

## THE HOLY LAND

March 20 – 30, 2006

*Hosted by*

**Pastor Barry Thiessen**

**FORT RICHMOND BAPTIST CHURCH**

### **Mon., Mar. 20: Canada to Israel**

Today we depart from Canada on our overnight flight(s) to Tel Aviv, Israel. Group seating will be pre-assigned by the airline for our flight. Dinner and complimentary in-flight service will be provided this evening. **(D)**

### **Tues., Mar. 21: Tel Aviv to Galilee**

Upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport we are met by our Israeli Tour Manager, who will assist us with immigration and luggage formalities. Boarding our luxury touring coach we take a short journey to the Mediterranean coast and the port of Jaffa.

**Jaffa**- One of the oldest towns in Israel, Jaffa is considered one of the oldest ports in the world. Cedars of Lebanon, sent by King Hiram of Tyre and destined for Solomon's Temple, were unloaded at Jaffa. It is here that Peter brought Tabitha back from the dead, and when in the home of Simon the Tanner, he prophesied the vision of the pure and un-pure animals. (II Chronicles 2:15; Jonah 1:3-17; Acts 9:36-42) We will enjoy breakfast at a local restaurant.

After Jaffa we spend our first night in Israel at **The Metropolitan**. Tonight we enjoy our 'Welcome to Israel' dinner. **(B,D)**

### **Wed., Mar. 22:**

#### **Caesarea, Mt. Carmel, Megiddo, Nazareth**

After breakfast we will embark on our journey, which will include:

**Caesarea**- The ancient Roman seaport capital of Israel where Pontius Pilate had his base.

**Mount Carmel**- Overlooking the city of Haifa with the Mediterranean Sea and Jezreel Valley on either side, we stand where the Prophet Elijah performed his miracle and called upon the fire of God to conquer the Prophets of Baal. (I Kings 2, 15:4, 25; Isaiah 33:9; Zechariah 12:12)

**Megiddo**- Hebrew for **Armageddon**, Megiddo was strategically located on the main trading routes between Babylonia and Egypt. Here King Solomon built a giant fortress and city. (Judges 1:27, 5:19; I Kings 4:12, 9:15; II Chronicles 35:22; Zechariah 12:12, Revelation 16:16)

**Nazareth**- Here is where Jesus spent his childhood with Mary and Joseph. Nazareth is also the site of The Annunciation and where the Nazarenes attempted to throw Jesus over the cliff. Now a suburb of Nazareth, Cana is the site where Jesus performed his first miracle when he changed water into wine at a wedding. (Luke 1:26-38, John 1:46, 2:45-46; Matthew 2:23)

Dinner will be at our **Kibbutz Maagan**, home for the next two nights. Overlooking the shores of the Sea of Galilee we couldn't find better surroundings! **(B,D)**

### **Thurs., Mar. 23:**

#### **Upper Galilee, Golan Heights**

After breakfast we begin our day heading northwards into the Upper Galilee and Golan Heights. Today we will immerse ourselves in the **River Jordan**.

**Korazin**- Location of Galilee's most intact ancient synagogues, Chorazin was a very important Jewish town. Jesus rebuked the people of Chorazin for their lack of faith and for spurning his 'miracles'. (Matthew 11:2; Luke 10:13)

**Caesarea Philippi** - Built at one of the sources of the Jordan River, the city of Panias (named by the Greeks after the goat-footed God, Pan) was later renamed by the Romans as Caesarea Philippi. It was here that Jesus revealed to the Disciples His purpose, His Church, and where Peter identified Jesus as the Messiah. (Mark 8:27; Matthew 16:13-23)

**Golan Heights**- Today we have the opportunity to view Israel from The Golan Heights. This parcel of land plays a significant role in the security of those living in the Jordan Valley and Upper Galilee.

**Bethsaida** - Also known as 'The House of The Fisherman', this is the home of Peter, Philip and Andrew, and also the place where Jesus fed the five thousand and healed the blind man. Here we will see recent excavations of this old city. (Matthew 11:21; Luke 10:13; John 1)

After another wonderful day, we return to our Kibbutz for dinner. **(B,D)**

### **Fri., Mar. 24:**

#### **Sea of Galilee and Boat Ride**

After our Israeli buffet breakfast, our full touring day involves visits to:

**Capernaum-** The center of Jesus' Galilee Ministry, Jesus lived here for a substantial period, healing the sick, preaching in the synagogue and performing miracles. The Greek Orthodox Church, Franciscan monastery, and Roman Catholic Church of St. Peter make for an interesting kaleidoscope of varying architecture. (Matthew 9:1, 4:13)

**The Mount of Beatitudes-** We will sit on the hill where Jesus delivered his Sermon on the Mount. Looking directly south at the Sea of Galilee, the flower-filled gardens offer peace and tranquility. We will Worship and have a teaching here... (Matthew 5:1-8)

**Tabgha-** Located at the foot of the Mount of Beatitudes, this is the site of the Miracle of The Loaves and the Fishes. Here we will enjoy private worship and intercession by the shores of the Galilee. (Mark 6:34-44; Matthew 14:14-21, 16:18-19; John 21:15-19)

**Ginossar-** Here we will visit the **Jesus Boat Museum** exhibit. Discovered by accident during the drought of 1986, this fishing boat would have existed at the time of Jesus. Beautifully preserved, it is a timeless reminder of life during that time. The museum has a gift shop with quality items on sale!

**Sea of Galilee Boat Ride-** Our day ends with an unforgettable sailing on the Sea of Galilee.

Dinner tonight will be at our Kibbutz. **(B,D)**

### **Sat., Mar. 25: Beth She'an Jerusalem**

This morning we leave the Galilee and travel southwards through the Jordan Valley to Jerusalem. This was the route followed by Jesus and his disciples as they traversed the dusty roads towards Jerusalem for the last time. Our first stop today is :

**Beth She'an-** This is the largest of Israel's archeological digs. Even after its initial discovery many years ago, archeologists are today still discovering more ruins from the Roman era when Beth She'an was one of the 10 cities in The Decapolis. This ancient city, although destroyed by an earthquake in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century, offers a fabulous insight into Roman life and times. After losing the battle to the Philistines, King Saul and his sons were hung from the city walls. (Judges 4:7-8)

**Jericho-** Closed to tourists for the last four years, we are now allowed to enter the oldest city in the world.

This afternoon we shall arrive in Jerusalem, via Mt. Scopus, check in to **The Olive Tree Hotel**, and relax after our first few days in The Holy Land. Dinner will be served at our hotel. **(B,D)**

### **Sun., Mar. 26:**

#### **Masada, Qumran, Ein Gedi**

After breakfast we will head into the Judean wilderness and follow the shores of The Dead Sea to visit:

**Masada-** This UNESCO World Heritage site was once Herod's mountain-top palace and fortress. Here we ascend to the site by cable car and learn about the last Jewish stand against the Romans and the mass suicide of the 960 Jewish defenders. There will be a teaching: "Standing in the Gap for Israel" Prayer and Intercession.

**Ein Gedi-** This national park and oasis hosts the caves of David's Gorge where David hid from Saul and his army. (1 Samuel 24; Song of Solomon 1:14; Ezekiel 47:10)

**Qumran-** Home to the ancient Essenes, it is here that they wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls almost two thousand years ago. Here we will visit the excavated sites of Qumran and view the location where The Scrolls were found in 1947. (John 1; Luke 1:57-80; Isaiah 40)

**Dead Sea-** No visit to the Dead Sea would be complete without experiencing the unique buoyancy of these waters. Cover yourself in therapeutic black mud and float your aches and pains away! (Genesis 14:3; Deuteronomy 3:17 4:49; Joshua 3:16, 12:3, 15:2, 5)

After another fascinating day we leave the Dead Sea and make our way back to Jerusalem. Dinner will be served at our hotel this evening. **(B,D)**

### **Mon., Mar. 27: Jerusalem**

After breakfast we will spend our first full day in Jerusalem visiting:

**Mount of Olives-** We begin our day by viewing Jerusalem from the Mt. of Olives. Photo opportunities abound at this time with the prominent Golden Dome of the Rock. From here we shall walk down to The Garden of Gethsemane along the same path as that Jesus took when entering the city on Palm Sunday.

**Garden of Gethsemane-** This is the site where Jesus prayed at the Rock of Agony in the Garden. *"My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."* (Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-50; Luke 22:39-53; John 18:1-14)

**Mount Zion**-Assumed by the Byzantine pilgrims as the original City of David, this piece of land would have existed outside the original city walls. (II Kings 2:10; Matthew 26:17-35; Mark 14:12-25; Luke 22:7-38; John 13-17)

**David's Tomb**- Visit the stone cenotaph laid by Crusaders in the Church of the Apostles.

**Upper Room**- This is the traditional site where Jesus instituted a new Passover celebration and the new Covenant in His blood. (Mark 14:15)

**Old City**- Here we will walk through the streets of the Armenian and Jewish quarters of old Jerusalem

Dinner is served at our hotel this evening. **(B,D)**

### **Tues., Mar. 28: Jerusalem**

After breakfast we will spend our day in Jerusalem visiting:

**Yad Vashem**- Israel's national monument, memorial and museum to the Holocaust.

This afternoon has been left free for you to peruse the shops of Jerusalem. Dinner will be served back at the hotel. **(B,D)**

### **Wed., Mar. 29: Jerusalem**

After breakfast we have a truly memorable final day, which will include the following:

**Davidson Centre**- This new facility uses state-of-the-art technology to bring the Temple Mount to life. This will give us a better understanding of the magnitude of Herod's construction versus what we see today.

**Western Wall Tunnels**- Also called The Wailing Wall, the holiest place of pilgrimage for the Jews! Here we can observe the Orthodox Jews as they pray, relentlessly, along with many Christians. Some of us may wish to leave a hand-written note placed in the crevices of the Western Wall. (I Kings 6:14; Matthew 12:6; Luke 2:46; John 2:19)

**Via Dolorosa**- The one mile long route through the Old City of Jerusalem, from the point of condemnation by Pontius Pilate to Golgotha, Calvary Hill.

**Holy Sepulcher Church**- Stations X - XIV on The Via Dolorosa, this is the site of the Crucifixion of Jesus and where he was laid to rest.

**Garden Tomb**- Preserved by The Garden Tomb Association, these beautiful gardens surround the traditional site of The Garden Tomb. Many believe that this was the actual garden of Joseph of Arimathea. (John 19:41)

*This evening we will enjoy our 'Farewell Dinner' at our hotel in Jerusalem. It will be a wonderful time to share and reflect on what this journey has meant to you. **(B,D)***

### **Thurs., Mar. 30: Tel Aviv to Toronto**

Alas, this morning we check out from our hotel and take the transfer to Tel Aviv airport. Here we will say goodbye to our Tour Manager and driver. Our return flights will bring us back to Canada in the early afternoon. Group seating will be pre-assigned by the airline for our flight. Breakfast, lunch and complimentary in-flight service will be provided. **(B,L)**

**Though we have left the Holy Land—  
It shall never leave us!**

**B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner  
(Itinerary subject to alteration)**

**HOLY LAND JOURNEY**  
**March 20 – 30, 2006**  
**INFORMATION**

**INCLUDED**

**Air travel:** Round trip from Toronto (fares from other cities available upon request)

**Hotels:** Metropolitan Hotel, Tel Aviv; Kibbutz Maagan, Galilee; The Olive Tree, Jerusalem.

**Meals:** Full buffet breakfast and dinner daily with juice, tea and coffee

**Transportation:** Air-conditioned luxury coach service throughout the tour

**Sightseeing:** Comprehensive program as per itinerary, including all entrance fees

**Tour Guide:** Government-licensed Tour Manager and guides will accompany the group and work harmoniously with the Leadership Teams.

**Porterage:** One large suitcase per person is allowed. Each person is responsible for his/her other luggage.

**Bottled water:** 2 per person, per day

**Embarkation package:** An informative package will be mailed one month prior to departure.

**NOT INCLUDED**

**Lunches** (unless mentioned in the itinerary)

**Air Transportation Taxes:** Currently \$135

**Comprehensive Travel Insurance:**

Age, up to and including 59:	\$159
60 – 64:	\$194
65 – 69:	\$233
70 – 74:	\$298
75 – 79:	\$372
80+:	Rates on request

**All rates based upon twin accommodation**

**Gratuities:** This will be collected at time of full payment. Equivalent to CAD \$110

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Passport:** Tour participants must be in possession of a valid passport with at least 6 months validity. Canadian and USA passport holders do not currently require a visa for Israel.

**Inoculation:** Not a current requirement

**Reservations:** Telephone and email reservation requests will be taken, but only upon receipt of deposit and completed tour booking form will your place be confirmed.

**Deposit and final payment:** A deposit of \$400 plus insurance is required with the tour booking form. Bookings within 60 days of departure require full payment.

**Travel Insurance:** Your Comprehensive Travel Policy includes 'trip cancellation' coverage to protect you against the cancellation penalties. Conditions apply so please ask for more details.

**General Health:** All tour members should be in sufficient good health to enjoy the tour in its entirety. Christian Journeys reserves the right to refuse participation in certain instances.

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**11 DAY PROGRAM COST**

**TORONTO PRICE:** \$2945CAD

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:** \$ 359CAD

**Please add 3% surcharge for payment by credit card**

**Price based upon a minimum of 24 paying passengers**

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