

Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center

Star Mountain, in Ramallah (in the West Bank), is a Unity Undertaking, supported by the world-wide Moravian Church, and especially by the Moravian Mission Society in Germany (Herrnhuter Missionshilfe).

The ministry of the Moravian Church in the Holy Land dates back to May 20, 1867, when Friedrich and Magdalena Tappe arrived in Jerusalem to establish a mission serving lepers. They established the *Jesushilfe* hospital in Jerusalem. In 1958 the land near Ramallah was purchased for what became the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center.

Due to advances in the treatment of leprosy (Hansen's disease) during the 1960s the number of patients declined and in 1974 the church decided to focus on intellectually disabled children. Initially the emphasis was on a boarding facility, but in 2000 the boarding school closed and community-based rehabilitation in villages throughout the region was expanded.

Current programs are an integrative kindergarten, a school, an autism program, a vocational training program, and a community work program. Support services include art education, physiotherapy, speech therapy, psycho-social support, and sports. A new protected workshop offers work for those completing vocational training but unable to find a job due to very high unemployment rates in the area.

Staff members are Palestinian, both Muslim and Christian, and there is a liaison officer from the Moravian Church in Europe.

Here are links to [information](#) about and [recent news](#) from Star Mountain (you'll need to use a translator for these web pages); and a [short video presentation](#) (in English) prepared by the Moravian Mission Society in Germany.

Visit "Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center" on Facebook.

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)

Churches for Middle East Peace works to encourage U.S. policies that actively promote a just, lasting, and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, ensuring security, human rights and religious freedom for all the people of the region.

The Moravian Church in America joined CMEP at the direction of the Southern and Northern Province Synods in 2006. Together we are one of 25 national church denominations and organizations in Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant traditions comprising CMEP's membership.

This coalition supports a comprehensive solution that will bring lasting peace and justice to the region, including a negotiated peace agreement, establishing security for the State of Israel, creating a viable independent Palestinian state, and reaching an agreement on Jerusalem that allows the city to be shared by Israelis and Palestinians, and open to Jews, Christians and Muslims.

CMEP helps church organizations, leaders, and individuals nationwide advocate in a knowledgeable, timely, balanced, and effective way to express their concerns about justice and peace for all peoples in the region. Many find the "Action Alerts" particularly helpful. These "alerts" inform recipients of proposed legislation and specific events that can influence peace in the region. Recipients are assisted in contacting senators, representatives, and administration officials to express an opinion or urge action on legislation.

For more information see www.cmep.org