

## **Something wider in Every Person**

*By Jiries Elias*

Hello everyone, my name is Jiries Elias and I am a Christian kid from Jerusalem. I'm 19 years old. I'm studying at the Hebrew University currently for a business degree. I hope to get accepted into law school next year.

I've been with Jerusalem Peacebuilders for 3-4 years now both as a camper and as a counselor. I've acquired some skills: public speaking skills, leadership skills, peacemaking skills, how to look at a person and see him as a human being and not with all kinds of stereotypes before I get to meet him. This was a great experience for me. I hope more people will take advantage and be part of this experience because it changes your personality and builds it for you, helps you become a better person and a better peacemaker.

Next week I will be giving a speech in the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, about the gaps in Arab and Jewish education in Jerusalem, and I hope that this will be a great starting point for me to get into politics one day, and maybe bring a change from within.

From Jerusalem Peacebuilders I have made a lot of friends. Not just friends that come and go and not just friends that are like me, but different people with different identities: Jewish kids, Muslim kids, and for me as a Christian kid that was not something that was with me my entire life.

When I met these people in summer camp, I learned how to see them in a way that built friendships. I saw them as people that could help me and that I could help and that we could co-exist and work together in order to bring peace, to make a meaningful change, to create something wider in each and every person and something bigger than just talking. Real actions.

Now I am still in touch with a lot of them. We still talk together and go out sometimes. This peace making project, this utopia we're trying to build together, starts with one person then another and chain a lot of people that are tied up and hopefully one day will be in the same path.

Enjoy this testimonial on video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ie-RlcabLFQ>