



الكنيسة الإنجيلية اللوثرية في القدس
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jerusalem

BISHOP MUNIB A. YOUNAN

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Jerusalem on February 14th, 2000

The Rev. Father Peter F. Vasko, OFM
The Holy Land Foundation
Middle East Office
JERUSALEM

Subject: The Holy Land Foundation.

Dear Fr. Vasko,

Salaam and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I would like to thank you for your visit in my office on February 8th, 2000. It was a good opportunity to hear from you about the aims and activities of the "Holy Land Foundation" in the service of the local Christians in the Holy Land.

I do agree with the fact that Palestinian Christians are the first victims of the wars, disturbances and violence, which took place throughout the last century. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict that caused political, social and economic hardships drove a big number of the Christian population to emigrate. As a result, the number of Christians has drastically dwindled to 3% of the total population.

The tendency of Christian emigration still continues until present date. On the other hand, Palestinian Christians still remaining in the Holy Land are suffering of unemployment, continuous struggle for coexistence, and lack of housing and steady income. Many of them, especially the young people, are tend to find opportunities to emigrate, which the Church does not encourage.

In my capacity, as head of a church, together with the other heads of churches in Jerusalem, we are extremely concerned about this problem. We discuss this issue nearly in every encounter of our monthly meetings as to how to alleviate this problem, and further put an end to Christian emigration. The emigration can stop when community based education is fostered, small businesses are encouraged and housing is provided

We therefore encourage and support THE HOLY LAND FOUNDATION to go ahead with its goals in the service of promoting and fostering the Christian presence in the Holy Land. For there is no Holy Land without the holy people of the Land.

May God bless you in your endeavors. We are ready for any

Yours in Him,

+ Bishop 
Bishop Munib A. Younan
The Lutheran Bishop in Jerusalem.

