In the second week of a Middle-Eastern summer, the first of our three summer camps opened in Bethlehem. This past July 4th, 16 children attended this camp held at the Catholic action in Bethlehem. The theme of the camp was titled “Heroes” which aimed to create a new and a meaningful relationship between Israeli- and Palestinian-children. For a whole week the campers learned that God is the Father of all and that He is one and constant. The camp taught us that love, forgiveness, and peace will always make us victorious.

Musalaha has a mission of reconciliation and training a people that is in transition with conflict. The camp was a way to spread this message to a whole new generation of kids. They have the potential to change the future of the region. We believe in a region that is free of conflict and filled with love. The camp taught us that love, forgiveness, and peace will always make us victorious.

One of the highlights for us was having 5 young counselors, ages 15 to 17 years who had never been counselors before. We were given an extra day of teaching, fun, and interactive activities.

The goal of Musalaha is to encourage young and not-so-young children, solid to our staff, coaches, and leaders. To see an adult and a child working together. To see a child and a coach working side by side, regardless of where they were born, you might be more surprised that they cooperated, united, and worked together. This is the kind of love that will always make us victorious.

The week of camp was a time I won’t forget. When the kids left the camp, plunged back into their realities, there is too much opportunity to let us forget. To let us believe that stereotypes and division are all that exists. But as we continue to meet and work alongside each other in neutral and safe surroundings. Year after year, as friends, we can still have a message to the world and this message is truthful to the message and to the people we represent in this region.

Though there are challenges, we have a source of encouragement and hope. Musalaha is a great organization in a region that is in transition with reconciliation. We are still exploring what it is about our camp to do to this year. The camp was a way to spread this message to a whole new generation of kids. They have the potential to change the future of the region. We believe in a region that is free of conflict and filled with love. The camp taught us that love, forgiveness, and peace will always make us victorious.

To reaffirm that God’s love will always shine through us and that our needs should always be to the last of all. To listen to us, to hear us, to love us, to comfort us, and to love us. We need to be reminded that our source of encouragement and hope is the Kingdom of God. That means we need to be led to the message and that the message remains the same. This means we need to pray, to focus, and to continue to do our work in the most effective way.

In this newsletter, we are happy to share with you about some of our work in the past year. We have been expanding in the region of Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. These are only some of the activities we have been involved in. We would like to thank you for your prayers, support, and encouragement. We need to continue to pray and support us to make this happen.

We are very thankful for everything you do and we hope you will continue to support us in the future.

Make a secure online donation through our website at www.musalaha.org or by contacting your local church.

Musalaha is a charity registered in the UK and in Palestine, and recognized as a “charity” by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The Charity Commission acts as the UK’s independent regulator of charities. It is our role to ensure that Musalaha meets the UK’s charity law. We do this through our work in raising standards, checking charities and encouraging good practice. The Charity Commission is the UK’s independent regulator of charities. It is our role to ensure that Musalaha meets the UK’s charity law.

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Musalaha was a blessing not only for children, but for its staff, counselors, and leaders. The camp was life-changing and reaffirmed that God has limitless love and compassion. He heals us when we speak to him and pray. We can tell him our needs and that God is the only one who gives us this. I have an obligation to share with them what I saw, felt, and learned. Much of the learned content by the children rests in the US and Israel. Some team leaders in the camp were given an extra day of teaching, fun, and interactive activities.

As friends, we can still have a message to the world and this message is truthful to the message and to the people we represent in this region. We need to be reminded that we are ambassadors of the Kingdom.

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Thank you for your prayers, support, and encouragement. We need to continue to pray, to focus, and to continue to do our work in the most effective way.

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Life Together, Summer Camp in Nablus

Musalaha was happy to attend a summer camp in the West Bank city of Nablus which took place last week. The camp focused on making new friends and breaking down prejudices. The camp-based on “saying no to myself” and another and by practicing rather than just talking about a much-needed stronger principle of co-existence.

During the week we not only approached the task of recording "pebbles" in our own time, but also trying to put them into practice. The learning process through questions and answers with trained and qualified guides broke down prejudices and attitudes of racism and deepened the principle of co-existence. We are learning about the perspectives of both sides, which is crucial for moving forward in this society. The learning process helps us to break down large, abstract concepts or statements.

Along with games, crafts, and activities our teaching sessions included “casts your bread upon the waters you will find it after many days.” This was important as this camp was made up of 60 children from different backgrounds.

I have come to view these facets of life here as “pebbles” in these walls, legal status, and military checkpoints. These are what Musalaha seeks to break down. The external barriers are easy to spot on any given day. The internal barriers are much harder to identify; they are the barriers that are within each of us. Just as mountains grow one pebble at a time, and we move one pebble at a time when we step toward integrating our life stories and narratives.

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