



Nazareth Project

Partnering with Nazareth Trust in Nazareth and surrounding areas

Regier Supports Chaplaincy Through SERVE



Teresa (center) and Dale Regier enjoy the Nazareth sunshine with friend, Nuha

Teresa Regier of British Columbia first heard about serving on the Chaplaincy team at Nazareth Hospital through Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship. A recently retired Certified Nurse Practitioner/Nurse Midwife (CNP/CNM), she explains her interest in the opportunity: "Because of my career in health care, the idea of volunteering in and around a hospital felt comfortable, even though chaplaincy was not my area of expertise."

Teresa's husband Dale was excited about the opportunity to join his wife in Nazareth, serving just down the hill from the Hospital at Nazareth Village. The couple had long wanted volunteer work to be part of their post-retirement phase of life. They wanted to contribute and help others as well as continue to learn about other cultures and meet new people. The Regiers applied to SERVE Nazareth, were accepted and arrived on April 1, 2023. During their three

months of service, they enjoyed daily opportunities to get to know people at Nazareth Hospital, Nazareth Village and in the wider community.

Teresa split her time between helping out in the nursery and serving on the volunteer chaplaincy team. Hospital staff got to know her better, and she them. It provided her with a different perspective. "Most days the nursery was quite busy and I worked hard as a volunteer, essentially doing nurse's aide work. I fed, changed, dressed and undressed babies as well as cleaned cribs and folded laundry."

SERVE leadership often provide several service options for volunteers with diverse experience and skill sets.

Christine Farah, who helps lead the International Chaplaincy Volunteer Program, observed how Teresa's "caring nature and wisdom made her a great fit for chaplaincy. Her background as a nurse gave her insight into healthcare chaplaincy which was invaluable. Her familiarity with hospitals meant that she also had that unshockable quality, retaining her ability to interact with people even in difficult physical situations without being overwhelmed.

"Her love for those she interacted with was evident, and her compassion helped her connect. The support she gave to our team was amazing. She approached each visit with the person at the forefront of her mind, eager to meet them, learn about them and to care for them."

Reflecting on her own experience with the chaplaincy, Teresa writes:

Volunteers are certainly a great blessing to us and to our community and I know that personally I have benefitted so much from their presence and encouragement.

—Christine Farah

"Most patients were very welcoming and appreciative of the visits, even if they were of a different religion. People in Nazareth seem more accepting of each other's different beliefs. I suspect it is also

that as a minority people within Israel, Nazareth's Arab population feels more connected to each other, even though they may have differing beliefs and religions. I learned about the approach of serving the needs and visiting all of the patients and staff, whether Christian, Muslim, or Jewish."

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"I felt honored to be part of a team that prays and shows care and concern for others. In spite of the language barrier, I found I could convey care and compassion non-verbally. I was able to pray for people when there was some understanding of English, and Christine and I, as well as other members of the team, spent time in prayer together."

What are some of the things that Teresa learned during her time there? "Smiles are welcome in any language. Even if communication is difficult, a smile goes a long way to make people feel welcome and accepted. Jesus continues to break down all cultural barriers. If we are brothers and sisters in Christ, we have much in common."

"People are people everywhere. They may look and sound different, but they have the same joys, sorrows, and experiences all over the world. It has been a good reminder that no one's culture is foreign to God. He created us with our similarities and our differences and declared that, 'it was good.'"

"If culture isn't foreign to God, our Creator, we should not let each other's differences make us uncomfortable. It should instead make us curious and make us want to discover more about each other. What a wonderfully unique and interesting world God created!"

The International Chaplaincy Volunteer Program considers volunteers with various levels of training and experience. For more information contact npi@nazarethproject.org. Your contributions help support future volunteer chaplains.



Teresa with Christine Farah

Trauma services expand at Nazareth Hospital

Nazareth Hospital serves as the primary acute care and trauma hospital for both the city of Nazareth and the greater region.

In 2022 Nazareth Project received a \$1.5 million grant for the purchase of new equipment at the expanded Trauma Unit at the Hospital. The grant from ASHA (American Schools and Hospitals Abroad) was made possible through contributions from NPI supporters to cover the application and reporting expenses.

Hospital staff are beginning to purchase equipment for the expanded trauma unit. The equipment is for three new service areas: Maxillofacial equipment, Ear, Nose, Throat (ENT) equipment and Ophthalmology equipment.

An Acute Room at Nazareth Hospital, which opened in August of 2022, is an extension of the hospital's Trauma Unit. It is designed to provide trauma-informed, culturally-sensitive care for members of the Arab community who have experienced sexual assault.

The Acute Room is located discreetly away from the hospital's main building, which helps protect patient privacy and confidentiality. In addition to developing resources specifically for these patients, the Hospital is also working with the wider Nazareth community to identify risk factors for domestic and sexual violence and developing strategies to prevent future incidences of violence.

The Acute Room's specially trained staff and healthcare professionals—which include doctors, nurses, social workers,

and psychologists—address patients' needs with compassion and urgency.

For many survivors of sexual assault, the road to recovery can be long and difficult. However, The Acute Room team are committed to making it as smooth as possible.



Trauma Unit at Nazareth Hospital. New equipment is being purchased with an ASHA grant obtained by NPI.

Two 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

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



ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT NPI!

Use a
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Elyse Kauffman, Charitable Consultant with Everence, presents Howard Good, NPI Executive Director, with a check for \$1,056.92. These funds represent 1.5% of credit card spending by MyNeighbor credit card holders who designated Nazareth Project as their charity of choice. Last year Everence donated \$525,000 to 562 organizations. Since its inception in April, 2017 Everence has donated more than \$2.2 million through this program.

Staff News

Ron Byler recently joined the NPI staff as Development Officer. Ron, the former Executive Director for Mennonite Central Committee U.S., will work part time based from his home in Goshen, IN.



Ron Byler



Sue Shirk

Continuing as part-time staff are Sue Shirk, Donor Management Assistant and Kevin Bradford, Web and Database Assistant.



Kevin Bradford



Jason Allgire

Jason Allgire concluded his part-time work with NPI in October to take a full time position with ASSETS. Jason began with NPI in 2012.

In 2022, sisters Jackie Sands and Josie Swartzentruber hiked the Jesus Trail together. They grew up in Pennsylvania but now live in Ohio and New Mexico.

Jackie wrote:

"What an awesome sight as we stood on top of Mount Arbel and gazed out over the valley and the Sea of Galilee, taking in the view of the area where Jesus lived and

walked and where most of his ministry took place."

Josie described the experience:

"We walked along dusty roads, rocky paths, village streets, and muddy fields. We crossed streams, ascended and descended the Horns of Hattin and Mount Arbel, and hiked along the Sea of Galilee. I tried to imagine what it must have been like when Jesus walked

here with his disciples, and, as I reflected, I realized that, in a sense, Jesus was walking with us, too!"

Jackie added:

"It was a rich experience and a super fun way in which to perceive the different religious, cultural and spiritual aspects of the people and the country of Israel."



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*Sunrise
over the
Sea of
Galilee
during
the Jesus
Trail hike
October,
2022*

Highlights INSIDE

- 1 Teresa and Dale Regier volunteered with SERVE Nazareth. Teresa supported the chaplaincy team. "If culture isn't foreign to God we should not let our differences make us uncomfortable."
- 2 The Trauma Unit at Nazareth Hospital is expanding with ASHA-funded equipment.
- 3 Two Jesus Trail hikes in 2024. Join one! "A rich experience and a super fun way to perceive the different religious, cultural and spiritual aspects of the people and the country of Israel," said Jackie Sands.

Support the important work of NPI!

Use the enclosed envelope or go to
nazarethproject.org/donate. Thank You!