



MINUTE FOR MISSION

July 15, 2005

Dreams of a Young Boy

This meditation was written by a student at the Evangelical Lutheran School of Hope, Ramallah, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.



The Lutheran schools in the Holy Land were among the first to offer education to girls like these.

I am a 15-year-old Palestinian boy. I was born during the first Intifada and entered the first grade the year the Palestinian National Authority was established, so I barely remember the hard years of Israeli military occupation. I grew up among Palestinians, hearing stories about the misery of the Israeli occupation. I had the feeling that I could be one of the first Palestinian generations that would enjoy freedom in recent history. However, this hope was lost on March 29, 2002, when the Israeli forces invaded my city, Ramallah, and occupied our house for almost a week.



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Suddenly, I realized my generation would not be an exception.

We are no less than the boys and girls of any other nation. We have ambitions and hopes; we dream like anyone else. We want to live our childhood and not escape this stage in our lives.

Therefore, I have a dream. I have a dream to go to my school and come back in the afternoon without seeing my parents waiting for me in front of the house, worried to death that something could happen to me from the soldiers of the occupation.

I have a dream that I could go along with my friends to a public park and play without being harmed, purposely or accidentally, by a random shooting.

I have a dream that I could go to bed without listening to the sounds of machine guns around the house and in the streets.

I have a dream that one day all peace lovers will stand behind us, the children of Palestine, to help us grow up to be the future leaders who will build Palestine as a peaceful nation.

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For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org.

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