

THE BETHLEHEM DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Mission Statement

1. The Bethlehem Project intends to transform the birthplace of Jesus Christ from its current state of depressed provincial town into a vibrant spiritual center worthy of its unique significance, and of Jesus Christ's timeless message of love of God and neighbor.
2. The renewed City of Bethlehem should compare favorably with other cities of similar importance.
3. To visitors from around the world, whether they come as pilgrims, students, scholars dedicated to interreligious research or as tourists of secular persuasion, Bethlehem shall be a center for the practice, experience and academic study of the nature of lasting peace in human communities
4. For all local residents, the Project aims at the creation of economic and social conditions to foster the growth of a fully integrated, prosperous and harmonious community capable of hosting in their modern, flourishing city visitors from around the world.
5. As a first step towards these objectives, we have decided to engage one of the world's leading city planning firms to study the present situation and to provide a plan for the reconstruction of Bethlehem to include housing, hotels, hospitals, institutions, educational and social services.
6. Towards the creation of the infrastructure we will be asking Governments and international institutions to help with the financing.
7. For all other parts of the reconstruction, the planning firm will be preparing a feasibility study intended to attract investors. The board to be established will reflect in the expertise of its members the multiple objectives pursued in short term, medium and long term specific projects.
8. There will be a board of Trustees as well as a Board of Directors comprised of highly reputable and knowledgeable individuals who will be responsible for the management of the project. Additionally, a group of exceptionally reputable Patrons will be appointed and further consulted when needed.