



## **LET LIGHT SHINE OUT OF DARKNESS: THE CAMPAIGN FOR ST. GEORGE'S COLLEGE JERUSALEM**

**For God, who said 'Let light shine out of darkness'  
made His light shine in our hearts.'  
(2 Corinthians 4:6)**





## A Century of Resilience: Help Secure the Future of St. George's College

Since its founding in 1920 as a theological college for Palestinian seminarians through its redevelopment in the 1960s as a center for formation and reconciliation for clergy and laity from the worldwide Anglican Communion and throughout the ecumenical Church, St. George's College, Jerusalem abides through times of relative stability and political and armed crisis in and around the Holy Land.

Never before has a crisis so existentially challenged St. George's College as the present one. The \$2 million annual budget of St. George's College is supported financially through an earned revenue stream (pilgrims' fees, gift shop sales, non-pilgrim lodging fees, etc.) and through the generous contributions of its alumni. In the current crisis, the College's earned revenue stream has been totally disrupted.

Never before has a crisis also presented the opportunity to ensure the College's thriving until the Lord returns. Friends of St. George's College from across the Anglican Communion are invited to participate in this holy and vitally important project through "Let light shine out of darkness: The Campaign for St. George's College, Jerusalem."

**Our goal is \$1.195 million.** Of that, \$695,000 will sustain St. George's College through 2025, as we navigate the present crisis in the Holy Land. The other \$500,000 will build the endowment of the North American Committee for St. George's College, which is the College's primary source of funding and support, beyond income from pilgrims' fees.



"We ask all friends of the College to hold all the peoples of these lands in their prayers."

**The Very Reverend Canon  
Richard Sewell, Dean**





## The Present Crisis: Sustaining St. George's College

The armed conflict that began on October 7, 2023, in Israel and Gaza has forced the temporary closure of St. George's College for in-person pilgrimage. While we were hopeful at the outset that hostilities would resolve quickly, we are now preparing for the strong possibility that the College may be unable to host pilgrims on site through 2025.

During this time of crisis in the Holy Land, the College has adapted with creativity and resilience. The Dean and remaining staff are producing videos for virtual pilgrimages, developing future curricula, and caring for the local staff and the facility. We have maintained close contact with the Dean and Archbishop Hosam and are inspired by their dedication and commitment to the College. Now we need to stand in solidarity with them and help St. George's College in its time of need.



The North American Committee is determined to assist the College until it can reopen safely. The College is our Anglican Communion's crown jewel in the Holy Land -its center for study, reconciliation, and pilgrimage. It serves as a meeting place for Anglicans worldwide as well as every Anglican's home in Israel and Palestine. We are passionate about the unique role of the College. It means so much to all of us that we must do everything possible to help it weather this exceedingly difficult season and continue to thrive in seasons to come.

We face an immediate crisis. St. George's College exhausted its available funds in July 2024. Only through an emergency allocation of \$232,000 from the endowment held by the North American Committee for St. George's College is the College able to remain functioning. In 2025, an additional \$463,000 will be required in order for the College to operate, including fixed costs, maintenance needs, and reduced support of staff. This is an existential threat to the mission of the College.

We cannot, however, continue to provide that level of support without help from the College's friends. **We must raise \$695,000** to guarantee the sustainability of the College through the present crisis.



## Beyond the Present Crisis: Ensuring the Thriving of St. George's College

The present crisis in the Holy Land epitomizes the world's brokenness. Often that brokenness finds its expression through religious conflict. Modern Diplomacy estimates that up to 47% of all global conflict is rooted in religion.[i] How do we alleviate such conflict?

The great twentieth-century theologian Hans Kung said, "There will be no peace among the nations without peace among the religions and no peace among the religions without dialogue." [ii] St. George's College is the Anglican Communion's primary center for religious dialogue and understanding through pilgrimage, formation, education, encounter, and—crucially—reconciliation.

Unlike tour companies that often only swoop in and out of Christian holy sites in the Holy Land, St. George's courses break bread with Palestinian Christians in the West Bank, meet with Muslim leaders on the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount, meet with Muslim women in a refugee camp in Bethlehem, visit the Israeli Holocaust Memorial Yad Vashem, and sometimes even visit Israeli settlers in the West Bank.

Through second-tier courses such as "Sharing Perspectives," Jews, Christians and Muslims live and journey together as an interfaith community at St. George's College, encountering the land and its people in the past and present, exploring historical, geographical, religious and political complexities, and considering how the Holy One is revealed uniquely in each of the Abrahamic faiths.

**There is nowhere else like St. George's College.** St. George's College is the institution of our Church dedicated wholly and completely to such dialogue through pilgrimage, formation and encounters of reconciliation. The experience had at St. George's then ripples out into the world, with St. George's alumni serving as God's agents of reconciliation and peace.

We know there will be future crises in the Holy Land that will affect St. George's College. We also know that in times of relative stability the College needs to expand its mission in all of these ways. St. George's College must survive the present conflict in the Holy Land and thrive until the Lord returns. St. George's is the expression of our hope and a primary instrument through which we further God's great project of reconciliation and love.

**We must raise an additional \$500,000** to ensure the thriving of St. George's College in the future.







## Let Light Shine Out of Darkness: The Campaign for St. George's College, Jerusalem

**Our goal is \$1.195 million.**

We ask St. George's friends throughout the Anglican Communion to join our campaign, "Let light shine out of darkness: The Campaign for St. George's College" with immediate gifts and three-year pledges.

We are confident that the funds needed can be secured. We marvel at the resiliency of St. George's College, and we know that the well of affection for the College is deep and abiding. Let us help to bring some joy and hope out of these times of terrible suffering by securing the future of St George's College.

### Supporting St. George's College, Jerusalem

All gifts to the campaign are eligible for a tax deduction to the extent allowed by law.

- Please make checks payable to **North American Committee for St. George's College Jerusalem** with **Let Light Shine Out of Darkness Campaign** in the memo line and mail to:  
North American Committee for St. George's College Jerusalem  
3737 Seminary Road PMB 163  
Alexandria, VA 22304
- To set up credit card payments or bank account debits go to our website at [bit.ly/NACSGC](http://bit.ly/NACSGC).
- To make a gift of stock or mutual fund shares, please contact Laura Simmons, Executive Director, North American Committee St. George's College Jerusalem, [execdirnac@gmail.com](mailto:execdirnac@gmail.com).





## TESTIMONIALS

"I appeal to all Anglicans everywhere who know and greatly value, as I do, the ministry of St George's College Jerusalem, to support with much generosity the 'Let Light Shine Out Of Darkness' campaign. The Anglican pilgrim centre in Jerusalem is facing a threat to its very existence as the Israel/Gaza war continues and pilgrims are unable to travel to the Holy Land, thus causing a complete lack of income. St John tells us that in Christ, the Light has come into the world and the darkness cannot overcome it; let us ensure that the light of Christ which the College nurtures will not be extinguished either."

**The Most Reverend Justin Welby  
Archbishop of Canterbury**



"We are asking all our friends around the world to come together to help St. George's College and to walk with us during these dark times of war and distress. We ask you to be companions on the way so that we may continue to work and serve Christ in the ministry of pilgrimage and love and light. We thank all our friends and partners who have come through the doors of St. George's College and for those who will come in the future. We ask you to join hands with us and to be so generous so that we can continue to celebrate St. George's College as a beacon of life and love in Jerusalem and from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth."

**The Most Reverend Hosam Naoum  
Archbishop of Jerusalem and  
The Middle East**





## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. What is the campaign goal?

Our goal is \$1.195 million. Of that, \$695,000 will sustain St. George's College through 2025, as we navigate the present crisis in the Holy Land. The other \$500,000 will build the endowment of the North American Committee for St. George's College (NAC), which is the College's primary source of funding and support, beyond income from pilgrims' fees.

### 2. What are the start and end dates of the campaign?

Let Light Shine out of Darkness: The Campaign for St. George's College, began August 1, 2024. Given the volatility in the regions surrounding St. George's College, the NAC board voted the campaign would continue for as long as needed, hopefully to be completed within three years.

### 3. What is being counted toward the campaign goal?

- All gifts and pledges to NAC in support of St. George's College, not specifically designated for other purposes.
- Funds collected by other regional committees in support of St. George's College.
- All unrestricted gifts given directly to St. George's College.

### 4. How many years are allowed for fulfilling a pledge?

Pledges may be fulfilled within one to three years; however an initial gift for the pledge is requested. Pledge reminders will be sent out annually.

### 5. Will NAC accept gifts of stock for the campaign?

Yes. Gifts of stock are coordinated through NAC's executive director and are gratefully accepted. Please email [execdirnac@gmail.com](mailto:execdirnac@gmail.com) for more information.

### 6. Can gifts for the campaign come from an RMD (required mandatory distribution)?

Yes. RMD funds for charitable purposes become a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), a tax-free way to donate to a qualified charity. NAC is a qualified charity and will gladly accept QCD gifts. Donors are advised to speak to their own financial advisors about specifics.

### 7. How can I stay informed about St. George's College and the status of life there?

There are two ways to always know what is going on with St. George's College.

- Sign up to receive up-to-date information by emailing [execdirnac@gmail.com](mailto:execdirnac@gmail.com)
- Visit the St. George's College website frequently [saintgeorgescollegejerusalem.com](http://saintgeorgescollegejerusalem.com)

### 8. How can I support St. George's College in lieu of a financial gift?

There are many ways to show support for St. George's College including prayer, being an advocate for St. George's in your parish and community, and hosting a fundraising event. Contact [execdirnac@gmail.com](mailto:execdirnac@gmail.com) to discuss how you might help.





## JOIN US IN PRAYER



**Please join us in prayer for the College  
and how God is calling you to respond.**

"Gracious God, whose light shines out of darkness and whose love radiates from every holy thing, you challenge us to grow our capacities so that we show that Godly light and love. Give us the compassion, courage, and generosity that Jesus showed when he walked this earth teaching among all the people he encountered. Help us to embrace Jesus' will for such a global communion, a communion witnessed each day by all who pilgrim and work at St. George's College in Jerusalem.

Let our actions and efforts at this difficult time now help to sustain the mission of St. George's College. Let our light shine on this mission for peace, formation, and reconciliation for all peoples, a mission to reveal the kingdom Jesus the Christ proclaimed. May your light continue to shine in our hearts and on the future of St. George's College in Jerusalem. As a Palestinian sibling encourages us to offer: "Pray not for Arab or Jew, for Palestinian or Israeli, but pray rather for ourselves, that we might not divide them in our prayers but keep them together in our hearts."

Amen

