

“Tea without sugar is not tea.”

Three Months in Palestine:
*A Report on the current situation in the
occupied West Bank*

Sunday, June 23 – 2:00 p.m.
Champaign Public Library

John and Joyce Cassel spent the fall of 2012 in Palestine, as volunteers with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel. They are eager to share stories and insights from their experiences among everyday Palestinians with anyone interested in learning more about this important part of our world.



Joyce and John Cassel, EAs

Their presentation will explore the current situation of Palestinians living under the Israeli occupation in Bethlehem and Hebron. If there is interest, they will also consider the *Kairos Palestine* and *Kairos USA* documents as a way to think about the future of Christianity.

THE ECUMENICAL ACCOMPANIMENT PROGRAM IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL, a program of the World Council of Churches, brings internationals to the West Bank to experience life under occupation. Ecumenical Accompaniers (EAs) provide protective presence to vulnerable communities, monitor and report human rights abuses, and support Palestinians and Israelis working together for peace. When they return home, EAs campaign for a just and peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through an end to the occupation, respect for international law, and implementation of UN resolutions.

The EAPPI celebrated its 10th Anniversary in November 2012. The 45th group of Ecumenical Accompaniers included 33 persons from 17 countries. John was part of the Bethlehem team, and Joyce the Hebron team.

Check their trip blog: [http:// 3monthsinpalestine.tumblr.com](http://3monthsinpalestine.tumblr.com)

Joyce and John reside in Oak Park, IL. Joyce is a retired public school teacher (history and special education) and John retired after careers in school board consulting and theological education. Both have been active in peace and church activities; most recently Joyce has been volunteering with Chicago AFSC and the Chicago Faith Coalition. Both Joyce & John had visited (with CPT) the West Bank before their EA service. They have three children and six grandchildren.

*This presentation is free and open to the Public
sponsored by the Urbana-Champaign Peace Initiative*

For more information call (217) 828-1038