



# Nazareth Project Inc

*Partnering with Nazareth Trust in Nazareth and surrounding areas*

## Nazareth Hospital Provides Advanced Training for Palestinian Physicians:

*The Result is Improved Access to Healthcare in the West Bank*



This is why 29-year-old Jenin resident, Dr. Fidaa Amour, completed training as a Diagnostic Radiologist at Nazareth Hospital. Dr. Amour earned her medical degree at An-Najah National University in Nablus, West Bank. After graduation, Dr. Amour began exploring options for specialization, and chose Diagnostic Radiology based both on her personal interest and the great need of her community in Jenin.

Dr. Amour was one of only a few hundred Palestinian doctors permitted to cross into Israel from the West Bank when she began her advanced training at the Nazareth Hospital. **During the four-year program, Dr. Amour learned all the necessary and required modalities of her specialty, including ultrasound techniques, CT, and MRI.**

After completing her advanced training requirements in December of 2022, Dr. Amour successfully passed the Palestinian Authority's Board Certification in Diagnostic Radiology.

Citing the lack of female physicians in the Palestinian territories who specialize in breast imaging for diagnosis, Dr. Amour writes, "I hope to provide this service to my community even at a small level. I am grateful for this opportunity that the Nazareth Hospital provided me. I hope that I will be able to fill in the gap for much-needed services and expertise in my community in the Palestinian Territories."

With more specialists available on the West Bank, patients seeking

For people in the West Bank and Gaza, accessing healthcare services can be extremely frustrating and difficult. Palestinian healthcare professionals are educated, caring, and highly dedicated, but their work is often hindered by movement restrictions and infrastructure shortages within the Palestinian Territories.

Obstacles to medical care such as lack of reliable electricity, equipment and supplies are compounded by the simple fact that there are not enough specialists, particularly in fields of medicine where advanced training is very limited.

**This year, Nazareth Hospital is providing advanced training opportunities to four West Bank doctors.** The training which is similar to a medical residency, will include specialization in several areas: Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine,

Laparoscopic & Bariatric Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Radiology & Orthopedics.

Palestinian doctors sometimes travel to Europe or the US for their advanced training and do not always return to Palestine once they complete their program. If they train in Nazareth it is very likely that they will return to the West Bank to practice medicine.

**NPI plans to raise \$1,000 per month for each of these four doctors—with a goal of \$70,000 by 2024**

## Meet the West Bank Physicians training at Nazareth Hospital



### **Dr. Tareq Shabana**

studied medicine at the University of Cairo (Qasr El Einy), Egypt. He returned home to Hebron District to work mainly in Internal Medicine and Cardiology. When he heard about Nazareth Hospital's opportunities for Palestinian doctors to train and specialize in different fields of medicine, he applied.

**"I was fortunate to connect with the Nazareth Hospital and be accepted in Emergency Medicine. The main goal is to train and return to Hebron, my hometown, in order to help the Palestinian people and provide the best care I can in my area of specialization. I am very grateful for this opportunity that the Nazareth Hospital is providing me."**

Currently, four West Bank physicians are beginning their Advanced Training at Nazareth Hospital. They plan to return with advanced skills in the areas of Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Laparoscopic & Bariatric Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Radiology & Orthopedics.



### **Dr. Amer Yasmin Abu Rmeileh**

will pursue specialties in Microscopic and Bariatric Surgeries, both of which are lacking in the Palestinian Territories.



### **Dr. Ibrahim Damiry**

will pursue advanced training in Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology.



### **Dr. Ez El Din Khalawi Abu Kharshi**

plans to specialize in Internal Medicine and Cardiology.

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specialized care will not have to travel across multiple military checkpoints or face unacceptable, life-threatening delays to access care.

Palestinian doctors trained at Nazareth Hospital in the past were funded from a West Bank organization. However, that funding is no longer available. As a result NPI is raising funding for the training costs.

**NPI plans to raise partial support for each of these four doctors—a total of \$70,000 during 2023 and 2024. To date, \$15,000 has been raised in lead gifts. Your contribution will help us to match those lead gifts and reach our goal.**

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## **JESUS TRAIL HIKES**

**PLANNED FOR NEXT YEAR:**

**March 17 - 22, 2024**  
**November 3 - 8, 2024**

The Jesus Trail hike is a five day, guided trek through northern Israel that begins in Nazareth and finishes at Capernaum.

The narrative of the Bible comes alive as the hikers retrace the steps of Jesus during the 40-mile hike.

The March 2024 Jesus Trail hike begins immediately after the NPI tour, so you can participate in both events!

*For more information about these events please email [npi@nazarethproject.org](mailto:npi@nazarethproject.org)*

*Josie Swartzentruber (left) and Jackie Sands stand on Mt. Arbel during the 2022 Jesus Trail hike.*





## Brubakers boost Nancy Martin Fund

In December 2022, Harold and Virginia Brubaker made a special \$12,000 contribution to the Nancy Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund. The gift was "special" since Nancy was married to Virginia's brother, Dr. Bob Martin. It was also special because it gave a significant boost to NPI's fundraising efforts to reach \$200,000 in the scholarship fund before the end of 2023.

The Brubaker's owned and operated a dairy farm near Mt. Joy, PA for 41 years and retired from farming in 1996. Last year they moved to a retirement community in Ephrata, PA.

Though busy with raising a family and farming, Virginia and Harold were always interested in Bob and Nancy Martin's work in Nazareth. In 1977 they visit the Martins in Israel along with daughters Christine and Sharon. Forty-one years later, in 2018, their daughter, Twila, joined an NPI tour to Israel that was hosted by Nancy and Bob. Twila describes the tour as a highlight of her life. During 2019 and 2020 Twila served on the NPI Board.

During three assignments totaling eighteen years the Martins served Nazareth Hospital and Nazareth School of Nursing. Nancy served as director of nursing education at the School from 1987 to 1995 and oversaw the development of its RN diploma program which was accredited by Israel's Ministry of Health.

The Nancy Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund is an endowment fund held by Nazareth Project and managed by Everence Financial Services. The goal is to begin annual distributions to the School after the fund surpasses \$200,000. Currently, \$180,000 has been raised including the special gift from the Brubakers.



Virginia Martin Brubaker (center) sits with her husband, Harold, (left) and brother, Bob, (right). Behind are the Brubakers' daughters: Sharon Rohrer (left) and Twila Rohrer (right).

# NPI ANNOUNCES ISRAEL/PALESTINE TOUR

## March 6 - 17, 2024

After a very successful tour to Israel/Palestine last October, Nazareth Project is pleased to announce that a similar tour will take place next year during March 6 - 17, 2024. The tour will include four nights in Jerusalem at the Ambassador Hotel and six nights in Nazareth at the Golden Crown Old City Hotel.

The tour will include stops at many historic and religious sites including:

- ✓ **In Jerusalem:** Mount of Olives, Via Dolorosa, Temple Mount, Western Wall, Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum, Old City and much more.
- ✓ **Traveling from Jerusalem:** Masada, Qumran, Dead Sea, Jericho and more.
- ✓ **In Nazareth area:** Sea of Galilee, Mt. of Beatitudes, Capernaum, Cana, Dan and more.
- ✓ **In Nazareth:** Nazareth Hospital, Nazareth School of Nursing, Nazareth Village, Church of the Annunciation, Old City and more.

Leading the tour will be:

The tour host, **Wayne Speigle**, who is a pastor and chair of Nazareth Project.

The tour guide, **Ibrahim Emtanis**, has wide knowledge of Middle Eastern religions including Christianity, Judaism, Samaritan, Islam and Druze. He specializes in Holy Land Christian Pilgrimage tours.



Ibrahim Emtanis (left) stands with Joanne and Wayne Speigle on a boat on the Sea of Galilee.

NPI's  
2022 tour  
participants  
at Mt.  
Precipice  
overlooking  
Nazareth





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*Dr. Taher Salameh (left) is from Tulkarm in the West Bank and is a graduate of medical school at Al-Quds University. He completed advanced training in Internal Medicine at Nazareth Hospital.*

*Dr. Tamer Sbaih completed advanced training in Orthopedic Surgery at Nazareth Hospital after he completed medical school and worked at the New Jericho Hospital and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society Hospital.*

## Highlights INSIDE

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- 4** Brubaker family presents a special gift to the Nancy Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund—donations now total \$180,000!