

Who I am

My name is Suzan Assad; I reside in Nazareth, Israel. I am married and became graced with four lovely children. My career has led me to become a kindergarten teacher as I enjoy working with kids. I have been teaching kindergarten since 1999 and in addition to that I'm an educational counselor for teachers at Rosary kindergarten in Nazareth. I belong to the Annunciation Parish of Nazareth.

JESUS OF NAZARETH

Jesus was born and raised in Nazareth. Therefore when I stop for a moment to realize I too was born and raised in Nazareth, It is an honor including the greatest of grace that I am one of the women who represent Christian women in the community.

The greatest challenges we are facing is that we are a minority in this great city of Nazareth. Unfortunately Christians are only 2% of the total populations in Israel. This is a very disturbing number considering all things being equal. As such, being a minority has caused great difficulties when attempting to pass our beliefs and values on to our children. Part of the solution was attempting to assert the cooperation and integration between the church teachings and the individual's life.

I too take responsibility towards my community therefore leading me to enroll in many Church activities, such as the Bible competition. This was organized by the Annunciation Family Club- Nazareth which became blessed from our Parish Priest and the Bishop Bolous Markodso . In addition to the above, I became involved in obtaining extensive experience by organizing competitions due to being one of the Administrative' s Body. It was extremely beneficial for all the organizers, the believers, the competitors, the families, and all Christian parishes. The correlation of learning and listening to the word of God, for a total of four months has made a drastic impact on all of us.

In 2008, our Parish Priest Father Amjad Sabbara , including but not limited to believers and volunteers, began to develop processes to bring Christian families closer to the Church . This was one highlight I was extremely proud of in every regard. The inclusion was with children between 4 to 12 years of age, who learned Bible stories and Christian songs, with social activities in an enjoyable way. Our challenge was how to make this one hour a week exciting and attractive for all ages to learn about " Jesus of Nazareth", in our holy land, the city of Nazareth.

Year by year we had to make some modifications. Firstly we lengthened the time to 2 hours a week versus the standard one hour and opening the chance for the mothers to join in, we accomplished our aim of developing the spiritual lives to the whole entire family. Today I'm the one who's responsible and interacts with this group of mothers. We share a great deal of items such as spiritual, social, and personal matters.

Reviewing the aftermath with current and past experiences, I have to conclude that we can't stand aside and say that we are weak being a minority, or placing the blame on the authorities or at our spiritual principals - bishops and priests. We have to take some responsibility within our own lives. Therefore if you believe in God and with your capabilities you can make the change starting from yourself, your family, with your community and live in Christianity. Quote: Jesus said:" I'M WITH YOU". He certainly will always be there for us. "God Bless"

Sincerely,

Suzan Assad