



WE ARE CALLED

Sow Justice - Reap Peace

Update from Jerusalem

We are fortunate to be in continuing communication with the International Peacemakers who have come to the Presbytery of Grand Canyon for the last 9 years. This update is from Nora Kort, who visited with us in 2013.

Covid-19

As of September 25th, Jerusalem is under strict lockdown by the Israeli Authorities. We are only allowed to move within 500-1000 feet because the number of Covid-19 victims is on the rise. Yesterday only there were 2 deaths and 713 new virus cases just in Jerusalem city, bringing the total number of the virus patients to 1744. In Israel there were 58 deaths and 6499 yesterday too thus bringing the total number of the virus patients to 209, 635 which is relatively high compared to the population's number. There is great fear among the people and we are going into the second time of more than two weeks' lockdown. Stricter measures will be imposed if the people do not seriously observe the instructions of masking, social distancing, suspension of marriage parties, condolence visits, etc. Education mostly goes virtual these days and Zooming for official meetings. I do a lot of work from home. Our life has changed - no more that busy social life. This has its impact on the economy and employment. Travel is also restricted, including blanket closure of cities. Personally, I have not been in Ramallah, which is only few kilometers away from my house, for two months.

Current situation with Israel and Palestine

House demolition, arrests and settler attacks in Jerusalem and the West Bank continue on a daily basis. Annexation of lands and territory especially in the Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley /Jericho the food basket of the Palestinians continue to creep without too much publicity following the signing of the normalization pact between Israel, the Arab Emirates and Bahrain which the Palestinians denounce. This is no peace agreement but the normalization of relationships that have been going on under the table for a long time. There is much resentment and bad feeling among the Palestinians as they feel they are left alone to struggle for their freedom.

*Peace and Justice Network
Presbytery of the Grand Canyon*