

## **Outreach to the USA on Strengthening Christian Presence and Promoting Peace in the Holy Land**

March 14-March 26

### **Delegation Members**

#### **Dr. Faisal Aranki**



Born in Birzeit, 1951 is a Palestinian American Christian Activist. Dr. Aranki has been a Family Practice Physician for over 4 decades and holds a Master degree in public health. He was the former head of medical epidemiologist bioterrorism diseases in California State and retired from State Job in 2016 .Dr. Aranki was elected to chair the human development department in Palestine

#### **Reverend Dr. Jack Sara**



President of Bethlehem Bible College (BBC). Born and raised in the Old City of Jerusalem, Jack studied at BBC after committing his life to Christ and his teachings. He soon became a member and leader in the ministry of the Jerusalem Evangelical Alliance Church who in turn recognized his gifts and calling and encouraged him to go and study further for the work of the Gospel. Acting upon this directive, Jack went to the Philippines to study at the Alliance Biblical Seminary where he earned his M.Div degree.

Upon returning to Jerusalem, he began ministering with his church and teaching at BBC. After serving and leading the church for 13 years as a senior pastor, he and other likeminded leaders, saw the Alliance church become a church planting movement and a catalyst church in reaching out to the Palestinian people and Arabs with the love of Christ through a variety of means. Rev. Jack holds a doctorate degree from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in Missions and Cross Cultural Studies. Travels around the globe, teaching about Missions and Cross Cultural work in the Middle East and is a coordinator for the World Evangelical Alliance for the Middle East & North Africa.

Rev. Jack is an ordained minister with Evangelical Alliance Church in the Holy Land where he still maintains an overseeing role with the leadership of the churches. He has also worked extensively in the areas of peace & reconciliation.

## **Rev. Professor Dr. Mitri Raheb**



Founder and President of Dar al-Kalima University in Bethlehem. Most widely published Palestinian theologian to date with 42 translated books into eleven languages.

Served as senior pastor of the Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem and as President of the Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

Founded several NGO's including the Christian Academic Forum for Citizenship in the Arab World. Founding and board member of the National Library of Palestine and founding member and author of Kairos Palestine

Received in 2017 the Tolerance Award from the European Academy of Science and Arts, in 2015 the Olof Palme Prize and the German Media Prize in 2012 (an award mainly granted to Heads of States), an honorary doctorate from Concordia University in Chicago (2003), the "International Mohammad Nafi Tschelebi Peace Award" of the Central Islam Archive in Germany (2006) and in 2007 the well-known German Peace Award of Aachen.

Received wide media attention: CNN, ABC, CBS, 60 Minutes, BBC, ARD, ZDF, DW, BR, Premiere, Raiuno, Stern, The Economist, Newsweek, Al-Jazeera, al-Mayadin, Vanity Fair, and others. Holds a Doctorate in Theology from the Philipps University at Marburg, Germany.

## **Reverend Dr. Munther Isaac**



A Palestinian Christian pastor and theologian. He now pastors the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem. He is also the academic dean of Bethlehem Bible College, and is the director of the highly acclaimed and influential Christ at the Checkpoint conferences.

Munther is passionate about issues related to the Palestinian theology. He speaks locally and internationally and has published numerous articles on issues related to the theology of the land, Palestinian Christians and Palestinian theology, holistic mission and reconciliation. He is the author of "The Other Side of the Wall", "From Land to Lands, from Eden to the Renewed Earth", "An Introduction to Palestinian Theology" (in Arabic), and a commentary on the book of Daniel (in Arabic). He is also involved in many reconciliation and interfaith forums and is also a Kairos Palestine board member.

Munther originally studied civil engineering in Birzeit University in Palestine. He then obtained a Master in Biblical Studies from Westminster Theological Seminary and then a PhD from the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies. Munther is married to Rudaina – an architect, and together they have two boys: Karam (9) and Zaid (7).

## **Dr .Varsen Aghabekian**



Holds a Ph.D. in Administrative & Policy Studies-Education from the University of Pittsburgh/USA and a M.Sc. from Indiana University/Purdue University (IUPUI)/USA and a BSC from the University of Akron in Ohio/USA. Currently is Vice President for Strategy at Dar Al Kalima University in Bethlehem and free-lance management and policy consultant.

Dr Aghabekian has previously served as Dean of the faculty of health Professions and Dean of Graduate studies at Al Quds University. She has directed several national studies including the Multisector Review and Strategic plan for East Jerusalem, the National Plan for Human Resource Development and Education in Health and numerous national reports

Founding or active member of several NGOs and groups and active on human rights issues .Served as Commissioner General of the Independent Palestinian Commission for Human Rights (2016-2018). Author of several studies, books, manuals and national reports on: Jerusalem, health, education, youth, women in leadership and most recently on Armenians in the Holy Land.

Dr. Aghabekian is married and has 3 children and 2 grand daughters