



Synod of the Southwest, Presbyterian Church USA

SYNOD MISSION EXPERIENCE 2014: THE HOLY LAND

February 1-11, 2014 11 Days

Optional extension to Jordan: February 11-14, 2014

With Conrad Rocha and Rochelle (Rocky) Mackey



 **Group Travel Directors**
Enriching Lives Through
Travel Since 1982

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

SAT 01 FEB **Depart U.S.**

Depart Phoenix and connect with your overnight flight to Tel Aviv. (Meals in-flight)

SUN 02 FEB **Arrive Tel Aviv/Bethlehem**

Arrive at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport at mid-afternoon. Your guide and driver will be waiting to transfer you to Bethlehem. After hotel check-in enjoy some time to relax and freshen up before joining the group for dinner this evening at ICB's Il'iyeh Restaurant. Lutheran Guesthouse or similar (Meals in-flight, D)

MON 03 FEB **Bethlehem**

This morning meet with an Israeli settler. Visit Tent of Nations where you will have lunch. Later drive to Deheishe Refugee Camp and end the day with a stop at Shepherds Fields in Beit Sahour. Return to Bethlehem for dinner and overnight. Lutheran Guesthouse or similar (B, L, D)

TUE 04 FEB **Bethlehem**

This morning meet at the International Center of Bethlehem (ICB) for an introduction to the staff and their work as part of the Diyar Consortium. The ecumenically oriented institutions of this consortium serve the whole Palestinian community, with an emphasis on children, youth, women and the elderly through unique programs that are contextual and holistic in nature. Take a walking tour of the Old City visiting the Church of the Nativity and Manger Square. There will be some free time before dinner to explore on your own. Dinner at ICB's Il'iyeh Restaurant. Lutheran Guesthouse or similar (B, D)

WED 05 FEB **Bethlehem/Galilee**

Travel to Nablus where you will be met at Jacob's Well by your host Fr. Ibrahim Nairouz, pastor at St Phillip Church, and hear about his ministry. Later drive to Nazareth and visit the Sisters of Nazareth Convent to see the ancient tomb and Mary's Well. Nazareth is located between the open space of the Jezreel Valley and the mountainous regions of the Galilee. During the first 20 years of his life spent in Nazareth, Jesus had many an opportunity to walk on the mountain ranges, to look over and think about the history of his people. Continue to your hotel for dinner and overnight. Ein Gev Kibbutz or similar (B, D)

THU 06 FEB **Galilee**

Begin with a spectacular view from Mt. Arbel. See the Ancient Synagogue and St. Peter's House at Capernaum. Drive along the shore to Tabgha for visits to the Church of Multiplication, built on the site of the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes; and the Chapel of the Primacy of Peter. Visit the Church of the Beatitudes, one of the most beautiful in the Galilee. End the day with a boat ride on the peaceful waters of the Sea of Galilee. Ein Gev Kibbutz or similar (B, D)

FRI 07 FEB **Galilee/Jerusalem**

Visit Nazareth Village where first century Biblical life is recreated. Drive to Haifa or Ibillin and meet with Elias Chacour, Archbishop of Galilee of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church and author of *Blood Brothers* and *We Belong to the Land* (subject to his availability). Archbishop Chacour will share his journey of peacemaking, including the establishment of Mar Elias Educational Institutions, whose motto is "building peace through education." Continue to Jerusalem for hotel check-in and overnight. Gloria Hotel or similar (B,D)

SAT 08 FEB **Jerusalem**

Begin the day atop the Mount of Olives with its stunning panoramic view of Jerusalem. Then

Dear Friends,

Discernment is a key in decision-making. It aids in unraveling the conundrums or our Twenty-first Century lives—whether for our family, our church, or our community. It helps form our understanding of God's world and of our responsibility as Presbyterian Christians.

There is scarcely a part of God's world that poses more questions yet offering fewer answers than the cradle of God's Word to us—the Holy Land. Unraveling the complex and controversial issues and ideologies from the land where places such as Nazareth, Galilee, Bethlehem and Jerusalem are sites we have heard about, read about, and learned about since we were children isn't easy. Gaining a real understanding, however, requires a visit, a pilgrimage.

You are invited to participate in such a pilgrimage—the Synod Mission Experience 2014—The Holy Land. Sponsored by the Synod of the Southwest, our tour focuses on the events and people of the Bible, especially those of Jesus' time, but also provides opportunities to dialogue with today's people caught up in the ongoing struggles for peace and justice. Not only will we see Galilee (Nazareth, Capernaum and the Mt. of the Beatitudes), Jerusalem (Temple Mount, Mount of Olives, Church of the Holy

walk in Jesus' footsteps down the Palm Sunday Road to arrive at the Garden of Gethsemane. Cross the Kidron Valley and visit the ancient City of David excavations. Continue to Mt. Zion for a visit to St. Peter's in Gallicantu, which commemorates Peter's three denials of Christ and Caiaphas' House where Jesus was imprisoned. Next learn about the work of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolition (ICAHAD) – subject to availability. Return to the hotel for dinner. Gloria Hotel or similar (B,D)

SUN 09 FEB **Jerusalem**

Travel to the lowest point of the world, the Dead Sea. En route visit Qumran to see the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Take the cable car up to Masada. On this rocky plateau, the Zealots held their last resistance against the Roman conquerors. Take time for an optional float in this unique body of water and lunch on your own. Return to Jerusalem for dinner and overnight. Gloria Hotel or similar (B,D)

MON 10 FEB **Jerusalem/Departure**

Check out of the hotel this morning – two day rooms will be kept until departure to the airport this evening. Make an early visit to the Temple Mount (Haram al Sharif in Arabic) with the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque (no inside visits), sacred for the Muslims, second only to Mecca; continue to the Western Wall, one of the holiest sites for Jews; then walk the Stations of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa ending at the Church of Holy Sepulchre. Stop at the Church of the Sisters of Zion (Ecce Homo) to see the original street level pavement from the time of Jesus. This afternoon is free. Gather for an early farewell dinner before transferring to the airport for flight check in and late evening departure. (Travelers going to Petra will stay overnight at the hotel). (B, D)

TUE 11 FEB **Return to U.S.**

Arrive home enriched with a new understanding of the ancient and contemporary world of the Holy Land. (Meals in-flight)

Code: **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**
Itinerary subject to change.
Speakers subject to availability

Sepulcher, and Bethlehem) we will visit a kibbutz and a Palestinian refugee camp. We will consider water resource issues, and we will hear personally from Christians, Muslims and Jews working for peace in these holy places.

Our tour is limited to 20 people, and is priced without "host freebies." We will accompany the tour and we will pay the price which you are offered. Our professional guides in the Holy Land are highly trained experts, knowledgeable local residents.

We hope you will be part of the Synod Mission Experience 2014—The Holy Land!

— Conrad M. Rocha and
Rochelle (Rocky) Mackey

Conrad Rocha, Executive/Stated Clerk, Synod of the Southwest, is a ruling elder, living in Albquerque where he is a member of Second Presbyterian Church. He has served numerous entities at all levels of the Presbyterian Church USA.

Rochelle (Rocky) Mackey, Moderator-Elect, Synod of the Southwest, is a ruling elder living in Mesa, Arizona. She is Clerk of Session at Gilbert Presbyterian Church and has served in the Presbytery of Grand Canyon.

PETRA, JORDAN OPTIONAL EXTENSION

TUE 11 FEB **Jerusalem/Petra**

This morning transfer to the Allenby Crossing to Jordan and meet your Jordanian guide, driver and coach. Visit Bethany-beyond-the-Jordan, which has received recognition as the likely site where John baptized Jesus. Continue through the vast desert to the village of Wadi Musa, which embraces the entrance to Petra – one of the Seven Modern Wonders of the World. (B,D)

WED 12 FEB **Petra**

Two thousand years ago the Nabateans carved a city out of rose red rock and it was rediscovered in 1812. Today you will discover the formerly lost city of Petra during a half-day guided tour. Begin by walking through the dramatic "ciq" or canyon that opens upon the Treasury, El Khazneh, one of the most elegant remains of antiquity. Beyond El Khazneh the visitor is surrounded on both sides by hundreds of Petra's carved and built structures. Enjoy a full day of touring this amazing, hidden world. (B,D)

THU 13 FEB **Petra/Tel Aviv/Departure**

Depart on the northbound journey to the village of Madeba to see the ancient mosaic map of the Holy Land. Drive to Mount Nebo where Moses viewed the Promised Land and enjoy the dramatic view of the Jordan Valley, Jericho and the Judean hills beyond. Cross the Allenby Bridge to meet your guide and driver for the transfer to Ben Gurion for flight check-in and departure just before midnight. (B, Meals in-flight)

FRI 14 FEB **Arrive U.S.**

(Meals in-flight)

Code: **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**
Itinerary subject to change.

TOUR CONDITIONS

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: Your reservation and deposit of \$400 per person are requested immediately to fulfill the group deadline requirements. Note that space is limited and reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. A second payment of \$1000 is due September 27, 2013. Final payment is due November 27, 2013. For credit card payment Group Travel Directors accepts Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.

REFUND POLICY: All cancellations must be in writing. There is no refund for partial or unused land arrangements. Note: Airline tickets will be issued well in advance of departure and may be nonrefundable. The following penalties will apply: Up to September 26, 2013 - \$100 per person administrative fee plus any unrecoverable deposits; September 27, 2013 - January 17, 2014 - Deposit plus any unrecoverable payments to hotels, tour operators or airlines; January 18, 2014 or after - No refund.

CHANGES TO GROUP FLIGHTS: The group airfare contract for this tour may not allow travelers to make any date or itinerary changes. If you are considering other dates or cities, please submit your request in writing well in advance to secure the best rates and schedule, but no later than September 27, 2013. A minimum fee of \$175 per person will apply for changes to group flights in addition to a possible airfare increase.

LATE BOOKINGS: Passengers registering within thirty days of tour departure will be charged a \$50 per person fee. Tour payment in full is required before we can request and confirm space. This fee does not cover any additional airline or ground service charges.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- AIRFARE:** Round-trip economy class airfare from Phoenix via US Airways or other ARC/IATA approved scheduled carrier.
- ACCOMMODATION:** Eight nights in Christian guesthouse, kibbutz hotel and/or superior tourist class hotel, double occupancy, with private facilities. Hotels as listed or similar. Two day-rooms will be available until departure on February 10.
- MEALS:** Breakfast and dinner daily with one lunch as outlined in the itinerary.
- GROUND TRANSPORT:** Transfers and transportation by deluxe motorcoach.
- SIGHTSEEING:** Extensive sightseeing throughout; entrance fees included.
- PORTERAGE:** Luggage handling of one piece per person.
- EXPERT GUIDES:** An experienced English-speaking tour guide from arrival in Tel Aviv through departure from Tel Aviv.
- GRATUITIES:** Gratuities to drivers and guides (for your convenience, \$108 per person has been included).
- TAXES:** Airport/foreign departure taxes (currently \$140 per person).
- ALL THE INFO YOU NEED:** Comprehensive documentation including travel accessory, bag tags, name tags, flight and land itineraries, destination literature, customs information, travel tips and more.

PRE-EXISTING medical conditions and other circumstances are covered when insurance is purchased at the time of reservation / deposit. Contact Travel Insured for more info. 800-243-3174

COST SUMMARY

\$3629*

Group Flights From Phoenix

Tour Gratuities (\$108).....Included
Airport Taxes (\$140).....Included

*Costs per person based on double occupancy in USD

Optional Extension to Petra/Jordan.....\$849

Three nights in first class hotel; breakfast and dinner as outlined in the itinerary; transfers and transportation by deluxe motorcoach. Extensive sightseeing throughout; entrance fees included. Experienced English-speaking tour guide in Jordan. Border/foreign departure taxes (currently \$65) and gratuities to drivers and guides (\$36 per person) are included. A visa is included for U.S. citizens spending at least two nights in Jordan.

Optional Individual Supplement

Single Room*.....Main Tour \$400

Single Room*.....Extension \$129

*Very limited availability on request basis. GTD can assist in finding roommates; however, this cannot be guaranteed.

Costs: The tour cost is per person based on current airfare from Phoenix (other cities available), double occupancy, tariffs and currency valuations as of January 2013, a minimum of 15 travelers (10 on the optional extension), and subject to confirmation. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed price and/or itinerary, they are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. Single room supplements may have limited availability and are on a request basis only.

Items Not Included

- Fuel surcharges and/or tax increases levied since the pricing of this tour.
- Beverages other than coffee/tea at breakfast.
- Any meal or sightseeing item not listed in the itinerary.
- Items of a personal nature.
- Optional insurance for health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption is not included and highly recommended.
- Passport fees. A passport valid six months beyond date of reentry to the U.S. is required.
- No entry visa is required for U.S. citizens; non-U.S. citizens may require an entry visa.

RESERVATION APPLICATION • APPLY ONLINE AT: WWW.GTD.ORG G#140202 • OR CLIP AND MAIL

Synod of the Southwest: Holy Land • February 1-11, 2014 • (G#140202) • Group Travel Directors • 2000 W 98th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55431

(Name as it appears on passport)

1. _____ Male Female Date of Birth _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name Month/Day/Year

2. _____ Male Female Date of Birth _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name Month/Day/Year

Address (no P.O. boxes) _____ Tel. (Day) _____ (Eve.) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Email _____

Roommate _____ I will pay the supplement for a single room. Sign me/us up for the extension to Jordan.

Advise if we can assign you a roommate or single supplement. GTD can assist in finding roommates; however, this cannot be guaranteed and the supplement may apply.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS (please check one)

- I/We will take the group flights from Phoenix.
- I/We will need assistance with flight arrangements from _____ airport to join the group.
- I/We will make all of my own flight arrangements.
Please contact GTD for land- only rates.

DEPOSIT/TRAVEL INSURANCE (please check one)

Please reserve _____ space(s) for me/us; we choose the following deposit option:

- \$ _____ **\$624** per person **inclusive of travel insurance** for the main tour only.
 - \$ _____ **\$648** per person **inclusive of travel insurance** for the main tour and optional extension.
 - \$ _____ **\$400** per person **without travel insurance.**
- I/We decline now, but understand it can be purchased later. without the pre- existing waiver.

Form of Payment

- Check
 - Charge my deposit(s) to
- Credit Card # _____
 Exp _____
 Security Code _____
 Name as it appears on credit card: _____

Please make checks payable to Group Travel Directors G#140202

I/We have read and understand the conditions of this brochure. Parent or guardian signature is required for travelers under age 18.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____



GTD TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is included as an option with the initial tour deposit and is highly recommended. GTD offers a competitive policy from an independent company. By purchasing insurance at the time the tour deposit is made, you can be covered for events that may cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip, i.e., pre-existing medical conditions (certain restrictions apply). If you decline travel insurance at the time of reservation, you may purchase it within 14 days with the pre-existing conditions waiver or you may purchase it later without the pre-existing conditions waiver. You may contact Travel Insured International for further information before making your decision: 800-243-3174.

GTD TRAVEL INSURANCE INCLUSIONS

Trip Cancellation.....	up to Tour Cost*
Trip Interruption.....	up to 150% of Tour Cost**
Travel Delay.....	\$750
Missed Connection.....	\$300
Baggage.....	\$1,000
Baggage Delay.....	\$200
Medical Expense.....	\$50,000
Evacuation/Repatriation.....	\$500,000
Accidental Death.....	\$10,000
Political Emergency Evacuation.....	\$100,000
ID Theft Resolution Services.....	included
Assistance Service.....	included

* a maximum of \$4000 per person

** a maximum of \$6000 per person

Cost of this optional GTD Travel Insurance is \$224 per person (\$248 with the optional extension). Additional coverage provided as needed; the full cost of your tour must be covered. **NOTE:** Residents of Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Washington will receive a state-specific Description of Coverage, which can also be requested by calling 866-684-0218.

CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY

Group Travel Directors (GTD) provides customized travel planning throughout the world for group travelers who have a variety of reasons and goals for travel. The goals and/or opinions of these groups do not reflect or imply the position of GTD in any matter. Brochure contents may not be duplicated without permission from GTD. In offering these travel arrangements, Group Travel Directors, Inc. (GTD) acts solely as an agent for the sale of air transportation and other travel related services. GTD maintains no control over the personnel, equipment or operations of any entity furnishing services, products or accommodations. GTD assumes no responsibility or liability for, and shall not be expected, asked or required to pay for any injury, damage, expense, personal injury, property damage, inconvenience or any other loss experienced by reason of: (1) any intentional, wrongful, negligent or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any supplier, its agents or employees; (2) any defect, breakdown or other failure of any vehicle, equipment, service, product or other instrumentality which is owned, operated or otherwise used by a supplier; (3) any intentional, wrongful, negligent, or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any other party not under the direct control of GTD; (4) financial problems causing nonperformance by any supplier; or (5) any other cause, condition or event whatsoever beyond the direct control of GTD. GTD cannot guarantee any rates, bookings or reservations of any supplier. Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute a consent to the foregoing provisions. All prices quoted are subject to change if airlines or ground operators increase their prices, the U.S. dollar is devalued significantly against foreign currencies, the group falls below minimum numbers, or a fuel surcharge, government tax or user's fee is imposed. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. GTD reserves the right to withdraw from any tour any tour member whose conduct is incompatible with the interests of the group as a whole. The above Conditions and Responsibility also covers the group leader(s) and their respective organizations.

NOTE TO OUR TRAVELERS:

Please be assured that GTD continually monitors industry events, such as airline strikes and bankruptcies, etc. If any such events affect your tour, you will be notified. At the time this tour was developed there was a U.S. State Department Travel Warning in effect for this destination; please refer to the following website for current information or call Group Travel Directors. http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

For more information, contact:

Rochelle (Rocky) Mackey

Synod of the Southwest

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or

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