

2024



ANNUAL  
REPORT



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# A Word from Our Board Chairman



A few weeks ago, I came across a story that moved me deeply, and I feel it speaks to the heart of our mission at Bethlehem Bible College. I'd like to share it with you:

*"The sugar was in the tea... but I forgot to stir it. I took a sip, and it tasted bitter. "Yet, the bitterness of the tea did not mean that the sugar was absent... it simply needed stirring to release its sweetness."*

*"Goodness and love are often like this—they are present within us and within those around us. All they need is someone willing to bring them out. Stir the goodness and love within yourselves and in those you care for, and you will taste the sweetness of life... and discover the beauty within. Like a sugar cube, which dissolves to bring flavor, kindness quietly enriches others, leaving a lasting imprint even when unseen."*

This story captures so much of what we strive for at Bethlehem Bible College. One of our most profound roles is to "stir"—to inspire, challenge, educate, and empower. We aim to lead others from where they are to where they can serve the Lord with greater purpose. In a time when our country has faced immense hardships, with many losing hope, homes, and loved ones, the need for compassion and support has never been greater. And through it all, we have been there, standing alongside those in need, offering hope because the Lord has called us to be a light in the darkness.



This past year has been transformative. We have seen more students join us, more recognition within the community, and a deeper impact on those we serve. We are so grateful for your prayers, support, and love. Together, we are making a real difference, nurturing leaders who will bring hope, change, and Christ to those around them.

Let's continue to be that "sugar cube," giving all we have and leaving a beautiful imprint in the lives we touch. Thank you for being part of this journey.

In Him,

*Dr. Tanas Algassis*



# A Word from Our President

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year at Bethlehem Bible College, we are reminded of the faithfulness of our Lord, who has sustained us amidst the trials we face, particularly in the midst of the ongoing war on Gaza and the hardships in the West Bank. In Psalm 46:1, we are reassured that *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."* This promise has been our anchor during these turbulent and difficult times.

Leading a Bible College in Palestine and being the most prominent Evangelical institution in Palestine gives us both huge challenges but also many opportunities to provide a clear witness about the love of God for our people and his desire for their best, Jesus came that *"they might have life, and life in its abundance"* (John 10:10). And this is what we are offering to our people here in Palestine and beyond.

We give thanks for God's protection over our students, staff, and faculty, whose unwavering dedication to spreading the Gospel stands as a testament to His grace and power. I am profoundly proud of how each member of our community has contributed to advancing the work of the Gospel in Palestine and beyond, demonstrating resilience and compassion in their service.

As we continue our journey together, may we remain steadfast in our mission to equip future leaders and proclaim the hope found in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Your prayers and support empower us to fulfill this calling, and for that, we are truly grateful.

With heartfelt appreciation,

*Rev. Dr. Jack Y. Sara*

President, Bethlehem Bible College



# Activating Talent & Capabilities



2024 was a year of remarkable activity, resilience, and achievement for Bethlehem Bible College. Despite ongoing challenges, our campus transformed into a dynamic hub where academic excellence met heartfelt service. Every initiative undertaken by our students throughout the year breathed new life into our community and echoed our commitment to faith in action. From traveling on a solidarity pilgrimage to South Africa to an event for local youth discussing social media to ministering to Syrian refugees in al-Mafraq in Jordan with the Shepherd Society to hosting a summer camp for children in Bethlehem, our students stepped beyond the classroom to learn and touch lives.

The College placed an emphasis on empowering women this year. While our New Vision Media Center produced a series of 30 podcasts to raise awareness of women's rights and civil liberties, our women's ministry, "A Pot in His Hand," hosted a two-day training conference titled "Shaping My Vessel."





The message, a powerful affirmation of women's worth and potential, left the women empowered and ready to embrace their intrinsic worth, defying societal pressures. Central to the message was the affirmation that women can thrive in their roles without compromising their femininity, reflecting their creation in God's image. In March, we celebrated International Women's Day with the theme "**Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress,**" focusing on achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls.



Bethlehem Bible College and the Shepherd Society launched an intensive training program aimed at raising women's awareness of trauma care on psychological and social levels, enabling them to support and educate other women in their communities.

This program, called YARN, will enable these services in both the West Bank and Gaza once that is possible. The program will be incorporated into the college's academic curriculum in the future.



Retreats for both staff and students—ranging from a serene day of prayer and reflection at Carmel Monastery to an engaging campus retreat featuring group prayers, team-building, and a shared meal to a student retreat filled with team games and unforgettable moments—provided opportunities for renewal, fellowship, and strengthened community bonds. Both staff and students were tapped to present thoughtful meditations for significant events in the church calendar by both the college and other organizations, like Red Letter Christians.



Bethlehem Bible College has had several notable achievements in 2024. Rev. Dr. Jack Sara represented the college at the 4th Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization in Korea. Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac, our Academic Dean, received the 2024 Rick Love Peace Award and donated the award's prize money to the Peace and Justice Institute. Our founder Dr. Bishara Awad, was awarded the prestigious Labib Madanat Kingdom Impact Award. We rejoice in the accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students.

As we look back on 2024, we celebrate a year that was as challenging as it was inspiring. Every step taken, every event organized, and every life touched affirms that when talent and capabilities are activated for a higher purpose, the ripple effects can transform both individual lives and the broader community. Our gratitude extends to every student, staff member, volunteer, friend, supporter, and partner whose enthusiasm and dedication made this year not just successful but truly transformational, regardless of the humanitarian crises caused by the war in our country.





# Academic Programs



## Student Body

In 2024, our student body numbered 152 students in Theology, Peace Studies, Tour Guiding, and Hebrew. Our current enrollment is 29 students in the on-campus Diploma and BA in Biblical Studies Program, 12 students in the MA in Theology in the Public Square Program, 10 BA students and 32 diploma students enrolled in the Online Program (as well as 130 active, but not enrolled this semester – not included in the total), 14 students in Tour Guiding, 10 students in Hebrew, and 45 in the Bethlehem Institute for Peace and Justice (BIPJ) for a total of 152 students. We celebrated the graduation of four BA in Biblical Studies students in June.



# Academic Expansion

Bethlehem Bible College signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut and the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo to form the Middle East Graduate Theological Consortium in partnership with the Protestant Theological University in Amsterdam. Applications are now open for this innovative program. This program is designed to offer an accessible, contextual, and high-quality research doctoral education, serving both the Middle Eastern Church and the global Church, focusing on areas of specialization available within Middle Eastern institutions.

## MA in Theology in the Public Square

In 2024, we had six students complete the Theology in the Public Square Program and 12 new students in a cohort that started in the fall semester. These students exemplify academic excellence and a deep commitment to applying theology to real-world challenges, particularly in areas of social justice, public policy, and leadership. Many are actively involved in para-church ministries and public service, equipping themselves to become change-makers in their communities.



We divided our “Public Square Issues” course into 16 workshops ranging from Theology of the Global South to Children’s Rights to Christian-Muslim Relations to Liberation Theology to Palestinian Civil Society Institutions. Specialists were invited to teach workshops on their areas of expertise.

Our students continue to learn how to deal with complex and varied conditions, particularly within the recent political developments we are confronting (i.e., the war in Gaza). It is this framework that instills in our graduates the conviction that they must remain as an anchor for the Christian community in Bethlehem,

rather than leaving, which would be an understandable reaction to the situation. We see how critical it is for Christian leaders to be well-equipped to engage the urgent public issues facing Palestinians, both Christians and Muslims. This helps the Christian community thrive, allowing Christian leaders to base their ministries on a comprehensive educational framework, enabling them to interact with community leaders in the Middle East.

To further strengthen the program, we are enhancing hybrid education to allow students to continue their education remotely, expanding Arabic theological resources and fostering deeper community engagement by organizing theological discussions, public lectures, and church partnerships. The program also responds to the need for cross-cultural and international collaboration by strengthening partnerships with global theological institutions and non-governmental organizations. This network provides students with diverse perspectives, resources, and opportunities for service both locally and abroad.

## BA & Diploma in Biblical Studies

Our 14 on-campus BA students stay busy with practical experiences in addition to their studies. In March, five of our Biblical Studies students joined a group of Palestinian youth on a visit to South Africa in a Solidarity Pilgrimage. They met with professionals, pastors, and leaders to experience South Africa's history and culture and envision a hope for a just and peaceful future. In May, a group of students took their Youth Ministry Course to the youth of Bethlehem, organizing an event called "Who's Your Influencer?" The challenge to the youth was to examine who they allow to influence them on social media and instead encourage them to look to Jesus as they themselves create the influence in the home, workplace, and society.





In the summer, several students joined the Shepherd Society team to minister to Syrian refugees in al-Mafraq, Jordan, hosting a summer camp for children and women's ministry.

On World Children's Day, our students visited children battling cancer at Beit Jala Governmental Hospital to provide emotional and spiritual support. This first-of-its-kind visit in 18 years exemplified the college's commitment to humanitarian service, leaving a lasting, heartwarming impact on the children and their families.



This fall, Bethlehem Bible Collage welcomed a new staff member, Mrs. Rula Rishmawi, as the Student Affairs Coordinator. One of her first initiatives was to involve the students in celebrating International Day for Older Persons by visiting a nearby home for the elderly. Our goal is to follow the teaching of Jesus by caring and serving others with love and compassion. Students and staff were also able to participate in a celebration of Palestinian Heritage Day, featuring a lecture titled "Arab Christian Heritage." Together, they reflected on the importance of preserving and sharing their heritage. Other activities included a student

retreat and a breast cancer awareness event for female students and staff, focusing on the importance of early detection and empowering women to face challenges with both physical and emotional strength.

About the "Influencer" Conference, student Lourd Al-Sayeh said, *"In the spirit of unity and love, we organized this activity for the youth, aiming to build a generation that is aware and conscious of its importance as individuals in society, with the ability to make a big difference and bring about change. How beautiful it is to work for God's purpose! This day was successful, and it was the beginning of something new in our lives as students at Bethlehem Bible College."*



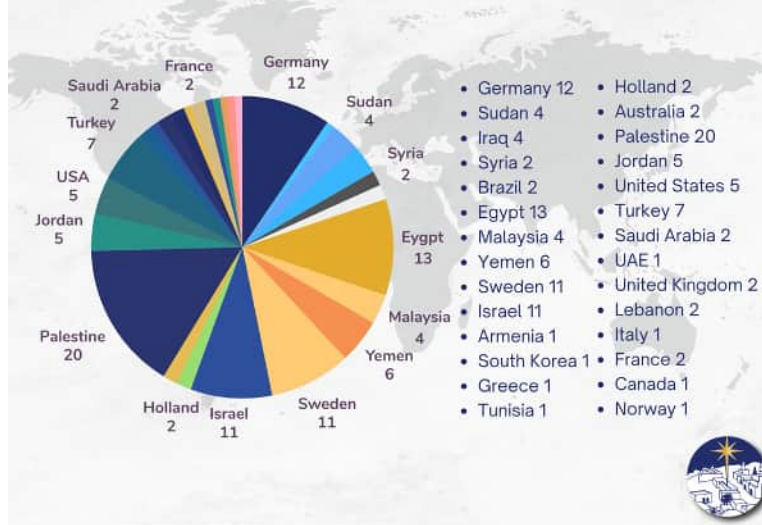
# Online Biblical Studies Program

Bethlehem Bible College has 42 active (and 130 inactive) students in our online BA and diploma program in Biblical Studies. Our BA program courses are completed. However, the accreditation agency has requested that we raise our required credit hours from 110 to 120. So, we are introducing new courses, including "The Theology of Persecution and Discipleship" and four additional elective courses.

We continue to learn from our students. To them, the program is a second family where they find Biblical knowledge, spiritual uplifting, growth, and mentoring. The program is a refuge where our students get answers, methods, and support for reaching others in their local context. We introduced a new seven-week educational module during the summer semester. Students enjoy the flexibility of the new strategy, which enables them to finish and accrue credits in a shorter time period.

## ONLINE STUDENTS GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

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



Instructors have remained in contact with nearly all our graduates since the program's first graduation. We closely mentor around five to six students, particularly our Yemeni students, but we have contact with most students via social media. While mentoring our graduates, we have learned that they are mentoring other individuals and teaching in churches using our educational material and methods. They also recruit new applicants to join our program.

We receive positive testimonies from our students, expressing their satisfaction and excitement about their learning progress and the caring faculty. Many graduates have enrolled to extend their theological education beyond the diploma to the online BA in Biblical Studies. We allow some graduates to audit courses they have taken previously to empower their ministry further. These graduates are involved in church ministry, which includes congregational teaching, preaching, women's ministry, Bible studies, and other activities.



This year, 2024, the Bethlehem Institute of Peace and Justice successfully continued with its program despite the genocide in Gaza and the increased violence in the West Bank. We had 32 students in our spring semester online course. Although several students canceled, our Summer Intensive was successfully conducted with eight participants from May 12 to 24. The BIPJ's online course had a record-high enrollment of 42 students this fall semester. Every semester, several of our online students are in our MA in Peace and Justice, which is offered jointly with St. Stephen's University in New Brunswick, Canada. Our students continue to be drawn from a wide range of nations. For example, we have students from the Philippines, Hungary, and Australia this fall semester.



Besides our Certificate Program (two semester-length courses and the Summer Intensive), this past March, the book derived from our academic symposium in April 2023 was published under the college's name. Entitled *Normalize or Resist: Palestinian Christian Responses to Oppression*, it is available on Amazon as an e-book and through the college in hard copy. Here is the link:

<https://www.amazon.com/Normalize-Resist-Palestinian-Christians-Oppression-ebook/dp/B0CVVTWJ9Q>



We also have added a course appropriate for adult Sunday school classes or personal study entitled *The Stones Cry Out*. This comprises eight video-recorded sessions in which Rev. Dr. Jack Sara and Rev. Nelson Kraybill, our former resident scholar, discuss peace themes at various sites in Palestine and Israel. Here is the link:

<https://bipj.org/bipj-courses/short-courses-and-stand-alone-lectures/>

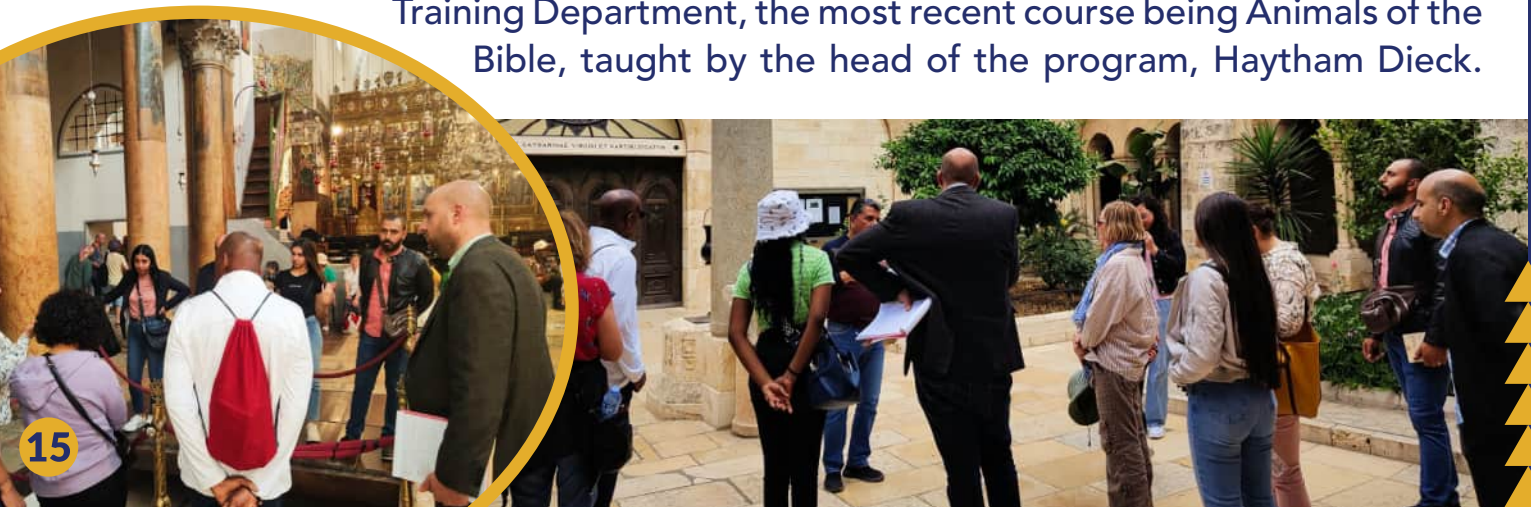
# Tour Guide Diploma Program

The Tour Guiding program has been relaunched after postponing for one academic year (2023-2024) following the decision made by the Ministry of Tourism and the Tour Guiding Union. During this period, the program opened a new connection door with the Palestine Heritage Trail. It established the first collaboration of a training program on trekking guiding in the Jordan Valley area. Moreover, the program fostered collaboration with the Palestinian Bible Society (PBS), training over 20 participants on the techniques and ethics of guiding for future tour guides in Jenin and Nablus. This is the second training between Bethlehem Bible Collage and PBS, following the previous training of future tour guides in Jenin and Nablus (2022-2023).

The new class comprises 13 students with rich academic backgrounds of M.A., B.A., and Diploma degrees. Participating students in the program already have work experience in tourism, which enables them to better understand the tourism market. Combining their practical knowledge with the knowledge presented in the program enriches their experience and sets them on the best track to become professional Tour Guides.

The Tour Guiding program is currently working to establish new connections and training programs with different NGOs, experts in the field, and also Al Hara theatre to empower students' personalities and character. (Within the first semester, the program was able to host Dr. Kenny Schmidt for an evening seminar on al Ahli Hospital in Gaza.) The Tour Guiding program also collaborated with the Student Activities Office to facilitate the recent visit of the De La Salle Christian Youth group (7th-11th grades) to Bethlehem Bible College. The visit included several activities and lectures on the Birth and Ministry of Jesus.

Moreover, the program is preparing free refresher courses for its graduates to help them refresh and update their information, including various topics such as Biblical Geography, Jesus and His Life and Times, and Christian sites in the Holy Land. The program has reopened its online courses in collaboration with the Community Training Department, the most recent course being Animals of the Bible, taught by the head of the program, Haytham Dieck.





# Conferences

## Christ at the Checkpoint

May 22-26, 2024, Bethlehem Bible College proudly welcomed participants from across the globe to its campus for the seventh Christ at the Checkpoint Conference. This biennial gathering has become a cornerstone event in the realm of Christian activism, focusing on the complex issues of justice, mercy, and peace in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Under the overarching theme of "Do Justice, Love Mercy: Christian Witness in Contexts of Oppression," the conference provided a platform for dialogue, theological reflection, and action-oriented discourse. Attendees, including international supporters, local intellectuals, and solidarity activists, converged to address the multifaceted challenges Palestinian Christians face.







The conference featured diverse sessions, ranging from scholarly lectures to interactive workshops and cultural performances. These sessions provided opportunities for attendees to delve into topics such as the theological implications of the conflict, the realities of life under occupation, and strategies for promoting reconciliation and peace.

Among the distinguished speakers were renowned figures in the fields of theology, activism, and academia. Individuals such as Shane Claiborne, Dr. Mae Cannon, Ruth Padilla DeBorst, Lisa Sharon Harper, Bishop Zac Niringiye, Rene August, and Buyisiwe "Pokie" Putu shared their insights and experiences, inspiring attendees with their wisdom and dedication to social justice.

In addition to international speakers, the conference showcased the voices of local leaders, including faculty members and students of Bethlehem Bible College. These individuals offered firsthand perspectives on the challenges and opportunities facing Palestinian Christians, enriching the dialogue with their lived experiences and local expertise.

Throughout the conference, there was a palpable sense of urgency and determination to address the injustices perpetuated by the ongoing occupation. In his concluding remarks, Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac, the conference director, underscored the importance of taking concrete steps towards peace-building and holding institutions accountable for their complicity or inaction.

As the conference drew to a close, Bethlehem Bible College reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to advancing the cause of justice and mercy in the Holy Land. The college stands firm in its belief that positive change can be realized through collective action and advocacy, instilling hope and fostering healing for all who call this region home.

# Community Outreach & Development

As its title suggests, this is the department of the college that touches our community, both near and far, in tangible ways that make a lasting impact. The New Vision Media Center, in cooperation with our Communications and Development Departments, keeps people around the world aware of what is happening at Bethlehem Bible College. While keeping the college programs running with all their audio/visual needs, they focus on human rights issues, health, and the environment with informative videos. Our Community Training Office offers courses for local Bethlehemites (like English, mathematics, and Hebrew) and online courses for our extended global community (like Arabic and Women in the Bible). Our women's ministry, A Pot in His Hand, offers large and small group gatherings and transformative videos that reach women locally and throughout the region. The Shepherd Society is a lifeline to the needy and marginalized in Gaza and the West Bank, providing food, medical care, and employment.

## Community Training

This year, we introduced a distinctive summer camp tailored for adolescents aged 12 to 15 from the Bethlehem area. The primary objective of the "Little Tour Guides" camp was to provide a supportive and enriching environment where young participants could spend their summer in a safe, healthy, and productive way.

The camp featured a thoughtfully designed program blending educational lectures with hands-on field visits. It created a dynamic and engaging learning experience that helped these children take pride in their heritage.



Participants engaged in a variety of activities, including Bible study sessions that deepened their understanding of spiritual teachings, tourism classes that explored the rich cultural and historical heritage of the region, and extracurricular programs that fostered creativity, teamwork, and personal growth. Additionally, the field trips allowed the adolescents to explore new environments, bond with peers, and apply what they learned in practical settings.



Overall, the summer camp offered a meaningful way to spend the summer and empowered participants with knowledge, skills, and experiences that would positively shape their personal and social development.

We recently established a new collaboration to offer Arabic language classes tailored for the Arabic-speaking community residing in the United States. This program is designed to help participants connect with their cultural roots and strengthen their language skills. This initiative provides a platform for language learning and fosters a sense of community and cultural pride among the participants.

Also this year, a new course was designed to explore the animals referenced in the Bible, uncovering their contextual significance and symbolic meanings within biblical narratives. Through an in-depth examination, participants learnt about the distinctive traits and characteristics of each animal, gaining a richer appreciation of their roles and relevance in the scriptures.



# Shepherd Society



In response to the ongoing war on Gaza and its consequences on the West Bank, the Shepherd Society was not only the hands and feet of Jesus but also of the whole world. Globally, people ached to do something - anything - to ease the suffering of the Palestinian people. The Shepherd Society was able to direct significant resources to medical relief efforts in Gaza and the West Bank. Since October 7th, 2023, over \$130,000 USD has been allocated to medical support in Gaza, including essential supplies, medicines, and surgeries. This included funding for Al Ahli Hospital's emergency unit and establishing a clinic at St. Porphyrios Greek Orthodox Church, which will continue to serve the community post-ceasefire. In the West Bank, over \$150,000 USD was used to provide medical aid to over 1,000 individuals in need.



To address food insecurity, the Shepherd Society provided meals and food packages to over 5,000 people in Gaza, spending approximately \$100,000 USD. In the West Bank, over 900 food packages were distributed alongside monthly support to 25-30 families, with a special focus on those without a breadwinner. The food kitchen expanded from 35 to 70 hot meals per session, spending about \$40,000 USD on food support.



The Job Creation Project provided employment opportunities in Gaza and the West Bank. In Gaza, 16 individuals were engaged in education, medical services, and humanitarian aid, with plans to expand to 10 additional workers. In the West Bank, approximately 250 individuals were engaged through churches and small community organizations, restoring dignity through employment rather than reliance on charity.

Moreover, the Shepherd Society empowered individuals by supporting small businesses, including a woman now running her own cooking business that contributes to the meal project. Plans are underway to support 10 additional small projects in 2025.

To empower the Christian presence in Palestine, support for churches, organizations, and schools continued with over \$100,000 USD allocated to sustain ministries, children's events, renovations, training programs, school tuition, and educational supplies.

In August 2024, the Shepherd Society launched "YARN," a resilience and trauma recovery program for individuals impacted by the war. With three completed training modules and three more planned, the program addresses the psychological needs of children and women in both Gaza and the West Bank. Partnerships with Care 4 You and others have been key to its success.



# New Vision Media Center



The New Vision Media Center (NVMC), the hub for media production at Bethlehem Bible College, plays a central role in creating and managing media content for Bethlehem Bible College. Their work spans various areas, including video production and advocating for peace and justice locally and internationally.

The NVMC staff crafts videos to promote the college, its programs, and upcoming events, helping the college community stay connected. They film Bible Live meditations and all the video materials needed for our online academic programs.

NVMC works as a media platform through which community service organizations advocate for change, collaborating on projects championing human rights, democracy, and social justice. They utilize various media to raise awareness about critical social issues, even prompting the re-evaluation of some governmental laws, bringing about societal change.



For example, NVMC has produced a series of 30 podcasts, each lasting 60-90 seconds, to raise awareness about women's rights and civil liberties.

You can learn more about their work on their Instagram page:



# “A Pot in His Hand” Women’s Ministry

“A Pot in His Hand” is a program for women in the Bethlehem area designed to transform the way women see themselves - from societal attitudes that diminish their worth and contributions to recognizing the full value that God places on His beautiful daughters. The impact on women’s attitudes is remarkable. Counseling and workshops foster a sense of belonging, reducing isolation and promoting healthier relationships. Women begin to see themselves as empowered individuals capable of creating change. They become proactive agents of change, moving from passive to active engagement.



The program offers many opportunities to gather in person, from large group gatherings to small groups and even one-on-one counseling sessions. Mental health sessions and leadership training are offered. The ministry's unique approach to integrating mental health and spiritual well-being has been a significant success. By tailoring efforts to specific groups' needs and continuously evaluating programs, they ensure a targeted impact, empowering participants to grow both personally and spiritually. The reach of the in-person ministry encompasses many different churches in the Bethlehem area, creating new disciple makers and spreading the influence of training materials.

The ministry made great strides in expanding its reach through various initiatives. In addition to our in-person ministries, several outreaches are taking place on the Internet. Significant work was done on the website and social media pages, and updates are made daily with a focus on engaging the younger generation (ages 18-35). Short, impactful videos with practical guidance are posted on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. A new video is posted weekly; over 95 videos have been produced and posted on our website and social media pages. Some examples of these videos include How Do We Respond to Accusations Directed at Us in Life?, Contentment Is an Endless Treasure, Prophecy Fulfills Itself, Relationships and Communication, and Discover the Cause of Your Unhappiness. These videos are shareable, encouraging engagement. Additionally, our magazine, “A Pot in His Hand,” which contains valuable articles and training materials, is available through social media links for easy access to longer-form content.

# Income-Generating Programs

Our income-generating programs help Bethlehem Bible College be less dependent on foreign donations. Typically, these programs, primarily the Guesthouse and the Star Bazaar Gift Shop, provide about 30% of our annual income. However, with the onset of war in October 2023, tourism virtually ceased, and only a trickle of visitors now visit Bethlehem. We keep operations running, convinced of the importance of providing a welcoming space for visitors. Our Gift Shop focuses on online sales so as to support not only the college but the artisans who create the beautiful items. We are grateful for the faithfulness of our staff.

## Bethlehem Bible College Guesthouse

This has been an extraordinarily challenging year for the Bethlehem Bible College Guest House. The geopolitical instability resulting from the war in Gaza and Lebanon profoundly affected our operations, reducing our capacity to host guests and limiting the flow of visitors to the region. Safety concerns and logistical challenges hindered our ability to operate at full capacity for much of the year. Despite these difficulties, we remained steadfast in our mission to provide hospitality, offering a place of welcome and rest to those who ventured to Bethlehem during these turbulent times. We adapted to these circumstances while striving to maintain our services. While the number of visitors remained modest, we welcomed small local groups who utilized our facilities for retreats and gatherings.







A significant milestone for the Guest House this year was hosting participants of the Christ at the Checkpoint Conference in May. This important event brought together individuals from diverse backgrounds to engage in meaningful dialogue and reflection. Despite the challenges, the conference was a success, and we were honored to play a part in facilitating such an impactful gathering. Hosting the attendees reaffirmed our commitment to being a space for connection and understanding.

Another highlight of the year was the arrival of a group of 33 students from the University of the Nations in Kona, Hawaii, in November. Staying with us for 15 nights, this group represented the largest booking of the year. Their presence was a financial boost and a source of renewed energy and encouragement for our team.

This year has underscored the resilience and dedication of our team. Despite the significant obstacles posed by the ongoing conflicts, we remained committed to our mission. The challenges highlighted the importance of flexibility, teamwork, and unwavering faith in our purpose. They also reinforced the value of the Guest House as a space for rest, learning, and community, particularly during times of uncertainty.



# Star Bazaar Gift Shop

While 2024 was even more difficult for the Star Bazaar than the Covid-19 period, we still managed to achieve some success in the Gift Shop. We finished converting from QuickBooks to a different online portal (WooCommerce) that enables us to have a trusted inventory count on a daily basis. This is a distinction held by very few souvenir shops in Bethlehem. Whenever a customer orders online, the inventory is immediately adjusted. We are grateful for Wajdi Zoughbi, our IT Specialist, for his help. Due to the war in Gaza, our best-selling items are olive wood crosses as people pledge to pray for us. This is very encouraging. Other popular items with our VIP customers are the Lord's prayer plates and Phoenician glass. Other top sellers remain the Tear Gas Canisters, Olive Wood Peace Earrings, Angels Praying, and Marble Earrings.

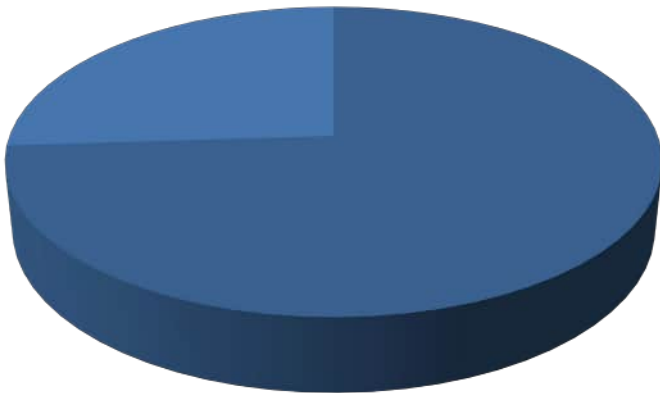
To support and encourage our local artisans, our staff stays in touch with many of them through text messages. We continue to order a minimal amount as orders are generated. We are already in the process of planning and developing new items for the upcoming Christ at the Checkpoint Conference in 2026. As for the new year, we remain hopeful that the war will come to a complete end and tourism will be restored.





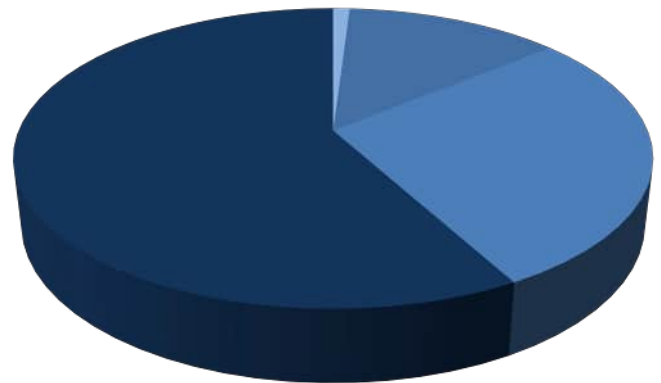
# 2024 Financial Overview

## Source of Funds



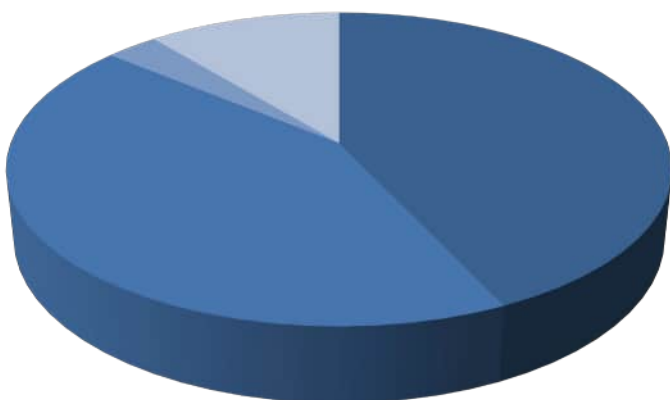
- Revenues from Activities (32%)
- Contribution (68%)

## Contribution by Type



- Businesses (1%)
- Churches (9%)
- Individuals (28%)
- Foundations (62%)

## Functional Expenses



- Admin & General Expenses (43%)
- Program Expenses (45%)
- Cost of Goods Sold (1%)
- Depreciation (11%)

**\$1,854,001**

**Total Expenses**

**\$2,479,115**

**Total Income**

# Summary Financial Statement

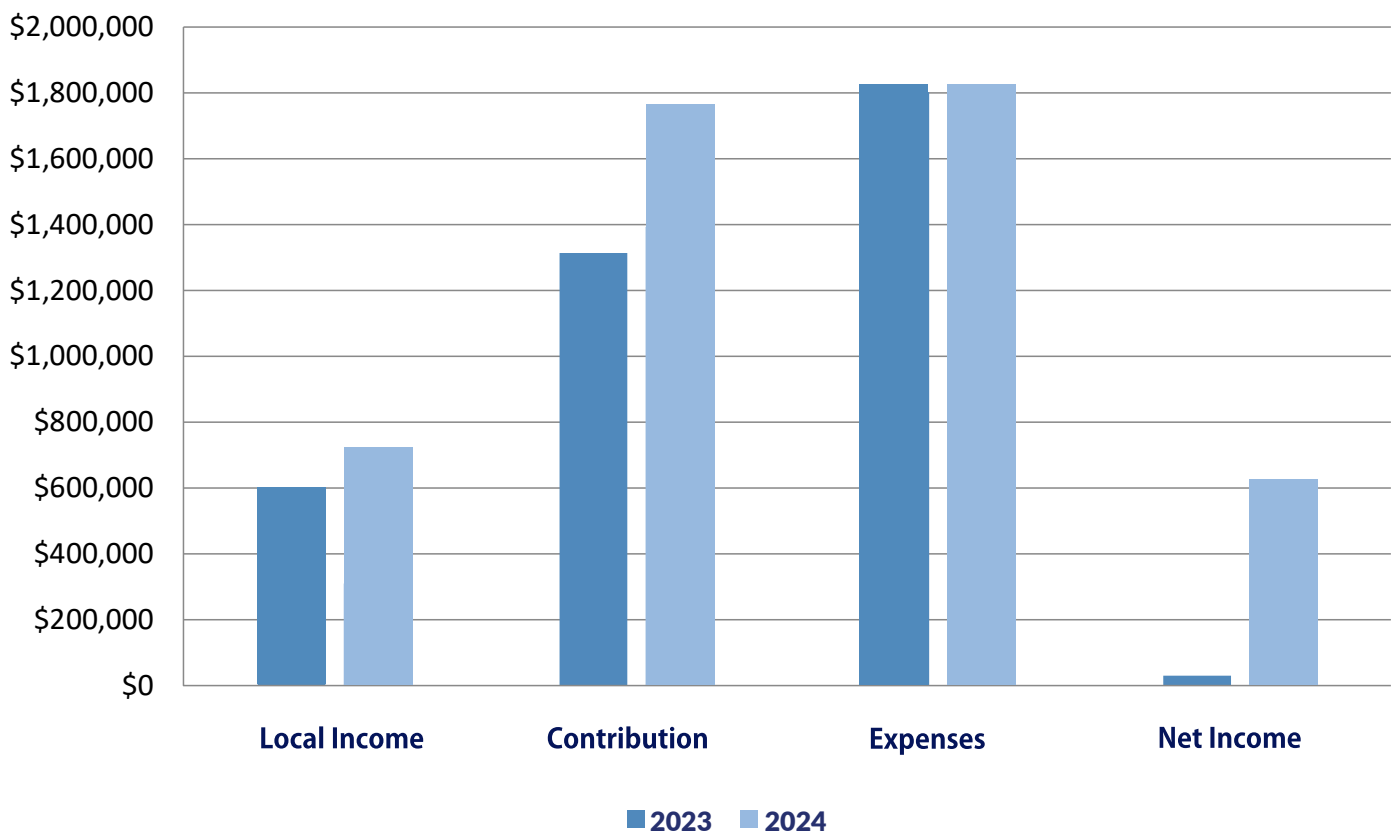
## Statement of Financial Position 2024

Assets	\$ 7,012,008
Liabilities	1,573,992
Net Assets	5,438,016
<hr/>	
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 7,012,008

## Statement of Activities 2024

Income	\$ 2,479,115
Expense	1,854,001
<hr/>	
Net Income	\$ 625,114

## Income Expense Comparison



- Please note that this information is based on unaudited financial statements; any variations will be noted in the 2024 audit report.

# Thank You!

*"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all" (Philippians 1:3-4).*

We echo St. Paul's words, affirming that your kindness brings us immeasurable joy! You are held dearly in our hearts and prayers every day. As we reflect on 2024, we extend our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to everyone whose contributions—whether by supporting us financially or through prayers, encouragement, or advocacy—have activated talents and unleashed capabilities that have helped us pursue our mission.

Every prayer and every bit of support has come together to create progress, hope, and resilience that lift us all up and strengthen Bethlehem Bible College's mission. Thank you for being the dynamic force that turns potential into power and dreams into lasting impact.



Learn more about us:

