

Philadelphia Theological Institute

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land



January 27—February 6, 2011

Hosted by: The Reverend Canon James L. Shannon



Since 1955

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124 E. Main St., 4th Fl.
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(717) 721-7300
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Thursday, January 27 Departure

We begin our pilgrimage of faith by departing from Philadelphia International Airport on British Airways, changing planes in London en route.

Friday, January 28 Arrive Tel Aviv

Upon arrival in Tel Aviv late this afternoon, we will be met by our driver to drive to and check in at Tabgha Guest House by the shores of the Sea of Galilee. (D)

Saturday, January 29 Sea of Galilee Area

A day on and around the Sea of Galilee. Begin the day by visiting the Church of the Loaves and Fishes and the Church of the Primacy of St. Peter at Tabgha, celebrating the Eucharist on the lakeshore. Next, drive to the summit of the Mount of the Beatitudes and reflect on Jesus' teaching overlooking the scene of Jesus' Galilean ministry. After lunch at a Galilean restaurant where one may enjoy St. Peter's Fish, continue to Capernaum, the centre of Jesus' ministry. End the day sailing on the Sea of Galilee, with time for meditation. Return to the guest house for dinner and overnight. (B, D)



Sunday, January 30 Nazareth

Drive to Nazareth and join members of the local Anglican community for Eucharist at Anglican Christ Church. Visit the Church of the Annunciation, built over the traditional site of the home of Mary and Joseph. Continue to Joseph's workshop and the Synagogue Church, before breaking for lunch at St Margaret's Hostel. Visit Sepphoris, a large Herodian Roman city, now a fascinating archaeological site. Visit the village of Cana, the site associated with Jesus first miracle—the changing of water into wine at the wedding feast. Next, take taxis through a series of switchbacks to the peak of Mount Tabor, which Christians have long identified as the "high mountain" of Matthew 17:1. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, L, D)

Monday, January 31 Beit Shean / Caesarea Maritima



Travel south from Galilee to Beit Shean—ancient Scythopolis. View the setting for the death of Saul (1 Samuel 28–2 Samuel 1). Survey the magnificent Roman and Byzantine ruins: consisting of the theater, bathhouses, ancient rest rooms, market areas, and colonnaded streets. Drive west through the Valley of Jezreel and Afula to the mound of Megiddo, *har*

megiddo in Hebrew, which gives its name to Armageddon. Ascend Mt. Carmel, the site of Elijah's confrontation with the prophets of Baal. Drive along the coastal highway to Caesarea by the Sea. Enter Caesarea Maritima and explore this Roman bridgehead to the East, and Christian springboard to the West. After visiting this ancient harbor, travel the historic Beth Horon road (Joshua 10:10) to the Benjamin Plateau, past ancient Gibeon, and continue on to Jerusalem. Behold majestic Jerusalem from atop Mt. Scopus. Dinner and overnight at the Ambassador Hotel in Jerusalem. (B, D)

Tuesday, February 1 Jerusalem

Begin the day on top of the Mount of Olives. Visit the Monastery of Pater Noster, to see the Lord's Prayer inscribed in over 100 languages. Follow the traditional Palm Sunday route to the church known as Dominus Flevit ("the Lord weeps"). Walk downhill to Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations. Cross the Kidron Valley and stop on Mount Zion to visit the Church of St.



Peter in Gallicantu, built over the site of the High Priest's house and the dungeon where Jesus was held overnight before Good Friday. Visit the traditional room of the Last Supper before breaking for an Arabic lunch nearby. Drive to West Jerusalem and walk through the Shrine of the Book, which displays many of the Dead Sea Scrolls found in the caves at Qumran, and see the nearby model of Jerusalem, representing the city as it looked on the eve of the Jewish revolt, 36 years after the Passion of Jesus. Continue to Yad Vashem, the holocaust memorial museum and park in West Jerusalem. Dinner and overnight stay in Jerusalem. (B, D)

Wednesday, February 2 Dead Sea Area

Drive to Bethany, the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Continue through the Judean desert down to Jericho. At Jericho, visit the tel of this oldest city and view the traditional mountain of Jesus' temptation. Drive south to Qumran and view Cave # 4, which contained the greatest quantity of Dead Sea scrolls. Continue south to Masada. 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). Enter the nature reserve of Ein Gedi, rich in flora and fauna, and walk to a lovely waterfall. See a cave that brings to mind the biblical reference of 1 Samuel 24: 1–3, "Now when Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, saying, 'Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi.' Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats. He came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave." Conclude the day with a float in the mineral rich waters of the Dead

Sea (weather permitting) before returning to Jerusalem for dinner and overnight. (B, D)

Thursday, February 3 Jerusalem



After breakfast, drive around the city walls and enter the city via the Dung Gate, see the Southern Wall Excavations, and (if permitted) ascend Mount Moriah to view the Dome of

the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque. Proceed around to the Western (Wailing) Wall, the most holy site in Judaism. Visit the Jewish Quarter, the Cardo, the Wohl Museum, the Burnt House, and the Western Wall Tunnel. Visit and tour St. George's Cathedral, an Anglican cathedral established in 1899. It is the seat of the Bishop of Jerusalem of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. If available, meet with the priest and some of the people from the church and learn about their ministry. (B, D)

Friday, February 4 Jerusalem / Bethlehem

The Day of the Cross. Travel to St. Stephen's Gate in the Old City and visit the Crusader Church of St. Anne by the Pool of Bethesda and the Convent of the Sisters of Zion built on the foundations of the Roman Antonia Fortress where Jesus was condemned by Pilate. Follow the Way of the Cross along the narrow streets of the Via Dolorosa to Calvary and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, stopping at each Station of the Cross. Drive to Bethlehem to experience some of the remarkable Christian work there, fostering reconciliation and a better future, at the International Center in Bethlehem. Enjoy a Palestinian lunch at the Center, with the possible opportunity to engage in discussion with Dr. Mitri Raheb, Pastor of the Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, as well as with other local Palestinians. Drive to Beit Sahour to view the possible location of the Shepherds' Fields. Return to Bethlehem to

visit the Church of the Nativity, venerated by Christians of all traditions as the birthplace of Jesus. There will be time for shopping in Bethlehem, an excellent place to purchase hand-carved olive-wood figures and lovely jewelry. Enjoy a special dinner at the Shepherds Valley Village Tent restaurant in Beit Sahour before returning Jerusalem for the night. (B, L, D)

Saturday, February 5 Free Day in Jerusalem

Today is yours to explore Jerusalem on your own. The possibilities are endless—bargain for olive wood and jewelry in the bazaars of the Old City, walk the rampart walls, explore the four quarters of the Old City, or visit more of the many museums. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem. (B,D)



Sunday, February 6 Arrive USA

Depart Jerusalem early this morning for Ben Gurion Airport for the flight home. Arrive this evening at Philadelphia International Airport, with memories that will enhance your Bible study for years to come—because you have walked where Jesus walked.

Tour Price: \$3,329 based on sharing a double room

Single Room Supplement: \$490

Land Only Price: \$2,229 based on sharing a double room

Optional Group Travel Insurance: \$187 (nonrefundable)

This tour price reflects special group rates. Deposits received after November 26, 2010, will likely incur additional charges due to supplier contract terms.

For further information, contact:

The Reverend James L. Shannon
Email: 46lowell@gmail.com

Travel Arrangements by:
Since 1955

MTS TRAVEL
mtstravel.com

124 East Main Street, 4th Floor
Ephrata, PA 17522

Tel: (800) 418-2929, ext. 81305

Fax: (717) 733-1009

E-mail: trindal@mtstravel.com

Tour Price Includes:

- Round-trip air fare from Philadelphia International Airport
- Current airline taxes and fuel surcharges (\$593)
- Accommodations in hotels listed in the itinerary, or similar
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Special lunches in Nazareth and Bethlehem
- Services of experienced, English-speaking licensed guide
- Sightseeing and entrance fees
- Service charges and local taxes
- Tips to guides, drivers and hotel staff (\$125)
- \$125 tax deductible contribution to Philadelphia Theological Institute

Tour Features and Conditions

Please read all Tour Features and Conditions carefully.
Payment of tour deposit constitutes acceptance of these conditions.

Air Transportation: Air transportation is restricted to the services of any IATA carrier, in economy class based on nonrefundable fare. Travelers are responsible to provide their names as they appear in their passport. Ticketing will be made 30-45 days prior to departure, after which there will be a charge for name corrections. Tour price includes current airline taxes and fuel surcharges of \$593, which are subject to change until ticketed. *Tour participants are responsible for any increase in airline taxes or fuel surcharges imposed by the airline.*

Accommodations: Based on two or more persons sharing a room in accommodations listed in itinerary, or similar. Single rooms are subject to availability at an additional charge of \$490. *If a passenger cannot supply a roommate, the passenger is responsible for the additional charge.*

Meals: In-flight meals and snacks are served according to airline policy. Breakfast and dinner will be provided daily. Opportunity will be given for participants to purchase lunches on their own. Beverages with dinners are not included.

Transfers and Baggage: Transfers between airports and hotels upon arrival and departure are included in the tour price, including handling of one medium-sized suitcase per person, not exceeding 62 dimensional inches (length plus width plus height) or weighing more than a maximum of 50 pounds. *Due to limited luggage storage space on motorcoaches, it is **important** that each person bring only **ONE piece** of checked baggage. In addition, a flight bag or overnight case may be taken, which must be handled by the passenger at all times. Baggage allowance is subject to change according to airline policy.*

Sightseeing and Entrance Fees: Are included as indicated in itinerary, using private motorcoach or other conveyance, with local guides where necessary.

Tips and Taxes: Service charges and taxes on accommodations are included. Tips to guides, drivers, and hotel staff are included. Tips for personal services are not included and are at tour member's own expense.

Not Included: Passport fee, travel protection insurance, and expenses of a purely personal nature are not included. Transportation from your home to Philadelphia International Airport and return is not included. Checked luggage fee charged by the airline.

Deposit and Payment: Reservations may be secured upon payment of a deposit of \$500 per person. You will be invoiced for final payment, which is due November 26, 2010.

MTS Cancellation Conditions: Refund of full deposit (less \$100 administrative fee) will be made up to October 22, 2010. If cancellation occurs between October 23 and December 28, 2010, the fee is \$500 plus unrecoverable airline, hotel and tour operator payments. There is no refund after December 28, 2010, or for unused tour services.

Protect Your Investment: MTS TRAVEL strongly recommends purchasing this primary insurance coverage.

If you purchase the protection plan upon enrollment with your deposit, any restriction on pre-existing conditions is waived. If protection plan is purchased after the deposit is received, all coverage is subject to exclusion of pre-existing conditions. Certain conditions, exclusions and limitations apply as set out in the Evidence of Coverage and Confirmation of Coverage, which you will receive upon receipt of deposit. You will have ten days to review coverage and cancel your policy.

Following is a brief description of coverage:

- This protection plan will cover you for cancellation fees if you need to cancel because of death, injury or illness to you, your traveling companion or your immediate family member.
- Medical Evacuation: \$250,000
- Medical Expenses: \$25,000
- Baggage loss/delay: \$1,500/\$250

A valid passport is required. If you do not have a passport, you should apply for one immediately. Information on obtaining a passport will be provided upon receipt of deposit. If you now have a passport, please verify that it is valid until August 7, 2011. A visa for Israel is not required for U.S. citizens.

All rates and fares are based on current information and are subject to change. Rates are based on a minimum of 16 persons traveling together.

Deviations: Any individual making a change in travel arrangements apart from this group program will be charged a service fee of \$100 per person, plus any additional air or land costs incurred.

The itinerary as outlined is an indication of sequence and sites to be included in the tour program. However, the tour operator reserves the right to alter or change the itinerary and/or the sites included should it be deemed necessary due to local conditions, time restrictions, or other circumstances.

In the ever-changing world situation, MTS TRAVEL recommends personal monitoring of news about your destination. For the latest country information from the U.S. Dept. of State, please visit www.mtstravel.com and click "U.S. State Department Travel Warnings" in the middle of our home page.

Guests with disabilities or dietary restrictions should inquire in advance about whether their needs can be accommodated.

Responsibility
Menno Travel Service, Inc., D/B/AMTS TRAVEL, with its officers and staff act only as agents for the various companies whose accommodations are utilized. They assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the services of any train, vessel, carriage, automobile, airplane or other conveyance, which will be used either wholly or in part. Neither will they be responsible for any act, error, omission, or any injury, loss, accident, or any delays, which may be occasioned by reason of, defect in any vehicle or through neglect or default of any company or persons engaged in the conveying of passengers. The steamer, airplane services or that of any other conveyance, sickness, accident, weather, strikes, war, quarantine or other causes and all such losses or expenses must be borne by the passenger. Prices and schedules appearing in this brochure are based on current schedules and tariff rates and are subject to change without notice. The tour operator reserve the right to modify the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. The airlines and/or other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not aboard their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and purchaser of tours and/or the passenger.

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Reservation Form
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This tour price reflects special group rates.

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**To be assured of reservations, please complete and mail this registration form to
MTS TRAVEL, 124 E. Main St., 4th Fl., Ephrata, PA 17522, along with your deposit of \$500 per person.**

Please reserve space as follows:

Enclosed is my deposit check of \$_____ (\$500 per person.)

Please make check payable to MTS TRAVEL, or include credit card information below.

(Please Print)

Name 1 (as it appears on passport): _____

Name 2 (as it appears on passport): _____

Nickname for name badge: _____

Nickname for name badge: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

E-mail: _____

Birthdate: _____

Birthdate: _____

Phone: (evening) _____ (days) _____ Fax: _____

Room Type: Twin/Double
 Single

Rooming With: _____

Travel Protection Insurance—Check One:

I/we wish to be covered by cancellation insurance.

(Include \$187 per person with your deposit check. The \$187 is not refundable.)

I/we do NOT wish to be covered by the cancellation insurance.

Credit Card Information:

Please Charge: My Deposit of \$_____ + \$_____ Travel Insurance = \$_____ Total Charge

Mastercard Visa Discover American Express

Name as it appears on card (printed): _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____ Security Code: _____

Name as it appears on card (printed): Signature: _____

I have read the Tour Features and Conditions for this tour and agree to the terms listed therein.

Signature: _____