

## TOUR REPORT PART 2 – ISRAEL 2010

We began our tour of Israel in Tel Aviv, staying at Gilgal, the hotel run by Jacob Damkani's "Trumpet of Salvation" ministries. It is exciting to see how God has blessed them, since they began literally with tents in their back yard for teams of people from the nations who desired to reach Israelis with the gospel. From Tel Aviv we visited the ancient port city of Jaffa (pictured), from where Jonah set out and Peter received his vision of the sheet from Heaven (Acts 10:9-23) which he understood to mean that God wanted the gospel to go to the Gentiles also. We also visited Caesaria Maritima where Peter went to the house of Cornelius and the first Gentiles received the Lord and were baptized in the Holy Spirit and with water (Acts 10:24-48). We saw Herod's palace where Paul (pictured) was tried and the fort where he was imprisoned. Caesaria has an amazing amphitheatre (pictured) which is still used today.



We travelled to Ariel to visit David Leah Ortiz (pictured), and were inspired by what they had been through with their son Ami's ordeal and how God had used this in their personal lives and to give them a platform to further preach the gospel. Their courage in the face of adversity was amazing. They have brought many muslims to faith in Jesus. We also went to the very top of Mt Carmel to visit the Mt Carmel Assembly (pictured) and spent a little time with David Davis. Karen was in USA as her father had passed away a few days before.



In Nazareth village we saw how the ancient crafts were done at the time of Jesus (carpenter's shop picture 1), before moving on to the Sea of Galilee where we had a boat ride (picture 2, visited Capernaum (synagogue picture 3), the Mount of Beatitudes and the lovely church which remembers where Jesus had breakfast with Peter after his resurrection. At night we had a great time of fellowship with Carolyn and Richard Hyde (JPF page 15) and Ps Eliav and his wife (JPF page 30 – all picture 4). The next day we went to the Jordan River and

many in our group were baptized (picture 5) then we went to the springs where Gideon chose his 300 men (picture 6).



We dropped in to the Jerusalem House of Prayer for all Nations at Bethphage before we finally arrived in Jerusalem. After the open heaven over the house of prayer the spiritual oppression in Jerusalem was a shock. God placed us in Australia's our own Bethany Gateway just across the Kidron valley from the Temple Mount. It look us a night of spiritual warfare to break through but we felt a significant release both for us as a group and also for Australia. We visited the Mt of Olives (picture of Jerusalem from the Mount), Garden of Gethsemane, David's city (where some braved the underground walk through Hezekiah's tunnel), Temple Institute where they are preparing items for the next temple, and the Western wall (picture). It was a special honour for our disabled participant to be able to be driven into the Wall plaza, given a wheelchair and taken down to pray at the wall. The next day we visited the holocaust memorial at Yad Vashem, the last supper room and the Garden tomb (picture), where we discovered the muslims are expanding their cemetery above the garden to the very edge, endangering a collapse. At night we were blessed with a visit from Ethiopian Pastor Tal (JPF page 28) and to also catch up with Pamela Suran at the Garden Tomb.



From there we went to the Dead Sea and called in Qumran (picture), where the Dead Sea scrolls were found and the Essene community lived, before enjoying a mud bath and float in the Dead Sea (picture). We were also able to hike up the Ein Gedi valley and dip in the

springs where David hid from Saul (picture). This is a nature park and has many ibex (picture) and other native animals. Our last port of call for the day was Masada (picture), where the last stand was made of the second Jewish revolt in 135AD.



Our tour ended in Beersheva where we were treated to a special day guided by Ezra Pimentel who was a former President of the local Society for the Heritage of World War 1 in Israel who took us to all the ANZAC sites. We went to see Chauvel's hill (picture 1) from where the ANZACs began their momentous charge that changed history, the Turkish trenches (picture 2) and a local collection of WW1 tanks and guns, as well as the British cemetery (picture 3) where the ANZACs are buried and Tel Sheva, the hill of the ancient city of Abraham (picture 4), which has a fantastic view of the whole area. We participated in a Shabbat service at Howard Bass's congregation, met up with Barbara and Norman Miller's group, went to the commemoration at the Park of the Australian Soldier (picture 5), and the official service at the cemetery for 93<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Charge. Randi Bass has put together a small ANZAC exhibition at the Bible House to raise awareness and interest in the ANZAC history in Beersheva. We are grateful for her great efforts. I was also able to meet with Leah Katzenell (on several city council committees), her sister Malka Reisner (secretary to the mayor), Gal Greenberg (tourism minister), and Ishay Avital (international relations minister in the Beersheva Council) in regards to our plan to get a museum to the ANZACs set up in Beersheva. This is a vision that the Lord has given and we need a breakthrough to see that eventuate. I am waiting to hear back from the mayor. They are considering giving us the Station Master's building (pictured) for the museum.



Jill Curry November 2010