



American Friends *of the*  
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

*Building Presence – Building Peace*

## **PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR MINISTRY**

These tools improve with your input. Share what's worked for you and what hasn't. We'll distribute updates as we can.

### **STUDY and AWARENESS**

1. Many are not aware of Christian history in the region, or the desperate conditions that Palestinians Christians face every day. Review the *Resource* section of this kit and become knowledgeable about the issues so you can.....
2. Share your enthusiasm and experience with family, friends and colleagues.
3. Either plan and lead a forum in your parish, deanery or civic group or request a slot in your Adult Education schedule and invite a speaker. AFEDJ can supply one or suggest someone in your area. Or you can request a power point presentation which is available on CD. It includes a script which you can augment from reading or experience. The CD can be requested from [adelavis@afedj.org](mailto:adelavis@afedj.org). (It is enclosed with your Missioner Kit)
4. Create a book group or study circle to become more familiar with the history and theology of the Holy Land. Choose from history of the region, policy issues, peace and justice studies, comparative religious studies, humanitarian aid, or present each area as part of a series. Use the Resources page on the AFEDJ website at [www.afedj.org](http://www.afedj.org) as a starting place.
5. Encourage participation in St. Nicholas Day with an ingathering for AFEDJ. Ask for participation from your Youth Group, Outreach Committee, Sunday School or other group. Target a Sunday for preaching, for example Advent II, which is St. Nicholas Day. AFEDJ has developed a wide range of activities and tools to connect the spirit of the real St. Nicholas, patron saint of needy children, with needy children in the Holy Land today. Mite boxes, a pageant, crafts plus prayers and hymns to add to the worship experience are available, most for free.
6. Speak to your vestry, outreach committee, Church School teachers about concrete steps they can take to become financial donors and/or create companion relationships.
7. Have you been to Jerusalem? Write an article about the work of Episcopal

Diocese of Jerusalem for your parish and/or diocesan newspaper. Or send an article about your parish's activities to the AFEDJ for inclusion in their newsletter. Do you have pictures to share?

8. Share the reflections included on the AFEDJ website with your parish's Bible Study group, EFM or DOCC group. Include them in your newsletter or post them on your website. Those of you who have visited the Holy Land may have your own reflections. Send them to AFEDJ and we'll include them in our website.
  9. Reserve and staff a booth at your diocesan convention that catches the eye of browsers and engage them in a discussion about AFEDJ. We can provide displays, pictures and brochures – even a raffle prize. Let us know if you plan a Convention booth. Other Missioners from your Diocese may be happy to help and we can help you to coordinate.
  10. Include the Palestinian Christians in the Prayers of the People and mention the Rt. Rev Suheil Dawani, Bishop in Jerusalem by name.
  11. Advertise the website of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem -- [www.j-diocese.org](http://www.j-diocese.org) — and encourage others to log on and learn. They publish a monthly newsletter which provides a real glimpse of the issues facing the Diocese.
  12. Encourage people to log on the website for AFEDJ – [www.afedj.org](http://www.afedj.org). We publish a monthly e-newsletter plus a twice yearly printed one. You can contribute online and learn about the institutions that the Diocese owns and runs.
- Help individuals and groups identify how they can get others involved in the AFEDJ ministry. Some are drawn to support ministries that focus on medical or on educational needs for children. To target a particular interest:
1. Review the AFEDJ newsletter to see where there is immediate need. Don't receive it? Contact AFEDJ at [aklynn@afedj.org](mailto:aklynn@afedj.org)
  2. Join the AFEDJ Facebook page.
  3. For more information on Missioners and their activities, or if you just need support, contact Alison de Lavis [adelavis@afedj.org](mailto:adelavis@afedj.org).or (203) 655-3575

She's our Missioner Coordinator and will help find support and resources.

4. Network with Missioners in your diocese. Check the list of Missioners included on the website. You may know some and even if you don't, reaching out to them will be welcomed.

## **ACTION**

1. During Advent or at any time, promote St. Nicholas Day in your parish. St. Nicholas was a Turkish bishop, active in the Holy Land, who was especially drawn to children in need. AFEDJ provides tools to observe this day as a way to draw attention to the plight of children living in Palestine today. There are Christmas pageants for your Church School, craft projects, websites with further resources and alternative Christmas gifts which support schools and hospitals in the Holy Land. Go to [www.afedj.org](http://www.afedj.org) and then click on St. Nicholas on the left. You will find lots of FREE resources from AFEDJ, the St. Nicholas Center and the St. Nicholas Society.
2. Organize a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Your Rector may want to lead it, or you can look at AFEDJ's pilgrimage pages which list pilgrimage tours, tour operators and guides. AFEDJ can facilitate putting you in touch with a local guide, arrange a visit to a diocesan school or clinic or a stay at St. George's College. We want you to get the most from your visit to the Holy Land so do not be afraid to ask.
3. Hold movie night showing one of the films and documentaries available from Netflix, your library or from some of the organizations listed in the Resources section.
4. Order Lenten mite boxes from [adelavis@afedj.org](mailto:adelavis@afedj.org)
5. Request a speaker to come to your parish or group to talk about the work being done by the institutions of the Diocese of Jerusalem. Speakers bring pictures and stories of the ways your support impacts lives.
6. Sign up for the free monthly e-newsletter or twice a year printed newsletter published by AFEDJ with news from the institutions. You can sign up on the website or by emailing [adelavis@afedj.org](mailto:adelavis@afedj.org).
7. Contribute now to keep a child in school, insure adequate medical care or rehabilitate a disabled child or adult. Stabilizing communities in the Holy Land is the way to build peace from the ground up. It's easier to get others to contribute if you have already done so yourself. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.