

Jerusalem and Holy Land Sunday May 21, 2023

Reflection Notes

Living and Serving as a Christian Minority

Offered by Canon Dr. Martin Brokenleg, OSBCn

+ In both settings of Palestine/Israel and Canada, the Christian faith is in a setting of historical and contemporary conflict.

+ The state of Israel functions as the settler much like Canada is primarily the settler in North America. Palestinians function as the indigenous party much like Indigenous First Nations function in Canada.

+ Historical policies and laws created situations of conflict, eg. the Balfour Decision in the Middle East; Crown and treaty decisions in Canada.

+ Historical conflicts become embedded in social dynamics of Israel and Canada as racism, prejudice, and mistrust. Violence erupts on occasion, policies in both locations oppress some members of each location.

+ How do we envision God's preference for the poor (Palestinians, Indigenous Canadians) and call for justice from the powerful (Israelis, Canadians) for the disempowered (Palestinians, First Nations)?

+ Canada is moving toward a period of reconciliation. What might this look like in Palestine/Israel?

+ How can the Christian faith inform "walking humbly with God" in both locations? Any clues from Melchizedek and Abram in Genesis 14?