

THE CONNECTION

THE PALO CEDRO SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST NEWSLETTER
FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

JERRY WILLIAMS DELIGHTS IN HIS TRIP TO ISRAEL

“Jerusalem! Jerusalem!
Lift up your gates and sing,
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna to your King!”



As the tour bus approached the Holy City, Jerusalem came into view in the distance. The great hymn “The Holy City” began playing on the PA system across the bus. It was a moment so full of emotion for Jerry Williams that he wept.

After more than 40 years of teaching Scripture, he was on that part of earth where men and women had heard the voice of God, conveyed his words to others, followed his commandments and received his blessings, and defied his commandments and struggled with the curses. Jerry was about to set foot in the great city that Jesus had entered on a donkey.

What’s Inside:



Women’s Ministry Special Brunch
(pictorial)



Remodeled Bathrooms at EC3
(pictorial)



***Jerry Williams with Dome
of the Rock in the Background***

“The trip to Israel was life-changing for me,” he says. “It was a real spiritual journey. I am so grateful to all those at Palo Cedro who helped me get there.”

In some respects the Holy Land was not at all what Jerry had expected. “It was super different from what I had imagined,” he says. “The Sea of Galilee is huge. Now I understand why they would have those terrific storms.”

Twenty five years ago Italian excavators working in Capernaum uncovered what may have been the home of Peter on the Sea of Galilee. This was where Jesus stayed when he was in that city.

THE CONNECTION



Because of small details noted in the site, it is also possible that this home was transformed into a place for communal gatherings, possibly even the first Christian gatherings. There are a number of sites, including this one, that can not be definitively identified: David's tomb, the Upper Room, and Golgotha are among them. But the possibility is there, and Palo Cedro members visited these sites.

The day they arrived in Jerusalem was the Festival of Purim. Purim commemorates the deliverance of the Jews at the hands of the Persian King Ahasuerus after he signed Haman's decree ordering their destruction. Queen Esther, herself a Jew, risked her life to save her people. Today in Jerusalem, Purim begins with a celebration on Friday evening. "Effigies of Haman are hung all over," says Jerry. "The children dress up in in disguise similar to what we see here on Halloween."



Remains of Peter's House in Capernaum

The masquerading is a nod to the book of Esther, the only book in the Bible where the actual name of God is not mentioned once. Rabbi Ari Enkin writes, "Just like God was hidden in the miraculous salvation of the Jewish people, we too hide ourselves on Purim to recall that even when it's not so obvious, God is always there."

For Jerry one of the most impressive sights in Jerusalem were the 500 ton stones that had been part of the original temple. Herod used them when he expanded the temple that had been constructed after the Babylonian exile. The stones were actually part of a retaining wall that supported the expansion. The stones remained after the Romans destroyed the temple in 70 A.D. "It was a thrill just to touch them," says Jerry.

Another of many highlights was the Nazareth Village, a re-enactment site similar to Williamsburg, Virginia. Nazareth is, the village in northern Israel where Jesus lived until commencing his ministry at 30 years of age. Nazareth Village is an interactive, open air museum built on a hillside in central Nazareth. It has been transformed into a first century Israeli village.

Jerry describes how the shepherds demonstrate that their sheep respond only to their voice, as was the case in biblical times. The gardens that are terraced on the hillside are seeded by hand with seeds falling on hard ground, on shallow soil, on thorny soil and finally on good soil, as the New Testament parable describes.

The most moving site of the trip for Jerry was found in The Encounter Chapel, a recently constructed museum built by the Catholic Church. A mural by Chilean artist Daniel Cariola depicts the sandaled feet of Jesus and several other men with the hand of a woman reaching out to touch the hem of Jesus's robe. The painting portrays the moment that Jesus healed the woman from years of bleeding. The Encounter Chapel is near Migdal on the western coastline of the Sea of Galilee.

THE CONNECTION



Mural at the Encounter Chapel

Many of the great sites in Israel have been preserved by the Catholics, the Armenians, and the Orthodox churches. “We have them to thank for much of what we are seeing today,” says Jerry. “God finds a way to use everyone.”

One feature of the trip was daily worship prepared by one of the tour members. Jerry gave his devotional in the Garden of Gethsemane which means olive press in Hebrew. “As the olives were pressed and then crushed three times, so Christ was crushed and pressed three times,” he says. “Christ made his decision in the Garden. He was pressed by what he knew he was going to do for us. He asked his disciples to pray with him while he went off to pray. He was crushed when three times he returned and they were asleep.”

Other dramatic sites on the tour included Masada, the ancient fortress on a high, rocky plateau at the edge of the Judean desert and Mt Carmel where God called down fire when Elijah prayed. “You could see all over Israel



Jerry Teaching at Gethsemane

THE CONNECTION



from Mt. Carmel,” says Jerry. They also saw Mt. Nebo where Moses struck the rock for water.

Timing for the tour could not have been better. “California and Israel are twin states as far as weather goes,” says Jerry. “Just like California, rainfall was very heavy this year in Israel. The desert just bloomed with wild flowers everywhere. Our guide told us how blessed we were to be there at this particular time. You could see why Israel was called the land of milk and honey. Everything was green, lush, and blooming.

Jerry describes Israel as prosperous and innovative. “They have a lot of ways of making money. Tourism is huge. We would have thirty or forty of the big buses behind us every day. The Israelis also do a lot with dates and olives, and there are many high tech businesses in the country.”

When it comes to food, Israel also does an outstanding job, according to Jerry. “The food is fabulous. After three days you have to back off. It was like going to a banquet every day. Vegetarians would do great there.” Jerry adds, “If it weren’t for all the danger, it would be a wonderful place to live.”

Jerry’s trip ended with a tour of Petra in Jordan although it was cut short due to the threat of flooding. Twenty one people had lost their lives there right before Palo Cedro arrived due to flash flooding. Jerry surmises that Petra will probably not be there in 200 years as the sandstone edifices are eroding at such a rapid rate. Images of Petra were misleading to Jerry. He had no concept of the largeness of Petra. “You just see this one picture, but it’s a whole area that you go through.

Another old civilization called Little Petra had been inhabited by the ancient Bedouins who became rich from the trade routes that passed through the area. “We saw images preserved in stone at Little Petra that indicate they may have been a monotheistic people,” says Jerry.

Jerry found both the Israeli and Jordanian people wonderful. “I loved them both,” he says. “Israel has the banquet table. Jordan gets the scraps. Jordan doesn’t get as much of the tourist business.”

One thing that impressed Jerry is the depth of knowledge on the part of the tour guides. “They are required to know the Bible in great detail. he says. “They have to know the Bible almost word for word.”

Some of their guides were Christians and would preach the gospel, even giving a call at the end of a day of touring. Others were not Christians. Jerry got to know one in particular. “If you both have the Holy Spirit living in you, you are drawn to one another,” he says. If a person is following God completely, totally, and sincerely and has recognized the God of creation, we can not say that the Holy Spirit is not in them.”

Jewish people from all over the world continue to return to their national homeland. “Zionism is bringing Israelites back to Israel,” says Jerry who believes that Israel has a right to exist and to defend itself. On a side note he says, “They love Americans, and they love Trump.”

One of the great blessings of going to Israel is seeing first hand the archaeological artifacts that testify to the truths of the Bible. “It was amazing to see all this in person,” says Jerry who remains grateful for such an extraordinary experience.

MAY 2019

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BREAD OF LIFE REDECORATES EC3 RESTROOMS



Jan Clendenon with Carol Bird



Martin Nelson



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WOMEN'S MINISTRY BRUNCH



Ginny Yost with Guest



Carly Knaub, Jo Grove, Bev Dyer, Gloria Frost



Phyllis Yergensen, Bev Dyer, Dott Moon



Pat Gheen and Jan Clendenon



Barbara Post



Jodi Frenna

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Danielle Malone, Christine Sieber, Verda Wiggins, Mary Cook and Cariann Gheen



Penny Coley and Verda Wiggins



Joyce Kuebler and Mark Cook



Gloria Frost and Shelly Fox



Sandy Gibb and Cariann Gheen



HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAYS!

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 01 Natalie Ovando | 10 Violet Keeney | 19 Sandy Pangborn |
| 03 Travis Conklin | 10 Rudy Yost | 20 Nathan Riggins |
| 03 Terrie Moore | 11 Lincoln Ayers | 21 Connie Woodring |
| 04 Rick Dunbar, Jr. | 11 Andrew Penington | 21 Bud Wyatt |
| 04 Michael Jones Woodring | 11 Jared Smith | 22 Jennifer Ayers |
| 04 Sandy Kutzkey | 12 Anita Chavez | 22 Edison Ercole |
| 04 Sean Simpson | 12 Jacinta Cordeiro | 23 Steve Doll |
| 05 Alice Brayshaw | 12 JayCee Jennings | 23 Haley Ghelfi |
| 05 Sandra Gibb | 12 Ezra Logan | 23 Julie Ghelfi |
| 05 Aundie Kutzkey | 13 Michelle Carter | 23 Christopher Hill |
| 05 Cathy Shrock | 13 Francesca LiVolsi | 23 Mitch Pirritano |
| 06 Ivan Downs | 13 Kahil Dahlin | 23 Gary Williams |
| 06 Donette Jones | 14 Cheryl Loucks | 24 Alanna Dunbar |
| 06 Ken Marzocchi | 14 Don Prosser | 25 Kimmy Golles |
| 06 Mary Stephens | 14 Ryan Tompkins | 25 Erich Mayne |
| 07 Melodie Bonneville | 15 Amanda Katz | 25 Ed Ochoa |
| 07 Kim Edgerton | 15 Karen Meyer | 25 Brook Torquato |
| 08 Bridgette Munoz | 15 Thomas Pangborn | 26 Brittany Brown Amermann |
| 09 Paulina Boehm | 16 Tiffany Beatty Reyes | 26 Dennis Dean |
| 09 Bree Boughn | 16 Haylie Fowler | 27 Reagan Gray |
| 09 Antony Doll | 16 Danielle Malone | 28 Cason Alido |
| 09 Dan Gruber | 17 Kai Carter | 28 Bobby Deavers |
| 09 Sandy Lee | 17 Scott Jones | 28 Chris Dahlin |
| 10 Heidi Brehms | 18 Joshua Jewkes | 30 Trudi Howe |
| 10 Arthur Griffitts | 18 Dott Moon | 30 Hal Williams |

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(The Way of Jesus)

The Palo Cedro Seventh-day Adventist Church

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Catrina Lesure, Youth/Assistant Pastor

Sabbath School 10:00

Family Service 11:05

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