

**Mary Mikheal, The Joshua Horizons Bible Study author,
will be at Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church
at 2828 SE Stephen St in Portland
at 1:30, Thursday, September 9th, 2010.**

There's no fee but a free-will offering will be taken.

Mary Mikhael grew up in the Middle East, in Syria, and spent most of her life in Lebanon. She's from a Greek Orthodox family that traces its ancestry back to Pentecost. She is an Elder in the Presbyterian Church in Lebanon in Beirut. She has been on the faculty of Near East School of Theology (NEST) since 1984, and was, and is, the first woman President of NEST since 1994.

Dr. Mikhael is concerned about women's issues most particularly, the role of women in the Christian ministry, as well as decision-makers in the society.

The latter half of 2009, our Women's Group used the *Joshua* Bible study she authored. She says

“When I was asked to prepare the Bible Study, I felt honored to be part of a project of such importance for my sisters in the Presbyterian Church. I also took it as a challenge. Joshua is a book criticized bitterly in the Middle East. Like many religious texts, it is often cited in the justification of violence. It also is vehemently dismissed for the same reason.

Any study of the book of Joshua must examine not only the scriptures itself, but the many ways in which interpretation of this particular book has impacted the people of the Middle East, as well as the rest of the world. With this in mind, we must constantly ask ourselves, ‘What meaning can we find today in the book of Joshua?’ As we consider the question, I believe it is important to introduce myself, my faith tradition, and my background, in order to prevent any misunderstanding when I express my pain for what has happened throughout history in the Middle East, and how my faith struggles.

In Arabic, we often use the phrase Inshallah – ‘God willing’, Inshallah, God willing, we will be able to journey through the challenging book of Joshua together.”

It seems appropriate that those of us who are able, take advantage of this unique opportunity to hear a knowledgeable speaker from the area of such strife and an area in which we, in the United States, have such a large stake. I can say with some assurance that both men and women can profit from hearing Dr. Mikhael.