April 23 - May 6, 2020
Israel/Palestine Study Tour:

Meet the Peacemakers of Israel & Palestine

Sponsored by Pilgrims of Ibillin & The Northwest Coast Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Program Fee: $2,045, double occupancy.
Single Supplement, $300
Includes: hotels, ground transportation, tours, tips, breakfast & dinner daily, most lunches.

Does NOT include cost of airfare*, beverages with meals, 4 lunches, travel insurance, personal items.

Call or email with questions:
Rev. Charlie Lewis, Tour Coordinator
(425) 377-8659 ~ charlie@snopres.org

or **Rev. Joan Deming, Tour Leader**
(608) 241-9281 ~ jdeming7@gmail.com

Registration is open now. Limit: 25 participants.

$500 due with signed registration.
$1,545 balance due 3/15/2020.

Find Information about Pilgrims of Ibillin and many of the places we'll visit:
http://www.pilgrimsofibillin.org/

Read the blog from the 2018 Living Stones Pilgrimage of the Northwest Coast Presbytery:
https://www.livingstonespilgrimage.org/category/april-may-pilgrimage-2018/



Host Fr. Firas Khoury Diab with Tour co-Leader Usama Nicola



2018 West Coast Presbytery Pilgrimage, Mt. of Olives

Goals of the Trip

This is a study and listening tour! Get to know the "Living Stones" of Israel/Palestine. Meet Pilgrims of Ibillin's partners in Ibillin, Ramle, Zababdeh, Jerusalem, Bethlehem. Hear from Peace-Builders on both sides of the Green Line who seek a nonviolent path to a just peace.

Visit key biblical sites in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Hebron, and the Galilee (including Nazareth), and learn why the Holy Land is known as "the Fifth Gospel." Share reflections and insights in worship and group conversations.

Experience local hospitality and get to know students and leaders at the Mar Elias Educational Institutions in Ibillin. Visit with MEEI founder and peace activist Archbishop Elias Chacour.

Visit the destroyed village where Abuna Chacour was born and lived until 1948.

Be equipped to give presentations after returning home. Prepare to share stories of new friends – Christians, Muslims, and Jews – who live in hope and work for peace, despite great challenges.

***TRAVEL INFO:** Call our travel agent to reserve group ticket(s) in your name for the tour.*

Contact Debbie Havrilak, TravelLeaders, Lynnwood, WA

800.622.3342, debbie.havrilak@travelleaders.com

***We also strongly urge purchase of comprehensive travel insurance**, also from our travel agent.*



Biram

Ibillin

Zababdeh

Bethlehem

Check out past Living Stones Pilgrimage blogs:
reflections by participants
in real time during their tours:
www.livingstonespilgrimage.org

Itinerary will include:

April 24: Arrive in Bethlehem, Stay 7 nights in The Holy Land Hotel on Al Karkfah Street

Key Visits and Experiences in the Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Ramallah Area:

- Visit and meet with leaders of four of Pilgrims of Ibillin's Peace-building Partners: Wi'am (Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center), Seraj Library in Aida Camp, Hope Secondary School, and Diyar Consortium (Lutheran educational and cultural schools, and sports and youth empowerment programs)
- Tour Aida Refugee Camp and visit Al Rowwad Center
- Worship on Sunday morning with the congregation of Christmas Lutheran Church, Bethlehem
- Meet with Father Hosam Naoum, Dean of St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem
- Attend briefing by United Nations OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories)
- Visit the Ramallah offices of Defense for Children International
- Tour Jerusalem and Bethlehem holy sites with Christian guides
- In the Old City of Jerusalem, get a guided tour of Al Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem; then walk the Via Dolorosa, and visit the Western Wall and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- Meet at the Tantur Ecumenical Center with Dalia Landau, co-founder of the Open House (another Peace-building Partner of Pilgrims of Ibillin)

Hebron and the area South of Bethlehem:

- Visit Hebron: Ibrahimi Mosque/Synagogue and souk, walk Shuhada Street, visit Christian Peacemaker Teams
- Visit the Tent of Nations, Nassar family farm
- Visit the Cremisan winery; observe nearby expansion of settlements and Wall, and the village of Al Walajeh

- Meet with representatives of the Parents' Circle / Bereaved Families Forum
- Jericho, possible visit to Jesus' baptism site, Qumran Dead Sea Scrolls site, float in the Dead Sea
- Wadi Qelt desert overlook, Good Samaritan view of St. George's Monastery and the road from Jerusalem down to Jericho

Hike in the beautiful Al Makhrour Valley (or free half-day)

- With Usama, Optional three-mile hike through the beautiful Al Makhrour Valley from Beit Jala to Battir
- Those who don't choose to hike will have a free half-day in Bethlehem, with optional activities suggested

May 1: Travel from Bethlehem through the West Bank to Zababdeh for one-night home-stay

- Meet with Abuna Firas Khoury Diab from Zababdeh; hear his stories of the "Living Stones" of Palestine
- Enjoy the hospitality of Zababdeh hosts overnight in a home-stay arranged by Fr. Firas Khoury Diab
- Nablus: Visit the Jacob's Well Church and enjoy a break for Knafeh
- Sebastia: Have lunch at Samaria Restaurant and visit the ancient Roman and biblical archeological sites
- Visit Burqin: the Church of the Ten Lepers; Canaan Fair Trade Olive Collective
- Cross from the West Bank into Israel at the Jalameh checkpoint

May 2-5: Stay in Ibillin at the Guesthouse at the Mar Elias Schools

In Ibillin:

- Visit Mar Elias High School and Mariam Bawardi grade school English classes and Learning Center
- Interact with students on campus – enjoy their excitement and welcome
- Meet with key MEEI leaders: Abuna Elias Chacour, Emil Haloun, Elias Abu Ghanima, English teachers, Guesthouse hosts
- Tour campus including Church of the Sermon on the Mount and the Auditorium with its Reconciliation Mural

Biram and the Sea of Galilee Holy Sites:

- Visit Abuna Chacour's home village of Biram with a native of the village (Toomi Magzal)
- Tabgha – Church of the Loaves and Fishes, Primacy of Peter (also at Tabgha), Capernaum, Mt. of Beatitudes
- Boat ride on Sea of Galilee (in small boats, reminiscent of first century fishing boats)

Nazareth Areas:

- Near Nazareth, visit the destroyed village of Saffuriya with British journalist Jonathan Cook to learn the history of the village, now Zippori moshav, including the little-known Byzantine and Crusader era Church of St. Anne
- In Nazareth, visit Al Tufula Center for Women and Children, and leader, Nabila Espanioly
- Visit and have lunch at the Liwan Cultural Café in Old City of Nazareth
- Visit Sisters of Nazareth Convent and excavations of first century home and church
- Visit Annunciation Churches (Greek Orthodox and Latin Catholic Basilica)

May 6: Depart for home from Tel Aviv; arrive at home airport in the US.

Tour Features and Considerations

Note: This is an active trip that requires walking on uneven surfaces including steps and steep hills, at times for a mile or two and for 1 to 2 hours at a time. Concerned about stamina or abilities? Please consult with tour leader.

PROGRAM FEE OF $2,045/person includes accommodations in comfortable hotel/guesthouse settings based on double occupancy; breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily except several lunches; group transfers between airports and hotels; travel in a comfortable tour bus; sightseeing and entrance fees; tips and taxes; and honoraria to organizations and speakers.

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST: Airfare on group airline ticket (round-trip from Seattle to Tel Aviv and return). Luggage handling at airport and guest houses, single room supplement of $300, 4 lunches, beverages with meals, passport fees, travel insurance, excess baggage, items of a personal nature. If participants choose land-only registration, fee does not include airport transfers other than with the group.

PROGRAM PAYMENTS: **Deposit** of $500/person, payable to Pilgrims of Ibillin, is due immediately to secure registration. To guarantee a spot in the group, register by January 15, 2020. **Final payment** of $1545 is due March 15, 2020. To offer this group cost, we request deposit and final payment by check made out to Pilgrims of Ibillin. If paying by credit card, please add a 2.6% surcharge. *NOTE:* The per person tour costs are based on shared occupancy, land costs and currency valuations as of May 2019, a minimum group size of 15 and are subject to availability and change.

FLIGHT RESERVATIONS: Call or email our travel agent, Debbie Havrilak, at Travel Leaders in Lynnwood, WA to reserve your spot(s) in our group airline reservation from Seattle to Tel Aviv and return. **Travel payment by credit card or check will be made directly to Travel Leaders. Contact Debbie Havrilak:** *800.622.3342*, **or** debbie.havrilak@travelleaders.com.

COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL INSURANCE: Insurance covering baggage, health insurance, and trip cancellation is available through Debbie Havrilak and is *strongly* recommended. Payment must be made to Travel Leaders within 10 days of booking your airfare, or pre-existing conditions will not be covered.

PASSPORT, VISA & VACCINATIONS: U.S. citizens must have a passport valid at least six months after their date of return to the US. Get passport applications at http://www.travel.state.gov/. You will receive your visa at passport control in Tel Aviv. You do not need to apply for it in advance. No vaccinations are required. Non-U.S. citizens are responsible for knowing their own passport and visa requirements; without proper documents entry can be denied at tour member's expense. **Provide a photocopy of your passport to the tour leader before the trip begins.**

REFUND POLICY: If cancellation is received in writing by March 23, 2020, a $200 fee applies plus unrecoverable deposits or air and land service payments. After March 23, a $500 cancellation fee will be deducted from your refund, due to the special contracts for tour features, commitments to other tour members, and the services rendered on behalf of all tour members. All airline tickets for the group will be issued about 90 days before the trip and are nonrefundable. **Comprehensive travel insurance is highly recommended.**

RESPONSIBILITY: Neither Pilgrims of Ibillin nor its employees or agents, nor any other person, party, or entity associated with it shall be liable for any injuries, damages, accidents, expenses, delays, schedule or itinerary changes, damage to person or property, or any other loss or inconvenience arising out of or in connection with any transportation, accommodation, meals, tours, or other services that relate to the travel program or are referred to herein, or that occur during free time the members may have on the tour. Pilgrims of Ibillin reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to make changes in the itinerary whenever changes are warranted or deemed appropriate and withdraw participation of any tour member whose conduct is incompatible with the group. In the ever-changing world situation, Pilgrims of Ibillin recommends personal monitoring of news about Israel/Palestine. For the latest country information and travel warning from the US Dept. of State, visit http://www.travel.state.gov/travel.

***Note:* By signing my registration application, I affirm that I have been advised and am aware of the U.S. State Department Travel Warning to Israel and the West Bank.**

Reservation Form ~ April 23-May 6, 2020

Northwest Coast Presbytery "Living Stones" Pilgrimage

Sponsored by Pilgrims of Ibillin: https://www.pilgrimsofibillin.org/

Co-Leaders: Rev. Joan Deming and Usama Nicola
608-235-1046 ~ jdeming7@gmail.com

To reserve your place in this tour, please print and complete this form.
Mail form with $500/ea. deposit to: Joan Deming, 1541 Comanche Glen, Madison, WI 53704.
Registrations due by January 15, 2020. After 1/15/20, check with tour leader.

Name 1 (as it appears on passport):

_____

Passport # _____

Expiration Date _____

Birth Date _____

Name 1 (as preferred for nametag):

_____

Home phone _____

Cell phone _____

Email _____

Name 2 (as it appears on passport):

_____

Passport # _____

Expiration Date _____

Birth Date _____

Name 2 (as preferred for nametag):

_____

Home phone _____

Cell phone _____

Email _____

Passport copies: Please enclose a clear photocopy or pdf of the photo/signature page of each person's passport.

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Preferred home airport: _____

Room Type: _____ Double Rooming with _____

_____ Single

$300 single supplement (due 3/15/20)

_____ I would like assistance finding a roommate. (An attempt to find a roommate will be made. However, it cannot be guaranteed and the single supplement would apply if none is found.)

Enclosed is my check for $_____$500/person. ***Payment by check, payable to Pilgrims of Ibillin.***
If credit card payment is preferred, please authorize payment of registration fee + 2.6% surcharge per person:

Credit card information (circle card type): Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Card number _____ Expiration date _____

Signature (Name as it appears on the card): _____

Please charge my deposit of: $_____ x (# of registrations) = $_____ (Total Charge)

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

Signature(s): _____ Date _____