

Our Trip to Israel in Pictures



We began our trip in Tel-Aviv/Yafo. This is a shot of us walking to congregation on Shabbat (the Sabbath).



We visited two Messianic congregations while in Israel. This Saturday they were celebrating Purim (when Queen Esther saved her people from annihilation). This congregation was in Hebrew and Russian (many recent Russian immigrants have come to faith in Yeshua (Jesus)).

Walking down the hillside where Jesus is believed to have given the sermon on the mount. Scholars think he may have taught from the bottom of the hill and had people sit up it like in an amphitheater! The Sea of Galilee is in the background.



One of our days we broke into work groups to help paint and do yard work for a local congregation and ministry in Tiberias. Our group repainted almost the entire congregation building interior. (We were very proud of ourselves.)



Walking down the streets of the Old City of Jerusalem. This picture is from the Armenian Quarter. There are also Christian, Jewish, and Arab Quarters. The Arab Quarter is by far the largest of the four. The buildings are from around 1400 AD.



Left: Cave #4 in Qum'ran, one of the hundreds in which the local Bedouins found the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Right: The Garden Tomb, where some scholars believe Jesus was actually buried. We even got to walk inside. Amazing. There were pilgrims at the Garden Tomb from all over the world.



The highlight of the trip for me was getting to meet and spend time with Israeli believers in Jesus. This day we spent hiking with a discipleship group made up of young people just out of the army. It was incredible to hear their stories of coming to faith, their passion for knowing Jesus, and their longing for the Jews and Arabs around them to know the Messiah. It was such a beautiful picture of God's heart, lived out in real people.



The Western Wall, an outer wall of what surrounded the first century Temple. Hundreds of Jews go to the Western Wall every day, believing that if they pray at the wall, God will hear their prayers. Behind it is the Temple Mount—the gold dome is a Muslim site, not accessible to Jews, but is where the center of the Temple was located.



Left: Our team, sitting on the steps that led up to the Temple in the first century. Scholars are confident that Jesus walked up these steps.

Below: My cousin Sue and me. Sue grew up with my dad, and now lives in Jerusalem. I spent an evening with her and had a wonderful time. At her prompting, I even got to tell her the story of how I came to believe that Jesus was the Messiah.



Prayer Requests for Israel

- That God would deepen the faith of the Israeli believers through the persecution they are suffering, and continue to show His face to them
- That God would soften the hearts of the Jewish people; that passion for their Jewish identity would not keep them from receiving the Messiah
- That God would bring peace to Israel
- That God would raise up people from around the world to go to Israel to teach and disciple the Body of Christ there