

ComeTacts
YMCA Experience Path

You Are the Salt of the Earth Palestine

When in 1948 Israel was founded as a state, many Palestinians had to leave their villages and seek shelter in refugee camps. In the middle of the misery of these camps, a small group of Christians of the Jerusalem YMCA started a YMCA group.

This was the beginning of a movement which today works among young Palestinians in different West Bank towns.

Projects aiming at handicapped people, professional training, children and at young people, are part of what the YMCA offers.

The **YMCA East Jerusalem** is a Palestinian YMCA and invites both Christians and Muslims to their activities. The leadership is Christian, participation and membership is open for everybody, so that there may be built bridges of understanding.

Since 1983 the YMCA East Jerusalem entertains a partnership with the organization of protestant youth work in the German federal state of Württemberg (ejw).

Both parties visit the other on a regular basis, common encounters of young people, work camps and seminars are planned and held.

The partnership, however, is somewhat burdened by the complicated political situation, i.e. by young Palestinians' difficulties in leaving the country as well as fear of violence and attacks in the region. Nevertheless the encounters are encouraging for hope of a peaceful living together.

Contact partner:

Ev. Jugendwerk in Württemberg
Oekumenisch-internat. Jugendarbeit
Haerberlinstr. 1-3
70563 Stuttgart
Tel. (0)711/9781-350
E-Mail: oeikia@ejwue.de