



“We Went to See Where Jesus Walked!” My 2020 Pilgrimage to Israel

By Min. Sharon Prather



From February 27 through March 7, 2020, eight pilgrims traversed the airways to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. We were led by Min. Gerald Robinson, Executive Director of Know The Truth International Ministries, Inc., and an experienced leadership team of three women: Japera Rahming, of The People’s Community Baptist Church; Bridgett Brown, of Fort Foote Baptist Church in Fort Washington, Maryland; and Mildred Wilson, of Mt. Sinai AME Zion Church in Waldorf, Maryland. Valerie Ellis, also from Ft. Foote Baptist Church; Dara Rahming and Annisa Cline-Thomas (from TPCBC) and I made up the remainder of the group—a total of seven women.

One might wonder why God brought together this particular group of women to travel this journey. He definitely doesn’t have to tell us His reasoning, but here’s my opinion. Jesus values women and mightily uses them. He showed me why Japera left her “good government job” to serve full time in missions. Her service to God and her attention to detail afforded the ministry leader, Min. Gerald, the opportunity to train some, that they may bring others to see Jesus.

Bridgett Brown was the sergeant who kept everybody in line and a phenomenal photographer. Mildred, a registered nurse and experienced leader on the missions field, also helped to keep the team in check, especially when a lost sheep tended to go astray.

Valerie had been on a missions trip to Jamaica and felt that God was calling her to higher heights and deeper depths in missions. Annisa, who has traveled with Dorcas Ministries on many occasions, fulfilled her desire to go to the Holy Land. And, on the Sea of Galilee, I was privileged to preach, “You Can Have Peace in the Midst of Your Storm,” from Mark 4:35-41.

Dara, Japera’s sister, was approached by a stranger to sing on The Mount of the Beatitudes. Dara sang in her beautiful operatic voice “How Great Thou Art” while pilgrims from all over the world joined in singing the familiar verses. This was the first of several opportunities that she would share her gift in the Holy Land. In churches, some posted with signs to be silent, the Holy Spirit provided Dara opportunities to sing. And sing she did from the mountains to the valleys in former amphitheatres. At one point I sat on a hilltop to rest while the rest of the group went down into a valley to visit the ruins of an amphitheater expressly because of its acoustics. Suddenly, the voice of an angel rose from the valley. It was Dara. Passersby stopped in their tracks looking, wondering from where the melodious streams of vocal acuity were emanating.

But there's more! We went to the Garden Tomb. The Garden of Gethsemane was replete with old olive trees—some as old as 2,000 years. There we were met by a guide who pointed out The Place of the Skull (“Calvary” in Latin and “Golgotha” in Hebrew) where Jesus was crucified. We were afforded the opportunity to enter the tomb where Jesus laid for three days and three nights. Solemnly we were led to a private room to partake of the Holy Sacraments. Each of us played a role in the service. It was very moving as Dara once again led us in songs relevant to the occasion.

Like old folks used to say, “I can't tell it all,” but we went to see where Jesus walked – the women in the Holy Land.