



NEWSLETTER

The Center for Religious and Heritage Studies in the Holy Land

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**“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.”
(Philippians 4: 4)**

Editorial

Dr. Geries S. Khoury

“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.” (Philippians 4: 4) Hundreds of millions of Christians all over the world wait for the season of celebrations of the birth of Christ to express their great joy by preparing for decorating a tree which dazzles its viewers, by luxurious clothes, delicious food, attending dancing parties and entertainment programs and spending the Christmas vacation in resorts in or outside their place of residence. Tens of billions of dollars are spent in the memory of the glorious Christmas and in the



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celebrations of the new A. D. year. Yes, decoration, celebrating, joy, eating and drinking are natural and self-evident matters. However, what about the spiritual celebrations of the feast? Do we exploit our time to delve deeply in the spiritual meaning of the feast? Why was the Incarnation? What is our message in the Christmas season? Do we celebrate the feast with our folks, friends and neighbors and the one who is commemorated alone is not present?

At Al-Liqa' Center which is some hundred meters away from the grotto of the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, I sat thinking about what I will write in the memory of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Around me the whizzing of the bullets of the guns of the Israeli occupation resounds in the open space of the city of the Christmas, hundreds of poisonous and tear gas bombs target our children whose ages do not exceed fifteen years because they express their anger at the continuation of the hateful occupation by a stone which they throw at a soldier sitting on the tower of the racial Separation Wall which is more than eight meters high near Rachel's Tomb, and it is difficult to scratch any of them. However, the bullets of the occupation and its poisonous gas are inhaled by the residents of the area even if they are some kilometers away from them... Their anger and their rancor remind us of the anger and panic of Herod the occupier and the killer of the children of Bethlehem at the time of the birth of Christ..... And is it reasonable that the City of Christmas and the land of Christmas today live events that were two thousand years ago? And is it reasonable that the leaders of the world are distracted by lighting Christmas trees which carry thousands of lights in their capital cities instead of lighting a candle of justice and peace in the land of the birth of the Prince of peace and in every place which needs justice, peace and freedom? This is hypocrisy in itself, and these are the features of false

religion!!! The humbleness of the Infant Jesus will not be content with all of these embellishments, firecrackers and fireworks which every year light the sky of the capital cities of the world while the hearts of their leaders are harsh, dark and dim and their consciences are dead. These leaders forgot that the true light is the Infant Jesus and the road which He drew for us will not let anyone stumble in it no matter how big the challenges which face him are and no matter how grave the difficulties are.

And is it reasonable that the ones who came from the Orient two thousand years ago as Magi loaded with gifts to the Infant Jesus and to return to their countries carrying the good news of the birth of the Savior, while today there are neither Magi and nor gifts to be presented to the Infant of the grotto because those who came at that time are being slaughtered today by barbaric groups, their dignities are being violated, their holy places are being desecrated and they are forced to emigrate and become scattered in all parts of the world, while the leaders of the West are distracted by lighting Christmas trees and the most of the Arab leaders meet to conspire against their peoples. However, this violence and this terrorism do not recognize geographical borders for it. Rather it believes that the area of the globe is legitimate for it to kill those who are different from it or even those who criticize and blame it for its savage and unethical deeds. All resented and felt pain at the terrorist actions which recently occurred in Beirut and Paris and which killed hundreds of innocent persons.

The joy of the shepherds was great when the angels brought them the glad tidings of the birth of the Savior. They ran in a hurry to see the born Infant. Then they told what the angels said to them: "Today in the city of David was born to you a Savior who is Christ the Lord." This was more than two thousand

years ago, whereby the shepherds in the Bethlehem area were guarding the flocks of their cattle at night without fear or apprehension, while today and in the sight of the leaderships of the world the flocks of the Israeli settlers forbid the Palestinian shepherds from letting their cattle graze and from guarding them, rather and more than this, they steal these cattle or kill them and they commit aggression against the shepherds without being held accountable by anyone and without a monitor. They implement all of this under the protection of the Israeli occupation army.

Therefore, even if we celebrate the memory of the birth of the Savior, our wondering and amazement remain big vis-à-vis the apathy of the international leadership concerning the injustice done to us as Palestinians and the terror, killing, destruction and forced emigration done to the countries of the Arab Orient.

Accordingly, and from Bethlehem the city of the Infant of the Grotto, we emphasize that the leaders and the presidents are actually from this world, and they do not belong to the world of the followers of Jesus because their world is different and their actions and their feasts are different.

For the message of Christmas is firstly a message of reconciliation with the self and an invitation to bring us back to our humanity which we lost due to our whims, our selfishness, and our grudges against the other and our hatred of him. The one who gets reconciled with himself and let peace dwell in his heart, can get reconciled with the others, can destroy the barriers that separate him from them, and can become ready for cooperation and partnership for the sake of the interest and the good of all. By this man becomes a new man, and the joy of the feast becomes a Christian joy, a joy of genuine faith, true love and a fixed and firmly established hope in the

Infant Jesus Christ.

The greatest joy of the feast is our knowledge of the free love of God and His unlimited giving to us. Thus the real joy of Christmas lies in the birth of the Infant Jesus in our hearts and not in the grotto. If our hearts are not transformed into grottos in which Jesus is born in them and we receive Him with the joy of the angels, shepherds and Magis, there will be no feast and no true joy, but rather eating, drinking wine and radiance in sumptuous clothes, and these are the customs and traditions of pagans in their feasts.

From our Orient which we love and in which the voice of the angels was heard chanting "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and pleasure among people," we pray and we fervently ask the Infant Jesus and His mother the Virgin Mary to intercede for us and for the peoples of the entire world before the Sublime Omnipotent God so that he lights the roads of all the believers and inspires the leaders of the world to work together for the sake of love of the marginalized, feeding the hungry, healing the sick, leaving their blind selfishness, reconciling with each other, remedying the wounds of the persecuted and the wronged, and firmly establishing the bases of justice and peace in the hope that all restore their humanity and dignity which God wanted for us so that we live in freedom, comfort and peace.

Realizing social justice, empowering man culturally and raising his awareness and making each of us hold himself accountable in an objective way will contribute much in reverting many who are intellectually extremists and being exploited by the others, to the road of God, that is, the road which if all of us take, then the God of peace will be with us and we will deserve His love and His satisfaction in our life and in our other world.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2016



The Arab Christian and Muslim Heritage Conference in the Holy Land

Christian – Muslim Dialogue Conference

27th Session

on

“Challenges facing Muslims and Christians in Light of Present Developments”

17-19 September 2015
Bethlehem Hotel - Bethlehem

First day of the conference, Thursday 17 September 2015, began with welcoming remarks and speeches by H. E. Bishop William Shomali, the honorable Mufti of Bethlehem Governorate, Sheikh ‘Abd Al-Majeed ‘Ata, and the Director of Al-Liqa’ Dr. Geries S. Khoury. The opening session was moderated by Mr. Mousa Darwish of Al-Liqa’.

This year’s conference was attended by more than 250 Palestinian Arabs, Christians and Muslims, clerics and secular, academicians, community leaders and many others from throughout Palestine and the Holy Land.

The first lecture was moderated by Dr. Lina Khamis, a lecturer at Bethlehem University, titled: “The Arab Regimes and their Role in What is Happening

Today,” by Dr. Muhammad Farhat of Jerusalem Open University. The second lecture was moderated by Mr. Elias Makhoul of Galilee, titled: “The Present Situation and its impact on pluralism and shared living in the Nation,” by Dr. Ra’ed Nu’yrat of An-Najah University of Nablus.

The two lectures were followed by a Literary Evening: Absent Present... the late Prof. ‘Abd Al-Rahman ‘Abbad, member of Al-Liqa’ Board of Trustees. The evening was moderated by the teacher and friend of Prof ‘Abbad Mr. Mousa Darwish, deputy director of Al-Liqa and Attorney ‘Ali Rafi’ and Dr. Geries S. Khoury. The eldest son of Prof. ‘Abbad spoke and thanked Al-Liqa’ for the event. Al-Liqa’s Board members presented the family with a shield to commemorate





Prof. 'Abbad.

The second day, Friday 18 September 2015, began with prayer and meditation by H. E. Bishop Butros Mu'allem who is from Galilee. He was followed by a lecture which was moderated by Dr. Adnan Musallam of Bethlehem University titled "World Policies and their Role in the Worsening Explosive Situations," by Mr. Hani Al-Masri of Masarat Center, Ramallah.



Following a lunch and a short break, the second session of the day started with a lecture by Prof. Thiab 'Ayyoush titled, "The Impact of World Policies on the Palestinian Problem", which was introduced and moderated by Doctor Peter Qumri of Al-Liqa's Board of Trustees.

The last lecture of the second day was presented by Dr. Hanna 'Issa of Jerusalem University titled "The Phenomenon of Extremism and its Reflection on the Arab Nation," which was moderated by Attorney Victor Matar from Haifa.

The Third day of the conference, Saturday 19 September 2015, began with an invocation and meditation by Sheikh Zuheir al- Dib'i of Nablus. This was followed by a panel titled, "The Impact of Extremism on Heavenly Religion and Human Civilization," by panelists Honorable Sheikh Dr.



Muhammad Al-Haj Muhammad, Mufti of Nablus and Prof. Marwan Abu Khalaf of Birzeit University. An extensive question and answer session as well as commentaries by invitees followed.

The last session of the conference was concluded with a panel titled, "Toward a Strategy in Comprehensive Treating the Worries of Muslims and Christians in the Arab Nation." The panelists were Dr. As'ad 'Abd Al-Rahman, Executive Chairman of the "Palestinian International Institute"; Dr. Iyad Al-Barghouthi, Director of Ramallah's Center for the Study of Human Rights and editor of Al-Tasamuh Review and Mr. Ziad Shleweit, a retired teacher and a journalist. The panel was moderated by lecturer at Bethlehem University, Dr. 'Omar 'Abed Rabbo.



After the last panel, Dr. Khoury summarized briefly the three days conference and thanked all participants and lecturers for their important research work and active participation in the three days conference. He thanked also the secretaries of al-Liqa and assistants for their work and help.

The conference was concluded with a final communiqué which was discussed and approved by attendees.

Wednesday Evening Forums

Tuesday 28 July 2015



Dr. 'Omar 'Abed Rabbo, Lecturer in Islamic and Ottoman histories at Bethlehem University, presented his power point lecture to several friends of Al-Liqa', academicians and community leaders on a new reading of two Fatimid inscriptions found at Al-Aqsa Mosque. The first inscription revolved around the era of Fatimid Caliph Imam and ruler Al-Zaher (1021-1036 A. D.). The second inscription revolved around the era of Caliph Imam Al-Mustansir (1036-1094 A. D.).



Thursday 13 August 2015

Tens of Christians and Muslims from Bethlehem Governorate attended a panel on "Jewish terrorism and Jewish continuous assault on al-Aqsa Mosque" which was organized by Al-Liqa Center in which Dr. Najeh Bkirat and Dr. Nasser Lahham took part. The panel was moderated by Dr. Geris S. Khoury. Dr. Najeh Bkirat who was the Director of Al-Aqsa Mosque and now the Director of Al-Aqsa educational



institutions spoke on the daily challenges in Al-Aqsa and the continuous Israeli attempts to enter the mosque area determined to pray there and to desecrate the Islamic holy sites with their intention to divide it the same as what happened at the Hebron Abrahamic Mosque.



Dr. Nasser Lahham, Director of Ma'an TV and of Maiadin TV office in Bethlehem, spoke about the significance of Jewish terror in Judaism and in Zionism and about the Israeli daily repressive practices against the Palestinian population such as their intimidation with the hope they will become despaired so as to leave their homes and properties. At the end there was a session of questions, comments and observations by attendees.

Wednesday 14 October 2015

Community leaders, academicians and other personalities from the Bethlehem Governorate attended this lecture by Mr. Qais 'Abd Al-Karim, Executive Committee member of the PLO, who focused on the present political situation in Palestine

and the uprising of the young in Arab Jerusalem and the occupied territories and in the 1948 areas. Mr. 'Abd Al-Karim reiterated the dire need for national unity in order for the popular uprising to continue. He added that Palestinians must avoid the pitfalls of the second Al-Aqsa intifada (uprising) and the militarization of the present uprising including the often repeated general strikes which damage the national interest. Following the lecture, attendees made comments and asked questions in a very democratic way.



A ceremonial panel focusing on Fifty Years on Vatican II “Nostra Aetate” Declaration on Relation Between the Catholic Church with non-Christians

Friday 30 October 2015 | Bethlehem Hotel - Bethlehem

Al-Liqa’ Center held a ceremonial panel focusing on 50 years of “Nostra Aetate”, 1965-2015. Tens of Palestinians, clergy, academicians and community leaders, males and females, attended this gathering. Dr. Geris S. Khoury welcomed attendees followed by a minute of silence for the souls of martyrs. H. B. Patriarch Fu’ad Twal, the Latin Patriarch in Jerusalem, focused on “Nostra Aetate” stressing the importance of prayer in the area of dialogue; for it facilitates shared living. H. E. Giuseppe Lazzarotto, the Apostolic Delegate in Jerusalem and Palestine, spoke of his experience as faithful and bishop adding that the Church contributed significantly in the area of dialogue. H. E. Sheikh ‘Abd Al-Majeed ‘Ata, Mufti of the Bethlehem Governorate, focused on Palestinian struggle and national unity between Muslims and Christians. He added that extremists will not thwart our march toward peace and reconciliation.

that the end of the apostolic mission of Pope John Paul II formed the culture of Dialogue in the Church; during Pope Benedict and Pope Francis’ periods further gains were made in the area of dialogue despite the present danger in the world and the Middle East. Sheikh Maher ‘Assaf, Religious Guide in the Political and Nationalist Guidance in Bethlehem, added many Qur’anic verses calling for the respect and cooperation with the “other”, while Dr. Mustafa Abu Sway of Jerusalem University, focused on the need to negate violence and extremism in all religion as well as cooperation between followers of all religions.



Following a short coffee break a panel was held on “The Relations of the Catholic Church with Muslims”. Fr. Rif’at Bader, Director of the Catholic Center for Studies and Media in Jordan, stressed

Dr. Geris S. Khoury, the last panelist, clarified the content of “Nostra Aetate” and stressed the need to forget negatives of the past and to work for positive aspects and mutual respect for our present and future.



Local Activities

European Cardinals and Bishops in Galilee
A lecture on
“Christian Arabs in Israel: Worries and Challenges”
13 September 2015, Mi’ilya



On the occasion of the march of the Feast of the Cross in the village of Mi’ilya in which Dr. Geris S. Khoury participated with thousands of Christians from throughout the Holy Land .

This year’s event was distinguished with the presence of more than forty European Cardinals and Bishops from 29 countries who were accompanied by the Apostolic Delegate and the heads of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land.



In this occasion and before the annual march, Dr. Geris S. Khoury presented a lecture to the Cardinals and European Bishops on Christian Arabs in Galilee and on their worries and challenges.

This lecture was at the invitation of Parish Priest Nadeem Shaccour and the Parish Council of Mi’ilya.



“Extremism’s Impact on Shared Living in Galilee”
5 November 2015
Melkite Catholic School, Shafa ‘Amr city

The lecture by Dr. Khoury was presented to senior high school students (12th Grade) at the Melkite Catholic School in Shafa ‘Amr. Dr. Geris was welcomed at the school by its Principal, Mr. Farouq Farhood, who pointed out the many activities of Al-Liqa’. For its main target and activities revolve around “shared living”. He focused on “religious fanaticism” and its negative results. He presented a sample of this phenomenon which is impacting Arab Countries and the uprooting of its native peoples: Christians, Muslims and others. Dr. Khoury said: I am surprised that this is not being done in Christian school at the 11th and 12th grades level. It should be taught at all school levels. Otherwise, these Christian schools will lose their mission and vocation.

“Palestinian Christian Arab Identity and Christian Arab Heritage”
Tuesday, 10 November 2015
Terra Sancta School, Bethlehem



At the invitation of Sister Vicky Jacaman, teacher of Christian Education, Dr. Khoury addressed the students of the 11th grade at the school and focused on the following: 1. Who is the Christian? 2. The components of the Arab Christian identity 3. Christian Arab presence before and after Islam. 4. The absence of Christian Arab history in school curricula and its impact on Christian Arab identity and shared living.



5. The role of Christians in public life, 6. The relations of Christian Arabs with fellow Muslims. 7. The emigration of Palestinian Christians and its impact on the local Church.

Following Dr. Geriès' lecture a question and an answer session as well as discussions took place.

At the conclusion of lecture Sister Vicky Jacaman thanked Dr. Geriès for his presence. School principal, Franciscan Fr. Marwan Di'des, likewise, thanked Dr. Khoury and wished that cooperation between the school and Al-Liqa' will continue.

**Palestinian Christians' Visit to their Fellow Muslims in the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque
Thursday, 12 November 2015
Al-Aqsa - Jerusalem**

Al-Liqa' Center for Religious and Heritage Studies in the Holy Land and Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center organized a meeting with H. E. Sheikh 'Azzam Al-Khateeb, the General Director of the Jerusalem Awqaf and the affairs of the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque Sanctuary. Great numbers of Bishops and priests as well as secular persons accompanied the two Centers to express their unequivocal support of fellow Muslims in their defense of Al-Aqsa in these difficult circumstances.

Palestinian Christians included H. E. Bishop William Shomali, H. E. Bishop 'Atalla Hanna, H. E. Bishop Butros Malki and a number of other Christian clergy including Fr. Ibrahim Faltas, Archimandrite Malathius Basal, Fr. Sham'on Jan, Fr. 'Issa Musleh, Fr. 'Abdallah Julio Brunella, Fr. Suheil Fakhoury, Fr. Firas Hijazin, and

Fr. Michael Shawqi. The delegation included as well as Rev. Dr. Na'im 'Ateeq, Director of Sabeel Center and Dr. Geriès S. Khoury, Director of Al-Liqa' Center, Mrs. Sawsan Bitar, Mr. Lawrence Sammour and Mr. Omar Harami.

The Palestinian Christian delegation was received and welcomed by H. E. Sheikh Muhammad Hussein, Mufti of Jerusalem and Palestine, H. E. Sheikh 'Azzam Al-Khateeb, H. E. Mr. 'Adnan Al-Husseini, the Governor of Jerusalem and officers and employee in the Noble Al-Aqsa area.

Rev. Dr. Na'im 'Ateeq delivered in the name of Sabeel and Al-Liqa' statement that was prepared by the two centers in which he thanked Muslim religious personalities and the Governor for their great welcome.

H. E. Sheikh Muhammad Hussein responded by thanking the two Centers for their initiative step which stressed that all of us are children of Palestine who believe in shared living.

H. E. Governor of Jerusalem, Mr. 'Adnan Al-Husseini welcomed the delegation and thanked this exceptional initiative by the two Centers.

H. E. Bishop Atallah Hanna and H. E. Bishop William Shomali stressed national unity and shared living in their talks and thanked the two Centers' initiative.

The last speaker was H. E. Sheikh 'Azzam Al-Khateeb who thanked the delegation in its unequivocal support of their fellow Muslims in their darkest hours and in light of the many challenges that face the Palestinian Arab people.

Following the delegation's visit, the mass media interviewed members and covered this event.



Al-Liqa' Center's Visitors

28 July 2015



An Italian group led by Fr. Gianantonio visited Al-Liqa' and met with Dr. Geries S. Khoury who briefed them on the Center's activities and publications as well as the Christian Muslim dialogue in light of negative events taking place in the Arab East including the violations of human rights and the sanctity of holy places. The meeting was concluded with a detailed question and answer session as well as discussions.



14 August 2015



An Italian group visited al-Liqa Center to know more about its history, programs, activities and its publications and the main goals of such initiatives. Dr. Geries S. Khoury met the youth group and welcomed them in the Holy Land and at Al-Liqa Center. According to the group's demand he told them about the Christian Muslim common daily life which he described as excellent. All enjoy religious freedom and Christians are participating fully in public life.



8 October 2015



A Danish group led by Prof. Peter Lodberg, Chairman of the Program Theology for Laity, Aarhus University, Denmark visited al-Liqa Center on the 8th of October 2015 and were received by Dr. Geries S. Khoury who welcomed them and expressed his appreciation for their visit and interest in Al-Liqa's programs and activities. Then he talked about the goals and mission of al-Liqa Center also about the Arab Christians in Palestine and in all Arab countries and the present challenges which are facing them.

Dr. Khoury told al-Liqa guests that the challenges which are facing the Church in the Arab world are the same challenges which the Western communities will face it soon or later. The main challenge facing all of us is extremism. This is not only on Islamic one, but we have also Christian and Jewish extremism, here and around the world. At the end of his speech many questions were raised and he tried to answer them briefly.

14 November 2015

An Italian pilgrimage group organized by the "UFFICIO PELLEGRINAGGI – DIOCESI DI VICENZA" visited al-liqa Center. Their request was to learn more about Christian – Muslim relations in the Holy Land and in the region, and about their daily life under Israeli occupation on the one side and the continuous manna of extremist religious groups on the other.

Most Recent Publications



Dr. Geries S. Khoury met them and spoke about Al-Liqa experience, programs and activities and about the daily difficult life under occupation. At the end, it was a question and answer session.

Msgr. Dr. Heinz Detlef Stäps, Head of "International Church Affairs" Department of the Diözese Rottenburg-Stuttgart, Germany visit 16 November 2015

Msgr. Dr. Heinz Detlef Stäps, Head of the Department of "International Church Affairs" of the Diözese Rottenburg-Stuttgart and Mrs. Flavia Rizzi, who is responsible of the Project Desk, visited al-Liqa Center on 16 Nov. 2015; they were welcomed by Dr. Geries S. Khoury, Director of Al-Liqa Center and by Mr. Musa Darwish and Dr. Adnan Musallam, members of the Board of Trustees.

After an interested and useful talk about the situation in the Holy Land and in the region, Dr. Khoury presented the guests the works of Al-Liqa and its future programs and plans.

Al-Liqa Center is considered partner of the Diözese Rottenburg-Stuttgart and they have been assisting al-Liqa financially as well as encouraging its programs and activities for many years.

Later, Msgr. Dr. Heinz, Mrs Flavia, Mr. Musa Darwish and Dr. Geries had lunch together; and continued their discussion over their meal.

The visit was impressive and we wish our friends and their benefactors all the best; all of them will be remembered in our prayers.



Al-Liqa' Journal (in English), volume 45, December 2015

This volume contains articles on the Egyptian position on the Palestinian Intifada, The Demography and the Geopolitical Conflict in the City of Jerusalem, The Libraries of Jerusalem, and research on Riwaya museum, opinions and reports.



Al-Liqa' quarterly review (in Arabic), Volume 2+3, year 2015

This volume contains the most of the proceedings of the 26th Conference on The Arab Christian and Muslim Heritage in the Holy Land which was held on 25-27 September 2014 on "The Arab Heritage in Jerusalem". In addition it includes a file on the honoring of Bishop Butros al-Mu'allem by al-Liqa as well as documents and a book review.



Al-Liqa' quarterly review (in Arabic), Volume 4, year 2015

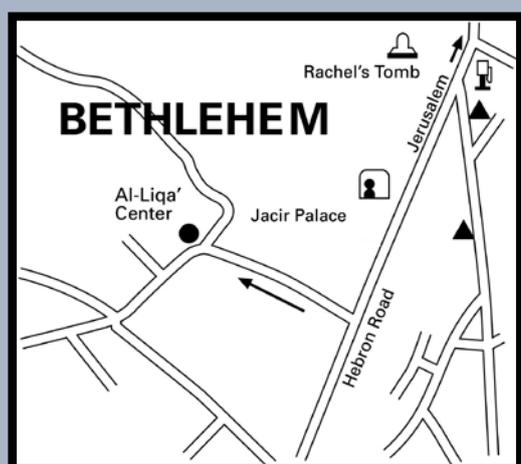
This volume contains the proceedings of the 22nd Conference on Palestinian Contextual Theology (PCT) which took place on 12 – 14 December 2014 titled "Is Christianity about to vanish in the Arab East?". It includes as well a file on Mercy in the three monotheistic religions, reports and a book review.





Al-Liqa' Center

In Jerusalem, the city sacred to billions of diverse believers, a Palestinian interfaith initiative led to the establishment of "Al-Liqa' Center", a unique place of research, study and dialogue on the religious traditions, institutions and daily life of the people of the Holy Land and the region. The program includes, interfaith dialogue, Palestinian Contextualized Theology in the Holy Land, international activities, and the publication of journal, newsletters, books and occasional papers. H.B. Patriarch Michel Sabbah, President, Board of Trustees; and Dr. Geries S. Khoury, Director.



Al-Liqa' Center's Headquarter 54-56 Al-Quds Jerusalem Str.

The Center is located less than 200 meters to the southwest of Rachel's Tomb at 54-56 Al-Quds Jerusalem Street. After passing the Jacir Palace to the right on the Hebron-Jerusalem Rd, take a right turn at the first intersection at the end of which Al-Liqa' Center is situated on the right side of the street.

A Study Day

An Italian group visited Upper Galilee

Thursday, 30 July 2015

An Italian group comprising 27 persons from different Italian cities visited Upper Galilee on 30 July 2015. The group was guided by Mrs. Betta and Mr. Norberto.

The group met Dr. Geries in Fassouta Village and he gave them a lecture on the Arab's social, economic and political status in Israel and the difficulties and challenges which they face in their daily life.

After the lecture there was a session of question and answer. After this first meeting the group had lunch and soon they went to see the ruins of the Palestinian destroyed villages among them were: Deir al-Qasi, al-Mansurah, Kufr Bir'am and Ikrit. Dr. Khoury accompanied them and told the group about the history of each village. Following these visits the group left for Jerusalem.



Upcoming Events

Conference on Palestinian Contextual Theology
(PCT 2015)

The 23rd Session

"The Church of the Arab East Facing the Takfiri Ideology"

18-20 December 2015

Manager Square Hotel- Bethlehem

Website of Al-Liqa' Center

www.al-liqacenter.org.ps

We hope you will have the opportunity
to visit Al-Liqa's web site,
and to send us your reflections