

## **Our Trip to the Holy Land**

Missy and Tom Browder

January 1980



## EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED

Date Jan. 23, 1980

Place to Israel

Highlights Tel Aviv

Miss Wing arrived at 4:45 A.M.

We were on the road to Luton Airport by 5:05 - arriving here at 6:45. Our bags orders & I.D. were accepted. After a thorough search we are now awaiting our flight which is supposed to leave at 8:45. Choice of vegetarian meal. We were late leaving (9:59) because a plane ahead of us slipped off an icy runway.

Arriving Tel Aviv - 2:41. (4:31 local time)

Uncrowded airport - met by our Thompson Guide, Tamir. There are only 5 of us on the tour! We're staying at the <sup>6</sup> Sheraton Hotel "highest building between Milan and Tokyo" - quite nice.

## EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED

Date After getting settled in our rooms  
Place we met Tamin for Issawi wine  
Highlights and discussion of our tour  
which has been changed around a  
little. The other members of our  
group are Evelyn and her son Mike  
from Wales and Jean - from Sunderland,  
U.K. For dinner we had beef, carrots,  
something like hominy red cabbage,  
fruit for dessert and good water!  
Our hotel is only one block away  
from the Mediterranean - we  
took a walk there after dinner -  
~~two armed guards were patrolling~~  
~~the beach. We plan to go~~  
~~back in the morning - Tamin~~  
~~said some swimmers brave the~~  
~~cold water every morning.~~

## EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED

Date

Jan. 24, 1980

Place

Tel Aviv

Highlights

We awoke (5:00 A.M.) to the sound of pouring down rain - not a surprise, since this is the rainy season - also very windy. Breakfast was a real experience - cucumbers, tomatoes, good bread that looked like small french loaves and 3 different kinds of cheeses.

After breakfast and a quick walk to the beach we were introduced by Hamil to our driver and guide "Yohav". We drove around Tel Aviv and Jaffa. Stopping to take a look around the restored old part of Jaffa - a part since ancient times. Tel Aviv was built for the Jewish people (the

With only 5 we are getting the V.I.P.  
feels like a touring car /  
Mercedes /

## EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED

Date Crabs being in Jaffa - and due  
Place To lack of careful planning the  
Highlights city is. Now suffering the  
consequences. Sewage is one problem -  
the beach at Tel Aviv is polluted.

We next drove to Caesarea  
(via Netanya - where we visited a diamond  
factory) where we saw the ruins of  
a fortress - the original built by King  
Herod - then later rebuilt by various  
crusaders. St. Peter was imprisoned  
there at one time. We ate lunch at  
a restaurant just below the minster  
on the sea. I had delicious cheese  
blintzes containing raisins and  
served with sour cream. We were  
taunted on off and on all day long.  
We next visited a fruit packing

## EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED

Date Plant - coming away with "Jaffa"

Place oranges and grape fruit. On so

Highlights Nazareth and the Church of the Annunciation - built over the supposed

spot where Mary learned she was to give birth to the Christ child. Another

church was built over the grotto

where Mary and Joseph supposedly lived and had his shop. The guide

here was not very good - we were told his services were already paid for and there was no need to tip him - but

he had no qualms about asking for money - no one gave it. We enjoyed a

cup of cappuchino at a cafe - then

on so Tiberius passing through Canaan

(water to wine) on the way - we saw

the spot in the Jordan River just

## EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED

Date past where it is fed by the Sea  
Place of Galilee, where many are  
Highlights Baptised. The place where Jesus  
was baptised was nearer Jerico - but  
the bombing of tourists in 1970 -  
Monks buried alive - have prevented  
people from going there. May do be  
Baptised; even though the land is owned  
by Israel.\*

We are spending tonight (and  
tomorrow night) at the Galan Hotel  
in Tibruis. A big evening meal -  
but nothing particularly outstanding -  
a good potato kugel served as appetizer.  
Tom and I took a short walk around  
after dinner.

\* The sea of Galilee is a beautiful  
and breathtaking sight. It is easy to imagine  
Jesus and his disciples here -

## EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED

Friday

Date Jan. 25, 1980 (Golan Hotel)

Place Tiberias - excursion to Upper Galilee &amp; Golan Heights

Highlights - We drove through Qiryat Shemona -

In 1967 there was a massacre here - the Syrians came down a dry river bed to the school - they waited there to take children hostages but when more came, because of a holiday - they crossed the street and killed women and children in the apartment building. The Syrian border is only 1 mile from the village. Since this time a guard is on duty at the front door of the school and a platoon of soldiers is stationed just outside the village for its protection.

Next we went to Metulla - the Good fence - the border between Lebanon and Israel. We were stopped by guard before entering Metulla - barbed wire all around. At another point, before this,

## EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED

Date tank transports, troops, personnel

Place carriers (They are able to mobilize)

Highlights the whole country to arms in 7 or 8 hours. Passed through to Damascus. Road was blocked by boulders - border into Syria buffer zone. Saw town of Lunietta - belongs to Syria (saw Syrian flag) former HQ of PLO - town looked deserted. Saw many razed villages - Arab + Jewish. Memorials to Israeli dead fall over - built by friends of the dead. Crossed Jordan River - ruined Syrian custom house on east side. Ate lunch at Kibbutz HaShahar (Kibbutz) - one of the oldest in Israel (55 yrs) beautiful grounds (especially park & playground). Passed Mount of Beatitudes - visited Church of Multiplication of Loaves & Fishes.

## EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED

Date - Missy was not impressed. She thinks  
Place they should not build shacks  
Highlights on these sacked sites. Saw  
St. Peter's house in Capernaum - near  
spot on Sea of Galilee where Jesus  
stood on the shore. There is another  
shack next a stone stair where Jesus  
was supposed to have stood.

On way down from Golan heights we  
passed many <sup>Syrian</sup> mine fields - that are still  
off limits because the mines have not  
been removed. Our guide was shocked to  
see some horses wandering around in one.

## EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED

Date We were stopped by soldiers -

Place A busload of Arabs were waiting

Highlights alongside the road while their bus  
was searched.

We crossed 3 sources of the Jordan -  
took pictures of 2.

Next we went to the Golan Heights and  
saw the site of one of the bloodiest  
battles of the War of '67. We went in one  
of the Syrian fortifications - was built  
like the Maginot line - permanent,  
heavy-duty fortifications. According to  
how they were built with Russian  
advice and after Israelis took over this  
place - Western army officials come  
to study the fortifications.

We drove along Syrian/Israeli border -  
We saw much evidence of reinforcements  
being sent to the Golan Heights -

## EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED

Date

Jan. 26 - Saturday

Place

Tiberius - Acre - Haifa

Highlights

Zefat - old site of Jewish mystics.  
 Now a thriving art colony and summer  
 resort - high in the mountains - very cool.  
 Passed a memorial to a famous Jew who  
 took revenge for an Arab massacre of  
 a bus load of Jews by deploying in kind  
 to a bus load of Arabs. The British  
 hung him - I guess they didn't hang Arabs.  
 Passed Ramatamiel - one of Israel's new  
 planned cities only 16 yrs. old. Land & houses  
 are subsidized to attract new residents.  
 ate lunch in Tecco (Acre) and visited a  
 museum in old Crusader fortress. Escaped  
 through a fascinating maze of tunnels  
 used as a secret means of escape.  
 Saw a couple of old inns being  
 converted into restaurants.

1  
Um Gere - Museum next to fortress - we saw a 4,000 yr-old urn!  
This museum was a Turkish bath house -  
part of Exodus filmed here.

## EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED

12

Date Visited. Turks built forts on  
Place top of Crusader forts. Visited  
Highlights Old Turkish bath house which  
is now part of museum. Came to  
Haifa and saw Technion (Israel's  
Institute of Technology) - a beautiful  
campus with many schools of  
engineering. Forgot! → started  
the day with a visit to ~~a~~ church  
on Mount of Beatitudes - beautiful  
grounds - pretty church - built by  
Il Duce (Mussolini) in 1935,  
imaged by variety of flora in  
Israel - beautiful cacti, succulents,  
all kinds of trees, oranges, etc.,  
everywhere.  
We were joined by 4 Canadian army  
troops ~~serving~~ on the U.N. peacekeeping  
force on the Israeli-Syrian Jordanian border.  
Now we are traveling by mini-bus -  
New e. Nile.

Before leaving Haifa: Temple of Bahai Faith - beautiful gardens overlooking Haifa - clean waterfront & industrial section - Navy memorial to smuggling of refugees to Israel  
**EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED**

13

Date Jan. 27, 1980 - Sunday

Place Haifa - Jezreel Valley - Jericho, Jerusalem

Highlights Mt. Carmel - Elijah & priests of Baal.

Jezreel (Yizrael) Valley - food basket of Israel - one of main trade routes in ancient world - extensive remains of narrow gauge railway built by Turks - last used in 1948 - most of it stripped up to use in fortifications for 1967 war.

Megiddo (Armageddon) - remains of Solomon's fortress.

MT. Tabor (Mount of Transfiguration), Yemenite

settlements - people brought in as primitives - tried to build fire on float of Boeing 707 to cook food - they were carried back to Israel on the wings of eagles as foretold by OT prophets - given poorest land - making it a success - very spicy diet - no heart disease. MT. Gilboa - Saul defeated by Philistines - committed suicide. Bet She'an - Saul's body hung on city walls.

## EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED

Date Down Jordan Valley along by current  
 Place Jordanian border - several checkpoints  
 Highlights - many fortifications. Open  
 bridge for civilians - must be checked  
 for arms/explosives - valley all green  
 because of decent dam - several abandoned  
 refugee camps - Missy saw out first camp  
 - saw ruins of one of Herod's fortresses -  
 many ruins all over country. Arab children  
 and women working in fields, tending sheep -  
 men living easy - no education required  
 at desired. Jericho - ancient fortress palms  
 uncovered 7000-9000 yrs old - oldest city in  
 the world. Mt of Temptation - Bedouin  
 camps - living just as Abram did. Site  
 of Jesus' baptism on Jordan River not open to  
 anyone now due to decent massacre of priests  
 by PLO. Entry into Jerusalem - Bethany

## EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED

Date site of Lazarus rising from dead. Slopes  
Place of Mt. of Olives - Orthodox Jews pay much  
Highlights to be buried here - believe resurrection  
will take place here. Jerusalem walls  
look same as 2000 yrs. ago - new excavations  
at foot less than 3 yrs. old - new bldgs  
must be built of Jerusalem stone. Site  
of David's tomb & death (sleep) of Mary.  
Short drive around city - visited museum/  
memorial/gave of millions from Holocaust.

## EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED

Date

Jan. 28, 1980

Place

Jerusalem

Highlights

After a good breakfast with warm hard-boiled eggs, various cheeses, olives, bread, tomato cucumber - we set out for the day tour of Jerusalem and Bethlehem. First thing, we went to a high point overlooking the city. For #1 I had a ride on a camel - quite an experience - you have to hold on tight to avoid sliding off the front when he gets up - camels don't smell very good! The man with the camel was on the front of Time Magazine with Henry Kissinger a few years ago, according to Yehau.

<sup>Tom liked this church -  
very simple</sup>

Next we visited a church built on the site where Mary and her parents lived - a short walk from there were

## EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED

Date - The pools of Bethesda where Jesus healed

Place - The crippled man.

Highlights Next we went to the Garden of Gethsemane - olive trees here are over 2000 yrs. old. A church there (which I liked - windows of purple stained glass) was built over the spot where Jesus prayed and was betrayed by Judas.

We visited the church built where Mary died.<sup>2</sup>

We walked the Via Dolorosa - <sup>Antonia</sup> fortress. A man showed us the places Jesus was condemned to death - the Roman courtyard. We continued to walk through the old city - looking much as it did in Jesus day. Stations 10 to 14 in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre - To us the place outside the city was more likely the place of crucifixion and burial.

## EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED

brought Nativity scene here

Date This Church of the Holy Sep. -  
Place Was much too gaudy for  
Highlights our taste.

We ate at the Jerusalem Hotel and then to Bethlehem and Manger Square in the afternoon - wherever you go - there are guards. All agree on this place as the birth place of Jesus. After lunch & visit to olive wood factory before Bethlehem we visited the Garden Tomb - popular site of Jesus' Crucifixion, Burial & Resurrection. Very moving testimony by guide who is a member of the staff of the British organization that owns & maintains the site. Archaeological facts point to this place Bethlehem was OK. Saw spot where

## EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED

Date Christ was born & manager where site of  
Place He lay. Greek Orthodox priests  
Highlights control the area and it's jazzed up too much with tinsel, candles, incense, etc. Missy got the feeling that the site is genuine regardless of the trappings.  
The bus dropped us out to do some shopping on Jaffa (Yafe) st.

## EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED

Date

Jan. 29, 1980

Place

Masada, Dead Sea

Highlights

A short drive out of the city and we were at the Dead Sea - Much warmer here than in Jerusalem - but in the summer the heat here is unbearable - 10 min. is the maximum time one can stay out at midday. We passed Qumran - the site where the Dead Sea scrolls were found by a shepherd boy - dated from 60 to 100 A.D. We passed a kibbutz where - the minerals are taken from the evaporation pools. We visited Masada - fortress built by Herod - in 60 A.D.

Soldiers go here for a special service now and take  
an oath "Masada will never fall again." 21

EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED

Date the last holdouts in the Jewish  
Place Revolt (Zealots). We took  
Highlights the cable car to the top -  
a vertical rise of approximately 1000 ft.  
(<sup>distance</sup>  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile) - about 3 min. to make the trip.  
Ruins are very well preserved (see book).  
We had lunch at a cafeteria by the Dead  
Sea - then down the road a couple of  
miles to the resort to swim. The  
group from the U.N., Evelyn and I  
were the only ones to brave it - Quite  
an experience - you're completely buoyant -  
feel like a piece of driftwood - I wouldn't  
have missed it for anything! We spent  
15 min in the sulphur pools after the  
swim in the sea - wonderful, warm water -  
people come here for its healing properties -  
could have had a mud bath - I'm not sure  
what the benefit of that is! (Remember European bather!!!)

## EVENTS AND PLACES VISITED

Date — We returned to Jerusalem —  
Place — to the old city - saying goodby.  
Highlights — to the Canadian, Tom and  
Solomon. The four of us - Mike,  
Evelyn, Tom and I finished up  
most of our shopping and took  
a bus back to the Motel (7 a person).

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