

Christians of Gaza



Christians in Gaza are like Muslims, an essential part of the Palestinian society and culture. They have very good relations where they participate with Muslims in social events, visiting each other. Some Christian families, for example, live in Muslim neighborhoods and vice versa.

There are approximately 1,500 Christians in the Gaza Strip, the majority of them are Orthodox. They mostly live within Gaza City, especially in areas neighboring the three main churches; Church of Saint Porphyrius, the Holy Family Catholic Church, and the Gaza Baptist Church, in addition to an Anglican chapel in the " Al-Ahli Al-Arabi" Arab Evangelican Hospital.

Church of Saint Porphyrius is the oldest and largest amongst the three churches in the Gaza Strip. It is located in a Muslim neighborhood, adjacent to a mosque (see the minaret on the right of the photo next to the cross). It is an Orthodox Church that dates back to the era of the Roman Emperor Arcadius in 402 AD, it is named after the 5th century bishop of Gaza, Saint Porphyrius.



The Gaza Baptist Church was founded in the 1950s and is the only evangelical Church in Gaza. It lies close to the Legislative Council in Gaza city. The church's opened Gaza's first public Christian library in 2006.



Al Ahli Arab (Anglican) Hospital was founded as a mission of the Anglican Church in 1882, the first dispensary was built in 1904 and later destroyed by the British during World War I. The British rebuilt the hospital in 1924 and it became a ministry of the diocese in 1982. It is located in Gaza City, Ahli Hospital is known and respected as a provider of the highest quality health care for all women, children and men of Gaza, regardless of their religion, nationality or background. A significant portion of the care is charitable.





It is worth to mention that there are five Christian schools in Gaza including three catholic schools and the majority of their students are Muslim.

Aside from religious subjects, other services are offered to Muslims and Christians alike with no discrimination. Services include women's groups, students' groups and youth groups, such as those offered at the Baptist Church on weekdays.

Christians in Gaza freely practice their religion.

They also observe all the religious holidays in accordance with the Christian calendars followed by their churches. They are permitted to obtain any job, in addition to having their full rights and duties as their Muslim counterparts in accordance with the Palestinian Declaration of Independence, the regime, and all the systems prevailing over the territories.

