

**Sabeel** is Arabic for 'the way' and also 'spring' of life-giving water. Inspired by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, Sabeel is an ecumenical grassroots liberation theology movement which seeks to deepen the faith of Palestinian Christians, and to promote unity toward social action. Sabeel strives to develop a spirituality based on love, justice, peace, nonviolence, liberation and reconciliation for the different national and faith communities. Sabeel also works to promote a more accurate international awareness regarding the identity, presence and witness of Palestinian Christians as well as their contemporary concerns. It encourages individuals and groups from around the world to work for a just, comprehensive and enduring peace informed by truth and empowered by prayer and action.

**Cost of the Conference:**

\$1050 (€750, £660) for single room  
\$950 (€680, £600) for double room

Cost includes room and meals for 6 nights (Feb. 23 to March 1, breakfast), registration, on site visits and all related materials.

Registration Deadline  
**January 15, 2011**

**Early Registration Discount**

\$200 (€140, £125) discount before Dec. 1, 2010  
\$100 (€70, £63) before Jan. 1, 2011

For more information or registration, visit  
[www.sabeel.org](http://www.sabeel.org)

or contact your local Sabeel branch:

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# CHALLENGING EMPIRE

## God, Faithfulness and Resistance



Sabeel's 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference 2011

Bethlehem Hotel, Bethlehem  
February 23 – 28, 2011

# Challenging Empire: God, Faithfulness and Resistance

## Sabeel's 8th International Conference

will take place in Bethlehem, February 23-28, 2011. The focus will be on one of the most cutting edge issues in today's world, one that touches on both religion and politics: **Empire**.

Since 1967, the Palestinians have become conscious of their life under a hegemonic American empire with Israel as an essential extension of its power, strategically located in the heart of the Middle East.

With friends from all over the world, we want to reflect on this phenomenon. How can we be faithful to God as we face the challenge of empire? What does radical Christian discipleship mean for us today and for all who live in the shadow of global empire? How do we resist faithfully and non-violently alongside people of all faiths and none?

What is truly exciting has been the growing awareness amongst biblical scholars and theologians of the different manifestations of empire. Their work has inspired us at Sabeel and alerted us to the dangers and threats of empire and challenged us to look at it in light of the Kingdom of God.

A number of prominent theologians, local and international, will help us translate and contextualize the relevance of this topic to our daily life. Confirmed speakers include:

**Richard Horsley**, author of "Jesus and Empire: The Kingdom of God and the New World Disorder."

**John Dear**, Jesuit priest, pastor, peacemaker, organizer, lecturer, retreat leader and author of "Living Peace: A Spirituality of Contemplation and Action."

**Mazin Qumsiyeh**, Professor, Bethlehem & Birzeit Universities. Author of "Popular Resistance in Palestine" and "Sharing the Land of Canaan"

**Archbishop Thabo Magkoba**, Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town.

**Naim Ateek**, Director of Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center.

**Chris Ferguson**, Executive for the WCC United Nations Liaison Office

**Ched Myers** will be our **Bible Study** leader Author of "Binding the Strong Man: A Political Reading of Mark's Story of Jesus," Ched has been an organizer and advocate who has for 30 years been challenging and supporting Christians to engage in peace and justice work and radical discipleship."



### Themes include:

- Mapping Empire
- Tactics of Empire
- Jesus and Empire
- Spirituality for Resistance
- Faith in Action
- A Vision for the Future

**Worship** by the Wall and in Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

### On Site Visits:

Hebron, the Old City of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, refugee camps, the Wall, checkpoints, Palestinian villages, Sheikh Jarrah and more.

### Choose one of two optional Post-Conference Tours including:

- Jerusalem
- Galilee
- Dead Sea
- Jericho