



The Rev. Alex Awad is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. For many years he served in Israel/Palestine with his wife, Brenda. He was the pastors of a small international church in East Jerusalem and was affiliated with the Bethlehem Bible College as professor, dean of students, and board member.

Rev. Awad was born and raised in Jerusalem. His formative years were marked by the death of his father, who was killed in 1948 during crossfire between the Israeli and Jordanian armies. After the remaining family became refugees, his mother was faced with the task of raising seven children between the ages of six months and eleven years. She enrolled her older children in local boarding schools, many of which had emerged in response to an increased number of children who had lost one or both parents in the war. She worked as a nurse to single-handedly support the family.

Alex reflects that the silver lining in his family's tragedy was his mother's revived commitment to the Christ she experienced as a young student in a Christian school. As a result, Alex says, he was practically 'raised in the church.'

"I was greatly influenced by my mother's Christian example, as well as that of international missionaries serving in Jerusalem," he recalls. "As a young boy, I was proud of being a Christian in a school where 95 percent of the boys came from Muslim families. The teachings of our Lord Jesus influenced my life early on, and I became consumed with the desire to see my fellow Palestinians share the faith and hope that brought so much comfort to my family and me in our sufferings. While attending St. George's High School in Jerusalem, I began praying for God to send missionaries to my people. God's answer was simple: 'Why don't you go?'"

In 1979, the Awads responded to the call to service at the newly formed Bethlehem Bible College, where they served for six years as independent missionaries. They then served two years at Hope Secondary School, a charitable boarding school near Bethlehem. In 1987, they were forced to leave the country because the Israeli government refused to renew their visas.

After Alex completed his degree at Asbury, the Awads were commissioned by the General Board of Global Ministries to serve as missionaries. Rev. Awad's experiences in pastoral and teaching ministries extend beyond Palestine/Israel and the US to include Norway, England, Romania, Brazil, South Africa, Sweden, Holland, and Germany. Alex is the author of *Palestinian Memories; the Story of a Palestinian Mother and Her People* (Bethlehem Bible College, 2008) and *Through the Eyes of the Victims* (Bethlehem Bible College, 2001), a discussion of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from the perspective of Palestinians. He has also written on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in numerous newspapers

and periodicals, including *The United Methodist Reporter*, *The Mennonite*, *Baptist Peacemaker*, *New World Outlook*, *Christianity Today*, and *Christian Social Action*.

In June 2015, Alex was awarded an honorary Doctor's degree from Bethlehem Bible College. Soon After he and his Brenda moved to Eugene, Oregon to prepare for retirement.