



Visit the Mar Elias Educational Institutions, Ibillin, founded by Abuna Elias Chacour

October 14 – 27, 2014

Living Stones Pilgrimage

**Israel/Palestine Listening Tour
sponsored by Pilgrims of Ibillin**

Cost: \$1,750/person program fee, double occupancy
(includes hotel, transportation, tours, tips,
breakfast & dinner daily, most lunches)

Not included: *airfare, beverages with meals,
4 lunches, insurance, personal items

Single Supplement, \$400.00

Leader: Rev. Joan Deming

Pilgrims of Ibillin Executive Director

1541 Comanche Glen, Madison, WI 53704

608-241-9281 ~ jdeming7@gmail.com

Registration Deadline: June 7, 2014

\$500 due with registration; \$1250 due by 9/1/14



Meet the Living Stones of Palestine and Israel



Usama Nicola, left, our Bethlehem-based Tour Planner
Staff member, Wi'am, Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center
and Fr. Firas Khoury Diab, right, our host in Zababdeh



Visit Holy Sites in Galilee, Jerusalem, Bethlehem... and beyond



Living Stones Pilgrimage group visiting Biram

***To make travel arrangements:**

Please call our travel agent to make your airline reservation, starting from your home airport and connecting through JFK in New York. The group will fly together from JFK to TLV.

Contact our travel agent, Cindy Walker, at Travel Leaders in Burlington, WA: 1-800 827-9645,

cindy.walker@travellleaders.com. The sooner you register, the better the airfare cost is likely to be.

Expect \$1280 for the New York-TLV portion, plus your connecting flight using group ticketing. ❖ We also strongly encourage the purchase of travel insurance. All-inclusive insurance at excellent group rates will be quoted by our travel agent at the time you lock in your airline price.



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 Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Zababdeh, and Ibillin. Hear from leaders and organizations in the West Bank and Israel who are seeking a nonviolent path to peace.
- Visit key biblical sites in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and the Galilee (including Nazareth), and learn why the Holy Land is known as “the Fifth Gospel.” Share daily in worship and reflection on all we see and hear.
- Experience Palestinian hospitality, including during a home-stay in Zababdeh.
- Get to know students and leaders at Mar Elias Educational Institutions in Ibillin. Visit with MEEI founder and peace activist Archbishop Elias Chacour (if his schedule permits). With a native of Biram, visit the destroyed village where Abuna Chacour was born and lived until 1948.
- Be equipped to give presentations after returning home. Learn to share the story of new friends – Christians, Muslims, Jews, and Druze – who live with hope and work for peace despite great challenges.

Itinerary

(Note: Minor changes may be made as circumstances require during the pilgrimage.)

Tue., Oct. 14, Fly from home airport to JFK, New York, to meet group. Fly together from JFK to TLV.

Wed., Oct. 15, Arrive in Tel Aviv late afternoon; travel by bus to Bethlehem. Meet host from Wi’am and check in at Holy Land Hotel. Brief orientation, dinner at the hotel, get some rest!

Stay 6 nights at Holy Land Hotel, Bethlehem; Dinner and breakfast provided daily at hotel.

Oct. 15 – Oct. 20

Activities based in Bethlehem will include the following, but the order may be changed:

- Orientation at Wi’am Center about Wi’am’s work and the socio-economic-political situation. Tour Aida Refugee Camp and learn about the separation wall and settlements. Lunch at Wi’am with Aida Camp residents.
- Tour Shepherd’s Field and Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Dinner with guest speaker.
- Visit the Tent of Nations outside Bethlehem and help with olive harvest. Travel to Hebron to see the effect of Israeli settlements in the Old City; walk (and shop in) the souk. Visit the Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs. See traditional

glass-blowing and ceramic factory in Hebron. Return to Bethlehem; free time in Manger Square.

- Worship on Sunday at Christmas Lutheran Church (Pastor Mitri Raheb)
- Visit the dramatic canyon of Wadi Qelt, with a view of St. George's Monastery. Visit Qumran and swim in the Dead Sea.
- Visit Old City of Jerusalem with Palestinian guide. Visit the Dome of the Rock if possible; walk the Via Dolorosa; stop at Ecce Homo Convent (2nd Station of the Cross) to see the Roman cistern and street excavations below; visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre; St. Anne's Church and the pools of Bethesda. Enjoy free time in the Old City. Visit the Mt. of Olives, walk the Palm Sunday path to Dominus Flevit, Garden of Gethsemane, and Church of All Nations.
- Tour the International Center of Bethlehem and Dar al Kalima Schools and Youth Empowerment Center. Meet with Rev. Mitri Raheb or Rana Khoury from Diyar Consortium. Visit Herodium and Solomon's pools.
- Bus to Jerusalem for orientation meetings at B'Tselem or ICAHD.

Oct. 21-22

Visit the upper West Bank, with home-stay for one night in Zababdeh.

Tue., Oct 21 Breakfast, check out of Bethlehem hotel. Visit the UN Human Rights-watch, OCHA in Jerusalem. Drive to Ramallah to meet with students at the Friends' School. Lunch in Ramallah. Visit Seraj Library in a village near Ramallah. Bus to Nablus, visit Jacob's well and the city's famous market and Old City. Bus to Zababdeh for home stays. Dinner and next-day breakfast with host families from St. George's Melkite Catholic Church.

Wed., Oct 22 Zababdeh activities: visit St. George's Melkite Catholic Church and meet with Abuna Firas Khoury Diab; visit soap-making, sewing, and other employment projects. Visit Sebastia's Roman ruins and John the Baptist historical site. Drive to Burqin to see the Church of Ten Lepers and tour Canaan Fair Trade factory to see olive oil processing at this organic cooperative farming venture. Bus through Jalameh checkpoint into Israel and travel to Ibillin. Dinner and orientation to Mar Elias by hosts at MEEI.

Stay four nights in the Guesthouse in the Elementary School at Mar Elias Educational Institutions in Ibillin. Dinner and Breakfast provided daily at the Mar Elias Guesthouse.

Oct 22-26

Activities while based in Galilee will include the following, but the order of these activities may be changed as needed:

- Visit with Mar Elias High School students and teachers and visit Mariam Bawardi Elementary School and Kindergarten classes.
- Meet with Archbishop Elias Chacour (based on his availability)
- Share a dinner in the Guesthouse with Mar Elias students and lead teachers.
- In Nazareth, tour the Greek Orthodox Church and Basilica of Annunciation. Visit the souk or shops.
- Visit the Al Tufula Center for Women and Children in Nazareth and meet with Director and Knesset member Nabila Espanioly.
- Tour the Church of the Sermon on the Mount and the auditorium on the MEEI campus.
- Travel by bus to the Sea of Galilee. Visit the Mount of Beatitudes, Tabgha (Loaves and Fishes Church), the Primacy of Peter, and Capernaum. Take a one-hour ride in Jesus boat on the sea; elective visit to the Jesus boat museum.
- Bus to Biram (possibly worship there) and tour Abuna Elias Chacour's native village with a guide who grew up in Biram. Drive on to stop at Jordan River above the Sea of Galilee. If weather is good, drive into Golan Heights (overlook with view into Syria, or to Druze village). Dinner and evening in Ibillin with Abuna Elias Chacour or other Palestinian Israeli guests.

Sun., Oct. 26 Share in closing worship in the Church of the Sermon on the Mount at MEEI. Leave Ibillin to drive (possibly through Haifa) to Caesarea on the Mediterranean. Eat box lunches, see the Roman aquaduct and enjoy the beach. Continue to The Open House. Visit with Dalia Landau and leaders of The Open House in Ramle. Share Dinner from a local Ramle restaurant with Dalia and Open House leaders. Bus to Ben Gurion airport to begin security check for flight home.

Mon., Oct 27 Fly from Tel Aviv (leaving just after midnight) to JFK airport in New York and on home.

Tour Features and Considerations

Note: *This program requires walking on uneven surfaces including steps and inclines, at times for significant distances and for 1-2 hours at a time. If you have concerns about your abilities, please consult with the tour leader.*

TOUR FEE OF \$1750/PERSON includes accommodations based on double occupancy, breakfast and dinner daily except for dinner the last day, transfers between airports and hotels and travel in a comfortable tour bus, sightseeing and entrance fees, tips and taxes, and honoraria to organizations and speakers.

PAYMENT: Deposit of \$500, payable to Pilgrims of Ibillin, is due immediately to secure registration. Registration deadline: June 7, 2014. Final payment of \$1250 due September 1, 2014. To offer this group cost, we request deposit and final payment by check. Tour payment can also be made by credit card *if* surcharges of \$14 for each registration and \$30 for each balance are added.

PLEASE NOTE: The per person tour costs are based on shared occupancy, land costs and currency valuations as of January 2014, a minimum group size of 20, and are subject to availability and change.

FLIGHT RESERVATIONS: The flight from JFK airport in New York to TLV Ben Gurion Airport & return will cost about \$1280. Your connecting flight from your home airport will be an additional cost and will be quoted within a week of receiving your registration. **The sooner you sign up, the lower your total airfare will likely be! Travel payment by credit card or check will be made directly to our travel agency: Travel Leaders in Burlington, WA. Payment due date: June 7, 2014.**

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST: Luggage handling at Tel Aviv airport and guest houses, single room supplement of \$400, 4 lunches, beverages with meals, passport fees, insurance, excess baggage, items of a personal nature. If participants choose land-only registration, fee does not include arrival or departure transfers if other than with group.

PASSPORT, VISA & VACCINATIONS U.S. citizens need a passport valid at least six months beyond the tour return date. Get Passport applications at <http://www.travel.state.gov>.

No vaccinations are required. Non U.S. citizens are responsible for their own passport and visa requirements; without proper documents entry can be denied at tour member's expense.

OPTIONAL INSURANCE Optional insurance for baggage, health and trip cancellation is available and strongly recommended; an application is provided at time of registration. Call Cindy Walker at Travel Leaders for further information (800-827-9645).

REFUND POLICY Cancellations received in writing by September 1, 2014, a \$100 fee applies plus unrecoverable deposits or air and land service payments. After September 1, 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. Airline tickets are issued in advance and are nonrefundable. Optional 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 responsible or 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>. 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
“Living Stones” Pilgrimage ~ October 14 - 27, 2014

Sponsored by Pilgrims of Ibillin <http://www.pilgrimsofibilin.org>

Led by Rev. Joan Deming ~ Pilgrims of Ibillin Executive Director

1541 Comanche Glen, Madison, WI 53704 ~ 608-241-9281 ~ jdeming7@gmail.com

To be assured of reservations, please print and complete this form, and mail along with your deposit of \$500 per person to: 1541 Comanche Glen, Madison, WI 53704.

Name 1 (as it appears on passport):

Name 2 (as it appears on passport):

Passport # _____

Passport # _____

Expiration date _____

Expiration date _____

Preferred home airport for my connecting flight to JFK: _____

You will be contacted within a week with a quote for total airfare from your home airport through New York to Tel Aviv.

Name 1 (as preferred for name badge)

Name 2 (as preferred for name badge)

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: (evening) _____ (days) _____ (cell) _____

Email 1: _____ Email 2: _____

Birthdate 1: _____ Birthdate 2: _____

Passport Copies: Please enclose a clear photocopy of the photo/signature page of your passport.

Room Type: _____ Double

Rooming with: _____

_____ Single

\$400 single supplement

_____ I would like assistance in finding a roommate.
(An attempt to find a roommate will be made; however, it cannot be guaranteed and the single supplement would apply.)

_____ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$500/person) Make check payable to *Pilgrims of Ibillin*.

_____ Please charge my credit card as follows:

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

Card Number _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature (name as it appears on the card) _____

Please Charge my deposit of:

\$514 (Reg. + card processing fee)* X _____ # registrations = \$ _____ Total Charge

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

Signature(s): _____ Date _____