

MCC SALT/YAMEN Service Opportunity

MCC is an equal opportunity employer, committed to employment equity. MCC values diversity and invites all qualified candidates to apply.

Assignment Title & Partner Organization: SALT/YAMEN: Discipleship Program Mentor – MCC Palestine and Israel

Term: August 16, 2022 – July 15, 2023

Date Required: August 16, 2022

Location: Bethlehem, Palestine and Israel

Project Theme: PS Peacebuilding Salt/Yamen

Job Synopsis:

The SALT/YAMENER will serve alongside the MCC Connecting Peoples Coordinator to provide administrative and logistical support for the implementation of MCC's Seek program. Seek is an intentional discipleship program that focuses on exposing young adults between the ages of 18-20 in what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ, from an anabaptist faith perspective. The SALT/YAMENER will support the implementation of the established curriculum and provide spiritual mentorship to Seek participants.

Qualifications:

All MCC workers are expected to exhibit a commitment to a personal Christian faith and discipleship; active church membership; and nonviolent peacemaking.

An invitation to an assignment is contingent on the successful completion of a criminal background check.

- Undergraduate degree from a university or college preferably with a focus in theology, biblical studies, Christian education, or youth ministry.
- Previous youth ministry and youth camp experience is highly desirable. A commitment to youth discipleship and mentoring is required.
- Strong affinity for young adults (18–20-year-olds) and the unpredictable challenges that may affect their lives, both past and present.
- Demonstrated tolerance of people from diverse backgrounds, including culturally and theologically conservative young adults.
- Strong English language skills, both verbal and written. Willingness and commitment to learn basic Arabic.
- Strong understanding and commitment to anabaptist values, including an ability to articulate a theological understanding of peace and peacemaking. Peacemaking should be understood as a by-product of one's faith, not something in and of itself.
- Willing to gain a deep understanding and model MCC identify, values, approaches, and policies.
- Assertive and outgoing, with the ability to work both independently and as part of a team.
- Able to foster experiential learning and reflection experiences instead of formal instruction to guide the Seek participants to a deeper understanding and maturity in their faith.

- An ability to embody and model the spirit of the Seek curriculum being shared with and expected of the participants.
- Demonstrated capacity for community building and strong interpersonal skills.
- Strong verbal communication and conflict resolution skills.
- Good organizational, time management, and prioritization skills that allows one to simultaneously attend to many important details and needs.
- Strong self-care skills with ability to set healthy boundaries.
- Willing to work evening and weekends as needed, with time off during the week in lieu.

Key Responsibilities:

- Gain a deep understanding of the MCC identity, values, approaches, and policies.
- Participate in the implementation of the Seek discipleship curriculum and related activities in close collaboration with the MCC Connecting Peoples Coordinator (CPC).
- Regular and ongoing spiritual mentorship of Seek participants by providing care, demonstrating a desire to see them reach their full potential, and to allow for their spiritual growth and maturity in their faith.
- Support and collaborate with the MCC CPC to facilitate the in-country orientation of participants, support their adjustment, and implement ongoing learning activities for the Seek participants.
- Alongside the MCC CPC, provide leadership, guidance, and care to the Seek participants during non-structured time.
- Maintain the limits of confidentiality, working with the MCC CPC and MCC Reps to address issues based on MCC policies and procedures.
- Attend MCC meetings, retreats, and other events as appropriate.
- Attend a local Christian congregation.
- Model nonviolent peacemaking through respectful interactions with other.
- Other duties as assigned.

Assignment Narrative:

The SALT/YAMENer will support the implementation of the MCC's Seek program throughout the year, including the implementation and ongoing development of the Seek curriculum.

Seek is an intentional discipleship program which focuses on exposing young adults between the ages of 18-20 in what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ, from an anabaptist faith perspective. The desired outcome of Seek is for participants to have an increased self-awareness about their Christian identity and how it influences their perceptions, values, and beliefs. Seek participants will be prepared for a life of discipleship and to a greater sense of purpose, which can be the basis for further education and a ministry in the church and the world, including future service with Mennonite Central Committee.

Part of following Christ is to serve others; thus, the Seek program will include multiple service opportunities with MCC partners in Palestine, Israel, and Jordan ranging from a couple of days to several weeks. The SALT/YAMENer, in collaboration with the MCC Connecting Peoples Coordinator (CPC), will coordinate these structured service opportunities to complement the discipleship experience.

We look to Jesus's own ministry as an example to follow. His ministry was a tapestry of relationship. He spent much of His life communing with His disciples- walking, eating, sharing life with them, and imparting wisdom so that others might know the Father. This is the guiding principle of this SALT/YAMEN position – to foster opportunities so that the participants might partake in the life of Jesus through relationship with one another.

Guided by the MCC CPC, the SALT/YAMENer will assist the MCC Jordan, Palestine, and Israel program by supporting the implementation of the Seek Discipleship Program curriculum and the concurrent mentoring for the participants.

The SALT/YAMENer will be supervised by the MCC CPC, however, they will work closely and collaboratively with the MCC Reps and other MCC colleagues in Jordan, Palestine and Israel to effectively implement the Seek program as well as support MCC programs and staff.

This assignment includes evening and weekend work, as needed; however, this is to be balanced with regular time off within a seven-day period.

Location Description:

This position is based in Bethlehem with accountability to the MCC CPC based in the MCC Palestine and Israel country program office in Beit Hanina, East Jerusalem.

Bethlehem has a Mediterranean climate, with hot and dry summers and cool, wet winters. Winter temperatures (mid-December to mid-March) can be cool and rainy. January is the coldest month, with temperatures ranging from 1 to 13 degree Celsius (33–55 °F). From May through September, the weather is warm and sunny. August is the hottest month, with a high of 30 degrees Celsius (86 °F). Bethlehem receives an average of 700 millimeters (28 in) of rainfall annually, 70% between November and January.

The Israeli construction of the West Bank barrier has affected Bethlehem politically, socially, and economically. The barrier is located along the northern side of the area's built-up area, within distance of houses in the Aida Refugee Camp on one side, and the Jerusalem municipality on the other. Most entrances and exits from the Bethlehem agglomeration to the rest of the West Bank are currently subjected to Israeli checkpoints and roadblocks. The level of access varies based on Israeli security directives.

Arabic is the main language spoken in Bethlehem although many people speak at least some English. Good healthcare is available in the area and nearby Jerusalem. One can find a wide variety of western goods, including food products, clothing, etc. in Bethlehem.

There are no Mennonite or BIC congregations in Palestine and Israel. There are, however, many churches representing a variety of denominations. There are some services held in Bethlehem where you can get English translation and there are English speaking congregations in nearby Jerusalem.

The MCC Palestine and Israel office and Representatives are located in Beit Hanina which is 22 km from Bethlehem. There are frequent bus connections to Beit Hanina from Bethlehem via Jerusalem on a daily basis.

Challenges:

- COVID-19 remains unpredictable both at home, and around the world. MCC strongly recommends vaccination against COVID-19. Safe and effective vaccines against COVID-19 are a vital part of prevention, by reducing individual risk of disease and risk of transmission to others. Vaccination is particularly important for those who are interacting closely with members of the community, those staying with host families, who are traveling, who live in contexts with limited healthcare resources, or who are at higher risk of serious disease. Proof of vaccination may be required in individual cases to fulfill job expectations, for example if it is required for travel by an airline, a government requirement to enter a country, required by a local partner organization, etc. Currently, proof of vaccination is required by Israel to enter the country.
- To prioritize wellness and limit risk to our participants and the local community, assessments of each task will continue on a regular basis. If an assignment is found to be no longer viable, we will do our best to help you secure an alternative assignment.
- Seeds and nuts, including sesame, are widely used in the local diet, for both savory and sweet dishes. Those with allergies to seeds and/or nuts should be aware that it may be difficult to prevent exposure to seeds and/or nuts due to the high potential for cross-contamination.
- The Palestine and Israel context is often a challenging place to live and work, as one tries to negotiate between cultures, religions, and lifestyles. Every decision one makes often seems to have a political dimension, including where one buys groceries, where one goes for entertainment, what language one speaks and even what roads one drives on. This perplexing diversity can also be invigorating.
- Living in a high-stress, densely populated environment.
- Living in a militarized society where human rights abuses are frequently visible or communicated in the media.
- Patience is needed to handle the bureaucratic and physical obstacles. Examples include a high level of surveillance, security checkpoints, and scrutiny of personal history such as travel, political involvement or criminal record.
- Handling frustration at not being able to change situations of deep systemic injustice.
- Deliberate water, electricity, and internet disruptions due to the occupation.
- Significant cultural/religious differences/perceptions of LGBTQ+ individuals. Local church and local area are not supportive to LGTBQ+ persons.
- Managing frustration when things don't turn out as expected can be hard. Handling last minute changes in a very fluid environment with grace is important. While we do our best to determine and outline job responsibilities with our local partners, the experience really comes alive based on the passions, skills, and giftings of an individual. Responsibilities may change or be refined over time in communication with the partner and MCC Reps to meet the ongoing changes and needs within a local context. As such, the greatest characteristics a participant can bring to an assignment are adaptability, flexibility, patience, a willingness to get one's hands dirty, and humility to complete even mundane tasks.
- For those who are very task oriented, it can be a challenge to recognize the importance of "being" instead of always "doing" as building healthy relationships and mutually transformative learning is an important part of the participant experience. We hope participants will come with a desire to walk alongside our local partners, rather than see the assignment solely as a way to "get things done".
- Significant cultural/religious differences/perceptions of LGBTQ+ individuals (please provide context specific information).

Benefits:

For all SALT/YAMEN assignments, MCC provides:

- All basic needs related to assignment i.e., travel to and from assignment, food & household costs, housing, in-country transportation, etc.
- Modest monthly personal allowance
- Modest monthly worker care allowance
- Full medical coverage—no co-pay
- Educational loan reimbursement
- Vacation days
- Orientation and Re-entry Retreat costs
- MCC in-country meetings and retreat costs
- End-of-term benefits

For more information, see mcc.org/salt or mcc.org/yamen