land faced great challenges to remain in the Holy Land. Political, religious and economic strife continue to make life almost unbearable and are the main drivers of the tragic exodus of Christians. A century ago, Christians represented approximately 10% of the Holy Land's total population. Today, they make up less than 2% of the population with an estimated 300 families leaving the Holy Land each year.

This steady emigration suggests that one day the Christian community and the Christian church may cease to exist in this part of the world. As the Christian population struggles to survive in a volatile political environment of ethnic distrust, the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land uses every available resource to help the poor and unemployed meet their basic needs.

These programs wouldn't be possible without the many faithful donors who generously contribute to FFHL. These gifts continue to bless the "living stones" by funding education, providing subsidized housing and offering sustainable employment. Your precious sacrifices of financial support allow our Christian brothers and sisters to continue living in the home of our Lord and Savior. Visit [ffhl.org](http://ffhl.org) to learn more about the current programs that FFHL funds thanks to your generosity.

**OUR  
MISSION**

*The Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land is a worldwide organization founded in 1994 under the auspices of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land. The Foundation was created to strengthen and support Christianity in the Holy Land through the preservation of holy Christian sites and the support of the basic human rights and continued presence of the Christian minority living in the Holy Land.*

## LETTER FROM THE CUSTOS

**Rev. Francesco Patton, OFM**

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*I hope that this Lenten season has been a meaningful time for you to deepen your relationship with God through self-reflection, gaining a greater understanding of His plans for you and increasing your faith in your life. My prayer for you is that you continue to remain faithful in keeping your Lenten promises and experience new life through acts of love and sacrifice.*

*As we read in John 13:34, "Jesus said, I give you a new commandment: love one another." As we prayed and fasted during Lent, may we continue to open our eyes to the suffering of our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land who still endure hardships. May God use us to bring them hope.*

*I am grateful for your continued support that keeps Christianity alive in the Holy Land. This Easter season, let us remember the sacrifice of our Lord on the cross as a guide and be thankful for all the blessings He has bestowed upon us. Together in Christ, we can bring light to the world. With humble gratitude, I thank you.*

*I remain a servant of God and yours, in the Spirit of St. Francis,*



**Rev. Francesco Patton, OFM**

**Chairman of FFHL  
Custos of the Holy Land**

## FFHL ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD MEMBER

In December 2022, the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land (FFHL) appointed Richard C. Stanzel to the organization's Board of Directors. Mr. Stanzel joins FFHL with high qualifications, and we are honored to have him serve in this leadership capacity.

Mr. Stanzel is an entrepreneur, commercial real estate developer and leader in Catholic non-profits. He has been married for 33 years and is a hands-on father caring for a son with a number of disabilities including an extra chromosome.

He is the regional hospitaller and national Board member of the Order of Malta-Federal Association and received the International Order of Malta's Pro-Merito Meletensi Award in October 2022, presented to him by the Order of Malta's Ambassador to the Holy See and the Order's Lieutenant of the Grand Master. Through his work with Malta, he is involved with prison ministry, feeding the homeless and hungry every Saturday, and giving communion to hospitalized patients, in addition to overseeing the other local Malta ministries.

He and his wife Shelley organized a 40-person pilgrimage for FFHL, which resulted in another pilgrimage that included generous donors from the Catholic Foundation. Additionally, they routinely raise funds through ticket sales to FFHL's dinner in Dallas. Most recently, they sold 25, \$1,000 seats to an FFHL dinner in Dallas.



*Richard Stanzel, newest FFHL Board Member.*



*I've been pleased to watch FFHL serve the Palestinian Christians in Israel since its inception in the 1990s, and to be of some small help in that service. God may have had a hand in arranging for me to serve on both the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land as well as the Holy Family Foundation Boards.*

**- RICHARD STANZEL**

Mr. Stanzel also serves on the national Board of the Holy Family Hospital Foundation and is a former Board member of the Catholic Pro-life Committee. He is grateful to have been invited to help support the health, education and financial needs of the Palestine community in Israel.



### **Get to Know Us!**

Stay up-to-date with FFHL, current events in the Holy Land, sponsored events and pilgrimages, and our new website launch, coming soon!

Sign up for our Newsletter by visiting  
[FFHL.org/media/subscribe-to-the-ffhl-newsletter/](https://ffhl.org/media/subscribe-to-the-ffhl-newsletter/)



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

My name is Celine Sami Bitar. I am from the old city of Jerusalem. My family is made up of five people — me, my father, mother, and two brothers. My father, Sami, works in a palace house in Jerusalem, while my mother, Mounira works as a secretary at Custodia Di Terra Santa. My older brother, Samer is a chef at a wine and cheese restaurant called Notre Dame in Jerusalem, and my younger brother, Wisam works at a travel agency called George Garabedian company. I currently work as a coordinator at Dar Al Consul, a civic and community center owned by Custodia Di Terra Santa.

As a child, I wanted to be a history teacher because I was fascinated by ancient civilizations. However, as I got older and learned more about different career options, I became interested in business administration. I found the subject to be very interesting and it included many other subjects like economics, marketing, accounting, communications and sales. I have been working in my profession for 5 months. To me, my occupation means managing the business well, working under pressure and deadlines, communicating with different people and organizing events.

Education has had a big impact on my life. It has changed the way I think and behave. Christianity has been a part of my life since I was born. I was baptized and raised as a Christian, so my faith is very important to me. It gives me strength and guidance in my life. I feel the presence of Jesus and know that I am protected.

I heard about the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land and the scholarship program through Saint Saviour Church. The scholarship I received has affected me by showing me that there are people who want to help students succeed and continue their education. It has encouraged me to work harder and to never give up. Being granted this scholarship opportunity taught me to give to others selflessly and expect nothing in return. I am very grateful for the opportunity the scholarship has given me to finish my B.A.

In the next 5-10 years, I hope to earn my master's degree in business analytics and develop my work experience. I also hope to have my own business one day. I would like to thank FFHL and my sponsors for the opportunity to continue my education and for their generous scholarships.



Celine Sami Bitar, FFHL Scholarship Recipient

## UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP LETTER



Joelle Zambil, 2022 University Scholarship Recipient

*Dear Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land,*

My name is Joelle Zambil. I am writing to express my gratitude for the scholarship that I have been awarded by the Scholarship Committee. I have been informed that I will be receiving full financial assistance during my college years, and I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity to prove myself academically, intellectually and scholastically.

My family consists of five members. My mother, Ghada Zambil is an English teacher at Silwan Elementary School. My father, Jack Zambil, used to work in an Asian cuisine restaurant. My two brothers, one aged sixteen and the other aged twelve, attend the American school in Beit-Hanina, Jerusalem School.

Unfortunately, our family has faced difficult times since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. My father's restaurant closed, and our financial situation became dire. My mother, who was already suffering from pancreatitis, became severely ill and we were forced to take loans to pay for her medicine. Despite these challenges, my family has always been supportive of me and my brothers.

Receiving this scholarship gives me the opportunity to repay my family for all the sacrifices they have made for me. I am deeply grateful for their love and support, and I am determined to make the most of this opportunity to succeed in my college years. I would like to thank you for your assistance in this matter. May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you.

Warmly,

*Ms. Joelle Zambil*

# CHRISTIAN STUDENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

## *Unlocking the Door of Opportunity for Holy Land Youth*

The Christian exodus from the Holy Land can be attributed in large part to a lack of access to quality education. This leads to difficulties in finding secure employment and perpetuating a cycle of financial hardship. To break this cycle, the next generation must have access to quality education, allowing them to build a future of stability in the Holy Land.

The Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land (FFHL) is dedicated to providing life-sustaining opportunities for Christians in the Holy Land, with a focus on supporting education for young people. By investing in education for the next generation of Christian scholars, FFHL is working to promote economic stability and ensure that more Christians can remain in the Holy Land.



*I am thankful to my sponsors. As a result of the education that I received from my scholarship, not only will I improve my own life, but also the life of my children and future generations.*

– **CARINE KOUSSA**  
FORMER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Join our mission to provide hope and a brighter future to these deserving children and young adults. Your support will make a lasting impact, helping them to achieve their full potential and build a better future for themselves and their communities.



Mr. Richard Kelly of Dallas, TX had the opportunity to meet with three students that he is sponsoring for college. (Left to right) Kareer Edbaya, Richard Kelly, Mira Zrour, Yousef Abdalla



In a recent visit to the Holy Land, Mr. & Mrs. William Sladek of Dallas, TX got the opportunity to visit with their university-sponsored student, Yacubu Carmi.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS YOUR DONATIONS SUPPORT



### ELEMENTARY & HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Elementary and High School program offers a life-changing opportunity for children in need. Through the generosity of sponsors, children receive crucial support for their education, including school tuition, books and uniforms.

For many parents, financial strain makes it difficult to provide their children with an education that instills Christian values, teaches religious instruction and fosters a sense of social justice. With your help, all children are given an equal chance to receive a quality education.



### UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

For over two decades, FFHL has been empowering students through its full, four-year university scholarship program. To date, FFHL has provided hundreds of economically marginalized but academically talented students with the support they need to succeed.

By covering tuition and books for four years of college, these scholarships equip students with the skills and knowledge they need to secure meaningful employment and remain in the Holy Land. FFHL's commitment to education has changed the lives of countless students and will continue to have a positive impact for generations to come.



# GOOD SHEPHERD SOCIETY: PLANNED GIVING AND THE BENEFITS

## YOUR HOLY LAND LEGACY MAXIMIZE YOUR PHILANTHROPIC GOALS

Let us help you tailor your charitable gift to your financial, tax or estate planning objectives. As one of our faithful donors, your sacrificial gifts are changing lives and bringing hope to our Christian brothers and sisters who are suffering. Your support of FFHL's educational, humanitarian and special projects (to preserve holy sites) helps to create lasting change that impacts generations to come.

**Bequest** – A gift made through your will or trust. A bequest is the simplest type of planned gift for you to make and the easiest to implement. **Benefits:** You may want to support FFHL but are unable to make gifts during your lifetime. For example, you may have property that is needed during life to cover your living expenses or health care costs.

**Bargain Sale** – FFHL purchases your property for less than fair market value. You receive cash or debt relief and a charitable deduction. **Benefits:** You own appreciated property and want to help FFHL but need a benefit in return (either cash or debt relief).

**Charitable Remainder Trust** – You transfer your cash or property to fund a trust that makes payments for your lifetime or a number of years and then passes what remains to FFHL. **Benefits:** You own appreciated property that produces little or no income and would like to sell without paying capital gains tax. You may want income for retirement.

**Family Lead Trust** – You transfer your cash or property to a trust that makes payments to FFHL for a number of years and then passes the trust property to your family with no additional tax. **Benefits:** You retain control over the trust assets during your lifetime, which allows you to pay less in gift or estate taxes and pass on more of your assets to your beneficiaries.

**Life Estate Reserved** – You transfer your personal residence or farm to FFHL and retain the right to use the property for your lifetime. **Benefits:** You want to remain living in your home and want a current income tax deduction.

**Charitable Gift Annuity** – You make a gift of cash or property to FFHL and we agree to make fixed payments for one or two lives. **Benefits:** You want to make a gift to FFHL and receive fixed income for the future. This plan works well with your gift of cash or appreciated stock that is providing little or no income.

## LEAVE A LEGACY TODAY

Notify us of your intent to put FFHL in your legacy planning today! Contact [info@ffhl.org](mailto:info@ffhl.org).



### MAGNIFICAT MUSIC PROGRAM

The Magnificat Institute in the Holy City of Jerusalem is dedicated to fostering musical knowledge and cultural heritage in the Holy Land. With a focus on the diverse communities in the region, the Institute aims to create opportunities through choral and instrumental music to bridge the gaps between cultures, religions and languages.

By promoting peace and friendship through music, the Magnificat Institute is working to bring children of different backgrounds together and build a stronger, more connected community in the Holy Land.



### VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

FFHL is expanding its mission to provide a brighter future for Christians in the Holy Land with its Vocational Scholarship program. For students who want to learn a trade or gain a specialized skill, FFHL offers the opportunity to study at top-notch, two-year vocational and technical schools such as the Notre Dame School of Cooking in Jerusalem.

Not only will students earn an accredited diploma in their chosen field, FFHL will also provide each student with a custom tool kit, specifically tailored to their area of interest. This tool kit empowers students to immediately secure work in their communities and start building a bright future.

# FRANCISCAN BOYS HOME CELEBRATES 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

In September 2022, Vatican News published an online article called ***The Children's Home in Bethlehem, a Place of Care to "Learn to Love."*** The Children's Home, also known as the Franciscan Boys Home, was founded in 2007 and is supported by the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land (FFHL). The Franciscan Boys Home cares for 27 children who come from challenging home situations. Last year, the Boys Home celebrated its 15th anniversary.

The children's home is a place that lovingly accepts children and adolescents from difficult social and economic situations. The boys live in the home Monday through Saturday afternoon and they receive love and support to help them thrive. Local residents, friars, employees and young people participated in a Mass to celebrate its 15-year inception.

“

*What children see, they learn. Here, they feel at home.*

- BR. SANDRO TOMAŠEVIĆ



Young boys from fragile circumstances are sheltered and cared for at the Franciscan Boys Home, giving them the opportunity of a brighter future.

Br. Tomašević, Director of the Boys Home, believes that if children develop a fundamental spirit of closeness and love, they will treat others how they are treated.

**Article Source:** <https://www.vaticannews.va/it/chiesa/news/2022-09/casa-francescana-del-fanciullo.html>



The Franciscan Boys Home works to instill love, faith and community in the lives of vulnerable Christian boys in the Holy Land. Above (left): Vice President, Denise M. Scalzo, O.F.S. visits Fr. Sandro, Director of Boys' Home, and the children.

TOGETHER  
WE   
GAVE.

NOVEMBER 29, 2022

WE RAISED  
MORE THAN  
**\$31,000**

THANK  
YOU

## GIVING TUESDAY SUCCESS

Giving Tuesday is an annual charitable giving event that raises funds on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. It is an important opportunity for nonprofits to raise funds and awareness for their cause. This year, FFHL received 76 donations on Giving Tuesday, with an average gift of \$206. We raised \$15,661, which was matched by a generous donation from our Board, bringing our grand total to over \$31,000.

This generosity allows us to continue our mission of making a positive impact for Christians in the Holy Land. Giving Tuesday is a powerful reminder of the impact that we can make when we come together to support an important cause.

We are grateful for the support of our donors who have helped us to make a difference in the lives of those we serve. Giving Tuesday celebrates the power of philanthropy and the positive impact it can have in our world. Thank you to all our donors for their contributions, and for making Giving Tuesday a success for FFHL.

GIVING  
TUESDAY



# A PILGRIMAGE TO REMEMBER: AN INTERVIEW WITH PILGRIM LISA RYAN

Lisa Ryan shares how her experience with a Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land pilgrimage led to her decision to support a young Christian student's education; how that relationship has been a mutual blessing and why the identity of her pilgrimage tour bus driver left her speechless.

## ***When did you first become involved with FFHL?***

In 2019, I had the opportunity to join Fr. Peter on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. From the moment we landed in Israel, he encouraged us to ask ourselves why we were there, what we needed and what did God want us to do. His words became my prayer for the entire pilgrimage.

During one of our evening talks, Fr. Peter spoke about the struggles faced by Arab Christians in the Holy Land who have limited opportunities to find meaningful work and support their families. He introduced us to several young people who had received college scholarships from FFHL, which had significantly changed their lives. Our group was deeply moved by their stories, and we decided to collectively sponsor two college scholarships.

That pilgrimage was a life-changing experience, and I felt a strong desire to return the following year. I made another trip to the Holy Land with Fr. Peter's group in the spring of 2020, during which I committed to personally sponsoring a university scholarship. I requested to sponsor a young woman and FFHL matched me with Nataly Boutros, a student studying accounting and law at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.



Nataly Jiries Boutros, 2020 University Scholarship recipient, and her sponsor, Lisa Ryan.

## ***Tell us about the student you're sponsoring.***

Nataly and I began corresponding via email during her first semester of college, and I was delighted to get to know her better. From our conversations, I gained a greater appreciation for the challenges faced by Christians in the Holy Land.

In early 2022, I returned to the Holy Land. I knew that Nataly lived with her family in the Old City of Jerusalem, and I emailed her letting her know where I would be staying. I was expecting just a short visit at our hotel with her as I assumed she would have very little free time from her studies. While still in the Sea of Galilee area, our tour bus driver named Jiries quietly told me, "Nataly says hello." I asked him if he was a relative and he replied, "I am her father." And with that unbelievable coincidence, we were able to arrange for Nataly to join our group while we visited the Dead Sea area. Imagine the time we had to talk and learn about each other on the bus rides to and from Jerusalem.

## ***What does it mean to you to support the University Scholarship program?***

Supporting university scholarships through FFHL has been a rewarding experience for me. Fr. Peter's passionate advocacy to help Christian families stay in the Holy Land has made a deep impression on all of us. I am grateful for the opportunity to help and to get to know one of these families personally. FFHL offers a variety of programs to support children, young adults, and families, and I encourage others to consider getting involved in this mission.



Lisa Ryan lighting prayer candles at the Church of St. Anne in Jerusalem during her pilgrimage through FFHL in 2019.

## 2023 EVENTS CALENDAR

**APR 13** Orlando Regional Fundraising Dinner  
ORLANDO, FL

**SEP 07** Cradling Christianity Fundraising Dinner  
COLUMBUS, OH

**OCT 14** Vatican Embassy Dinner

**NOV 27–DEC 07**  
Fall Holy Land Pilgrimage





# UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

2022

[FFHL.ORG/PROGRAMS/EDUCATIONAL-PROGRAMS/UNIVERSITY-SCHOLARSHIPS/](http://FFHL.ORG/PROGRAMS/EDUCATIONAL-PROGRAMS/UNIVERSITY-SCHOLARSHIPS/)



THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY,  
FFHL IS HOLDING THE **DOORS**  
OF **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**  
**OPEN** FOR THE CHRISTIAN  
COMMUNITY IN THE HOLY LAND

Help extend an olive branch for:

- » Masters and Bachelors Equivalent
- » Associates Equivalent
- » Vocational Programs
- » Technical Programs
- » Continued Education

## THE PROGRAM

Since 1997, FFHL has given full, four-year university scholarships to over 594 students who were economically marginalized but had strong academic talent. With specific guidelines to protect your investment, the scholarship program pays for four years of college tuition and books.

## THE GOAL

This program provides academic scholarships to talented but underprivileged Christian students with high initiative and a desire to remain in the Holy Land, thus giving them the necessary skills for successful employment and stability needed to thrive.



**WE THANK ALL OF OUR SPONSORS** FOR THEIR  
CONTINUED DEDICATION TO THESE STUDENTS.  
LEARN HOW YOU CAN BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY!

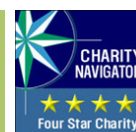


“EDUCATION WILL BE THE  
KEY IN KEEPING OUR  
YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE  
HOLY LAND.”

– POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI

*Preserving* THE LIVING STONES OF  
CHRISTIANITY IN THE *Holy Land*

LEARN MORE  
[FFHL.ORG/PROGRAMS](http://FFHL.ORG/PROGRAMS)



Platinum  
Transparency  
2023  
**Candid.**



## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS B.A.



**Yousef Bassam Abdallah** – Resides with his parents and one younger sibling in Jerusalem. He will be attending Azrieli College of Engineering in Jerusalem and majoring in Software Engineering. **His sponsor is Mr. Richard Kelly. Yousef is the recipient of the “Candye Tara Eoff Scholarship Fund.”**



**Yousef George Abdallah** – Resides with his parents and two younger siblings in Jerusalem. He is planning to attend Hadassah Academic College in Jerusalem and to major in Optometry. **His sponsor is FFHL.**



**Ivan Abdelmalak** – Resides with his mother and one younger sibling in Jerusalem. He is planning to attend Ono Academic College in Tel Aviv and majoring in Performance Violin. **His sponsor is FFHL.**



**Sami Al-Sayeh** – Lives with his parents and one sibling in Bethlehem. He is planning to attend Birzeit University and major in Mechatronics (Automated Manufacturing). **His sponsor is FFHL.**



**Tamam Al-Shawish** – Lives with her mother and brother in Beit Sahour, a suburb of Bethlehem. She is planning to attend Bethlehem University and major in Business Administration. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



**Catherine Asfour** – Resides with her parents and four younger siblings. She will be attending Hebrew University and majoring in Accounting. **Her sponsor is Mr. William Kiefer of Texas.**



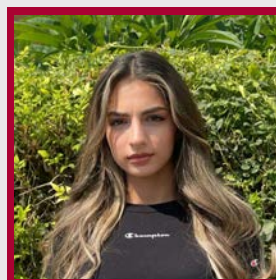
**Rubina Assi** – Resides with her parents and five siblings in the Old City of Jerusalem. She will be attending Hadassah College and majoring in Science. **Her sponsor is Cradling Christianity in Columbus, Ohio.**



**Marina Backleh** – Resides in Jerusalem with her parents and two younger siblings. She will be attending Al Quds University and majoring in Medicine. **Her sponsor is Mr. William Kiefer of Texas.**



**Fadi Basous** – Lives with his parents in Beit Jala, a suburb of Bethlehem. He is planning to attend Birzeit University and majoring in Computer Science. **His sponsor is FFHL.**



**Antonella Campania** – Resides with her mother and four siblings in Akko, Israel. She will be attending Tel Aviv University and majoring in Computer Science. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



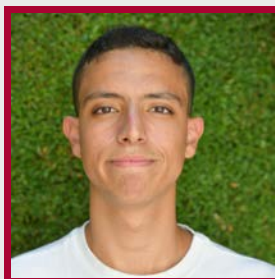
**Marian Dahdal** – Resides with her parents in Jerusalem and is planning to attend Azrieli College of Engineering. She will be majoring in Pharmaceutical Engineering. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



**Jawana Habib** – Lives with her parents and one younger sibling in Beit Hanina. She will be attending Al-Quds University in Jerusalem and majoring in Dentistry. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



**Rosemarie Haron** – Lives with her parents and two younger brothers in Bethlehem. She will be attending Al Quds University in Palestine and majoring in Medicine. **Her sponsor is Cradling Christianity in Columbus, Ohio.**



**Samir Hazboun** – Resides in Beit Hanina with his parents and two younger siblings. He is planning to attend Hebrew University and is majoring in Software Engineering. **His sponsor is FFHL.**



**Akram Jaber** – Resides with his parents and two younger siblings in Ramallah, a suburb of Jerusalem. He is planning to attend Birzeit University and wishes to major in Engineering and Technology. **His sponsor is FFHL.**



**Sali Jabrieh** – Resides in Bethlehem with her parents and two younger siblings. She plans to attend Bethlehem University and wishes to major in Psychology. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



**Silina Jaqaman** – Resides in Bethlehem. She is planning to attend Bethlehem University and majoring in Nursing. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



**Mireil Kasabreh** – Lives with her parents and two siblings in Jerusalem. She is planning to attend Al-Najah University in Nablus and majoring in Medical Laboratory Sciences. **Her sponsor is Patrick Carney of San Antonio, TX.**



**Jessica Katanasho** – Lives with her parents and five other younger siblings in the Old City of Jerusalem. She is planning to attend Hebrew University and majoring in Education. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



**Charbel Khoury** – Lives in Beit Hanina with his parents. He plans to attend Hebrew University and to major in Business Administration. **His sponsor is FFHL.**

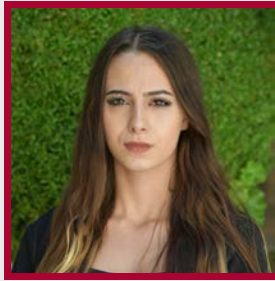




**Joelle Khoury** – Lives with her parents and one younger sibling in Jerusalem. She is planning to attend David Yellin College and major in Education. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



**Tarek Khoury** – Lives in Beit Hanina with his parents and one younger sibling. He is planning to attend Reichman University in Herzliya to study business administration and entrepreneurship. **His sponsor is FFHL.**



**Maria Mansour** – Resides with her parents in Jerusalem. She is planning to attend Hebrew University and majoring in Criminal Justice. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



**Maria Massad** – Lives with her parents and one younger sibling in Ramallah. She plans to attend Bizeit University and major in Pharmacy. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



**Nicole Mordin** – Resides with her parents and two siblings in Beit Hanina. She is planning to attend Hebrew University and to major in Law. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



**Wedad Qirreh** – Resides with her parents and two younger siblings in Jerusalem. She is planning to attend Hebrew University and to major in Law. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



**Elias Quansua** – Lives in Jerusalem with his parents and two younger siblings. He is planning to attend Hebrew University and is majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering. **His sponsor is FFHL.**



**Lubov Romashouck** – Lives with her parents and younger sister in Jerusalem. She will be attending Hebrew University and majoring in Nursing. **Her sponsors are Mr. and Mrs. Frank Skalak of Massillon, Ohio.**



**Aileen Sahwani** – Lives with her mother and three brothers in Ramle, a suburb of Jerusalem. She will be attending Ariel University and majoring in the field of Engineering. **Her sponsor is Cradling Christianity in Columbus, Ohio.**



**Farouq Salameh** – Resides in Beit Jala a suburb of Bethlehem with his three younger siblings. He will be studying at Bethlehem University and his major will be Business Administration. **His sponsor are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Neubecker of Plano, Texas.**



**Mirna Salameh** – Resides in Beit Sahour, a suburb of Bethlehem with her parents and two younger siblings. She will be attending Bethlehem University and majoring in Education. **Her sponsor is Mr. William Kiefer of Texas.**



**Omeros Samara** – Lives in Jerusalem with his parents and two siblings. He is planning to attend Hebrew University and to major in Software Engineering. **His sponsor is FFHL.**



**Fadi Sayej** – Resides with his parents in Jerusalem. He is planning to attend Izraili College of Engineering in Jerusalem. **His sponsor is Mrs. JoAnn Porter of Lakeland, Florida.**



**Aram Shatara** – Lives with his parents in Bethlehem. He is planning to attend Bethlehem University and major in Medicine. **His sponsor is FFHL.**



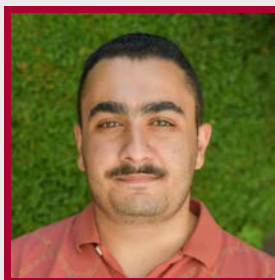
**Hadeel Shehadeh** – Resides in Beit Hanina with her parents and two siblings. She is planning to attend Azrieli University in Jerusalem and majoring in Software Engineering. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



**Afram Siriani** – Resides with his parents and one younger sibling in Beit Hanina, a suburb of Jerusalem. He will be attending Hebrew University and majoring in Agriculture, Food and Environment. **His sponsor is M&M group.**



**Emile Stephane** – Resides in Jerusalem with his parents and two younger siblings. He will be attending Hebrew University and majoring in Engineering and Computer Science. **His sponsor is Robert Matejek Family Foundation in Dallas, Texas.**



**Ameer Thalgi** – Lives in Beit Hanina with his parents and one sibling. He is planning to attend Hebrew University and majoring in Medicine. **His sponsor is FFHL.**



**Selina Twemeh** – Resides with her parents and three younger siblings. She will be attending Hebrew University and majoring in Dentistry. **Her sponsor is Mr. William Kiefer of Texas.**



**Joelle Zambil** – Resides in Beit Hanina with her parents and two siblings. She is planning to attend Azrieli University in Jerusalem and majoring in Computer Engineering. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



## GRADUATE STUDENTS M.A.



**Hala Batarseh** – Resides with her family in Bethlehem. She finished her B.A. in Art at Bethlehem in 2003 and wants to secure her M.A. in Psychological and Educational at Al-Quds University in Jerusalem. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



**Sevim Ozgul** – Resides with her family in Jerusalem. Sevim finished her B.A. in Education and Criminology in 2022 from Hebrew University and is planning to study for her M.A. in Learning Disabilities from the same University. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



**Rozan Rashed** – Resides with her husband in Jerusalem. She finished her B.A. in Science at Azlieli College of Engineering in Jerusalem in the field of pharmaceutical engineering in 2018. She is now planning to secure her M.A. in MBA-information system management at Ono Academic College in Jerusalem. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



**Grace Shahin** – Lives with her family in Jerusalem. She finished her LLB in law at the College of Management in 2022. She wishes to secure her M.A. in Business Law at the University of Haifa. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



**Angela Wahab** – Resides with her family in Ramleh, a suburb of Tel Aviv. She finished her B.A. in Business Administration at Peres University in 2020. She is now planning to secure a M.A. in Business Law at Ramat Gan College in Ramat Gan. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**

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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.

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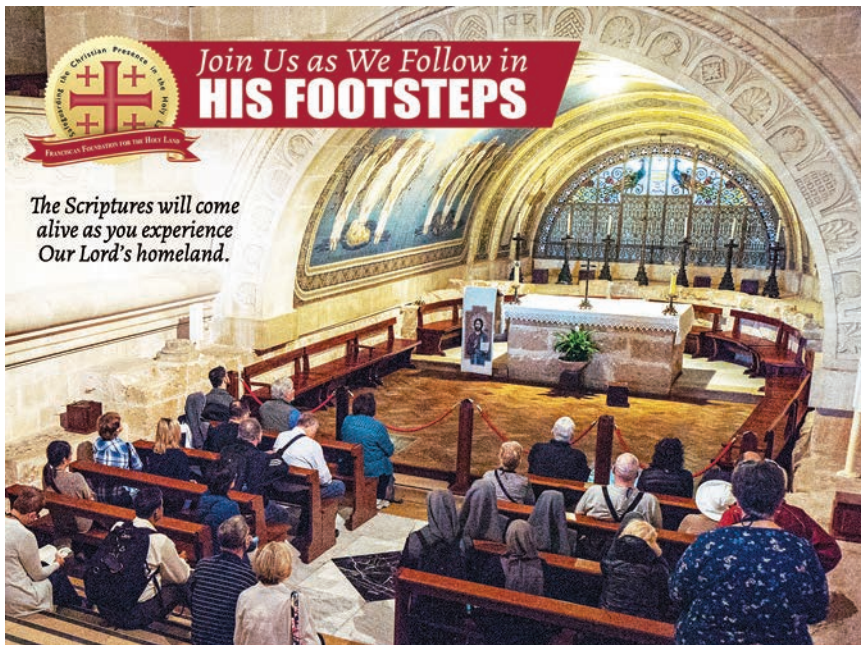
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