



BETHLEHEM
BIBLE COLLEGE
كلية بيت لحم للكتاب المقدس

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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A Word from Our Board

First of all, I want to thank you for your passion and love for the Lord, and for your commitment, prayers and support for Bethlehem Bible College. It is a privilege to serve the Lord together in this amazing ministry.

I recently listened to a sermon about Jesus's temptation which started me thinking about how this applies to the College. There are 4 important words that are connected: need, reality, weakness, and temptation. Jesus went through all of these when He was tempted. In the desert, He got hungry (need), but the reality of His situation was that He could not meet His need as there was no food around Him, and because of that reality, Jesus became weak. In His weakness the devil tempted Him. The question is, what did Jesus do to conquer the devil and the temptation? He used the word of God. The Bible College's main purpose is to train servant leaders in the word of God to make them strong in Him so that although their reality does affect them, their outlook on the future is built on their understanding and knowledge of the word of God.

We may not be able to change our reality but we can change the future as we grow in the knowledge of the Lord.

We want our students not only to hear the word of God, but to live it, to show it, and to proclaim it. Our goal is to impart knowledge that leads to wisdom with better understanding that gives each student insight into the Kingdom of God.

Pray with us that the Lord will keep blessing us in His presence, love, and grace, and that our students will live out their faith and lead others to the Kingdom of God.



Dr. Tanas Algassis

A Word from Our President

Another year has passed with its blessings and challenges. In the midst of it and all around it is God's grace that carried us through, so we can do what He has called us to and to achieve the goals that we have set before us.

Sometimes I wish we were doing all the programs, education, and training somewhere else where it is easier. Where access for people is easier, where people from abroad and especially from the Arab world could come and study and be equipped. Where people who visit us don't have to be harassed or even banned from coming, or have to hide the fact that they are coming to Bethlehem to study, visit, and serve at Bethlehem Bible College. Yet despite all of these challenges, students are still enrolling and being equipped in the Word of God. I keep reminding myself that when Jesus launched His ministry it wasn't about how many they were, how equipped they were, or how qualified, but what He could do in them and take them through a journey of transformation. This is our goal here, trusting that our Lord will continue to strengthen us as promised in Philippians 4:13, "I (we) can do all things through Christ who strengthen us."

So this year we have worked to transform students, root them in the Word so they can impact the world. Remember friends, that we can do this with the strength of the Lord and with your prayers and support, which make you direct partners in the work of God in us and through us. God bless you.

Rev. Dr. Jack Sara

Expansion, Enhancement, and Strengthening

In a sense, 2022 was a reawakening in Bethlehem. Following two whole years of the severe impact of the pandemic, the town started to reopen to tourists, which meant the economy made a stark upturn as tour guides, souvenir shops, and olive wood artisans got back to business, along with the hotels and restaurants.

In the same way, after an extensive process hampered by Covid and all the restrictions, 2022 was a good year for Bethlehem Bible College, as we were able to make many upgrades to our campus and educational resources for our students. Some of these improvements, like the student lounge and computer lab, make studying more effective for our students. Other upgrades include the renovation of our Guesthouse, which has now expanded to three full floors of rooms, and will help make us more financially self-sustainable. We introduced our new Strategic Plan that covers the years 2022-2026 and began its implementation, marking a reinvigoration of the structure and function of the College.

As we introduced last year, **our new vision statement is:** toward a society built on the Word of God and the values of love, mercy, justice, and truth.

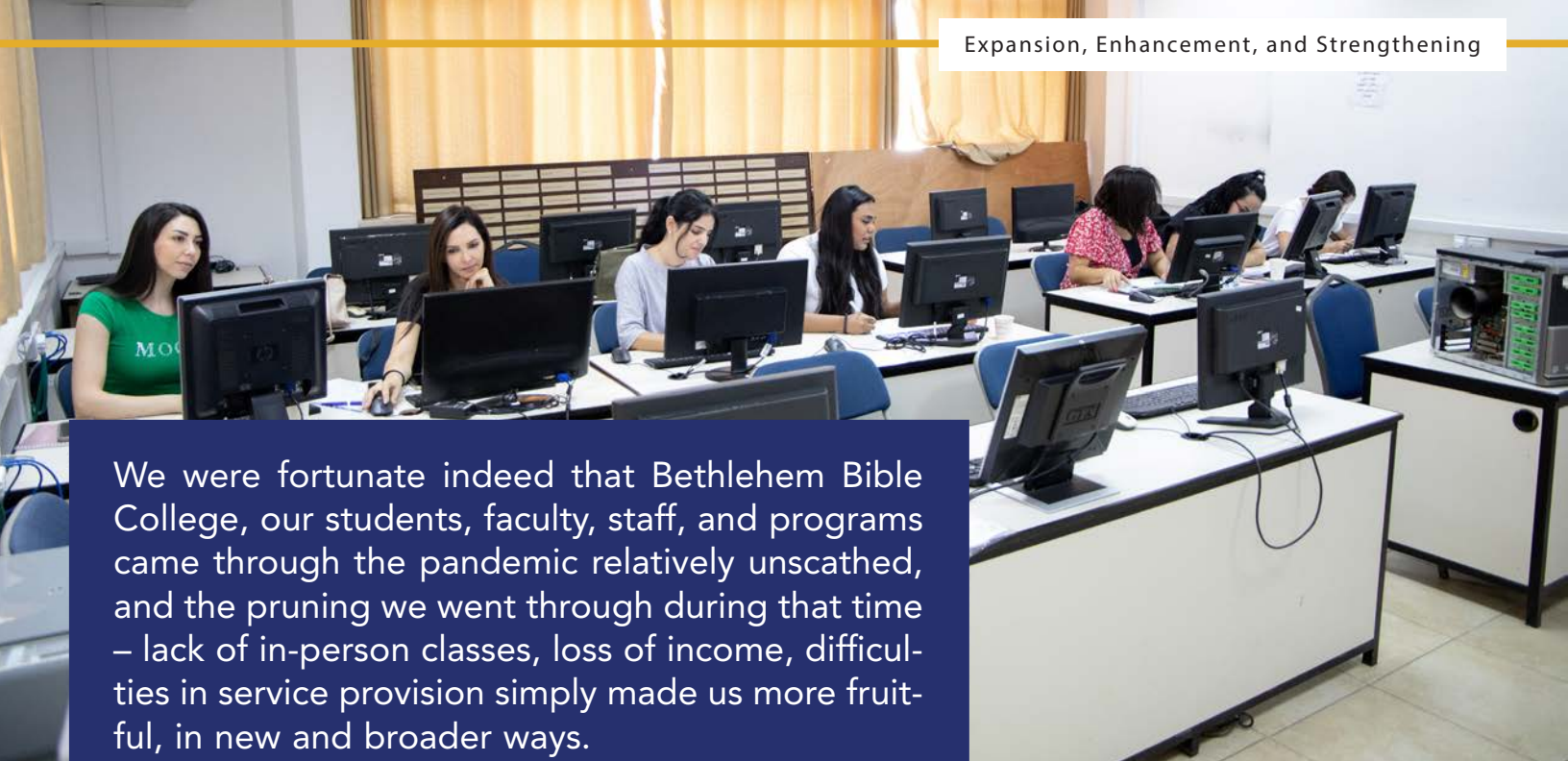
Our mission is: We are a Palestinian Christian Evangelical university college that works in the service of, with, and through the Palestinian community and aims to prepare potential leaders in Palestine and the world and participate in promoting a Palestinian Christian theology locally and internationally.

Our overall strategic goal is: to contribute to equipping Christian leaders and promoting Palestinian theology locally and internationally. And our specific objectives are:

1. Enhanced contextual and authentic academic research, theological resources and training platforms.
2. Improved socioeconomic, educational and spiritual service provision.
3. Strengthened working environment, effective institutional and human capacity development at the Bethlehem Bible College.
4. Increased financial sustainability through income generation.

This strategic plan has provided a framework within which our various programs can flourish as we pursue our objectives. With a focus on our first goal of contextual academic research, our new Palestinian Christian Library, the Journal of Palestinian Christianity, and Academic Conferences open a wealth of academic resources to our students. Our Community Outreach and Development Department continues to serve our community in many different ways – through training courses, humanitarian outreach, media, women’s ministry and are always seeking ways of improving their services.

We continue to enhance our work environment by ensuring regular staff meetings to strengthen communication, and keeping the college on a level with other institutions in Palestine. We also added one new pillar to the College’s structure by adding a Director of Hospitality and Events to oversee our Guesthouse and other income -generating projects we promote to help the College.



We were fortunate indeed that Bethlehem Bible College, our students, faculty, staff, and programs came through the pandemic relatively unscathed, and the pruning we went through during that time – lack of in-person classes, loss of income, difficulties in service provision simply made us more fruitful, in new and broader ways.

Our online course offerings – BA, MA, and community courses – serve our beneficiaries better than ever. And now, the strategic plan will serve to deepen our roots in authentic contextual theology and produce improved fruit through service provision and even employment at the College.

The year 2022 saw great growth and improvement in all aspects of Bethlehem Bible College. We are grateful for the favor that God has poured on us as we seek excellence in the ministry He has set before us.

“The best taste that we can enjoy in this life is the taste of success. God calls us to succeed and advance with quest and knowledge; do not wait for opportunities to come to you, but rise and create them yourself. Our life is a very precious journey; let us decorate it with knowledge, science, and spiritual growth. Come together toward new hopes and horizons that inspire optimism and positivity and motivate us to create a better society and a world of peace and love. Our knowledge today paves the way for our children and future generations toward a more beautiful life. Our knowledge today not only builds the future, but it destroys all foundations of falsehood.”

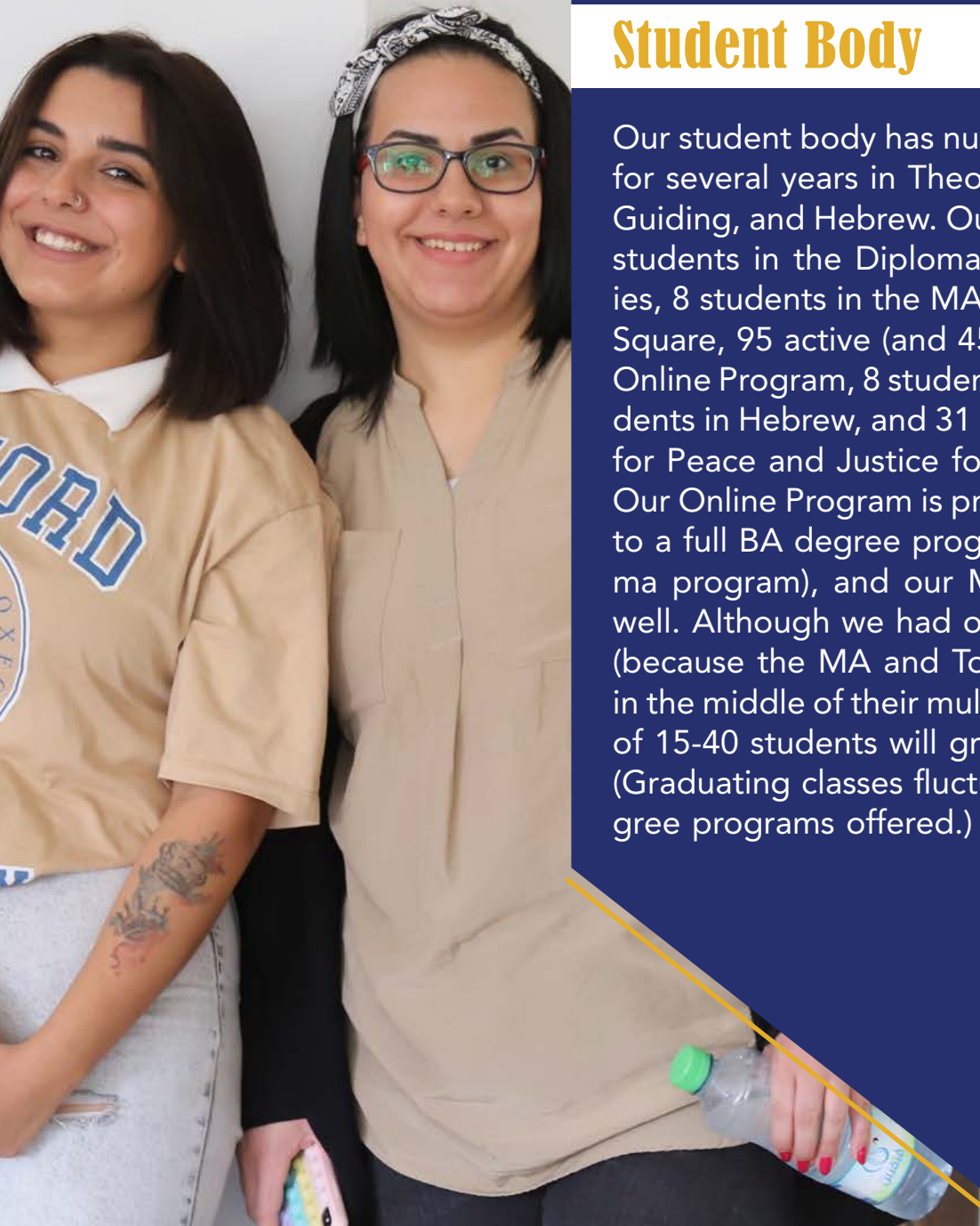
*Hanan Gharib,
1st Year Biblical Studies Student*



Academic Programs

Student Body

Our student body has numbered 150-200 students for several years in Theology, Peace Studies, Tour Guiding, and Hebrew. Our current enrollment is 31 students in the Diploma and BA in Biblical Studies, 8 students in the MA in Theology in the Public Square, 95 active (and 45 inactive) students in the Online Program, 8 students in Tour Guiding, 10 students in Hebrew, and 31 in the Bethlehem Institute for Peace and Justice for a total of 183 students. Our Online Program is progressing in its expansion to a full BA degree program (as well as the diploma program), and our MA is available online, as well. Although we had only one graduate in 2022 (because the MA and Tour Guiding Programs are in the middle of their multiyear cohorts) an average of 15-40 students will graduate from the College. (Graduating classes fluctuate according to the degree programs offered.)





MA in Theology in the Public Square

This year has been particularly significant for our program, in fact we have revamped the entire graduate degree, both curriculum and course structure, even its name. The old program (founded in 2009) was outdated and at times it was a challenge to keep up with the latest developments both in Palestine and in the world at large. The name “Theology in the Public Square” encompasses a more demanding level of training, and a more ambitious program at all levels.

There is a gap between the theological and educational realm and actual Palestinian and Middle Eastern theology as it is articulated on the ground, so we want to prepare students to deal with complex and varied discourse in the current public square of theology. At the same time, this new approach will help us reach out to new students, both in Palestine and abroad, to help the Christian community thrive, theologically and socially, giving future Christian leaders the opportunity to build their experiences based on a comprehensive educational framework, being able to interact with community leaders in the Middle East, especially in churches, other Christian organizations, and non-profits.

Our desire is to incorporate a broader view of theology by offering perspectives such as feminism and the theology of the Global South.

The cohort this year consists of eight students: three of them are studying online, and five students from Bethlehem, who also attend online, although we are able to interact with them in person. We have a very pluralistic, cooperative environment which we value and foster to promote debate and interactive learning. Some of our students pursue the program exclusively, while others are teachers, in ministry, or have other employment in the community. We are implementing new initiatives for students who are able to attend more in-person activities together. This includes visiting holy sites in Palestine as well as offering peer-to-peer activities to encourage our students to build interpersonal bonds and grow as leaders. This has been a great asset to our program.

BA in Biblical Studies

This year we have eight new students in the BA in Biblical Studies Program – high quality students. Two of these already have BAs from other universities. The Vice Academic Dean and Head of Student Affairs Gabriel Hanna says, “I am so inspired by what many of our students share with me. The word of God deserves all this commitment and hard work.” At the beginning of the fall semester, we offered a Ministerial Comprehensive Examination for Theology Students to bridge from the Diploma Program to Bachelor’s Degree. Four students from our Diploma Program applied for this exam and all succeeded.

Our Biblical Studies students volunteer at Bethlehem Bible College, which helps them find practical outlets for the ministry they study in the classroom. Every summer for two weeks they work intensively with the children’s summer camp. Over 90 kids participated in the summer camp (in partnership with the Shepherd Society) this year. Also, this year our students went to Jordan for 12 days to serve Syrian refugees in the north of Jordan. They served with children, women’s ministry, kids’ camp activities, and visiting the refugee families. Finally, our students helped the Shepherd Society with the medical team who came to the College to serve the community.



Online Biblical Studies Program

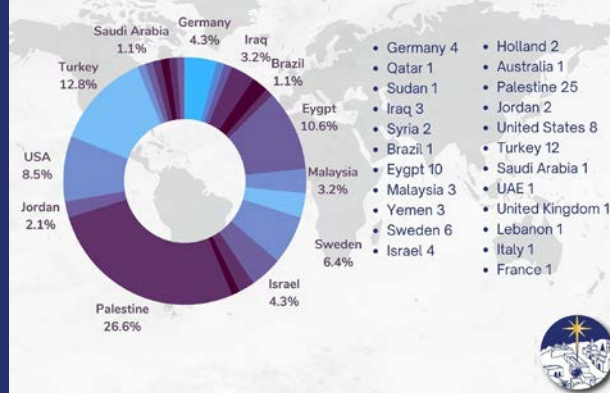
The Online Education Program at Bethlehem Bible College is directly impacting the growth of the church in the Arab world by training and equipping Christians to become faithful ministers in their churches – spreading the Gospel and planting churches. In 2022 we had 95 active students enrolled in the program from 23 countries around the world. Not all of these students take courses at the same time – they study as time, finances, and life situations allow – but whether actively studying or not, most are still encouraged by their relationships with our instructors. Students use the information they gain in interpersonal relationships, Bible studies, youth groups, and church ministry.

In 2022 five new courses for the BA Program have been implemented – Local Palestinian Theology, Biblical Archaeology and Geography (Parts 1 & 2), Christian Counseling and Pastoral Ministry, and The Pentateuch. Although we are challenged in course development and instruction by the shortage of BethBC faculty who are pursuing doctoral studies, two additional courses are being implemented in the spring semester.

Notably this year, we obtained accreditation for the Online BA and Diploma Programs from the European Council on Theological Education and the Asian Theological Association. We are accomplishing our goal of maintaining the rigorous academic standards of BethBC in this extended program.

ONLINE STUDENTS GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

ALL OF OUR STUDENTS ARE ARABS, LIVING IN THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:



One of our students comments, "I really thank the Lord for this program and for joining the Bethlehem Bible College family. Through this program I was able to fulfill my passion and ambition to deepen in the word of the Lord and to strengthen my will to be an evangelist in His name."



Peace Studies

The Bethlehem Institute of Peace and Justice (BIPJ) at Bethlehem Bible College has successfully completed the inaugural year of its Certificate Program in Peace and Justice. Each semester 30 to 35 students participated in the program's course offerings from a wide range of countries including China, the Philippines, Thailand, Liberia, Nigeria, Cameroon, South Africa, Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Scotland, England, Wales, Canada, and the US.

Andrew Bush, the director of the BIPJ at BBC, says, *"The Certificate Program has had a positive impact on the lives of our students. For example, a few days ago one participant wrote that because of the program they were now going to pursue a MA degree in non-profit leadership. It has been especially gratifying that those students who have taken our online, semester-length courses have successfully received academic credit for their studies with us at their home universities."*

The BIPJ has linked its Certificate Program with St. Stephen's University in New Brunswick, Canada, creating a joint MA in Peace and Justice with a focus on Peacemaking and Justice in the Palestinian Context. This MA is accredited by the Canadian government, providing an accredited MA program for Bethlehem Bible College.

This new MA is unique in the Palestinian community. It is a fully online program. Launched in the fall semester, 2022, students from Palestine, Canada, the US, and Africa are enrolled.

Eastern University in St. David's, PA (where Andrew Bush is professor emeritus), has recently approved the acceptance of the credits of our Certificate Program for transfer. Consequently, EU's graduate program in Theological and Cultural Anthropology is now including all three of the Certificate Program courses in their curriculum as electives.

Presently, Rev. Dr. Nelson Kraybill, the former president of the Mennonite World Conference, is in residence at the college for the full academic year as the BIPJ's first scholar in residence. He is working on a short video-recorded course on apocalypse, empire and Palestine. He is also filming with Rev. Jack Sara, the Beth-BC president, a ten-part series on peacemaking drawn from biblical sites. Both of these courses will be added as electives to the BIPJ course.



Tour Guide Diploma Program

Our Tour Guiding Program had a number of special events this year, a result of our stellar reputation for training guides throughout Palestine. First, we organized a special tour guiding course for students in Jenin and Nablus in cooperation with the Palestinian Bible Society and Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. The second is that we hosted a five-day tour guiding licensing exam where our students participated and excelled in the exam required by the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. In an outstanding result, 22 of our 26 students passed the exam! A third event was the hosting of two refresher courses for the Tour Guiding Union, consisting of 80 tour guides, both Christian and Muslim. One of these lectures was given by Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac about Palestinian Theology and Christian Zionism. There is a great demand for this information from both religious groups.

The eight students in our current Tour Guide cohort display characteristics that speak of high quality performance: understanding knowledge and information, critical analysis, and public speaking. They have been involved in trips throughout Palestine and the Holy Land to visit sites that are being taught in their courses. This is part of a "learn and see" method for a better quality and learning experience.



كنائس فلسطين
ومراكز لاهوتية
ومواقع مقدسة

محاضرات مصورة
وبرامج وثائقية

وثائق
وبيانات

مقالات
وأراء

كُتب
ومؤلفات

Arabic Academic Publications

In 2022 great emphasis was placed on our first specific strategic objective, "enhanced contextual and authentic academic research, theological resources, and training platforms." This involves a continual evaluation of our current academic programs to be sure that they meet the rigorous standards of the College and our accrediting agencies, who visited us in November. In addition, we initiated new projects designed to foster a culture of original theological thinking among Palestinians. It is important to encourage contextual Christian Palestinian thought, so as not to rely on theology imported from the West that is not sensitive to our context here. One of these projects is the Palestinian Christian Library, a virtual library of Christian materials to be available to all Arabic institutions of higher education, pastors, and church leaders. Until now there has been no current repository for books, articles, and other resources written in Arabic. Included will be books from different Palestinian Christian traditions (Orthodox, Protestant, Catholic, etc.), past and present, which will be available for research. Another project is to operate a Christian publishing house through Bethlehem Bible College. (This is a necessary alternative to using existing publishing houses in Lebanon or Egypt, because the political realities of the region mean that shipping books in from those publishers

is nearly impossible.) We will publish up to four books per year in Arabic to be available in print as well as in the virtual library.

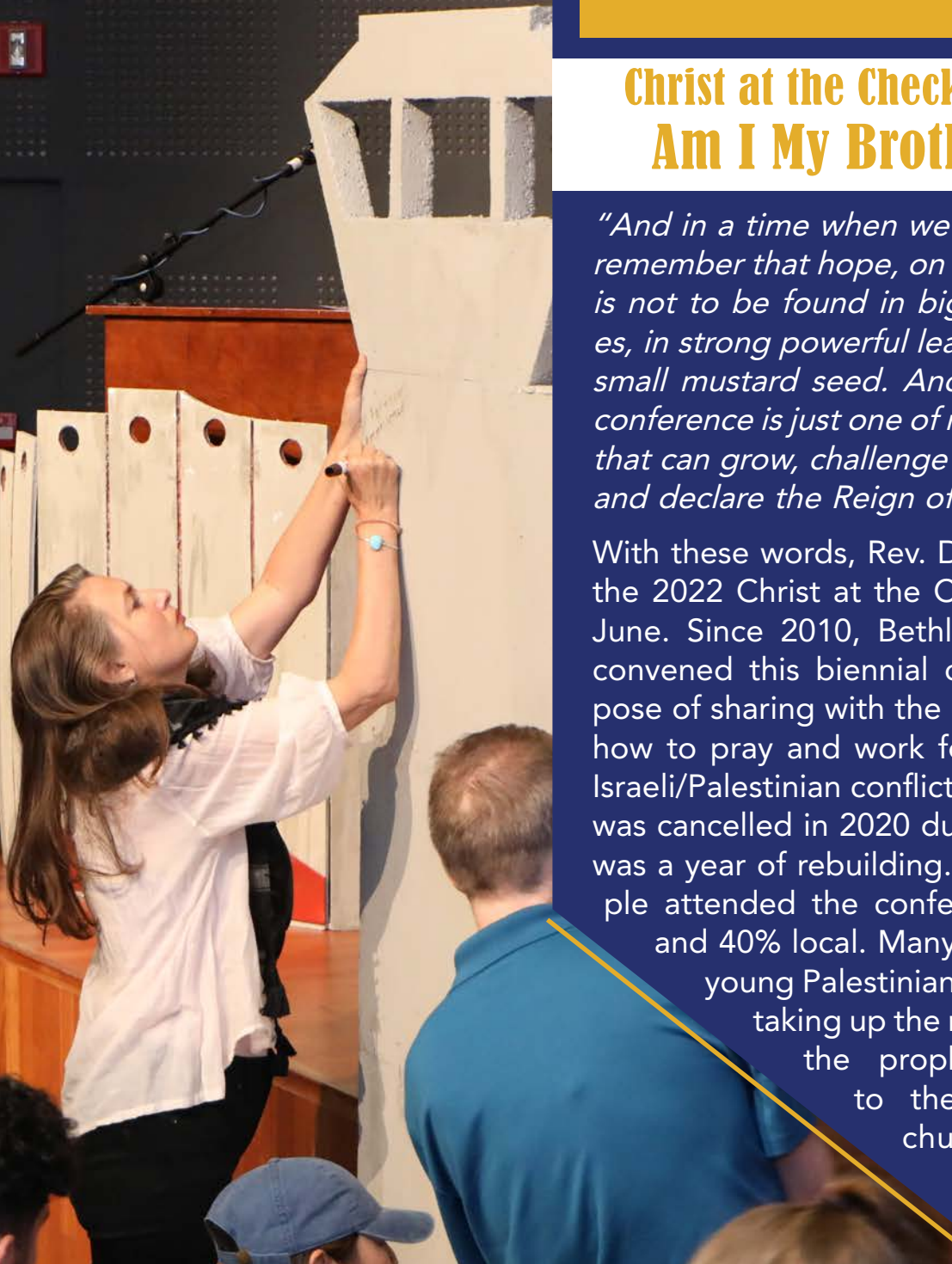
The Journal of Palestinian Christianity aims to bring about a wider audience for theologians interested in academic research and writing concerning Palestinian Christianity. Through the establishment of an academic and peer-reviewed journal, Palestinian, Arab and international scholars will be able to research, write, and engage with one another on issues relating to Palestinian Christianity. The journal will host writings in both Arabic and English, fostering a vibrant and diverse academic discussion between scholars in Palestine and abroad. Palestinians should be leading the work being done on Palestinian Christianity, and not have to wait on Western institutions for their initiatives. We also expect this journal to contribute to global discussions relating to theology and religious studies.

Conferences

Christ at the Checkpoint Conference: Am I My Brother's Keeper?

"And in a time when we have lost all hope, let us remember that hope, on the other side of the wall, is not to be found in big events, in megachurches, in strong powerful leaders, but hope is like the small mustard seed. And it is our hope that this conference is just one of many small mustard seeds that can grow, challenge empires, dismantle walls, and declare the Reign of God on earth."

With these words, Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac opened the 2022 Christ at the Checkpoint Conference in June. Since 2010, Bethlehem Bible College has convened this biennial conference with the purpose of sharing with the global Evangelical church how to pray and work for justice in the ongoing Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Because the conference was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic, 2022 was a year of rebuilding. Approximately 100 people attended the conference, 60% international and 40% local. Many of the speakers were young Palestinian believers, who are taking up the mantle of being the prophetic voice to the global church.



One attendee said, "In the past, I've heard people giving commentary, but not necessarily people giving witness. This year we heard voices that have experienced very similar experiences ... many local practitioners and theologians, and it gave [the conference] a very concentrated Palestinian voice."

"From the depths of our hearts we cry to you, O Lord, Lord of the oppressed and the broken hearted... Intervene, my God, for righteousness and justice are the foundations of your throne."

(Taken from Lament Prayer by Lamma Mansour)



Global Leadership Summit

On March 4th and 11th and November 11th, BethBC hosted the 7th and 8th Annual Global Leadership Summit. In collaboration with Willow Creek Association, Bethlehem Bible College has been hosting and organizing the summit for eight years under the subtitle of "You Have Influence!"

After two years of lockdowns and social distancing, we were glad to host the Global Leadership Summit again. In March, our campus was filled with more than 200 young leaders from all over the country for two days. In addition to speakers broadcast from around the world, we also had influential local speakers who shared their unique experiences with the audience. In November, more than 140 local and international attendees were at the conference to hear inspirational speakers challenge them in leadership, teamwork and development.

Bethlehem Bible College is always honored and thrilled to serve Palestinian Christian and Muslim leaders through conferences and workshops that enable leaders to develop their skills to enrich their work and influence.

In March, Bethlehem Bible College received a visiting delegation from An-Najah National University. The delegation included 52 male and female students from the Faculty of Sharia. Mr. Yousef AlKhouri presented a lecture entitled "Christian Faith and the Palestinian Christian Presence" in an atmosphere of positive interaction and constructive dialogue. Both the Sharia professors and Professor AlKhouri stressed the importance of knowing our neighbor and the other closely, and that we are encouraged to hear the other and their different points of view without this leading to disagreement. Everyone also stressed the importance of coexistence, the continuation of cooperation and dialogue between our colleges, and building bridges based on common issues and concerns. This visit constitutes a continuation of the joint cooperation relations initiated in 2019 by Bethlehem Bible College and the College of Sharia at An-Najah University.

Community Outreach & Development

Bethlehem Bible College's Outreach Program was created to offer help and hope to people in need. Extending Christ's love in practical ways to those in need in our community through job creation, food parcel distribution, medical aid, and family sponsorships is the goal of the Shepherd Society. Beth-BC seeks to assist women to embrace their worth and God-given purpose in life through our ministry "A Pot in His Hand." Our training programs for the community contribute to our society, assisting children's education, and offering courses that increase employment opportunities. The New Vision Media Center is responsible for all of the media needs of the college, and also produces television programs discussing issues such as human rights, health, and the environment that are broadcast on local and national satellite television. All four of these departments strengthen our relationship with our neighbors and provide a valuable humanitarian service. In addition, we are a big part of our community; rather than isolating ourselves we are a witness for Christ in our community. We are salt and the light as Jesus said in Mathew 5:13-14, and our neighbors respect us for the love we show them.



Community Training

The Community Training Department of Bethlehem Bible College helps to bridge the gap between our academic programs and our community. We offer a number of courses for our local Bethlehem neighbors – as varied as UCMAS (a course designed to maximize children’s mental power), to English and Hebrew, to social media marketing and public speaking. We have a full class of 13 students in our Professional Diploma in Hebrew Language (which is distinct from our local community training), and the quality of the students is good. This training opens for them better job opportunities, and most of the students who enrolled this year have gained new job offers due to their enrollment in the program. Students of the Hebrew Diploma are required to do 30 hours of practical training in local organizations in order to fulfill their academic hours. One of the students is teaching a Hebrew language course for high school students in the American School of Bethlehem.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, our “community” has taken on a broader meaning at the College. We decided to give a chance to all the people worldwide who were unable to visit the Holy Land to know more about the historical and biblical sites from a local perspective. In the beginning our vision was to cover the major tourist sites from a biblical point of view, so we hosted “Discovery” courses for Bethlehem, the Central Highlands, and Galilee. Then we expanded our courses to concentrate more on characters from the Bible that have great influence, so we offered courses such as Women in the Bible, and the Herods in the Holy Land. This is all in addition to our seven levels of Arabic courses (with 78 students).

Altogether nearly 400 students have taken courses with us in 2022! Our community is growing and we are always on the lookout for new course ideas and programs that are needed.





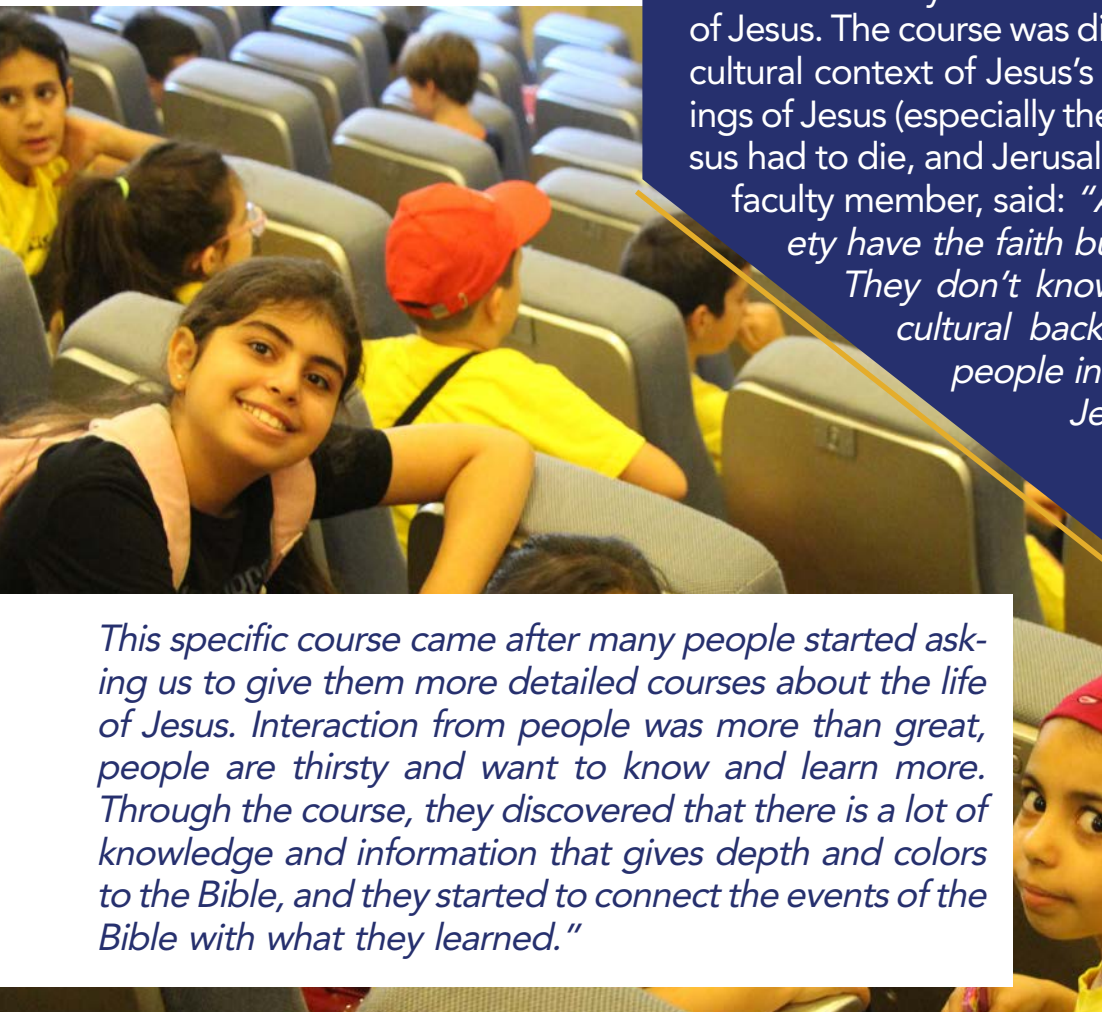
Bethlehem Summer Camp

In August we finished our two week summer camp under the name "Discover Africa." Christian and Muslim children from the Bethlehem area participated in the camp and were taught about the continent of Africa, Kenya in particular. We included African culture, crafts, Bible classes, cooking, and sports stations. With 92 children ages 6-12, this camp was very successful. At the end of the camp, the children used some of their daily allowance to donate to the people in Kenya. This was a chance to teach them about the importance of giving.

Community Course on Jesus's Life and Teachings

Our Academic Office offered a course to the local community entitled "Jesus's Life and Teachings." The idea for the course came after we became aware of the need for society to learn more in-depth about the life of Jesus. The course was divided into four lectures: the cultural context of Jesus's life and ministry, the teachings of Jesus (especially the Kingdom of God), why Jesus had to die, and Jerusalem today. Yousef Al Khouri, faculty member, said: *"A lot of our Christian society have the faith but not the experience.*

They don't know the historical or cultural background of the people in the time of Jesus.



This specific course came after many people started asking us to give them more detailed courses about the life of Jesus. Interaction from people was more than great, people are thirsty and want to know and learn more. Through the course, they discovered that there is a lot of knowledge and information that gives depth and colors to the Bible, and they started to connect the events of the Bible with what they learned."



Shepherd Society

For those among whom the Shepherd Society ministers the effects of the pandemic are still a challenge, increasing the number of people seeking for help, as many people lost their jobs and still have not been employed. Every month they distribute 25 food parcels, for a total of 1,000 families helped in 2022. In the Christmas campaign alone 440 food packages were distributed! They spend over \$12,000 per month on medical aid (which includes medicines, procedures, surgeries, and insurance for the elderly), which has helped 850 individuals. Other assistance includes educational supplies for the marginalized, and they have 65 families sponsored locally and internationally in the Family-to-Family Program. They are grateful that they work in cooperation with other local institutions to offer these supports, as it multiplies the help they can give.

In December they hosted their annual Christmas celebration for our beneficiaries, with 700 people attending. It was a great time of sharing the love of Jesus with others. In August, they received a group of doctors in different specialties from the Christian Medical & Dental Association coordinated by Rev. Rajai Samawi, one of BethBC's board members. For a week, they treated 1,100 patients from the Bethlehem governate and the surrounding areas, mostly children and seniors.

Many organizations that work with children with disabilities brought them to see the doctors and dentists. All treatments were given free of charge, as planned by the Shepherd Society staff, the

College staff, and students who volunteered. Everybody worked diligently the entire week to provide everything the patients needed. We praise God for what He has done.

In June, a group of students and faculty members (with some local volunteers) went to Jordan for a two-week mission trip led by the Shepherd Society to serve among Syrian refugees. During the trip, the students visited 40 families for prayer and fellowship. They had a great week of fun and learning with 120 Syrian kids at the summer camp, in addition to their many other activities. They shared Bible stories, verses, music, crafts, cooking, sports, and games. They also had a fruitful time with a group of 25 women, where they talked about the character of some women in the Bible, and learned about how to apply this to their day-to-day life.





Our BA student Rosalinda describes: *"My experience was wonderful! I got a great chance to meet new people and know their needs and love, and experience God's grace and love. I used to complain about the lack of some luxuries in my life until I got to know that there are people who do not have even the basics. I learned that just giving them love and attention helps to satisfy them. During the camp, I got the chance to know different personalities, the most beautiful of which were the children who expressed their love in many ways. It was indeed an amazing and beautiful experience, through which I learned to bear the burdens and always help others, and I hope to be able to offer more to those amazing people."*

New Vision Media Center

The New Vision Media Center serves many valuable roles at Bethlehem Bible College. Daily work includes producing monthly videos for the college, promotional videos, and filming special events - such as our summer camps and Global Leadership Summit - which this year included our biennial Christ at the Checkpoint Conference (live stream, recorded lectures, and speaker introductions). They also produce videos for the Shepherd Society, and Bible Live Meditations. For our Academic Department NVMC produces our on-line courses, the Online Degree in Biblical Studies, the MA in Theology in the Public Square, the Peace Studies Program. As these programs expand the demand on NVMC increases proportionately.



In addition to meeting the needs of the College, NVMC is deeply involved in advocacy for social development. Funded by a Swedish partner, for this project NVMC produces two monthly 10-minute programs that focus on human rights issues relating to women, children, youth, and people with disabilities. We are nearing completion of 60 episodes (since 2020) that are broadcast on social media platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and various websites. These programs have been exceptionally successful in increasing public awareness of these issues, often resulting in changes in legislation or other tangible benefits.



“A Pot in His Hand” Women’s Ministry

The breadth of our Women’s Ministry, “A Pot in His Hand,” is expanding, encompassing special events, one-on-one ministry, mentoring, support groups, Facebook, Instagram, website, two editions of our magazine (also available on the website), and videos (including mental health videos). All of our teachings are available on Facebook, Instagram, and the website. We were blessed to add two assistants this year – one as an administrative assistant for projects, and one a full-time executive secretary.

The depth of this ministry impacts the lives of participants spiritually, psychologically, emotionally, and interpersonally. Even casual visitors are impacted by what they hear, and the 50 women who participate are in a process of transformation. We started a new support group called “Shine” which is designed to help women develop an understanding of their own personal worth, strength, and purpose.

We aim to create a healthy culture within our team and reflect these Christian values into our community. We are most excited about the 20 women who participate in our small group counseling and the 15 engaged in in-depth mentoring, with the aim of having disciples of their own. This has created new opportunities for the team to be involved in the lives of women in a deeper way. Our goal is to see these women active within their sphere of influence.



Income Generating Program

As a result of the strategic planning process and in order to achieve the overall objectives, Bethlehem Bible College decided to work within three major programs: the Academic Program, the Outreach Program, and the Income Generating Program. This last program aims at providing services and launching initiatives that will increase the local income of BethBC in a sustainable way. This will be done through deploying the various facilities and expertise of the college through professional business plans to maximize profit.

Bethlehem Bible College Guesthouse

In May, Bethlehem Bible College was pleased to welcome Michael Mufdi as Director of Hospitality and Events. His efforts were concentrated on the completion and furnishing of the newly renovated guest house, in addition to overseeing hospitality and events.

Currently, we have 16 new rooms ready, and we should finish the main lobby in the very near future. In 2022 we were able to welcome 318 guests including groups and individuals (mostly in the old guest rooms). We initiated a soft opening in mid-December; bookings for 2023 look promising, and we even have bookings for 2024.

Full staffing should be completed by the end of February.

Future plans include renovating the old dining room and its kitchen, as well as upgrading the old rooms. Funding is still being sought to finish the renovation.

The guesthouse positively impacts our community through providing job opportunities for Christian youth and helps make Bethlehem Bible College more sustainable. We are also engaged in developing a small event and conference market utilizing the existing facilities of the College. The guesthouse also provides an opportunity for the local Christian community to engage in dialogue with foreign visitors through the very successful Ta'Shuf Tours ("come and see") program of organized sightseeing tours operated by BethBC.





Star Bazaar Gift Shop

In 2022 the Star Bazaar has finally moved beyond the pandemic as tourism is gradually opening up. We have expanded our stock with a variety of new and innovative goods; olive wood items, new designs in Phoenician glass, Bethlehem rose jewelry, and hand-painted ceramic Christmas items. Along with olive wood, one of our bestsellers is tear gas canisters transformed into Christmas tree ornaments. We have noticed that gifts with an explicit connection between peace and the Holy Land have been very popular with customers.

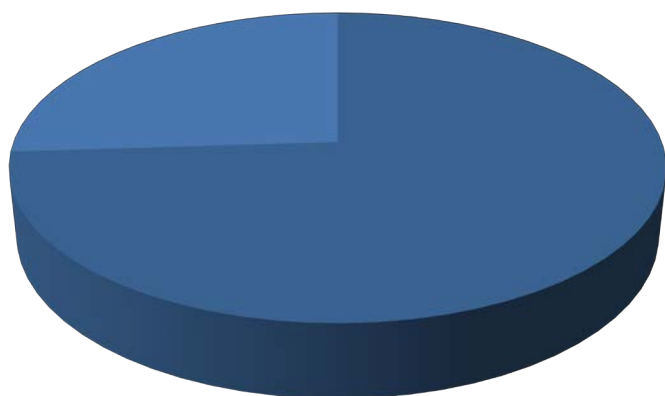
Our vision is to be in constant contact with artisans - we go out into the community, encourage our producers and craftsmen, supporting and encouraging them to think outside the box and reinvent themselves in their designs and articles. This year in particular we have a new couple of artisans with whom we have established a good cooperative relationship; they work with natural resin, so we have encouraged them to explore their creative potential while supporting them in designing religious and spiritual items related to the Holy Land to be featured in our catalogue and sold in our shop.

Our outlook is positive for the future, with an increase in sales of our products, as well as new additions to our catalogue and stock. At last business is picking up, and we are looking forward to seeing what we can do to improve further in the foreseeable future.



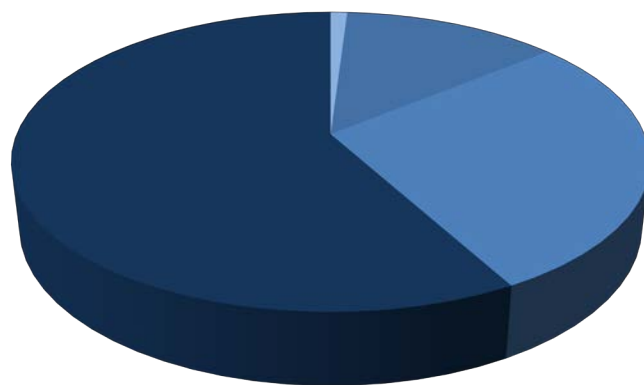
2022 Financial Overview

Source of Funds



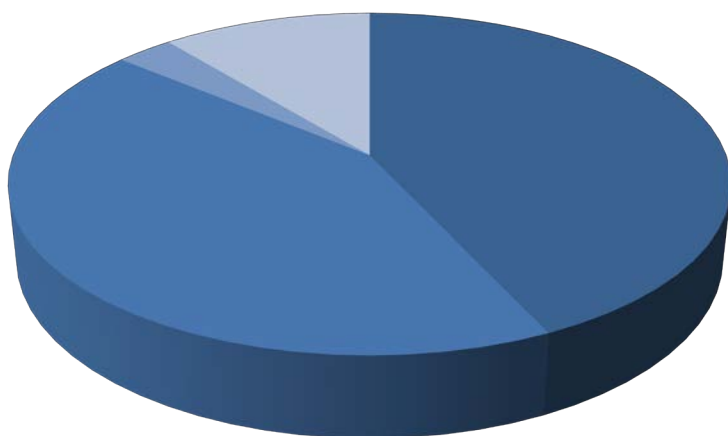
- Revenues from Activities (26%)
- Contribution (74%)

Contribution by type



- Businesses (2%)
- Churches (11%)
- Individuals (24%)
- Foundations (63%)

Functional Expenses



- Admin & General Expenses (43%)
- Program Expenses (43%)
- Cost of Goods Sold (3%)
- Depreciation (11%)

\$1,832,291

Total Income

\$1,802,391

Total Expenses

Summary Financial Statement

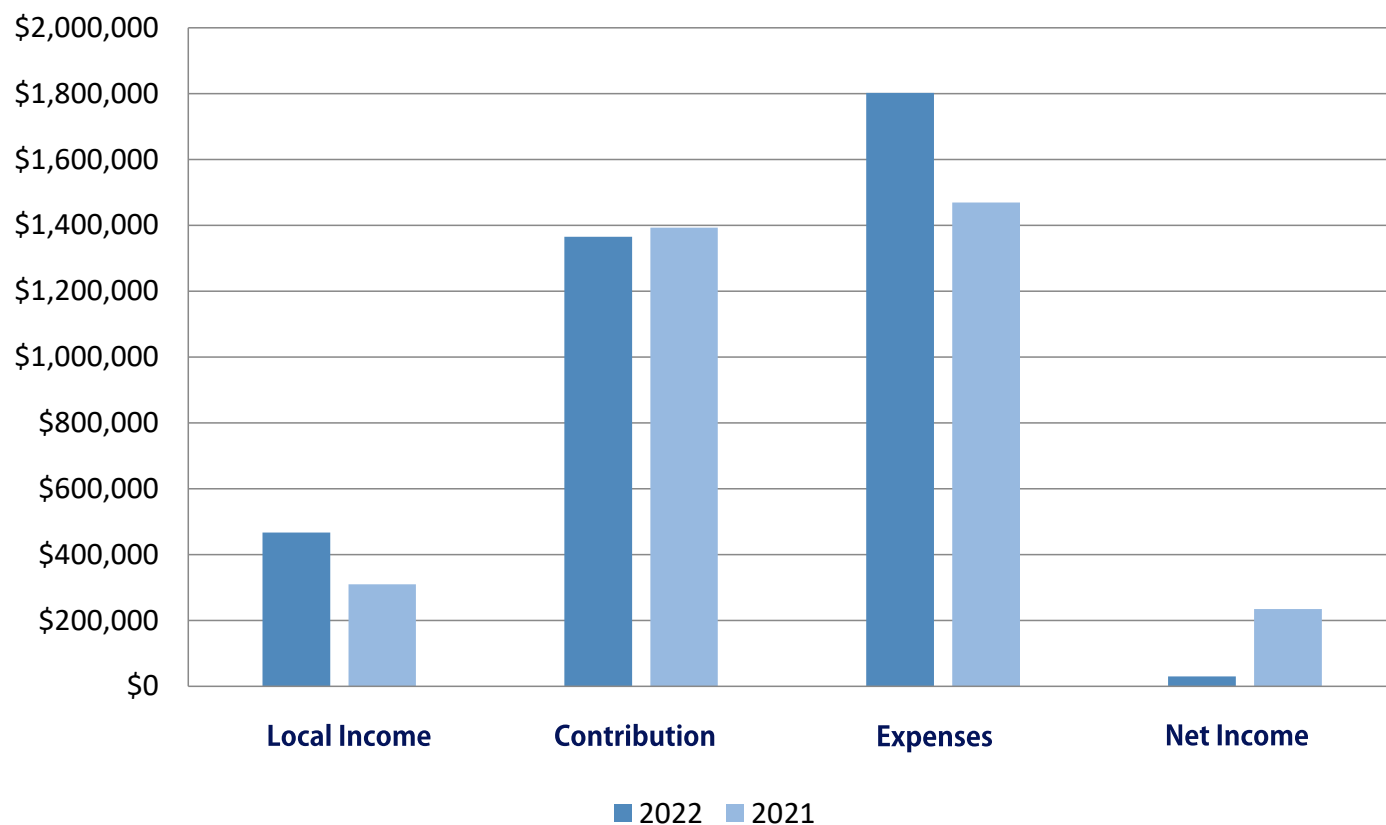
Statement of Financial Position 2022

Assets	\$ 6,045,242
Liabilities	1,585,280
Net Assets	4,459,962
<hr/>	
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 6,045,242

Statement of Activities 2022

Income	\$ 1,832,291
Expense	1,802,391
<hr/>	
Net Income	\$ 29,900

Income Expense Comparision



- Please note that this information is based on unaudited financial statements; any variations will be noted in the 2022 audit report.



Thank You

"In the midst of darkness, light persists" (Ghandi). This is the role Bethlehem Bible College serves in our community. Without denying the hardships we face daily, we honor the expansion and strengthening the Lord has accomplished in our midst, and through us, in our neighbors and others around the world. All that we are able to do is because of the partnership of our faithful donors and those who support us with prayer, encouragement, and making others aware of our ministry. We give our highest praise to our Lord Jesus Christ and His body on earth!

