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Israel 2012

Itinerary as revised 8/25/2011

Pastor Marty & Linda Nutter
Pastor John Bussman

Saturday, Oct 27th

Depart USA for Israel

Sunday, Oct 28th

Welcome to Israel

We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv on ___ airlines flight # ___ at ___ pm. An Immanuel Tours representative will meet us to provide assistance. After border formalities, we will meet our Immanuel Tours' guide and driver. We begin with a short city tour of Tel Aviv and ancient **Jaffa** (Joppa) where Jonah boarded a ship for Tarshish (Jonah 1) and where the Apostle Peter (Acts 9 -10) received God's command to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. We arrive at the hotel in the late afternoon and check in for dinner and overnight at the Dan Panorama Hotel, **Tel AViv**.

Monday, Oct. 29

Caesarea - Mt. Carmel - Megiddo - Nazareth - Cana - Sea of Galilee

We begin this first day of our tour driving north to the ruins of the ancient city of **Caesarea** (Acts 10, 12), a city built by King Herod and which later became the seat of government for the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, who sat in judgment over Jesus and sentenced Him to be crucified. We visit the extensive excavations of the site including the harbor, the Crusader City, the Amphitheatre, the Hippodrome and the Roman Aqueduct. Then we continue our drive over the crest of **Mt Carmel**, where the Prophet Elijah challenged the priests of Baal (1 Kings 18:17-40). Our next stop is at **Megiddo** (Judges 5; 1 Kings 9:15), the Armageddon of the Book of Revelation (Revelation 16) which by Christian tradition is the symbol of the final overthrow of evil by God. Next we drive to **Nazareth**, a town in the hill country of Galilee where Jesus grew up to manhood (Matt. 2:23; Luke 1 :26; Luke 2; Luke 4:16-30). We pass through Cana in Galilee where Jesus performed His first miracle at the wedding feast (John 2:1-11). We travel to the **Sea of Galilee** and along its southern and eastern shores. We arrive at the Ramot Resort Hotel which overlooks the Sea of Galilee for dinner and overnight.

Tuesday, Oct. 30

Around the Sea of Galilee

The Sea of Galilee is rich in memories of the three years of Jesus' ministry around its shores. We begin this day on the western shore with a visit to the "**Jesus Boat**" **Museum**- a fishing boat of the kind used by the disciples of Jesus (Matthew 4-5; Mark 1 :16f). We will take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. We will visit the **Mt. of Beatitudes** on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee, the scene of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), and the nearby ruins of **Chorazim** (Korazin, Korazim: Matthew 11 :20), one of the small cities that Jesus visited. Its inhabitants did not listen to Jesus (Matthew 11 :21). After lunch, we go to **Capernaum** where Jesus lived after He left Nazareth and where He performed many signs and wonders. We visit the ancient synagogue and the "**House of Peter**" (Matthew 8:14). We'll pass by **Bethsaida**, hometown of the Apostles Peter and Andrew and Philip. Next, we drive around to the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee to **Kursi**, the "Land of the Gardarenes", located on the Golan Heights slopes. It's here that Jesus cured two madmen, (Matthew 8:28-32). For our final stop of the day, we travel to the southern shore of the Sea of Galilee to the Tamar Kinneret Kibbutz grocery store. Here you will find the **best** "date honey" made! We arrive back at the Ramot Resort Hotel for dinner and overnight.

Wednesday, Oct. 31

Golan Heights – Tel Dan – Banias – Mt. Bental - Katzrin

This morning we drive north into the **Golan Heights** to reach the Upper Hula Valley to visit the **Tel Dan** Nature Reserve near **Mt. Hermon**. We find at Tel Dan streams of flowing water and the ruins of the northernmost town of Biblical Israel (hence the saying "from Dan to Beersheba" [1 Sam 3:20; 2 Sam 3: 10].) Our next stop is at one of the sources of the River Jordan at **Banias**, the site of Caesarea Philippi (Matthew 16:13 -17:13), where the Apostle Peter made his great confession of faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. After lunch, we continue to the top of **Mt. Bental** where there is an observation point of the Syrian border with the ghost town of Kuneitra and the "Road to Damascus" (Acts 9; 1 Kings 19:15). Our next stop is at the "town of the Golan", **Katzrin**, a town which was established in the year 1974. Then we will see the sunset over the Sea of Galilee as we return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Thursday, Nov. 1

Ein Harod – Beit Shean – Genesis Land - Jerusalem

Today we leave the Sea of Galilee. After breakfast we check out of the Ramot Resort Hotel and drive south toward the spring of **Ein Harod**, where Gideon collected his people, in accordance with God's command, (Judges 7:7). From here we see the slopes of Mt. Gilboa, where Israel's first king, Saul, and his sons Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malki-Shua fell in battle to the Phillistines, around 1010 Be (1 Samuel 31). Next we visit the extensive excavations of the ancient Israelite city of **Beit Shean**. In New Testament times this city became one of the 10 cities of the Decapolis (Matthew 4:25; Mark 5:20; Mark 7:31). We then continue south, driving through the Jordan Valley and we'll see in the distance the ancient city of Jericho (Joshua 2; 2 Kings 2; Matthew 20:29). We'll leave the Jordan Valley and travel up through the Judean Wilderness to "**Genesis Land**", where we experience a Hebrew reception at Abraham's Tent (Genesis 15:1-6) overlooking the Judean Desert. It is here that we will enjoy a short camel ride. We continue our drive up to Jerusalem. Before checking into our hotel we stop at an observation point to take our first glimpse of the **City of Jerusalem**, the capital city of Israel. We check in to the Prima Royale Hotel for dinner and overnight.

Friday, Nov. 2

“THE PASSION OF OUR LORD”

Jerusalem: The Mount of Olives- Old City - Church of St Peter- Garden Tomb

After breakfast we drive to the **Mount of Olives** overlooking the ancient and modern city of **Jerusalem**, the center of the Biblical world. We walk down the "Palm Sunday Road", via the Chapel of Dominus Flevit where Jesus wept over Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37f), to the **Garden of Gethsemane** where He prayed on the night of His betrayal (Luke 22:40-46). Next we enter within the walls of the **Old City of Jerusalem** through the Lion's Gate, walking from the **Pools of Bethesda** (John 5:2-9) and along the Via Dolorosa to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre** (Crucifixion site). We have lunch at the **Lutheran Guesthouse**.

After lunch we head to the **Church of St. Peter** in Gallicantu, the **House of Caiaphas** (John 18:19-27), where Jesus was interrogated by the High Priest. We end this memorable day with a visit to the **Garden Tomb** and **Gordon's Golgotha** (Matthew 27:33), where we will worship and celebrate the Lord's Supper. We then return to the Prima Royale Hotel for dinner and overnight.

Saturday, Nov. 3

Bethlehem – Ein Karem

After breakfast we drive to **Bethlehem**, the royal city of David, where Jesus was born. (Luke 2). We visit the **Church of the Nativity** and the **Field of the Shepherds** where the Angel of the Lord proclaimed the birth of the Savior. We will have lunch in Bethlehem where we will enjoy the making of bread. Next we visit the neighborhood of **Ein Karem** where John the Baptist was born (Luke 1 :39-45). We'll visit Mary's Spring and the Church of St. John the Baptist. We return to the Prima Royale Hotel in the late afternoon for personal time, dinner and overnight.

Sunday, Nov. 4

The Upper Room- the City of David - Davidson Center - Yad Vashem

Western (Wailing) Wall - Western Wall Tunnel

We begin our day with a visit to **Mt Zion** on the South side of the Old City where we visit the **Upper Room** where Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. We then visit the **City of David** and the **Davidson Center** which includes the Hulda Steps and The Southern Wall Archaeological Garden. Next, we drive through the New City of Jerusalem via Mt. Herzl, the final resting place of Dr. Theodor Benjami Herzl, the modern Prophet of the State of Israel, and the Knesset (Israel's parliament building).

Our destination for the afternoon is **Yad Vashem**, the Holocaust History Museum and Children's Memorial, the memorials to the victims of the Holocaust during World War II. We return to the Prima Royale Hotel for dinner.

After dinner we will go to the Jewish Quarter of the Old City. Here we will visit the **Western (Wailing) Wall**, the holiest Shrine of the Jewish people and the **Western Wall Tunnel**.

We return to the Prima Royale Hotel for overnight.

Monday, Nov. 5

Qumran – Ein Gedi – Massada – Dead Sea

We check out of our hotel after breakfast and depart Jerusalem, driving through the Judean Hills to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth! Our first stop today is **Qumran**, where the Essenes, a Jewish religious sect, lived over 2000 years ago and wrote The Dead Sea Scrolls. Next we drive along the shores of the Dead Sea to **Ein Gedi** Nature Reserve Park where David cut off a piece of Saul's robe (1 Samuel 24). This is followed by a visit to the Mountain Fortress of **Masada**, the scene of the last Jewish Resistance against the Romans in 73 AD. Finally we arrive at the Isrote l Hotel by the Dead Sea. We check in for dinner and overnight. Plan to take advantage of the wonderful SPA facilities of the Hotel and enjoy a swim in the mineral rich waters of the **Dead Sea**.

Tuesday, Nov. 6

Leisure day by the Dead Sea - OR - a 1-day excursion to Jordan

Note: Your passport - AND - Visa will be needed to visit Jordan. Your Visa MUST BE obtained a few week before our travel. Additional cost will be necessary for those wishing to visit Jordan.

Today you may choose between relaxing and enjoying the facilities the Hotel has to offer, or you may join a **1-day excursion to Jordan** which includes a visit to **Mt. Nebo** (Deuteronomy 32:49; 34:1-8) and the traditional **site of Jesus' Baptism** (Mark 1:1-8 and Luke 3:1-3). This may also be where Elijah parted the Jordan and went to heaven in a fiery chariot (2 Kings 2-14). Joshua probably crossed here with Israel (Joshua 3). We return to the Isrotel Hotel for dinner and overnight.

Wednesday, Nov 7

Tel Beersheba - Valley of Elah - Emmaus - Tel Aviv

After a sunrise swim in the Dead Sea by some and breakfast by all, we check out of our hotel. As we drive, we might see Lot's wife who turned into a pillar of salt. (Genesis 19:23-26) We head west to Beersheba, the capital city of the Negev Desert and go to **Tel Beersheba** (Genesis 21:31-34; 22:19; 46:1-4; 1 Kings 19:1). Next, we travel north to the **Valley of Elah** where David killed Goliath (1 Samuel 17) and visit the excavated city of **Khirbet Qeiyafa**, where gates and artifacts have been unearthed dating to the time of David (1000 B.C.). We pass by **Emmaus-Nicopolis** where Jesus appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-35). We arrive in Tel Aviv in late afternoon and check into the Dan Panorama Hotel for dinner and overnight.

Thursday, Nov 8

Independence Hall Museum - Immanuel Lutheran Church

After a late breakfast we enjoy some free time in Tel Aviv. You may wish to take a stroll along the Tel Aviv Promenade, shop in the market, or use this time for packing. We will check out of the Dan Panorama Hotel in the early afternoon and drive to the **Independence Hall Museum**. We will worship and have a "time for sharing" at **Immanuel Lutheran Church**. We will conclude our time with a Farewell Dinner in Tel Aviv before heading to Ben Gurion Airport for our homebound flight from Israel to the United States.

Friday, Nov 9

WELCOME HOME!!!