

Standing with Israel 2009

Australian tour testimonies



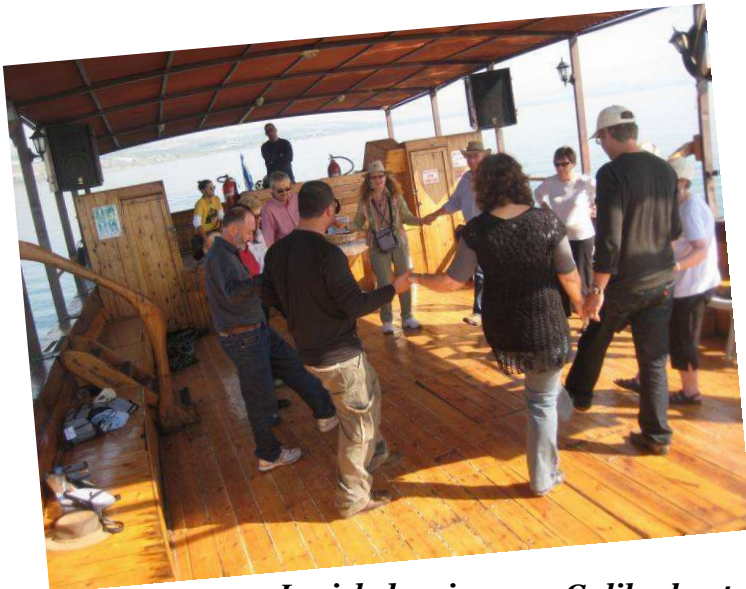
Andrea visited Israel in 2006, but Mark has been waiting many years to visit the Holy Land, and the BFP '09 tour was an excellent way to do it - combining action packed biblical adventure with an understanding of how the Jewish people live today.

The diverse nature of the tour made every day different including floating on the Dead Sea (*left*), camping in the Negev, visiting historic sites around Galilee, Jerusalem and the Temple Mount (to name but a few).

The Israeli food flowed in abundance and the people were wonderful. A highlight was the final 3 days where we stayed with an Israeli family and worked on a local school project.

It's going to take a little while for the experience to sink in, however we're already starting to read the Bible together in a new context. Thanks greatly to the BFP team for a well planned trip and life changing experience.

Mark & Andrea Leckenby



Jewish dancing on a Galilee boat



Special needs class at Adayahu School

The tour in November was a wonderful experience and insight into how Bridges for Peace serves the people of Israel by their love for them (*right*).

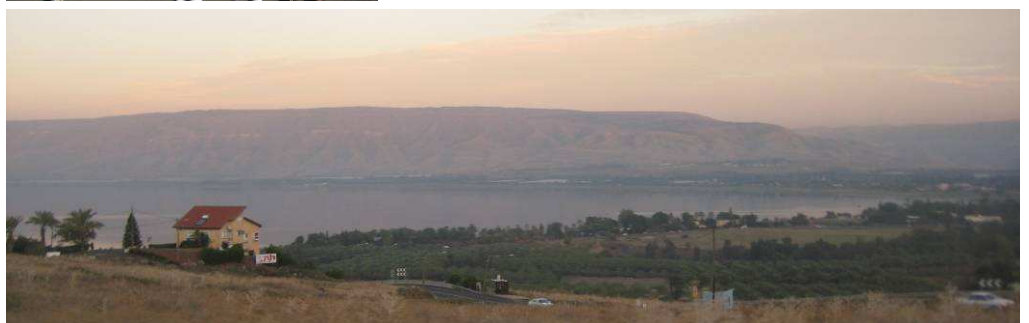
Our tour took us from the busy streets of Tel Aviv to the beauty of the Judean desert and to the Sea of Galilee (*right*).

The experience of staying with a Jewish family has provided memories that will stay with me always.

Terry Allingham



Outside the BFP Jerusalem Outreach Centre, and inside the Karmiel Centre





View of Masada from our tour bus



Exploring the Old City markets in Jerusalem

We are finding difficulty to nominate highlights of the tour. Each day brought something new, interesting and exciting. The tour guide freely shared with us a great variety of information and insights into this land: its history, archaeology, people and biblical heritage.

Unity and friendship within our BFP tour group were a source of support to each one of us.

We travelled from the Dead Sea and Be'er-sheva in the south to Galilee, the Golan Heights and the Syrian border in the north. We stayed in a Bedouin oasis camp, 4-star hotels and holiday units by the Sea of Galilee.

We walked and talked around biblical sites, hiked along streams and waterfalls, explored caves and tunnels.

We were surprised by the anointing of Adonai's Spirit present at the Western Wall which we visited on Shabbat evening and at other opportunities.

Working with kids at the school in Beit Shemesh and staying with our host family was a deeply rewarding and enriching experience.

The warmth and friendship of the Israeli people is a heart experience not to be missed!

Kerynne and Kate Forrest

My favourite event of the tour? I would have to say that Masada impressed me the most, although I was moved by all the events surrounding the 92nd anniversary of the charge of the Australian Light Horse.

On the spiritual side, all of the sites connected with our Lord were awe-inspiring and very moving.

Thank you for a memorable trip - the best tour that I have ever been on.

David Manning

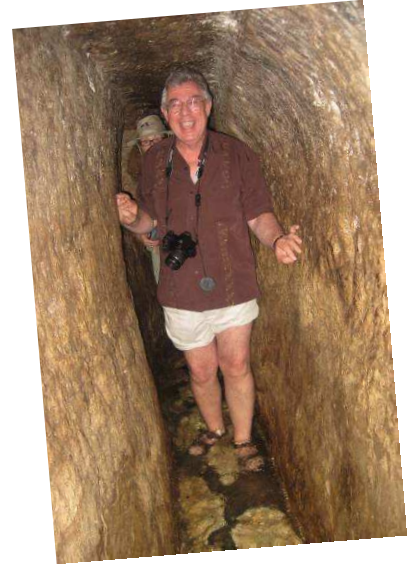
Qumran was a real eye opener. The Sea of Galilee area was chock full of history and beauty.

And then the deadness of the wilderness and the mountainous topography...

Jerusalem really topped the tour off with a mountain of facts, figures and complexities - I feel very emotional about it.

The small group of lovely co-travellers, Tom [Brimmer] the encyclopedia and Waleed with his bus have impacted me big time! Many thanks.

Carol Manning



David in Hezekiah's Tunnel



Kerynne assists in Kate's baptism in the Jordan



The Golden Menorah (intended for the Third Temple) in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem



View over Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives for our tour group

My trip through Israel changed my mental picture of events I have read about in the Bible. Seeing where Jesus was when the things written about occurred was of great interest to me.

The Lord gave me revelation at several of the sites which really gave me an experience beyond the normal tourist look-and-see which occurs in other countries.

Peter Kyle



The Holy Land is a place like no other where the Bible comes alive. Just to see where Jesus lived, taught and walked was incredible. The Lord gave me several revelations during my time here!

We managed to see and do so much in 24 hours, making the most of every minute! We were blessed to have a small group which created more flexibility, and there was great unity between us.

The outstanding sites were the Western Wall, where the Lord's presence was amazing, plus Caesarea, Masada... in fact, it is very difficult to choose as it was wonderful to see and learn so much.

It was great to meet and mix with Jewish people and understand more about their ways and lives.

This is a trip that has helped me to know the Lord in a deeper way - never to be the same.

Judy Kyle



Peter by bunkers near the Lebanese border



Judy Kyle with young girls at Levine School

Enjoying a restful break after hiking to one of the En Gedi waterfalls



...and enjoying a refreshing pomegranate juice in the Old City



Tree planting at Golani Junction in the Galilee



Worship on a boat on the Sea of Galilee



Tour group about to visit Capernaum

Sights - sounds - smells - emotions - laughing - crying - singing - dancing - praying at the Western Wall - walking over Masada - shopping - eating, eating, eating - boating on the Sea of Galilee - the presence of the Lord - praying, dancing, singing - eating - sleeping in a Bedouin tent!

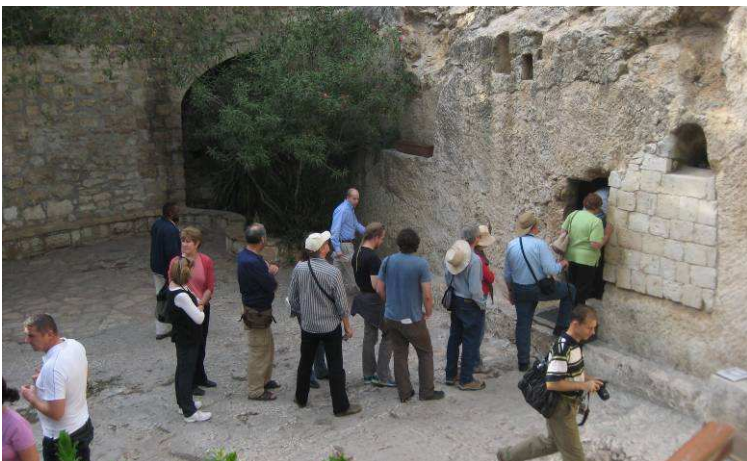
My interest in all things Israeli has become a passion. The people whom God loves dearly need our prayers, our help and our love.

Come to Israel and prepare to be changed. Shalom.

Helen Abbott



Bargains everywhere!



The Garden Tomb



Reviewing our school sculpture and painting projects (left)



Yad Vashem - Holocaust Memorial



With the Aussie ambassador at Beit Shemesh (below)





Carol & David dismount elegantly from a camel!



Tour group members outside Bridges for Peace Headquarters in Jerusalem



Andrea & Mark in the Park of the Australian Soldier in Be'er-sheva

*Will you pray about joining us on tour in 2010 ?
Provisional dates are 29 October to 16 November,
with the possibility of a 4-day pre-tour to Poland
Call us now on 1800 000661*



Elijah statue on Mount Carmel



With Ethiopian kids at an absorption centre



Western Wall



Overlooking Armageddon Valley



Temple Mount