



**Congregational
United Church of
Christ of St. Charles
The Holy Lands
September 17 - 29, 2012
Egypt Extension
September 29 - October 2,
2012
Hosted by
Rev. John and Susan Rodgers**



Monday Sept. 17, Day 1

Today we depart from Chicago on our way to the Holy Lands and a trip of a lifetime.

Tuesday Sept 18, Day 2

We arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport, and after passport control we meet our tour representative and our guide. We get on board the motorcoach and drive up the Judean Hills towards Jerusalem and Bethlehem, passing by Rachel's Tomb on the outskirts of Bethlehem. We arrive at our hotel in Bethlehem for dinner and overnight.

**Wednesday Sept. 19,
Day 3**

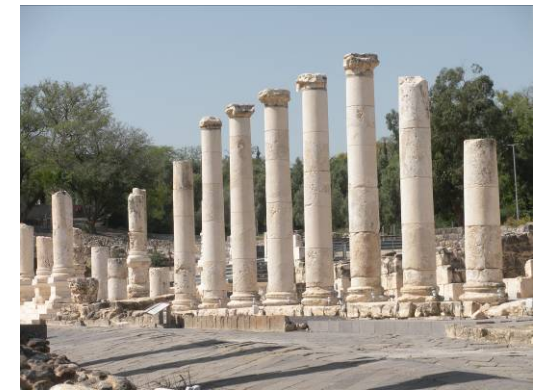
"Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." (Luke 2:15). We drive to a hilltop for a view of Bethlehem, noting its relation to the rest of the central mountain range, including Jerusalem, as well as to the desert and the area of ancient Moab. We then drive to one of the possible sites for Shepherds' Fields. We continue into Bethlehem itself, walking through the restored old town to the Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem to visit with Dr. Mitri Raheb the pastor of the Lutheran Church. We will also visit a cave discovered below the Christmas Church which will give the group a more realistic setting of the Nativity scene than the one that is at the built up church of Nativity. We then walk down to the Church of the Nativity and visit the manger. After lunch we tour Herodion, the palace set in a conical mountain built by Herod to mark his



tomb. We continue to Hebron. Here we shall study, from outside, a completely preserved Herodian structure - identical in design with the exterior of the vanished Jerusalem Temple. It commemorates the tombs of the patriarchs. We return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Thursday Sept. 20, Day 4

"He will be called a Nazarene." (Matthew 2: 23) We drive via Bethany to the ancient baptismal site *"in the desert of Judea, in the Jordan river"*. We continue to Jericho where we visit the tell of this oldest city and view the traditional mountain of Jesus' temptation. From there we drive north through the Jordan Valley. This fantastic view is filled with biblical history. We drive through the Jezreel Valley to Beth Shean, aka Scythopolis. Here we shall climb the tell and view the setting for the death of Saul (*I Samuel 28 - II Samuel 1*). We shall then survey the magnificent Roman and Byzantine ruins: theatre, bathhouses, ancient rest rooms, market areas, colonnaded streets. We then drive west through the Jezreel Valley to Nazareth for dinner and overnight at a hotel in Nazareth.



Friday Sept. 21, Day 5

"Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulon and Naphtali" (Matt. 4:13)

We spend the morning getting acquainted with Jesus' home town, visiting its spring where Mary would have done her family's laundry. We walk through the present-day bazaar, over the site of the ancient village, to the Church of the Annunciation. We then drive to nearby Sepphoris, the only city in the midst of Galilee at the time when Jesus was growing up - today a rich archaeological site. After a stop at Cana, where Jesus performed his first sign (*John 2*), we walk to the edge of the Arbel cliff, overlooking the northern part of the Sea of Galilee, which includes the main sites of Jesus' mission. We drive down to the Sea of Galilee and check into a guest house on the shores of the Sea.



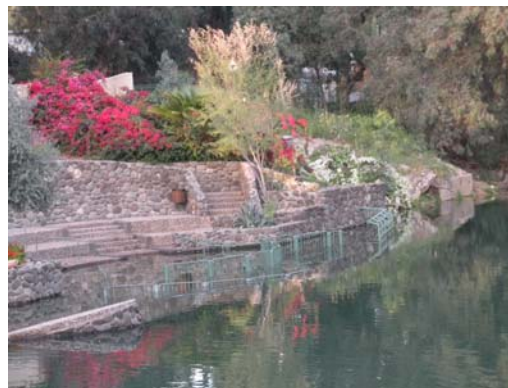
Saturday Sept. 22, Day 6

"Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside, and sat down" (*Matt. 5: 1*). We drive up the Golan Heights for a panoramic view of the lake from the East. Then we cross to the Mount of Beatitudes (*Matthew 5-7*). Those who wish may walk down the hill to the lake, meeting the group at Tabgha, where Christians have long remembered the first feeding of the multitude (*Mark 6*). Also, nearby, is the site of the breakfast of *John 21*. We go on to Capernaum, where Franciscan archaeologists believe they have uncovered

the house of Peter (*Mark 1 and 2*). After lunch we drive around the lake to Bethsaida, the fishing village of the Gospels. This village was the home town of Peter, Andrew, and Philip. From there we end the day by taking an hour on the lake in a wooden boat modeled on one from Jesus' time (*Matthew 14*). Then we head back to Tiberias for our dinner and overnight.

Sunday Sept. 24, Day 7

We start with a brief stop at Hazor, the largest Canaanite city, for a view of Mount Hermon and its surroundings. Then we travel onward to Dan, where we combine a nature walk beside the Upper Jordan with views of the ancient ruins, including the Israelite high place that supported a golden calf (*1 Kings 12*). A short drive then takes us to the spring of Caesarea Philippi (Baniyas), where Peter confessed his recognition of Jesus as Christ. (*Matthew 16*). Here we can visit the stunning remains of a first-century AD palace belonging to Agrippas II. We drive around Mt. Hermon for a glimpse of Damascus, 45 miles away, and then head back over the Golan Heights to our home on the Sea of Galilee. We will end our day at Yardenit to visit the modern Baptismal site at the exit of the Jordan River from the Sea of Galilee as it heads down through the Jordan Valley. You will have an opportunity to renew your Baptismal vows here.



Monday Sept. 25, Day 8

"We are going up to Jerusalem." (*Matt. 20:18*)

This morning we first drive to the Mt. of Precipi for a panoramic view of the Jezreel Valley before we drive south through it to the mound of Megiddo - *har megiddo* in Hebrew, which gave its name to Armageddon. We then ascend Mt. Carmel with a panorama of the Plain of Jezreel (*1 Kings 18*), where the confrontation between Elijah and the prophets of Baal took place. From there we drive towards the Mediterranean coast and drive south along the coastal highway to Caesarea - by - the Sea. We enter Caesarea Maritima to explore this Roman bridgehead to the East, which became the Christian springboard to the West. We visit this ancient harbor as well as the hippodrome, aqueduct, and theatre (*Acts 10*). We board our bus and continue on for a visit of ancient Jaffa (biblical Joppa), where Jonah fled from his responsibility and where Peter had his vision opening the church to the gentiles. We continue on and drive up to Jerusalem for our lodging.



Tuesday Sept. 26, Day 9

Yom Kippur "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace" (*Luke 19:42*).

We start on the Mt. of Olives for an orientation to the city. We descend the traditional Palm Sunday Road stopping at the church of Dominus Fleuit, to the Kidron Valley. We then ascend, as Jesus did, to the traditional site of the Temple Mount and visit the Dome of the Rock and the al-Aqsa Mosque. We explore the Ophel excavations south of the Mount, including the Temple steps - on which, we can be confident, Jesus and the disciples trod. After lunch, we proceed to Gethsemane for quiet time. We then go to the site of Caiaphas' house where Jesus was tried and kept overnight.



Wednesday Sept. 27, Day 10.

"He has risen!" (Mark 16:6).

We start quite early walking the Via Dolorosa - the Way of the Cross - to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. We board our bus and drive to the Garden Tomb. From there we go to visit the Yad Vashem, which is Israel's Holocaust Museum.

Thursday Sept. 28, Day 11

The Rift Valley. We drive to Bethany, the home of Martha and Lazarus. From there we

drive through the Judean desert to Qumran. Here we view Cave # 4, which contained the greatest quantity of Dead Sea scrolls. We continue south to Masada and take the cable car to the top, visiting Herod's mountain bunker and the last stronghold of the Jewish revolt against Rome (66-73 AD). We enter the nature reserve of Ein Gedi, rich in flora and fauna, and walk to a lovely waterfall. We conclude our day with floating in the Dead Sea (at minus 1390 feet, it is as low as you're ever likely to get), before we head back for our last night in Jerusalem. There will be a Middle Eastern farewell dinner at the Ambassador Hotel.

Friday Sept. 29, Day 12

Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for your departure for the flight.



Egypt Extension Option

Friday September 29, Day 12

St. Katherine's & the Pyramids--Today we pass through the Valley of Elah, the site of David and Goliath's battle, through the region of Adullam, where David took refuge from Saul and on to Beersheba, ancient city of Judah, a watering hole and trading post for thousands of years. It is the center of desert traffic, located on the edge of the vast Negev Desert. Here we catch a glimpse of Bedouin life. Then we travel on to Eilat, the Red Sea, and cross into Egypt. Continuing through the desert, we come to St. Catherine's Monastery and Mt. Sinai, the

site of Moses receiving the 10 Commandments. We check into the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Saturday, September 30, DAY 13

St. Katherine's /Mt. Sinai / Cairo - Those who desire may climb Mount Sinai to watch the sunrise. We continue to St. Katherine's Monastery where we visit the Chapel. Then we go on to the traditional site of the Burning Bush and the Chamber of the Skulls. We then head north to the Suez Canal and cross to Ismailia and the desert route to Cairo, where we check into our hotel for dinner.

Sunday, October 1, DAY 14

Cairo Museum & Pyramids - This morning we visit the Egyptian Museum with its priceless gems from the tomb of Tutankhamun and other world famous relics. We tour Old Cairo, including the Coptic church of "El Moallakah", dating from the early fourth century, and the Muhammad Ali Mosque. This afternoon's excursion includes a visit to the Pyramids and seeing the Sphinx. We return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.



Monday, October 2, DAY 15

Cairo to Chicago - This morning we will transfer to the airport for our flight home with unforgettable memories. Knowing we have walked in the footsteps of Jesus and the early Christians on such a memorable tour will bring new meaning to our Biblical readings.

Holy Lands ~ Price per person \$3579

Price Includes:

- ESTIMATED air fare from Chicago
- Land tour with air conditioned motorcoach and English speaker guide
- Entrance fees
- 4 star hotels
- Breakfast and dinner daily during touring
- Travel Insurance
- All gratuities
- Baggage handling in country

Price does not include:

- Beverages with meal service
- Passport fees
- Meals not listed
- Items of personal nature

Deposit of \$500 per person

Egypt Extension ~ Price per person \$699

- ESTIMATED air fare from Cairo to Chicago
- Land tour with air conditioned motorcoach and English speaker guide
- Entrance fees
- 4 star hotels
- Breakfast and dinner daily during touring
- All gratuities
- Baggage handling in country
- Departure taxes and visas

Price does not include:

- Beverages with meal service
- Passport fees
- Meals not listed
- Items of personal nature

Additional deposit of \$100 per person

Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure date. Invoice will be sent out prior to final payment. Early registration is encouraged.

Questions?? Please contact
cindi@faithtraveldc.com 717-733-1655 or
John & Susan Rodgers
jrucc@sbcglobal.net 630-584-0929

We reserve the right to cancel this trip due to lack of subscription(price is based on 25 travelers). In the event of cancellation of the trip in its entirety, a full refund of all deposits will be made to passengers enrolled at the time of cancellation. Tour price is based on the value of the dollar and the cost of airfare and is subject to change without notice. Extensions are usually available, but must be requested when booking the tour. Any changes in airfare booking may result in a processing fee. It may be possible, that due to unforeseen events, conditions, or changes in airline schedules, the land portion of the trip may be extended or shortened. Any savings realized by such occurrences will be refunded, however any extra expenses incurred must be borne by the client. Responsibility: Faith Travel Development & Consulting officers and employees, tour hosts, or any other persons or vendors connected with the tour shall not under any circumstances be liable to the client under or by reason of this agreement directly or indirectly for any accidents, injury, delay, damage, or inconvenience caused to the client by negligence of others, by malfunctions of transportation systems or equipment, by acts of war, terrorism, or rebellion, strikes, theft, itinerary changes, extreme weather conditions, or cancellations, and the client hereby releases the above mentioned corporation and persons

from any and all such liability. The airline(s) concerned are not held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on their planes or conveyances. The passenger's contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of this tour and/or passenger. Any and/or all transportation companies herein mentioned shall not have nor incur any responsibility to any traveler aside from their liability as common carriers. Air and land costs are subject to change without notice. **Air transportation is via special, non refundable airfare. Any additional airfare assessments made by the airlines for any changes whatsoever shall be the responsibility of the client.** Other rules may also apply. Services of any A.R.C. or I.A.T.A. carrier may be used in conjunction with this tour. If there is a change in air prices and/or currency exchange rates, we reserve the right to adjust prices.

Currency:

Currency exchange rates fluctuate constantly. In the event of a significant drop in the value of the dollar, we reserve the right to add a currency surcharge to the price of the tour.

Refund/Cancellation Policy:

All cancellations must be in writing. The date of postmark will determine the amount of refund due. Refunds are based on the number of days prior to departure date. From the time of deposit to 100 days before departure, a \$100 administrative fee will be assessed. From 99-14 days, a \$300 cancellation penalty plus any unrecoverable deposits to ground suppliers as well as any penalties imposed by airlines (if applicable) will be assessed. Airline tickets once written are usually not refundable. Anyone canceling less than 14 days prior to departure will receive **no refund. Purchase of health, baggage and trip cancellation/interruption insurance is included in tour price. Price will increase slightly if number of participants falls below 25**

Registration Form

Please check one:

Holy Lands

Holy Lands and Egypt

Holy Lands ~ September 17-29, 2012

Holy Lands and Egypt ~ September 17-October 2, 2012

Name as listed on Passport *(if name is not passport perfect a name change fee will apply)*

Passport Number

Passport Expiration

Passport Authority

Date of Birth

Dietary or Medical needs

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

Cell Phone

Emergency Contact name

Phone

Travel insurance is included in the cost of the tour. Make checks payable to: Faith Travel Development & Consulting

Sorry NO credit card payment accepted

Please mail payment to: Faith Travel Development & Consulting
263 Ridge Ave
Ephrata PA 17522