

Advocate for Palestinian Christians to Speak in Bay Area

International author Maria Khoury, who wrote the popular “Christina” Orthodox children’s books, will speak at Holy Cross Church and other locations in the Bay Area about the plight of the dwindling Christian community in Israeli-occupied Palestine, the Holy Land, which is revered by Christians, Muslims and Jews.

Khoury, an Orthodox Christian who grew up in America but lives with her family in Taybeh on the West Bank of the Jordan River, is the author of *Witness in the Holy Land*. The book details her personal accounts of the “inhuman conditions” imposed on Christians and others in Palestine, especially since the 2000 Palestinian Uprising and subsequent Israeli blockade. She has also written many articles that have been published worldwide in newspapers and magazines and have been translated to various languages, bringing awareness of the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

Khoury also is the author of nine Orthodox Christian children’s books including *Christina Goes to the Holy Land* and *Christina Goes to Church*.

A graduate of Hellenic College (1982) in Brookline, Mass., Harvard University (1985) and Boston University (1992) with a doctorate in education, Khoury is trying to raise money for housing to help Orthodox Christians remain in Taybeh, the only Christian village in the land of Christ’s birth.

She will speak on three different occasions from Feb. 19-21 at Holy Cross Church.

Khoury will give her first presentation, about conditions in the Holy Land, on Friday, Feb. 19, following the 7:00 PM Salutations service. Her second speech, on raising children in the faith, will be given Saturday, Feb. 20, at 11:00 AM (lunch and child care included). She will speak about the Holy Land during Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Feb. 21, and speak with children afterward during Coffee Hour.

For more information about Khoury and the Christian presence in the Holy Land, visit www.saintgeorgetaybeh.org.

Khoury will also speak at several other Orthodox Christian venues in the Bay Area:

- Feb. 7, following 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy, at Ascension Cathedral in Oakland
- Feb. 9, 5:30 PM, at UC Berkeley’s Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute
- Feb. 11, 7:00 PM, at St. Basil Church in San Jose
- Feb. 12, 6:00 PM, at St. George Church in Rohnert Park
- Feb. 21, 5:00 PM, at Nativity of Christ Church in Novato
- Feb. 23, 6:00 PM, at the Orthodox Christian Fellowship at Stanford University

CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS BY INTERNATIONAL AUTHOR AND SPEAKER

DR. MARIA KHOURY

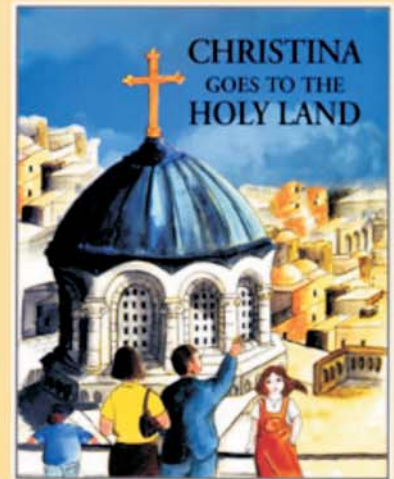
DR. MARIA KHOURY, shown here with His Beatitude the Patriarch of Jerusalem THEOPHILOS III, has published articles world wide in newspapers and magazines that have been translated into many languages, bringing awareness of the Christian presence in the Holy Land. She volunteers at St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Taybeh, Palestine to raise funds for a housing project to sustain its small Christian community. She spent three years training teachers in classroom strategies for the Latin Patriarchate Schools throughout Palestine. She served as the only female principal at the Friends Boys School of Ramallah (1996) and worked closely with church leaders in Jerusalem as a consultant for the World Council of Churches (2004). She headed the project to establish the International



Academy of Art-Palestine (2007). Dr. Khoury serves on the Advisory Council of World Vision Jerusalem and the Taybeh Education Fund, which she founded as an endowment to help students with university tuition. She was guest speaker at the 2004 International Conference of Bishops at Bethlehem University. Dr. Khoury has spoken to more than 70 churches throughout the U.S. about the conditions of

Christians in the Holy Land. Her family returned to Palestine in 1995, following the Oslo Peace Agreement, to boost the economy with an investment in a microbrewery. In '01 the successful business diversified to help farmers in fair trade bottling of Taybeh Olive Oil. Her "Christina Books," published in Jerusalem, promote ancient Christian values, centuries old traditions and spiritual growth.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER Maria (Kouremenou) Khoury was born in Tripoli, Greece, but grew up in Denver, CO. She is a graduate of Hellenic College (1982), Harvard University (1985) and Boston University (1992) with a doctorate in education. Dr. Khoury is the author of Orthodox Christian children's books, including "Christina Goes to the Holy Land." She is also the author of "Witness in the Holy Land," a publication reflecting personal experiences of living under military occupation with her husband, the Hon. Mayor David Canaan Khoury, and their three children, Elena, Canaan and Constantine. For more information on her work and the courageous Christians of Palestine, see: <http://www.saintgeorgetaybeh.org/>



Maria Khoury Presentations

Greek Orthodox Church
of the Holy Cross
900 Alameda de las Pulgas
Belmont, CA
(650) 591-4447
www.goholycross.org

Friday, February 19
7:00 PM Service of Salutations
to the Virgin Mary, followed by
Potluck Dinner and
Holy Land Presentation

Saturday, February 20
11:00 AM Reaching Children
About Our Faith; Lunch and
child care included

Sunday, February 21
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy,
Talk by Maria Khoury and
book signing at Coffee Hour

Other Appearances

Feb. 6-7: Oakland
Feb. 9, 5:30 PM: Berkeley
Feb. 11, 7 PM: San Jose
Feb. 12, 6 PM: Rohnert Park
Feb. 21, 5 PM: Novato
Feb. 23, 6 PM: Stanford University