



# Trees, the Land, and Jesus: A Working and Learning Trip to Palestine and Israel February 12-27, 2025

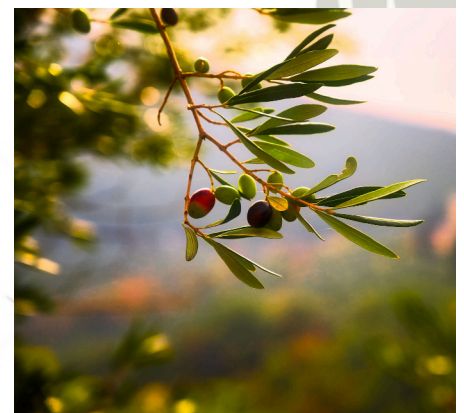
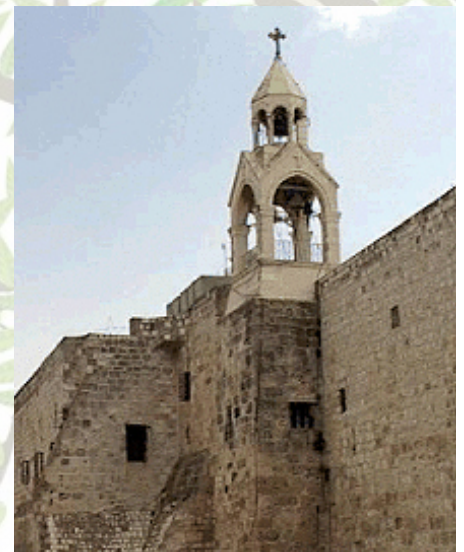
*Want to do something to support Palestinians  
and learn God's way of peace in the Holy Land?*

Join Mennonite Men and Mennonite Palestine Israel Network (MennoPIN) as we travel to Palestine and Israel to plant olive trees, meet Palestinian peacemakers, and connect the land to Jesus' way of peace.

Our two-week sojourn in Palestine and Israel will bring us into multifold contact with this land. Tree planting days in the West Bank will give us intimate, hand-to-soil contact with the land itself as we work with Palestinian farmers. We will learn about the occupation of Palestine through relationship building and experiential learning. We will discover the critical place of trees in the culture, economy, and ecology of the region. And we will see that the olive branch is not simply a symbol but that olive trees are essential for God's peace in this land.

Since Israel and Palestine is the homeland of Jesus of Nazareth, we will visit ancient biblical sites—in Nazareth, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem—and make connections between the ancient land of Abraham, David, and Jesus and of modern-day Palestinians. We will also meet with Palestinian peacemakers practicing creative non-violence to bring hope and courage into their local communities. We will make time for worship and reflection together, recognizing that there will be much to process, and much about this trip that will transform us.

Why plant olives trees? Trees of life are presented in the first and last chapters of the Bible and Ezekiel 34:25-31 as essential for God's peace. Through history, olive trees have been the most important trees in Palestine and are to be protected under Mosaic law (Deut. 20:19).



Today, olive trees are part of the identity of Palestinians and vital for their livelihood. Palestinian families have olive trees, some over 1,000 years old, that have passed from generation to generation. Critical in the economy of Palestine, nearly half of agricultural lands are olive orchards for essential products for local consumption and foreign export.

Recognizing their importance, Israelis have destroyed over one million olive trees belonging to Palestinian families. This strikes at their livelihoods, creates economic hardships, and displaces them from their land. Once trees are removed and farmers are forced to leave their land, Israelis claim and add this land to their illegal settlements in occupied Palestine. This is one of many aggravating factors leading to Palestinian resistance and the current war.

Because olive trees are tough and adaptable, these trees also represent Palestinian resistance and resilience.

**MennoPIN and the Mennonite Men JoinTrees campaign plan to raise \$50,000 to replace 2,500-3,000 olive trees. Participants on this trip will work with Palestinian families to plant these trees so they may remain on their land.**

The itinerary for the trip is provided on the next page.

***This is a trip for anyone age 18 and older. Come if you know a lot about tree planting, or nothing at all; a lot about Palestine, or nothing at all.***

We hope you join us to pray and plant for peace.

***Provisional trip costs are \$1,950, not including airfare to and from Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv. Trip costs cover lodging, meals, ground transportation, sightseeing, and tips. This trip directly supports Palestinian organizations, businesses, and families who will provide presentations, lodging, food, and other services. The group will be limited to 30 people, with priority given to those who have not previously been to Palestine and Israel.***

**GIVEN CURRENT INSTABILITIES OF THE REGION, THE TRIP MAY BE CANCELED. THEREFORE, WE REQUIRE TRIP INSURANCE FOR ALL FLIGHTS.**

To sign up and join our group, click on the following [registration link](#) or go to <http://bit.ly/palestine2025>.

**Registration Deadline is April 25, 2024**

For more information, contact:

- Steve Thomas, US Director of Mennonite Men and ISA certified arborist, [SteveT@MennoniteMen.org](mailto:SteveT@MennoniteMen.org)
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# Itinerary • February 12-27, 2025

DATE	DAY	ACTIVITY
2/12	Wed	Travel day
2/13	Thur	Arrive at the Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv. Transportation to Nazareth will be arranged.
2/14	Fri	Visit Nazareth Village and tour the town where Jesus grew up.
2/15	Sat	Tour the Galilee for a picture of the land where Jesus lived, called his disciples, taught, and performed miracles.
2/16	Sun	Worship with the Anglicans or Maronites in Nazareth, then travel to Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus.
2/17	Mon	Plant olive trees with Palestinian farmers in the West Bank. End the day with a delicious meal at Tent of Nations.
2/18	Tue	Visit the Museum of Natural History to learn about the landscape of Palestine and the intersection of the environment and justice. Hear from Palestinian refugees at the Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem. Visit the Banksy Hotel, an example of Palestinian solidarity, and see artwork from local Palestinians. End the day with dinner at Nirvana Café, a local favorite.
2/19	Wed	Plant trees in the West Bank, followed by a delicious dinner at Shams Al-Aseel with breathtaking views of Bethlehem area mountains.
2/20	Thur	Head to Jerusalem for the day. Worship and share a meal with Palestinian Christians at Sabeel and tour East Jerusalem with Grassroots Jerusalem who will provide important frameworks for this trip. End the day at Nassers in the Old City of Jerusalem before returning to Bethlehem.

DATE	DAY	ACTIVITY
2/21	Fri	Tour the ancient city of Hebron, visit Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT), and visit Palestinians in Tel Rumeida to hear the stories of their trees and their samud (steadfastness/resistance). End the day with shopping at Natcheh ceramics and glass factory, followed by dinner at Abu Mazen, a popular restaurant in Hebron.
2/22	Sat	Plant olive trees, followed by a zarb (Bedouin barbeque) dinner at Sarras Farms, an organic farm and restaurant. Share a meal with leaders of Hebron International Resource Network, our tree planting partners.
2/23	Sun	Worship at Christmas Lutheran in Bethlehem, enjoy an afternoon of rest and shopping, then dinner and conversation with Wi'am, a Palestinian Conflict Transformation organization.
2/14	Mon	Spend the day in Jericho, the Dead Sea, the Jordan River, and Qumran, learning about the land and history of that area. Return to Bethlehem for a quiet dinner.
2/15	Tue	Plant trees one last day before heading to Jerusalem. Enjoy free time in Jerusalem.
2/16	Wed	Tour the Old City of Jerusalem, then end our journey with a last supper and communion.
2/17	Thur	With our hearts full, our minds transformed, and our bodies tired, return home to tell our friends and communities what we have experienced.

*Itinerary subject to change as needed.*