

Keep Hope Alive Olive Planting Program, and Holy Land Trip, February 4-18, 2011

Organized by the YMCA of East Jerusalem, the YWCA of Palestine and the Alternative Tourism Group (ATG)

Schedule

Friday, Feb 4: Depart Newark on Continental # 84 @ 3:55pm

Saturday, Feb 5: Arrive Ben Gurion Airport Tel Aviv @ 9am. Travel to Bethlehem to meet representatives from the organizing institutions for an overview and discussion of the olive planting program. Dinner-free time.

- Sunday, Feb 6: Visiting Bethlehem. An afternoon of site-seeing and an introduction to the town. Watching Documentary about the situation in Palestine.
- Monday, Feb 7: Half day planting trees at a selected field followed by lunch. Visiting Duheisha refugee camp. Evening with **BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugees' Rights**. Dinner and free time.
- Tuesday, Feb 8: Half day planting trees at a selected field followed by lunch. Meeting with the **Applied Research Institute Jerusalem (ARIJ)** for a presentation on the Israeli Apartheid Wall and land expropriation by Israeli authorities. Dinner and free time.
- Wednesday, Feb 9: Visiting **YMCA headquarters** in Jerusalem, A tour in the old city of Jerusalem to visit the main sites in the city. Lunch. In the afternoon we will join The **Israeli Committee Against House Demolition (ICAHD)** for a settlement tour around Jerusalem. Dinner and free time. (suggested family stay). □
- Thursday, Feb 10: Visit to the city of Ramallah. A meeting with **Al Haq Organization, Al-Dameer , Right to Education Campaign** and a Palestinian political representative. Dinner and free time.
- Friday, Feb 11: Half day planting trees at a selected field followed by lunch. A tour in the old city of Hebron to visit the Ibrahimi Mosque, es-souq (the market), and to see the Israeli division of Hebron and the Israeli settlers who occupy the center of the city. Followed by a meeting with an organization based in Hebron. Dinner and free time (suggested family stay).
- Saturday, Feb 12: Half day planting trees at a selected field followed by lunch. Meeting with representatives from the **Joint Advocacy Initiative of the East Jerusalem YMCA and YWCA of Palestine** Dinner and free time. □
- Sunday, Feb 13: Half day planting trees at a selected field followed by lunch. Evaluation meeting followed by a farewell dinner at a local restaurant with staff members and volunteers. Overnight in Bethlehem.

- Monday, Feb 14: Leave Bethlehem for visits in Jerusalem: St. George's Cathedral, Yad Vashem, Mt. of Olives and churches down the path to Church of the Nations (Gethsemane); Pater Noster Church. Evening meeting with Sabeel Ecumenical Center for Palestinian Liberation Theology. Overnight in Jerusalem.
- Tuesday Feb 15: Visit with B'Tselem (Israeli Information Center for Human rights in the Occupied Territories), trip to the Dead Sea with visits to Qumran and Jericho, then up the Jordan Valley for overnight in Nazareth.

- Wednesday, Feb 16: Galilee: Visit Tagbha, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, Mount of the Beatitudes, Primacy of Peter, and Nazareth. Over-night in Nazareth.
- Thursday, Feb 17: Visit Ibillin & Archbishop Elias Chacour, Acre or Haifa, and Caesarea Philippi. Early dinner in Abu Ghosh, then to the airport in Tel Aviv for 11:40pm departure on Continental #91.
- Friday, Feb 18: Arrival in Newark at 4:50am.

A tour guide will be present with the group at all times for facilitation purposes.

The Leader of the KHA-USA Group is the Rev. Katherine Cunningham, Co-Executive Director, New Horizons Associates, A Center for Consultation and Counseling in Ridgewood and Wayne, NJ

Assisting Ecumenical Pastor for Discipleship Formation Trinity Episcopal Church Asbury Park, NJ

Katherine is an experienced tour leader in Israel and Palestine. She has been a pastor in educational ministries, leadership development and spiritual formation. Her ministry has included developing pilgrimage, mission, and peacemaking trips for adults, who are committed to supporting on-going relationships to mission in those regions visited. She also works with congregations and non-profits on program development, culture change and strategic planning.

Katherine has served in both regional and national programs of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including developing a model for servant/learner travel for the denomination. She is a member of the Israel Palestine Mission Network of the PCUSA.

Cost: Group members reserve and purchase their own flight tickets. The in-country cost is \$1500, which covers bus transportation, guide fees, double-occupancy lodging, two meals a day, most site entrance fees, and tips. An additional fee will be charged for single occupancy rooms.

Passports must be valid until August 6, 2011. U.S. citizens do not need to obtain a visa prior to arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport.

Recommended Preparation Materials

1. Alternative Tourism Group, *Palestine and Palestinians*, 2nd Edition, 2009. To order, go to www.atg.ps or contact Mr. Jawad Musleh at info@atg.ps.
2. *Steadfast Hope: The Palestinian Struggle for Just Peace*, 2009. A 48-page booklet & 80 min. DVD. To order, go to <http://store.pcusa.org/> or by phone 800-524-2612 and ask for item # 2646609001.
3. The ATG will provide each participant with a map of Israel Palestine upon arrival in Bethlehem. Please do not take any preparation materials through Israeli customs.