

Holy Land Pilgrimage

November 4-14, 2012

Tour Host: Dr. Stephen D. McConnell



Since 1955

MTS  **TRAVEL**
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124 E. Main St., 4th Fl.
Ephrata, PA 17522
(717) 721-7300
(800) 874-9330

Sunday, November 4**Depart**

Depart from Tampa late this afternoon, changing planes in Newark for the transatlantic flight to Tel Aviv.

Monday, November 5**Tel Aviv/Jaffa**

Arrive Tel Aviv late in the afternoon. If time permits, walk through Joppa (Jaffa), where Jonah boarded a ship and where Peter raised a believer named Tabitha from death. Transfer to the Renaissance Hotel in Tel Aviv for dinner and overnight.

Tuesday, November 6**Caesarea - The Galilee**

This morning drive north along the seacoast to Caesarea Maritima, with its magnificent harbor, theater and aqueduct constructed during the reign of Herod. It was here that Peter explained the way of salvation to

Cornelius. Continue to Mount Carmel, where Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal. Follow the Via Maris (Way of the Sea) to Megiddo, the city that dominated this strategic trade route from Egypt to Mesopotamia. Explore its extensive excavations, including Ahab's stables, a grain silo, and an ancient underground water system. Drive to the western side of the Sea of Galilee and climb the Arbel Cliff, which affords a view over the Lake of Galilee and the main sites of Jesus' ministry. Continue to Tiberias for dinner and overnight at the Gai Beach Hotel along the Sea of Galilee.

Wednesday, November 7**Nazareth - Sea of Galilee**

Spend the morning by getting acquainted with Jesus' home town of Nazareth, walking through the present-day bazaar, over the site of the ancient village, to the Church of the Annunciation. Stop at the nearby ridge from which the townsfolk tried to throw Jesus.



Drive to nearby Sephoris, the only city in the midst of Galilee at the time when Jesus was growing up—today a rich archaeological site. Return to the Sea of Galilee for a boat ride, with time for meditation on the lake. Disembark at Capernaum, the town used as a base by Christ during his ministry. See the remains of the fourth-century synagogue and the nearby house of St. Peter. Ascend the Mt. of Beatitudes, and listen to Jesus' teachings. Walk down the hill to Tabgha to visit the Church of the Loaves and Fishes and the Church of St. Peter's Primacy at the northwestern shore of the lake, an area intense with Christian memories. Return to the Gail Beach Hotel for dinner and overnight.

Thursday, November 8**The Galilee**

Today, travel along the ancient trade route, with a brief stop at Hazor, the largest Canaanite city. Continue to Tel Dan for a nature walk and visit to the high place where Jeroboam son of Nebat set up a golden calf. Visit nearby Caesarea Philippi (Baniyas), where Peter answered Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?" Drive over the Golan Heights, skirting Mt. Hermon, with a view toward Damascus. End the day at Yardenit, the traditional baptismal site, where the southern tip of the Sea of Galilee runs into the Jordan River. Dinner and overnight in Tiberias.

Friday, November 9**Dead Sea**

Leave Tiberias this morning, stopping at the mound of Beth Shean where the Philistines hung the bodies of King Saul and his sons. Drive south along the west bank of the Jordan River, stopping at Jericho to climb the tel, with a view of the Mount of Temptation. Next visit Qumran and view Cave #4, where the largest quantities of Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Driving south along the western shore of the Dead Sea, stop at En Gedi, where David hid from Saul in a cave. Continue to Masada, Herod's mountain fortress and the last stronghold of Jewish zealots in their revolt against Rome. Dinner and overnight will be at the Daniel Hotel along the shore of the Dead Sea.

**Saturday, November 10****Dead Sea**

After a free morning to enjoy the spa facilities or a swim in the Dead Sea, drive northwest to the Shephelah, the low hills between the mountains and the coast. Here visit Maresha (aka Beth Guvrin), from which one can view the entire Judean range to the East as well as Lachish, Gath and the Philistine cities to the West. Drive north for a stop in the Valley of Elah, where David encountered Goliath. Continue to Beth Shemesh where archaeological discoveries have been made. Finally, from the top Mt. Scopus, behold the majestic Holy City of Jerusalem. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem at the Inbal Hotel.

Sunday, November 11**Jerusalem**

Start the day from the top of the Mount of Olives for an overview of Jerusalem, locating the walls of the Old City, the Dome of the Rock, and the four quarters of the city. Visit the Church of Pater Noster, where you can see the Lord's Prayer inscribed in over 100 languages. Follow the traditional Palm Sunday route to the church known as Dominus Flevit ("the Lord weeps"). Continue downhill to Gethsemane, and visit the Church of All Nations. Enter the Old City through the Dung Gate and ascend to the Dome of the Rock and the al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site of Islam, located on the traditional site of the ancient Temple Mount. Drive to the "New City," passing by the Knesset en route to the Shrine of the Book, which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls. Visit the model of Jerusalem, representing how the city looked on the eve of the Jewish revolt, 36 years after the Passion of Jesus. Also stop at the Holocaust Museum, Yad Vashem, the Jewish people's living memorial to the Holocaust. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Monday, November 12****Jerusalem**

This morning visit the City of David to explore the ancient water system. Those who wish may wade through Hezekiah's Tunnel, pausing at the recently discovered Pool of Siloam. This tunnel is 1750 feet long and was carved during the reign of Hezekiah to bring water from one side of the city to the other. Drive to nearby St. Peter of Gallicantu, believed to be the site of the house of Caiaphas, where Jesus was interrogated. On Mount Zion, visit the Upper Room, the proposed location of the Last Supper. Entering the Old City through the Zion Gate, see the Roman Cardo in the Jewish Quarter and the Broad Wall of King Hezekiah. Continue walking to the Western Wall, the holiest



site in Judaism, where there may be opportunity to observe a Bar Mitzvah. See the Ophel excavations, known also as the Southern wall excavations, which expose the area to the south of the Temple mount. Walk through the Western Wall

Tunnel, where additional portions of the wall, as well as other structures beneath it, have been excavated. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem at the Inbal Hotel.

Tuesday, November 13

Jerusalem/Bethlehem

Travel to Beit Sahour to see the Shepherds' Fields before continuing to Bethlehem to the Church of the Nativity, built over the site believed to be the place of Jesus' birth. Drive to nearby Herodion, a mountain whose top third was built by Herod as his palace, fortress and recently discovered tomb. Return to



Jerusalem and enter the Old City through St. Stephen's Gate. See the Pools of Bethesda and visit St. Anne's Church, taking time to sing a song to hear the spectacular acoustics of the church. Walk along the Via Dolorosa, the Way of Sorrows, the route taken by Jesus as He carried His cross to Calvary. Note the Stations of the Cross as you walk, ending at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. End the day with Communion at the Garden Tomb, taking time to reflect on the events of the day. After a farewell dinner, transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for a late departure.

Wednesday, November 14

USA

Upon arrival at Newark Airport early this morning, you will go through Customs and continue on a flight to Tampa.

For more information, contact:

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Church of the Palms

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Email: smcconnell@churchofthepalms.org

Travel Arrangements by:
Since 1955



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Tour Host Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell



The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell comes from a long line of Presbyterian ministers, including his great-grandfather, grandfather, father, uncle and two brothers. Born in Pennsylvania, Steve did most of his growing up in suburban Detroit. He attended Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA, and during that time received God's call to be a pastor.

After graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary, he served the Melrose Presbyterian Church in suburban Philadelphia for five years, followed by 18 years at Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church in Liberty Corner, NJ. In September 2008 Steve began his ministry as Senior Pastor at Church of the Palms PCUSA in Sarasota, Florida.

Steve received his Doctor of Letters from the Caspersen School of Graduate Studies at Drew University, with a focus on C. S. Lewis studies. Steve has made three previous trips to the Holy Land leading groups as small as five and as large as 50. He is excited to lead this next pilgrimage.

Tour Price: \$4,119 per person, based on sharing a double room

Single Room Supplement: \$925

**Optional Group Insurance: \$265 per person
(non-refundable)**

This tour price reflects special group rates. Deposits received after July 30, 2012, will likely incur additional charges due to supplier contract terms.

Tour Price Includes:

- Round-trip airfare from Tampa International Airport
- Accommodations listed in itinerary, or similar
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Sightseeing and entrance fees to sites listed in itinerary
- English speaking guide throughout
- Driver and transportation in air-conditioned motor coaches
- Hotel service charges and local taxes
- Airlines taxes and fuel surcharges (Currently \$650; subject to change)
- Tips to guide, driver and hotel staff
- Hotel Porterage

Not Included:

- Passport fees
- Optional Group Travel Insurance
- Lunches and lunch tips
- Beverages with dinners

Tour Features and Conditions

Please read all Tour Features and Conditions carefully.
Payment of tour deposit constitutes acceptance of these conditions.

Air Transportation: Air transportation is restricted to the services of any IATA carrier, in economy class based on nonrefundable fare. Travelers are responsible to provide their names as they appear in their passport. Ticketing will be made 30-45 days prior to departure, after which there will be a charge for name corrections. Tour price includes current airline taxes and fuel surcharges of \$650, which are subject to change until ticketed. Tour participants are responsible for any increase in airline taxes or fuel surcharges imposed by the airline.

Accommodations: Based on two or more persons sharing a room in accommodations listed in itinerary, or similar. Single rooms are subject to availability at an additional charge of \$925. If a passenger cannot supply a roommate, the passenger is responsible for the additional charge.

Meals: In-flight meals and snacks are served according to airline policy. Breakfast and dinner will be provided daily in Israel. Opportunity will be given for participants to purchase lunches on their own. Beverages with dinners are not included.

Transfers and Baggage: Transfers between airports and hotels upon arrival and departure are included in the tour price, including handling of one medium-sized suitcase per person, not exceeding 62 dimensional inches (length plus width plus height) or weighing more than a maximum of 50 pounds. Due to limited luggage storage space on motor coaches, it is important that each person bring only ONE piece of checked baggage. In addition, a flight bag or overnight case may be taken, which must be handled by the passenger at all times. Baggage allowance is subject to change according to airline policy.

Sightseeing and Entrance Fees: Are included as indicated in itinerary, using private motor coach or other conveyance, with local guides where necessary.

Tips and Taxes: Service charges and taxes on accommodations are included. Tips to guides, drivers, and hotel staff are included. Tips for personal services and for lunches are not included and are at tour member's own expense.

Not Included: Passport fee, lunches, travel protection insurance, and expenses of a purely personal nature are not included. Transportation from your home to Tampa International Airport and return is not included. Checked luggage fee(s) charged by the airline are not included.

Deposit and Payment: Reservations may be secured upon payment of a deposit of \$500 per person. You will be invoiced for final payment, which is due September 5, 2012.

MTS Cancellation Conditions: Refund of full deposit (less \$100 administrative fee) will be made up to July 30, 2012. If cancellation occurs between July 31, 2012 and October 5, 2012 a fee of \$500 plus unrecoverable airline, hotel and tour operator payments. There is no refund after October 5, 2012 or for unused tour services.

Protect Your Investment: MTS TRAVEL strongly recommends

purchasing this primary insurance coverage. If you purchase the protection plan within 21 days of your deposit, any restriction on pre-existing conditions is waived. If protection plan is purchased after the 21 days, all coverage is subject to exclusion of pre-existing conditions. Certain conditions, exclusions and limitations apply as set out in the Evidence of Coverage and Confirmation of Coverage, which you will receive upon receipt of deposit. You will have ten days to review coverage and cancel your policy.

Following is a brief description of coverage:

- This protection plan will cover you for cancellation fees if you need to cancel because of death, injury or illness to you, your traveling companion or your immediate family member.
- Medical Evacuation: \$250,000
- Medical Expenses: \$25,000
- Baggage loss/delay: \$1,500/\$250

A valid passport is required. If you do not have a passport, you should apply for one immediately. Information on obtaining a passport will be provided upon receipt of deposit. If you now have a passport, please verify that it is valid until May 15, 2013. A visa for Israel is not required for U.S. citizens.

Non-U.S. Citizens are responsible to fulfill entry requirements for countries to be visited by contacting the appropriate consulates.

All rates and fares are based on current information and are subject to change. Rates are based on a minimum of 44 persons traveling together.

Deviations: Any individual making a change in travel arrangements apart from this group program will be charged a service fee of \$100 per person, plus any additional air or land costs incurred.

The itinerary as outlined is an indication of sequence and sites to be included in the tour program. However, the tour operator reserves the right to alter or change the itinerary and/or the sites included should it be deemed necessary due to local conditions, time restrictions, or other circumstances.

In the ever-changing world situation, MTS TRAVEL recommends personal monitoring of news about your destination. For the latest country information from the U.S. Dept. of State, please visit www.mtstravel.com and click "U.S. State Department Travel Warnings" in the middle of our home page.

Guests with disabilities or dietary restrictions should inquire in advance about whether their needs can be accommodated.

Responsibility
Menno Travel Service, Inc., D/B/A MTS TRAVEL, with its officers and staff act only as agents for the various companies whose accommodations are utilized. They assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the services of any train, vessel, carriage, automobile, airplane or other conveyance, which will be used either wholly or in part. Neither will they be responsible for any act, error, omission, or any injury, loss, accident, or any delays, which may be occasioned by reason of, defect in any vehicle or through neglect or default of any company or persons engaged in the conveying of passengers. The steamer, airplane services or that of any other conveyance, sickness, accident, weather, strikes, war, quarantine or other causes and all such losses or expenses must be borne by the passenger. Prices and schedules appearing in this brochure are based on current schedules and tariff rates and are subject to change without notice. The tour operator reserves the right to modify the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. The airlines and/or other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not aboard their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by the airline's concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and purchaser of tours and/or the passenger.

CST 2013363-40

Reservation Form
Holy Land Pilgrimage with Dr. Steve McConnell
November 4–14, 2012

To be assured of reservations, please complete and mail this registration form, to
MTS TRAVEL, 124 E. Main St., 4th Fl., Ephrata, PA 17522, along with your deposit of \$500 per person.

Please make check payable to MTS TRAVEL or complete the credit card payment information below.

(Please Print)

Name 1 (as it appears on passport): _____

Name 2 (as it appears on passport): _____

Nickname for name badge: _____

Nickname for name badge: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

E-mail: _____

Birthdate: _____

Birthdate: _____

Phone: (evening) _____ (days) _____ Cell: _____

Passport Copies: Please provide a clear photocopy of the photo and signature page of your passport. This is required for all international tours.

Room Type: Twin/Double
 Single

Rooming With: _____

Travel Protection Insurance—Check One:

I/we wish to be covered by cancellation insurance.

(Include \$265 per person with your deposit check. The \$265 is not refundable.)

I/we do NOT wish to be covered by the cancellation insurance.

Credit Card Information: Please include your billing address if other than above

Please Charge: My Deposit of \$_____ + \$_____ Travel Insurance = \$_____ Total Charge

Mastercard

Visa

Discover

American Express

Name as it appears on card (printed): _____

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Security Code: _____

I have read the Tour Features and Conditions for this tour and agree to the terms listed therein.

Signature: _____