

An Invitation to Become a Part of Our

2010 HOLYLAND PILGRIMAGE

April 18 – April 29, 2010

to

Israel / Jordan

Dear friends,

We are often asked which trip throughout the years we have enjoyed the most. Without hesitation, we answer "The Holy Land. It was a life-changing trip!" Few experiences can compare as we stand where Moses stood on Mt. Nebo looking into the Promised Land, visit the birthplace of Jesus, cross the Sea of Galilee by boat, stand at the crucifixion site, or rededicate our lives in the Jordan River. If there is one trip that a Christian or even non-Christian needs to take, it's to Israel. Not only will you gain a much better understanding of the Bible, but the experience will forever make places such as Bethlehem, Nazareth, and Jerusalem very real to you.

We are blessed to have Pastor Joe Putting from Tomoka Christian Church as our spiritual guide for this tour. This will be his second trip to the Holyland and he is excited to lead us in the footsteps of Moses, Mary and Joseph and Jesus. We learn about the prophets and how history ties everything together to revolutionize our understanding of scripture.

After having been to Israel and Jordan 9 times, and setting up countless other tours to the Holy Land, we have crafted and refined an itinerary that has no equal. The trip is 12 days long and combines the best of what the region has to offer in a way that will bring the Old and New Testament together. Not only will we have excellent guides throughout the tour, but we will have Biblical teachings being given on site. We open the Bible and it becomes vividly alive. Our desire is not only that you may see the land, but also that you may understand the Scriptures in reference to the land and the things that happened there. It is important also that we come to understand something of its strategic importance in the world today. We will have the opportunity on this trip to draw near to the Lord in the very place of which it is said:

It is a land the Lord your God cares for; the eyes of the Lord your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.

Deut. 11:12

Here is our itinerary:

Day 1: Sunday April 18

We will fly from JFK Airport in New York directly to Amman, Jordan on Royal Jordanian Airlines at 10:30pm. Amman is the home of the ancient Ammonites and today the bustling capital of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the financial center of much of the Middle East.

Day 2: Monday April 19

Arrive at Amman Airport at 4:00pm in the evening and drive to our hotel in Petra. Dinner and overnight.

Day 3: Tuesday April 20

We begin our adventure in the ancient city of Petra, one of the most spectacular sites in the entire Middle East. This fascinating rose-colored city is carved in solid rock and is "half as old as time," as Dean John Burgon called it in 1845. Now listed as one of the new "7 wonders of the world", Petra was lost for centuries due to changing trade routes but rediscovered by a British archeologist in 1812. Originally thought to be a city of the dead because of all the tombs, we now know that it was an active city inhabited by the Nabateans and later the Romans.

Next we head north to the top of Mt. Nebo where Moses led the Children of Israel to get their first glimpse of the "Promised Land". On a clear day you can see much of the Jordan Valley, which includes Jericho, the Dead Sea, the Jordan River and possibly the hills of Jerusalem. We will go inside the structure and see the remains of 5th and 7th century basilicas.

We will cross over the Jordan River into Israel, very close to the place where Joshua led the children of Israel across. The remainder of our first day in Israel will be spent in the Jordan Valley. There will be time for a swim in the Dead Sea in which it is impossible to sink. You can just lay back on the water and read a newspaper. This, by the way, is the lowest point on the face of the earth, plunging more than 1300 feet below sea level. All of this will be in what the Bible calls the land of Judea, the southern part of the country. Dinner and overnight by the Dead Sea.

Day 4: Wednesday April 21

Early this morning, we will be carried by cable car to the top of Masada, a breathtaking mountain fortress built by Herod the Great. This impressive structure was the last stronghold of the Jewish revolt, and has many well preserved artifacts. We will visit Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, one of the most important discoveries of our time. We will then leave for Jerusalem, stopping on the way to see from a distance the ancient St. George's Monastery clinging perilously to the side of a cliff. This is part of the Jericho Road where Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan, and where David's flight from Absalom occurred.

Our visit to Jerusalem will begin on top of the Mt. of Olives. The whole city of Jerusalem lies at our feet as we look westward. In the brilliant sun it truly becomes a city bathed in gold. We will walk down the way of the Palm Sunday procession, pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. We take a short drive to Mt. Zion / Gallicantu, which means "cock crowing" and it remembers the three denials of Peter. On the southeastern slope of the hill is one of the traditional locations for the house of Caiaphas. Built atop the ruins of a Byzantine church and monastery, Catholic pilgrims believe that the prison in which Christ was held is located inside the church. We will visit the "Upper Room", site of the Last Supper and the traditional Tomb of David. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 5: Thursday April 22

Today we explore the old city of Jerusalem. We will see the Temple Mount and the Western (wailing) Wall which is the holiest place for Jews. Sitting atop Temple Mount are the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa mosques. We will take a tour inside the walls and explore the rabbinical tunnel. Just a short walk and we come to St. Anne's Church and the Pool of Bethesda, where Jesus healed the lame man. Then, on to the Convent of the Sisters of Zion and the Lithostrotos, where Jesus received his death sentence. We will go underneath present-day Jerusalem and see what the city looked like 2000 years ago at the time of Jesus. We will get to walk the Via Dolorosa (the way of sorrows) and end up at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the traditional crucifixion site. Optional folk dance show. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 6: Friday April 23

The new city of Jerusalem is where we will spend our morning. Our first stop is at the Shrine of the Book Museum, which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls and many other historical documents. In the same complex is the newly relocated model of Second Temple-era Jerusalem. It is a 1:50 scale model that shows us the grandeur of the city at the time of the Romans, and it is accompanied by a short film depicting how life was during that period. We will pass by the Knesset which is where the house of representatives meet and is the seat of Israel's government. We return to the old city where adjacent to the massive city walls to the south, is the ancient City of David, the original location of Jerusalem. Close by, one of the highlights of the tour will be a communion service at the Garden Tomb, an alternate crucifixion site. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 7: Saturday April 24

Practically a suburb of Jerusalem, we will visit the birthplace of Jesus in Palestinian controlled Bethlehem. We will go inside the Church of the Nativity which has undergone many occupations and is built over the sacred grotto.

The afternoon is free to spend as you wish. Here is a sampling of the many sites that you may wish to visit the rest of the day:

- Bible Lands Museum – galleries from Israel's historical periods
- Hezekiah's Tunnel – fascinating walk through Jerusalem's ancient water source
- Jewish Quarter – visit the Burnt House and Herodian Mansion and Cardo

- Walking on the city walls – a great way to see the old city
- Shopping in the old city market or on Ben Yahuda street – from ancient to modern
Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 8: Sunday April 25

We say goodbye to Jerusalem and continue our journey west as we drive to the Mediterranean coast and visit Joppa where Peter stayed with Simon the Tanner. We continue north to Caesarea, where we will see one of the best preserved Roman theaters. Here is also where Herod the Great built his magnificent palace, and where nearby is an aqueduct right on the Mediterranean Sea. During the time of Jesus, Roman occupation was evident all over the Middle East and we will see more of its influence throughout the tour. Heading inland, we'll go to Megiddo where we will see the 26 levels of excavation from previous civilizations, and where in Christian tradition, will be the site of the last battle between good and evil. Time permitting, we'll drive by Mt. Carmel where Elijah triumphed over the prophets of Baal. Our last stop is in Acco (also known as Ptolemais), an important city in the time of Jesus and during the Crusader period. Tonight we stay in Tiberias, on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

Day 9: Monday April 26

Hamat Tiberias Synagogue is our first stop today, which contains the oldest surviving mosaic floor in Israel. We then head to the Mount of Beatitudes where we will have a chance to read the "Sermon on the Mount". We will have a quick stop at Chorazim, where we will see the ruins of a typical Galilean Synagogue. Close by is the town of Capernaum, where Jesus made his home during the years of his ministry. Also on the shores of the Sea of Galilee is Tabgha and the Church of the Primacy. This is the traditional location for several episodes in Jesus' ministry, among them the feeding of the 5000. We will have the opportunity to take a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee and eat a fish lunch. One of the most spectacular discoveries was the Galilee boat or better known as the "Jesus boat". We'll see this 2000 year-old boat discovered in 1986 and preserved to give us a glimpse of what it was like to live and fish on these shores. Optional swim at Tiberias hot springs. Dinner and overnight in Tiberias.

Day 10: Tuesday April 27

Today we'll visit Nazareth, Jesus' hometown, and see the splendid Church of the Annunciation. You may want to reaffirm your wedding vows as we stop and visit Cana, where Jesus performed his first miracle. We continue to our northernmost point of Caesarea Philippi, at the base of Mt. Hermon and one of the largest springs feeding the Jordan River. This is where in Mat. 16:13 Jesus asks "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" We'll stop at a kibbutz, which is a collective community usually centered around agriculture. We'll drive into the Golan Heights which shares borders with Syria and stop at the Peace Vista where we will get a spectacular view of the Galilee area. One of the highlights will be our visit to Yardenit baptismal site. Here you will get a chance to be baptized or rededicate your life to Christ in the Jordan River. Dinner and overnight in Tiberias

Day 11: Wednesday April 28

We depart Tiberias and proceed south along the Jordan River to Bet Shean, capital city of the Decapolis, one of the ten Roman cities in this part of the empire. In addition to well preserved structures and centuries of continuous habitation, it has a good example of a Roman amphitheater which was uncovered in the mid 1990s. A short way further south is Belvoir Crusader Fortress which stood as a sentinel watching the borders of the Jordan River. We say goodbye to Israel as we cross the river back into Jordan and proceed to another Decapolis city, Jerash, also known as Gerasa. The site is now generally acknowledged to be one of the best preserved Roman provincial towns in the world. Our next stop takes us to the banks of the Jordan River and the newly discovered "Bethany Beyond Jordan". Situated across the river from Jericho, many believe this to be the site where Jesus was baptized. This is also the area of "Elijah's Hill" where it is said that Elijah ascended into Heaven. Dinner and overnight in Amman.

Day 12: Thursday May 1

We catch our return flight at 12:15pm with our tour concluding back at JFK airport at 6:45pm.

The cost of the tour is: **\$3,135.00**

Includes:

Round-trip airfare from New York to Amman
All transfers, airport taxes and portage in Jordan and Israel
First class hotels throughout the tour
All breakfasts and dinner daily
Air-conditioned motor coaches
Entrance and admittance fees to all sights

Does not include:

Transportation to and from New York
Tips and gratuities
Lunches and extra drinks with meals

The cost for the tour as described above is **\$3135**. We will need to collect \$170 for tips, which includes porters, guides, drivers, restaurants, hotel staff, etc. It has been our custom to collect the tips in advance thereby alleviating any further concern for you. Places are limited, so if you would like to be a part of our group, please send a deposit check for **\$300** per person right away. We will enroll people in the order of receipt of deposit. This deposit is fully refundable up to February 17, 2010. We will have to have the full balance paid by cashiers (bank) check by **February 17, 2010**. Personal checks will not be accepted for final payment. We do not accept credit cards. All hotel accommodations are for two in a room. If you do not have a roommate, single rooms are available at an additional charge of \$691.00 due on February 17, 2010 as well. Make all checks payable to Biblical Travel Seminars and send to PO Box 34, Ormond Beach, FL, 32175-0034. **Please include your full name, address and telephone number, and the name of your roommate.** On the outside of the envelope, please write **"Holyland Pilgrimage 2010"**. If you have any questions, you may call us at Biblical Travel Seminars 386-676-5453, or e-mail: btstravel@cfl.rr.com.

Be part of our pilgrimage to the Holy Land,

Charles and Melanie Dolich

About Biblical Travel Seminars:

Biblical Travel Seminars was founded by the Rev. Dr. Everett L. Fullam, former pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Darien CT, one of the country's largest Episcopal churches. Over many years he offered the opportunity to visit places of biblical importance. It was his passion to bring the Bible to life by visiting biblical sites and those of significant Christian importance. Along with a tour guide native to that country, each pilgrimage is fully escorted and includes teachings, devotions and opportunities for worship. His daughter and son-in-law, Melanie and Charles Dolich, have taken over this ministry as he is no longer able to travel internationally.

Every itinerary is custom-designed to highlight historical/natural sites along with spiritual places of interest. Our tours attract many Christians from many parts of the world and our groups typically "gel" very quickly, with many of its members making life-long friends. Some of our highlights from the past include trips to Italy, Germany, Greece, Turkey, China, Egypt, and over 50 tours to Israel. Please inquire about our upcoming tours by calling us or e-mailing us at: btstravel@cfl.rr.com

About Joe Putting:

Joe has accepted the invitation to host this tour of Israel and Jordan. He will be leading us in devotions and teachings which will help us understand the spiritual significance of the pilgrimage. He has been the pastor of Tomoka Christian Church in Ormond Beach, FL for the last seventeen years, where he enjoys preaching God's Word to more than 2000 persons in attendance on Sundays. Both Dr. Fullam and his wife Ruth regularly attend Tomoka Christian Church where their daughter, Melanie and son-in-law, Charles lead the music ministry. They have been blessed to sit under Pastor Joe's gifted teaching. Joe has been on countless mission trips and has a keen understanding of Christianity and its place in history.