

Missions

Christianity in the Holy Land

Charlie Butts (OneNewsNow.com) Friday, May 04, 2012

A Palestinian pastor is currently in the U.S. to raise money for a building in east Jerusalem, and he's telling about the plight of Christians in the Holy Land.



If Christians continue to flight from Israel, some are concerned that the country will eventually become just a museum of holy sites. Pastor Steven Khoury of [Holy Land Baptist Mission](#) touched on that in a recent speech at the Family Research Council. "Thousands are leaving the Holy Land. That is the only thing that's keeping me there is my love and my passion for these people, both the Arab [and] the Muslims, and my love and my passion ... for the Jewish people, just to show them the love that changed my life," he shared. And he told a first-hand account of the mistreatment Christians experience. He, for example, has been beaten, and one of his uncles was killed. "If I say I am an Israeli-Arab, which I am because I was born in Jerusalem and have Israeli documents, I get oppressed and persecuted by the Palestinians," Khoury details. "If I'm on the Israeli side and I say I'm a Palestinian Christian, I get oppressed by the Israelis."

He reports that the First Baptist Church of Bethlehem has been firebombed four times, so he is hoping to raise the funds to convert a building in Palestinian-controlled east Jerusalem into a church. It took Khoury four years just to find a Palestinian who would sell a building to be used for Christian purposes.



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