**Request for Mission Funding / Annual Mission Evaluation Form**

**Funding Year: 2018**

**Part I. Personal Information**

Name of Missionary or Mission Agency: Bethlehem Bible College

If you are an individual, please provide names of your spouse and children:

E-mail address: msmith@bethbcusa.org

Is e-mail your preferred method of communication? **Yes** No

Link to your website (if available): bethbc.edu

Your Personal Mailing Address (*Please list exactly as it should appear on envelope)*

Bethlehem Bible College *(US Office)* Bethlehem Bible College *(Overseas)*

614-C South Business IH-35 PO Box 11737

New Braunfels, TX 78130 Jerusalem, 91116, Israel

YourPersonal Telephone Numbers (*Please include all area & country codes)*

Home:

Office: +972-2-274-1190 (Bethlehem Bible College)

Mobile: 830-708-1243 (For Marianne Smith, US Development Officer)

Name of local or indigenous church you are currently attending:

Please e-mail us a current photo of your family or mission agency. Please also add FPCE to your e-newsletter or mailings so that we can receive regular updates concerning your ministry. Send photos & e-newsletters to: **mission@firstpresevanston.org**

Do you grant us permission to post information, photos, and updates about your ministry to our church website?

\_\_\_\_ Yes, without any restrictions

\_\_X\_\_ Yes, with restrictions. Please specify: If information is noted as a security concern, please don’t post it online. Most information about the College will not be a security concern, this relates mostly to the Online Education Program.

\_\_\_\_ No

*First Family*, the monthly FPCE newsletter, is available in PDF format for free on our website. We are willing to send it to you via regular mail, if you prefer. We will use the personal address you listed above, unless otherwise noted.

\_\_\_\_ Yes, please send me *First Family* via regular mail.

\_\_X \_\_ No, I prefer to access it on the FPCE website.

**Part II. Ministry Information**

Are you a recognized mission of PC(USA)? Yes **No**

In one sentence, what is your mission statement? Bethlehem Bible College prepares Christian leaders to serve churches and society in Israel and Palestine from a Palestinian Evangelical perspective, standing firm to maintain the Christian witness they have upheld for millennia, training students to model Christ centeredness, godly humility, and biblical wholeness as lifelong learners, and to follow Jesus’ way of creative justice and mercy in both their personal and professional lives.

The following list presents the strategic focus areas of missions at FPCE. Please describe the involvement your ministry has in each of these areas and indicate the percentage of your ministry that is focused on these areas.

1. Justice Ministry-*Ministry to/with the poor & oppressed, including widows & orphans; Health ministry*

\_\_20\_\_% Bethlehem Bible College operates an outreach arm called the Shepherd Society, through which we minister in the areas of food assistance, health care assistance, job creation, and aid to refugees.

2. Unreached people

\_\_\_\_% This is difficult to estimate, since Palestinian Arabs are an unreached people group, so technically all of the people we minister to are in an unreached people group. In our Online Biblical Studies Program, our 60 students (68% male, 32% female) are believers from varied backgrounds, many of whom are ministers and church planters, and some are seekers. Our students are mostly Palestinian, but we have also students from 8 other nationalities. Our students live within Palestine (West Bank, Gaza, Jerusalem, within Israel), and in 19 countries across 5 continents including the very heart of the Middle East. With the exception of our Egyptian students, every student is from an Unreached People Group. The percentage of professing Christians in the countries represented ranges from 0.4% to 5.8%.

3. Training of leaders

\_\_80\_\_% Leadership training is the heart of our ministry at Bethlehem Bible College. Our BA Program in Biblical Studies prepares students to minister in their local church or ministry. Our MA Program in Christian Leadership & Ministry is filled with current or future church leaders, and even our Media Studies and Tour Guide diploma degrees train students to be leaders in society. Whatever their sphere of influence, our graduates impact their society, church, and culture in positive ways.

4. Other, please describe:

\_\_\_\_%

Please elaborate on the following topics. Or, feel free to attach a report that addresses the questions below.

What are the core values of your ministry?

* Christian Ethical Standards: Actions toward one another will be examples of Jesus’ love within our BethBC community. We follow the biblical teachings and Christian ethics demonstrated by love, justice, integrity, fairness, transparency, mercy, accountability, integrity, responsibility and respect for all persons.
* Christ-Honoring Community Relationships: Actions within our wider Bethlehem and Palestinian community reflect Christ to our neighbors. We regard each person in our wider community as created in the image of God. Our interactions with everyone demonstrate the same values listed above in #1.
* The Evangelical Christian Faith Is Our Foundation: We empower leaders to evangelize the Palestinian people. We practice pure biblical teaching and believe in the work of the Holy Spirit.
* Academic Excellence: Quality teachers who are specialists in their areas and a continually developing curriculum empower students to be ambassadors for Christ in their communities. College leadership is committed to the continuing accreditation, development and growth of the college. Academic facilities are first-class.
* Palestinian Context: The values of God’s Kingdom are communicated and applied to the socio-political and cultural realities of the Palestinian people. BethBC’s location in Bethlehem and its curriculum offered in the local language address the needs of the local population.
* Gender Equality: BethBC provides equal employment and educational opportunities, rights and benefits for both females and males.

How is the Gospel proclaimed through your ministry?

As a Bible College, the Gospel is integral to every program, every function of the College. Even in television programs produced for the broader Muslim community, Kingdom values are prominent, and whenever an opportunity is present, the Gospel message is shared. College students are encouraged to become thoughtful, engaged disciples, both within the school and in their local churches and community.

What goals did you accomplish last year?

1. We completed the core curriculum and pilot program for our Online Biblical Studies Program and had our first graduates from the program.
2. We hosted the 5th Christ at the Checkpoint Conference in Bethlehem with approximately 300 attendees. Our students were very involved with other international students on the Student Track, which deepened the impact of the Conference for all involved.
3. We also hosted the first Christ at the Checkpoint – USA Conference in Oklahoma City. Nearly 200 attendees joined in the conference that presented similar information to the Bethlehem conference.

What are your ministry goals for the coming year?

1. We are focusing on strategic widespread advertising of our Online Biblical Studies Program to enroll new students. At the same time, we will continue to recruit for our on-campus students with the goal of adding 10-15 new students in our BA and MA Programs.
2. We will be developing 10 “blended learning” courses for use in our on-campus classes, incorporating some of the videos and pedagogy used in our Online Program.
3. We will be beginning the process of accreditation of our Online Biblical Studies Program. Our other academic programs at BethBC are already accredited, so this is a natural progression of our academic growth.

Highlight new endeavors you have planned for your ministry in the coming year.

We are establishing a new Ambassador Program for Bethlehem Bible College in the US. In doing this we hope to inspire grassroots support, with individuals advocating for the College with churches and other individuals. This helps us accomplish on a “micro“ scale what we do on a “macro” scale with foundations and large churches.

How can we pray for you and your ministry? Mission prayer team meets the first Monday of every month. E-mail prayer requests to: [**mission@firstpresevanston.org**](mailto:mission@firstpresevanston.org)

Each month in our newsletter we include prayer points for that month. I hope that FPCE is receiving those newsletters; if not, please let me know at [msmith@bethbcusa.org](mailto:msmith@bethbcusa.org) (Marianne Smith) and I will add you to the distribution list. Here are our current requests:

* Two of our main faculty members and program leaders are facing huge problems to live with their families in Bethlehem. Their spouses were denied entry into Palestine and their situation remains uncertain.
* Please pray for recruitment of new students. Our MA Program is starting a new cohort this year (for a 3-year term), so a new batch of students will start up. Also, we are always looking for new first year students in our BA Program, as well as our diploma programs. Please pray for the Lord to draw to us the students who will be most impacted by our programs and will best complement our current students.
* We are facing technical challenges relating to two main IT systems. The first is our Student Information System, and the other is the Online Learning Management System. Our Learning Management System is less than ideal, as it does not offer our online students a full Arabic interface. (Although these are technical issues, we appreciate prayer for wisdom and connection with the right people/programs to meet our needs.)
* Although some of our faculty members have visited our online students in Europe this year, we desire to conduct more face to face meetings, in the form of annual (or bi-annual) conferences that allow our students to interact in a more personal way with their teachers. This will require much prayer because of the difficulties of travel and visas to/from many of these countries.

**Part III. FPCE Partnership Information**

Do you have FPCE members involved in your ministry? If so, please provide their names (unless they are confidential) and tell us how they are involved (financial support, volunteer, etc).

At this time we do not have we do not have FPCE members involved that we are aware of.

When was the last time you visited FPCE?

Rev. Dr. Yohanna Katanacho visited FPCE about 3 years ago and spoke at the church. Dr. Katanacho is the Academic Dean of BethBC’s “daughter” college in Israel, Nazareth Evangelical College. His connection with FPCE at that time was Dr. KK Yeo.

When was the last time a member or team from FPCE visited you?

Rev. Dr. Jack Sara, President of Bethlehem Bible College, has had meetings with FPCE members in Chicago, and most recently with Caryl Weinberg at a conference in Panama. Caryl invited us to apply with FPCE for partnership.

If we have an existing partnership with you, how would you like to see our partnership improve?

We do not currently have an on-going partnership with FPCE, but that is our goal – to receive annual support from FPCE (as part of the mission budget) and receive visitors.

FPCE is looking to provide more short-term mission experiences for its members. Please describe any opportunities that are available in your ministry:

If FPCE has a member who would enjoy an opportunity for short to long term involvement, volunteers are always needed at the College – from managing the Guest House (meeting friends of the College from around the world), to helping in the Book Store and Gift Shop, to assisting with ESL classes.

Short term trips are also available through BethBC’s Ta’Shuf Tours (which is Arabic for “come and see”). There are a number of trip options listed on our website, www.tashuftours.com.

Will you be in the Chicago area in the next year? If so, provide dates. Please arrange a visit with the FPCE Mission Council when you are in the area. We’d like to know you better!

Rev. Dr. Jack Sara will be in the Chicago area in August and September of 2019. He is in conversations with Caryl Weinberg about having an event at the church at that time.

**Part IV. Financial Support Information**

***\*\* Please attach a financial report/summary from the previous year***

***AND a projected budget for 2018\*\****

How much support do you request from FPCE? We would like to request $25,000 for 2019.

Is this support for salary/living or ministry expenses? Ministry expenses.

What percentage of your support comes from FPCE, if any? In 2017, FPCE donated $11,656 to Bethlehem Bible College, which represents 0.7% of our total income of $1,690,037.

How many donors are on your support team? The number of worldwide donors in 2017 was 609.

Mailing address for financial support payments: (This is our US office.)

Bethlehem Bible College

614-C South Business IH-35

New Braunfels, TX 78130

*Please list exactly as it should appear on envelope.*

Your account number (or special payment instructions): N/A

We issue support once per year. Which month would you prefer to receive support payments? Please circle one.

**March** June August December