Unlocking the gate to education in Bethlehem
Public Seminar December 16th 2010

Everyone has the right to education but in Bethlehem University, students and staff face curfews, travel restrictions, military checkpoint harassment, and the negative impact of the Israeli military occupation of the West Bank which often make it impossible to access their education. Despite being closed twelve times by Israeli military-imposed orders, the longest of which was for three years from October 1987 until October 1990, the University has continually held classes on- and off-campus. For a beleaguered people, education is obviously still highly prized.

Bethlehem University plays a significant role in serving the educational and professional development needs of Palestine – a land where everyday acts of injustice are common. It is also instrumental in fostering the inter-religious dialogue necessary to enhance peace and harmony in the Holy Land.

The University’s story is one of people committed to pursuing their higher education – perseverance and courage in the face of adversity and injustice – and working together in hope with an ever widening international circle of friends, including Australian Catholic University (ACU), to build a better future.

Professor Peter Bray, the Vice-Chancellor of Bethlehem University, will visit ACU, Strathfield, on Thursday 16 December, speaking about education under occupation and challenges for people at Bethlehem University. He will focus, in particular, on the restriction of movement for students. Associate Professor Shukri Sanber, from ACU, will also speak about the broader context of the occupation of the Palestinian territories.

This public seminar is open to all.

The seminar Education under Occupation in Palestine: Good News and Challenges will be held at: Australian Catholic University,
25a Barker Rd, Strathfield
Room: Murray Hall
Starting at 6pm and ending at 7.30pm

Parking available on site

To RSVP or for more information, please call Helen McLucas on (02) 9701 4176 or email helen.mclucas@acu.edu.au.