



## Supporting the work of the Tent of Nations project

*a community working for peace and justice,  
based at an organic farm near Bethlehem*

Our mission is to build bridges between different people, and between people and the land. Tent of Nations has established initiatives to develop and protect the land at Daher's Vineyard in the Palestinian West Bank, and to make it a centre for people from different nations and cultures to come together and build bridges of trust and hope.

### Our activities

- The **Bent Al-reef Empowerment Project** focuses on enabling women in rural villages to realise their full potential. The project provides a local community centre with groups focusing on subjects such as IT skills, health, English and personal development.
- The **Tent of Nations summer camps** are held each year at Daher's Vineyard for local children, giving them the chance to experience life on a farm, away from the oppressive atmosphere of the city. The children take part in arts, drama, sports and music activities, and discuss topics such as peace and co-existence. Throughout the year, the project also runs a youth group for teenagers based in Bethlehem.
- The **Organic Farm** at Daher's Vineyard grows Olives, Vines, Almonds, plus various vegetables & fruit on around 100 acres of land. The farm also keeps animals including a small herd of goats, a horse & donkey, chickens, rabbits, pigeons and dogs.
- **Workcamps & volunteer placements** are held throughout the year for locals and internationals. Tour groups also visit the farm to learn about the project, and workshops teaching agricultural skills to local people are planned in future.

### You can visit...

The Nassar family extend an open invitation to people of all nations to visit and stay at Dahers' Vineyard. They regularly host visitors from across the world, as well as longer term volunteers who live and work together as a community at the farm.

You are welcome to visit to learn more about the Tent of Nations, and the situation in the West Bank. You can join us for a few hours or a few months, enjoy Palestinian hospitality & food, volunteer at the farm or community centre, and experience the West Bank for yourself.

The Tent of Nations project was established by the Nassar family as a response to attempts by the Israeli state to take possession of their land, a farm southwest of Bethlehem known as Daher's Vineyard. The family's farm was named after Daher Nassar, who purchased the land in 1916, but today it is under threat. The Nassar's farm is ringed by Israeli settlements and the encroaching Separation Wall, and is in a region marked for annexation by Israel.

Since 1991 the Nassar family have been forced to fight a legal battle against the Israeli state in order to keep their land. The battle is ongoing but the family have already achieved much more than many Palestinians.

The family has been offered millions for the land and safe passage out of Palestine, but they remain steadfast. "This land is our mother," says Daoud Nassar, grandson of Daher. "Our mother is not for sale." Under his leadership, the family has taken the case to establish the family's land rights all the way to the Israeli Supreme Court.

Through the work of the Tent of Nations, the Nassars' aim is to give an example to locals and internationals of what it's possible to achieve, feeling that **this positive approach is the best response** to the ongoing challenges they face, which include:

- An ongoing **legal case** over their land, where they have been refused a positive verdict despite holding all the correct documents and spending \$145,000 in legal fees. The case has been ongoing for over 15 years.
- The **construction of the security barrier** by Israel threatens to cut the family off from Bethlehem and the West Bank. This will mean that the area in which the farm is located will be effectively 'annexed' to Israel.
- Israel says that it is **illegal to construct or extend buildings** on areas of 'Area C' land such as the Nassars. Applications for building permits are routinely refused.
- The Nassars have been **denied connection to water and electricity** supplies.
- There is a **permanent roadblock** which prevents access to the farm from the main road.
- The Nassars' farm is **surrounded by Israeli settlements** on the neighbouring hilltops. In a stark contrast to the farm, residents of the settlements enjoy plentiful access to water and electricity, and continue to be allowed to build new houses.