

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 ⁶ Sheraton Hotel "highest building between Milan and Tokyo" - quite nice.

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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.~~

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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 /

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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

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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 -

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Friday

Date Jan. 25, 1980 (Golan Hotel)

Place Tiberias - excursion to Upper Galilee & 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.

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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 ^{Syrian} 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 -

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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.

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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
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Date Jan. 27, 1980 - Sunday

Place Haifa - Jezreel Valley - Jericho, Jerusalem

Highlights Mt. Carmel - Elika & 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.

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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

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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.²

We walked the Via Dolorosa - ^{Antonia}
A man showed us the places Jesus was ^{Fortress}
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.

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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

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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

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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.
(^{distance} $\frac{1}{2}$ 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!!!)

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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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