

# *In the Light of Jesus*

## PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND



**March 1 – 13, 2021**

Led by:  
Pastor Bill and Lyn Vanden Bosch



*In the Light of Jesus* is planned as a “disciple’s pilgrimage” following in the footsteps of Jesus to not only understand the Gospels and the early church in their historical, geographical, and cultural context, but to also increase our commitment to wholeheartedly respond to His invitation to “Follow Me.” It will focus on visiting New Testament sites in Galilee, along the Jordan Valley, and Jerusalem.



**PILGRIMAGE COST:**

\$4,195 per person, from Chicago, based on double occupancy

**Register online now at [bookings.wittetravel.com](http://bookings.wittetravel.com) using booking code **030121VAND****

Round-trip bus transfers from West Michigan to Chicago will be made available at an additional cost of \$100 to \$160 per person, provided there is sufficient interest.

**Register by August 15 to qualify for a \$100 early booking discount!**



**Bill and Lyn** have been married for 50 years, and they are retirees after serving more than 38 years in congregational ministry—30 of those years at Oakdale Park Christian Reformed Church. They have been blessed with five children, three of whom are married, and with eight grandchildren.

They have studied twice in Israel at Jerusalem University College and twice under the leadership of Ray VanderLaan, Director of “In the Dust of the Rabbi” ministries and the teacher of the “That the World May Know” video series. In addition, they have been group leaders 16 times in the Holy Land. They have journeyed to the lands of the Bible (Israel, Turkey, and Greece) more than 25 times.

Bill has a Doctor of Ministry Degree in multicultural ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary. He has done extensive study in spiritual disciplines, most recently participating in a two-year exploration of the disciplines with the Transforming Center under the direction of Ruth Haley Barton, author of *Invitation to Solitude and Silence*. Lyn has a BA degree in teaching from Calvin College, has led children’s and single parents’ ministries at Oakdale Park Church, and has a wonderful spiritual gift of hospitality.

**BILL AND LYN’S CONTACT INFORMATION:**

616-826-1927  
[inthelightofjesus@gmail.com](mailto:inthelightofjesus@gmail.com)



**MARCH 2021**

**MONDAY, MARCH 1**

**Departure from the U.S.**

The big day has arrived! We'll meet at the airport in Chicago and check in for the overnight flight. Our adventure is beginning! (D-in flight)

**TUESDAY, MARCH 2**

**Arrive Tel Aviv, Netanya**

We'll change planes in Europe and touch down in Tel Aviv. Following customs formalities and baggage claim, we will meet our tour guide, Khalil, and board our motorcoach for the drive to our hotel in Netanya. (B-in flight, D)

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*“Experienced the Bible in a new, deeper way.” – R.H.*

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**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3**

**Caesarea Maritima, Megiddo, Nazareth**

We will get an early start this morning, traveling to Caesarea, a majestic port built by King Herod and the harbor from which Paul sailed on his first missionary journey. There we will get our first view of the Mediterranean Sea, which became a “water highway” for the early spread of the Good News to the Roman Empire. We'll then continue to Megiddo, the site referred to in Revelation as Armageddon. Following our visit to Megiddo, we will cross the Jezreel Valley to Nazareth, where Jesus grew up. We will explore this old city, including the Church of the Annunciation and a visit to the remains of a first-century home at the Sisters of Nazareth convent. Our evening meal will be at Restaurant Bayat, near what is traditionally called “Mary’s Well.” (B, D)

- ① Hiking at Gamla
  - ② Bill and Lyn at Ein Gedi
  - ③ Teaching moment, Caesarea Maritima
  - ④ Sunrise at Sea of Galilee
- Cover: Golden Gate of the Temple Mount, Jerusalem

**THURSDAY, MARCH 4**

**Sepphoris, Mount Arbel, Magdala, Sea of Galilee**

Today we will begin our exploration of the sites of Jesus’ ministry in Galilee. Our first stop will be the nearby town of Sepphoris, where Jesus may have worked with his father. We will then visit Mount Arbel, where we will have a spectacular view of the area where Jesus did over 60% of his ministry. Following this, we will stop at the first-century synagogue at Magdala, the traditional hometown of Mary Magdalene. We will then have a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and view the “Ancient Boat” at Nof Ginosar before settling in at our hotel for a three-night stay. (B, D)







**FRIDAY, MARCH 5**

**Gamla, Susita (Hippos),  
Bethsaida, Jordan River,  
Capernaum, Sea of Galilee**

We will start the day by going to Gamla, the center of the Zealot movement. We will follow that with a stop at Susita, an archeological site in the Decapolis near the place where Jesus healed a demon-possessed man. From there we will go to Bethsaida, the home of at least four of Jesus’ disciples, followed by a visit to Capernaum, Jesus’ “home town” and his mission headquarters. (B, D)

**SATURDAY, MARCH 6**

**Korazin, Dan, Caesarea  
Philippi, Mensa Christi,  
Sea of Galilee**

We plan to begin our day by visiting Korazin and then Dan, an Old Testament site that became the center of Jeroboam’s Baal cult. Following this, we will travel to Caesarea Philippi (Banias), where Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do you say I am?” From there we will go to Mensa Christi (“The Table of Christ”), which commemorates Christ’s restoration of Peter following the Resurrection. (B, D)

**SUNDAY, MARCH 7**

**Mount of Beatitudes,  
Bet Shean, Jericho**

We begin our Sunday following in the footsteps of Jesus by going to the Mount of Beatitudes, where we will reflect on the life of discipleship that Jesus describes in the Sermon on the Mount. Leaving Galilee, we will stop at Bet Shean, the largest archeological site in the Holy Land. We will then drive down the Jordan River Valley until we stop at the old tel of Jericho and view the 11,000-year-old tower that has been discovered there. After this we will visit Herod’s Palace at Jericho and reflect on Christ’s commitment to “seek and save the lost.” We will stop at the traditional site of Jesus’ baptism, where we will renew our commitment to walk as his disciples. Our Sunday will conclude with a worship service at a wilderness overlook, followed by dinner and overnight in Jericho. (B, D)



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*“A rich spiritual time  
of immersion in sights,  
places, Scripture, and  
the truth of God with us.”*

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— K.J.



**MONDAY, MARCH 8**

### **Ein Gedi, Masada, Qumran, Dead Sea, Jericho**

We will begin our day at Ein Gedi, an oasis in the wilderness where David hid from Saul. From there we will travel to Masada, whose summit we will reach by cable car. This is the fortress at which the Zealots made their last stand against the Romans. We will then visit Qumran, the site of the Dead Sea Scrolls community. We will conclude our day by taking time to float in the Dead Sea and then return to Jericho. (B, D)

**TUESDAY, MARCH 9**

### **Herodium, Bethlehem**

Today we'll travel through Bethany to the Herodium, Herod's palace near Bethlehem, where we will examine the heartache surrounding Jesus' birth described in Matthew's Gospel. From there, we will visit the Al Basma Center for adults with special needs. At the center, we will gain insight into the lives of Christians today in the Holy Land. We will then go to the Shepherds' Fields, where we will reflect on Luke's story of the birth of Jesus. Part of our time in Bethlehem will also include stops at the Tent of Nations Farm and the Banksy Museum, where we will gain insights into the current Palestinian situation. We will spend the night at a hotel in Bethlehem. (B, D)

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10**

### **Jerusalem**

In the morning we will head to Jerusalem to visit Yad Vashem, Israel's official memorial to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust. The origin of its name is from a Biblical verse: "And to them will I give in my house and within my walls a memorial and a name (Yad Vashem) that shall not be cut off." We will also go to the Israel Museum, where we will see a model of first-century Israel at the time of Christ. While there we will tour the Shrine of the Book, which tells the story of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Our afternoon will be free to explore the Old City of Jerusalem. In the evening, we hope to have a conversation with members of the Parents' Circle, a fellowship of Jewish and Palestinian parents who have experienced the violent death of children in the conflict. We will stay the rest of our time in Jerusalem near the Old City. (B, D)



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*"My heart and spirit are overflowing with what the Lord did in my life." – L.S.*

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- ① Synagogue at Capernaum
- ② Qumran
- ③ Studying the Bible
- ④ Praying at the Western Wall





**THURSDAY, MARCH 11**

**Jerusalem**

We begin our day walking through the Temple Mount, viewing the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque. Following this we will visit the Western Wall, Judaism’s holiest site. From there we explore the City of David excavations and have an opportunity to walk through Hezekiah’s Tunnel, which ends at the Pool of Siloam. Next, we will visit St. Peter’s in Gallicantu where we will see a prison that is typical of the one Jesus might have been in during the night of his arrest and trial. We then visit the Wohl Museum, which houses a palatial home thought by some to be the High Priest’s residence where Jesus had his trial before the Jewish leaders. We will end our day at the Davidson Center’s excavations of the Southern Stairs just south of the Temple Mount. (B, D)

**FRIDAY, MARCH 12**

**Jerusalem**

Following the path of Jesus in his suffering, death and resurrection, we’ll start our day at the Mount of Olives, descending the road he traveled on Palm Sunday. We will pause for times of reflection at Dominus Flevit and Gethsemane. Then we will enter the city near St. Anne’s Church, where we will reflect on Christ’s healing powers by the Pool of Bethesda. We will remember the price he paid for our healing by walking in his “Good Friday” steps from Pilate’s Judgment Hall and the Lithostrotos, past the Arch of Ecce Homo, down Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. From there we will walk to the Garden Tomb for a worship service during which we will reflect on what we have learned during our pilgrimage together. We will enjoy a farewell dinner at the Cardo Restaurant. (B, D)

**SATURDAY, MARCH 13**

**Return to the U.S.**

Very early this morning, we’ll transfer to Ben Gurion Airport to check in for our return flights to Chicago. We are certain that your time in the Holy Land has been an inspirational and richly rewarding experience. (B, L-in flight)

*Daily itinerary subject to change due to local circumstances.*

*Lunches will be at various restaurants or sites, depending on the day’s itinerary, and will be indicative of local foods and customs (the average price is \$12 per person, which is not included in the tour cost).*

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*“The spiritual journey of a lifetime.” – J.V.*

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**BE READY TO WALK AND CLIMB!**

Participants must be prepared to walk an average of five miles per day over hilly and uneven terrain. It may not be possible to see everything if you have difficulties with this. If you have any concerns or questions about this issue, please talk with Pastor Vanden Bosch.

