



Expanding Spiritual Care... to provide a living, breathing embodiment of God's love

Nazareth Project is working with Nazareth Trust, NPI's partner in northern Israel, to expand Spiritual Care services to Nazareth Hospital patients and their families who come to Nazareth Hospital each year.

The Nazareth Hospital is a Christian ministry serving people from all backgrounds, with the majority being Arab Muslims.

Within that context, a chaplaincy team offers Spiritual Care to all, regardless of their faith, yet mindful of different beliefs.

Spiritual Care is currently provided by a team of ten volunteers from local churches, under the

leadership of a full time chaplain. However, patient visits are only provided three hours a day on weekdays.

The urgent need is to be able to offer 24/7 spiritual care to the 175,000 patients, and their families, who visit the Hospital annually. Our goal is that all patients are offered prayer, particularly at their time of greatest need, whether this is at the Emergency Room, Operating Theaters, or Intensive Care Unit.

Nazareth Project is coordinating with Nazareth Trust to recruit volunteer chaplains in the US to serve alongside local chaplains at Nazareth Hospital.

Ahmed's Story

Ahmed came to our chapel looking for guidance. His wife, who was in our surgical ward, had experienced a recurring dream of a man dressed in white approaching her saying: "Come to me if you are anxious and weary and I will give you rest." While she could not see his face, she heard his voice clearly and was mystified.

As she and her husband tried to find answers to this dream, hospital staff suggested Ahmed speak to the chaplaincy. A member of the team was able to share with him that these words were spoken by

A volunteer chaplain's experiences



SERVE volunteer, Sophie Lapp, and a patient

grateful for the warm connections that continued to grow with the different chaplains, and the group as a whole.

Some days I was confident enough to try to really engage patients with my limited Arabic vocabulary. Other days I focused on being able to introduce myself and giving the common greetings when I entered and left. Though small, the gestures were always appreciated, especially when the patients knew or learned that I was from the U.S.

My primary work in Nazareth was joining the volunteer chaplains at the Hospital three mornings a week. The volunteers are all local, and primarily Arabs. Due to cultural norms I usually joined one or more of the women on the rounds, visiting female patients in the maternity, children's, surgical, and psychiatric departments.

Although visitation can often be difficult, especially with a language barrier, most patients were welcoming, interested, and engaging.

The chaplaincy community was a wonderful place for support and care. Each morning began with visiting together over tea or coffee, and on Thursdays we joined in worship for a morning chapel service that is open to the campus. I was so

Sometimes chaplaincy is difficult or tiring, and sometimes I felt that my language limitations made me an unuseful contributor. I'm sure that this is true in any chaplaincy setting, not just an intercultural one! But each morning there was almost always at least one patient whose story or attitude was enough to keep me coming back, and to remind me that this work is about them and not about myself.

Chaplaincy work is about bringing the light, joy, and peace of God into the hearts of those who are hurting and healing. Focusing on this as the goal and mission was always enough to keep me mentally and spiritually engaged with this important holistic work of healing.

—Sophie Lapp, 2018-2019 SERVE volunteer

Ahmed... continued from p. 1

Jesus to his followers: 'Come to me all you who are weary and carrying heavy loads and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.' (Matthew 11:28-30)

Reading the Bible passage with Ahmed opened up a conversation on the meaning of these words and how to respond to them. He was given a Bible to take with him so he could share Jesus' words with his wife.

HOW CAN I HELP?

- ✓ **PRAY** for the expansion of Spiritual Care
- ✓ **DONATE** toward the costs of the expanded chaplaincy: estimated to be \$3,500 for a 3-month volunteer assignment
- ✓ **UNDERWRITE** the expense of refurbishing the guestrooms of international volunteers including chaplains: \$3,000 per room

IN MEMORIAM: Nancy L. Martin, Nurse Educator



Nancy L. Martin, 78, of Lancaster, PA died Monday, September 16, 2019 at her home. A 1963 graduate of Goshen College, Goshen, IN, she received her master's degree in nursing from West Virginia University in

1981. She earned her doctorate in Administration of Higher Education in 1987 from West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV. She taught nursing at West Virginia University, York College of PA and the Nazareth School of Nursing. She was certified as a clinical specialist in medical-surgical nursing. Nancy was married to Robert W. Martin, MD, for

fifty-six years – married in 1963. They lived in Lancaster and York after returning from Israel.

Nancy, with her husband, spent most of their careers as medical missionaries in Nazareth. She had the privilege, with the help of local colleagues, of expanding the Nazareth School of Nursing to include registered nurses. The School serves Arab Israelis of Galilee and became accredited by Israel's Ministry of Health during her tenure. She served as director of nursing education there from 1987 to 1995.

After returning to the US, Nancy remained in touch with the work in Nazareth and developed many close and deep friendships. She also served for several years as a member of the Board of the Nazareth Trust.

Nancy and her family have set up the Nancy Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund for scholarships at the Nazareth Hospital School of Nursing. To date over \$20,000 has been raised.

Three great ways to support NPI!

1

Nancy Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund

2

Give to a \$27,500 Matching Challenge!

Contribute at:

nazarethproject.org

or mail a check to:

**Nazareth Project
237 N. Prince Street, Suite 305
Lancaster, PA 17603**

3

Give at ExtraGive.org on November 22nd!

Support Our Organization During
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NOVEMBER 22 EXTRAGIVE.ORG

Your "extra" contribution to Nazareth Project on November 22 at ExtraGive.org will be stretched so that NPI will receive extra income from the Lancaster Community Foundation's \$500,000 stretch pool. Invite friends to support NPI on November 22!





Nazareth Project, Inc.
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NazarethProject.org

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Important reasons you should join the tour to Israel during March 13-22, 2020



2018 NPI tour group at Nazareth Village.
Nazareth Hospital is seen in the background.

- ✓ Visit numerous Biblical sites in the Galilee region where Jesus spent the bulk of his ministry.
- ✓ See first-hand the amazing medical and educational programs of Nazareth Hospital, School of Nursing and Nazareth Village.
- ✓ See cultural and historic sites on the West Bank on the way to Jerusalem.
- ✓ Join Christian pilgrims from around the globe in retracing the steps of Jesus in Jerusalem.

Registration Deadline: Dec. 2, 2019

Hike the “Jesus Trail” from Nazareth to Capernaum during March 22–28, 2020



2014 Jesus Trail Hikers at the Church of the Transfiguration

NPI Board member Bruce Stauffer wrote about the Jesus Trail Hike:

“As I viewed the many sites of Jesus ministry in northern Galilee, I reflected on the different Gospel accounts with new appreciation of the setting in which Jesus lived as a child, and later performed miracles and proclaimed God’s eternal love for humanity.

As I encountered the many friendly and welcoming Jewish and Arab people along the trail, enjoyed the meals they served, and heard their personal stories, I came to appreciate that humanity has more in common than it has in differences.

The experience was spiritually enriching, culturally rewarding, and geographically inspiring.”