



BibleLands

Overseas Partner Fact Sheet

Nazareth School of Nursing

How it all started

For over 145 years, the Nazareth Hospital, the oldest hospital in Israel, has been healing the sick in the name of Jesus. Known locally as the English Hospital, it was founded in 1861 and is owned and operated by the EMMS (Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society) Nazareth, with support from people and organisations around the world. From its beginnings as a small clinic, it has grown into a full district general hospital, recognised by the Israeli authorities and serving the town of Nazareth and the surrounding area of Galilee, a population of approximately 150,000 people.



Nazareth is the hometown of Jesus, and following his example, the hospital aims to extend healthcare to all, in a spirit of reconciliation between peoples: Arabs and Jews, Christian, Muslim and Druze. All of these groups are represented in the staff and patients. Languages spoken include Arabic, Hebrew, English and Russian.

Key facts

Location: Nazareth, Israel

First Grant from BibleLands:
1978

BibleLands' Current Grant:
£151,884 p.a.

School of Nursing

From its early years, the hospital emphasised the importance of training local people as part of its medical missionary policy. Nursing training began at the hospital in 1924 and was formally recognised within Israel by 1960. As such, it is the oldest school of Nursing within Israel.

By 1986, the courses were upgraded to that of Registered Nurse and they are working hard to offer a BA Degree in the near future, which will be accredited by the Israeli Ministry of Health.

The School of Nursing is unique as it is the only Arab nursing school in Israel, but not the only school of nursing available for Arab students. Entry to the school is open to all, both male and female, without any racial, ethnic or religious constraints or prejudice and Christian, Muslim and Jew learn alongside each other. Classes are given in English, Hebrew and Arabic! Most of the students are Muslim, but it is stressed that students are training in a Christian hospital, and Ethics, for example, are taught from a Christian standpoint.



Dr Amal Khazin, the school's Director of Nursing Education, with two nursing students

Students are trained to become registered nurses. Each class consists of over 60 young men and women who see nursing as a promising career and a way to contribute to their communities. A third of students are male; as Arabs, nursing is a vocation that will offer them a good chance of employment after graduation.

Those training at the school are often under considerable pressure, with practical work, study, family responsibilities and in some cases part-time jobs to help pay the school's fees.

After training, the nurses serve in the Nazareth Hospital and in hospitals and medical centres throughout the country. Many are employed in primary health care programmes in the local community – an increasingly vital area of medical work as travel restrictions and difficulties mean that many sick people are unable to reach hospitals. Hundreds of excellent nurses now serve the hospital and the area: it is said that there is hardly a village in Galilee that does not have a Nazareth-trained nurse.



The demand for nurses in Israel and the West Bank has grown over the years, and as the number of students grew, the school's facilities and resources became overcrowded and inadequate. In addition, the students had to move out of the hospital building into temporary accommodation, to allow the hospital's work to expand. Therefore, part-sponsored by BibleLands, the school built new premises to continue and increase its work (*see picture overleaf*).

The new School of Nursing was completed in 2005 and is equipped with the latest hi-tech training facilities, six lecture rooms, laboratories and a medical library. This new facility means that the school now has the capacity to teach 200 students each year.

The Nazareth Hospital, with its School of Nursing, while led and managed by Christians, acts as a beacon of healing and hope to all, regardless of faith or nationality.

By providing quality healthcare and nurse training, this care is a practical example of God's love for all people.

More than 145 years since its inception, the hospital continues to adapt to the needs of the community it serves, in a spirit of loving care and reconciliation.



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