

A View on Christians in the Holy Land

A New Beginning – and a Heartfelt Thank You

Dear friends of the initiative Handwerker des Friedens (Artisans of Peace),

This newsletter was originally intended to be published at the beginning of the year. Due to illness, some matters were delayed. All the more we thank you for your patience – and we are glad to be writing to you now.

You may also have noticed that this newsletter carries a new title.

With “A View on Christians in the Holy Land,” we are bringing together what was previously published separately: A View toward Bethlehem and A View toward Jerusalem. Not in order to say less – but to become clearer. Our focus is on the people who live there, who remain, and who carry their faith into everyday life. That is why we are taking this new path.

We invite you to continue walking this path with us – attentively, in solidarity, and with the trust that even small steps can make a difference.

Christmas 2025 in Bethlehem – Thank You for Your Support

During the past Advent season, we made a focused appeal in support of the Salesian Scouts and Guides in Bethlehem – for a Christmas celebration for children and for new scout uniforms.

Thanks to your generosity, a total of €7,390 was raised. For this, we say from the bottom of our hearts: thank you.

155 children experienced a festive Christmas celebration with theatre, creative activities, shared meals and gifts – a moment of joy and lightness in a difficult time.

For many children and young people, new and properly fitting scout uniforms could be made. They provide stability, a sense of belonging and dignity.

The scouts were visibly present with their musical groups at Christmas and Epiphany celebrations in Bethlehem – as a sign of community, discipline and hope.

What may sound like a factual report means a great deal on the ground: children who laugh. Young people who proudly wear their uniforms. A community that remains visible and alive.

The scout leadership has provided us with a detailed and transparent report. You can find this report, together with photos and the financial statement, on our website.

“Your solidarity and your trust have enabled our scouts to take part in the Christmas and Epiphany celebrations with dignity and renewed strength – as a visible sign of hope, unity and faith in Bethlehem.”
(From a letter of gratitude, January 2026)

You Can Continue to Support the Scouts in Bethlehem

Bank Transfer – Reference: Scouts in Bethlehem

Recipient: Don Bosco Mission Bonn

IBAN: DE78 3705 0198 1994 10 (Sparkasse Köln/Bonn, Germany)

Online Donation – Via the donation form of Don Bosco Mission Bonn (Donations for Children and Young People)

In the field “Message (optional)” please enter: Scouts in Bethlehem

A donation receipt will be issued if you provide your address. Your donation has an immediate impact.

A New Project in Jerusalem – A Man Is Needed in the House

In Jerusalem, the Borromean Sisters run a guesthouse. For many years, its income has helped finance a kindergarten – a place where children find safety, education and stability.

For almost two years now, tourist groups have largely stayed away. The work continues – but the burden is growing.

Until now, through Handwerker des Friedens, we have directly supported the kindergarten. It has now become clear that the daily life of the sisters themselves also needs relief.

The house includes a large garden. Paths, flowerbeds, trees, the schoolyard and the outdoor play areas must be maintained and cleaned to remain safe and usable.

An experienced gardener from Bethlehem can take on this work once a week, professionally and reliably.

The cost amounts to €550 per month – €6,600 per year. It is not a large project, but it brings tangible relief.

With your support, you help ensure that children continue to have safe spaces to play, that the sisters can focus their energy where it is most urgently needed, and that Christian life in everyday reality remains sustainable.

A man is needed in the house – so that the path may continue.

Support for the Sisters in Jerusalem – Project “A Man Is Needed in the House”

Bank Transfer – Reference: Handwerker des Friedens · Jerusalem

Recipient: Freundeskreis der Borromäerinnen Kloster Grafschaft e. V.

IBAN Sparkasse Mitten im Sauerland: DE71 4645 1012 0000 0953 80

IBAN Volksbank Sauerland: DE35 4606 2817 1011 4044 00

Online Donation – Select Location/Purpose: Jerusalem

In the comment field enter: Handwerker des Friedens

If you wish to remain anonymous, please add: anonymous after your name.

Christians in the Holy Land: Small and Vulnerable – Called to Peace

In a time of increasing violence and hardened divisions, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa has strongly urged that we must not give up on peace.

Peace is not a single moment or merely a ceasefire; it is a long journey requiring patience, perseverance and the difficult work of healing hearts, relationships and social structures.

Peace is inseparably linked to justice. There can be no lasting peace if the other person is not recognized as a person.

The witness of Christians in the Holy Land is that of a small and vulnerable community without political power – yet called to uphold a vision of humanity that makes peace possible.

“The Church in the Holy Land is small and vulnerable – and precisely for that reason called to bear witness to peace.” – Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa

Thank you very much for your solidarity!

If you have questions or would like to learn more about our work, please write to:

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www.handwerkerdesfriedens.de

With warm regards,
Monsignor Wilfried Schumacher