

The Syrian Orthodox Church in Bethlehem



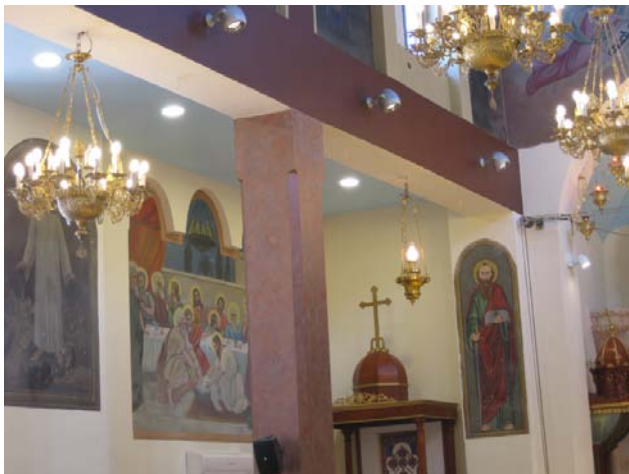
Date: 2010
Location: Bethlehem

Description

The Syrian Orthodox Church is an ancient oriental church. Although it is small in number, about five million members worldwide including India, it is rich in history, liturgy, rituals and language.



The Syrian Orthodox Church in the Holy Land has a congregation of approximately 5000, concentrated in the Jerusalem and Bethlehem areas, with a few members in Ramallah and Jericho. Thousands have emigrated in the last few decades, mainly to North America where they have established many churches.



The present members of the church are mainly immigrants from south-eastern Turkey after 1915. The Syrian Orthodox Church and its members went through many periods of great difficulty throughout their history, forcing them to move from place to place looking for refuge and security. Many joined other churches which split from the Syrian Orthodox Church.

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