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**Dear Friend in Christ,**

**Please review the following information which will help you to prepare you for our 2018 pilgrimage to the Holy Land:**

Recommended books to read (available on Amazon):

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| In the Steps of Jesus by Peter Walker  How to Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus by Hela Crown-Tamir  The Source by James Michener  Killing Jesus by Bill O’Reilly (Provides historical versus theological perspective)  **Weather:**   Temperatures typically average 60 plus degrees during the day. Plan to bring clothing that you can “layer” so that you can easily adapt to the temperature each day.  **Dress:** Plan to dress casual and comfortable (jeans, slacks, etc.). Ladies there is no need to bring dresses or skirts unless that is your personal preference.  Make sure to wear comfortable shoes.  Glorianne and I like to keep our “stuff" in a backpack which can be left on our bus.  If you have low blood sugar you may want pack nuts and other sources of protein.  Bottled water is available on our travel coach throughout the day.  **Prescriptions:** If you use prescription medications and/or over the counter drugs it's important that you bring them with you and keep them in your carryon piece of luggage along with a change of clothes in the event your luggage doesn't arrive with you in Tel Aviv (this has never happened to anyone on our pilgrimages but we want you to be prepared).    **Rest on the Plane:** We would encourage you to bring ear plugs to help you rest on the plane if you are sensitive to noise.  If you have a regular schedule for drinking caffeinated coffee or tea you may want to decaffeinate prior to leaving until you are back into a normal routine after we arrive in the Holy Land.     **Restroom Breaks:** We take frequent restroom breaks. Be assured that every effort is made to make sure everyone is comfortable at all times.     **Meals:** We leave our hotel each day around 8 a.m. following a delicious buffet breakfast (included).  We stop for lunch around 1 p.m. (lunches not included in your package average around $15 per day).  One restaurant we visit offers you an option of ordering St. Peters Fish which costs in the $25 range). We return to our hotel every evening to enjoy a delicious buffet dinner offering a wide variety of delicious Mediterranean foods. Alcoholic beverages are available at dinner, but not included in your pilgrimage package. You can bill them to your room or pay your server at the end of your meal.  **Gratuity’s:** Gratuities are included in your pilgrimage package.  **Love Offering:** *Imagine Travel* compensates our guide and driver for their services. You will have the opportunity to participate in a *freewill love offering* at the end of our pilgrimage to further bless our guide and driver. Envelopes will be placed on tables at breakfast and dinner on the day before we depart for home. Financial gifts are then presented to our guide and driver with a card at our farewell dinner celebration.   **Credit Cards:** U.S. Currency and credit cards are received in the places we will visit. We recommend that you contact your credit card companies to let them know the dates you will be traveling in the Holy Land.  **Electronic Adapters:** Two Prong Chargers for converting from 220 to 110 volts are used in Israel. You can purchase them at most electronic stores. They are also available on Amazon, etc.  **Cell Phone:** Wi-Fi is available in our hotels and on the bus. For international cell service please consult with your cell phone provider.  **Baggage:** We recommend that passengers always double check with the airlines they are flying on as they reserve the right to change their baggage allowance.  There is an allowance of one checked bag which can be up to 90cm x 75cm x 43cm (35.5in x 29.5in x 16in) – including any bits that stick out, like the handle, pockets and wheels.  These can weigh up to 51 lbs.  **The Transportation Security Administration has a 3-1-1 rule you can use to help you remember what you can bring in *your carry-on luggage* onboard an aircraft.**  3 – Liquids, gels, and lotions must be in a container that is 3.4 ounces (100ml) or less (by volume).  1 – Your items should fit into a 1-quart clear, plastic, zip top bag.  1 – Each passenger is allowed one carryon bag. This must be taken out of your carry-on luggage, and placed on a bin to pass through the screening machine. Listed below are items you are encouraged to take. Wear the bulkier and heavier things on the plane to help keep your suitcase weight down.  **BACKPACK/CARRY ON LUGGAGE for the Plane**  Passport (make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months after you leave Israel) Security pouch (these are convenient to wear around your waist) Wallet with cash Prescription Medications Toiletries (must be 3 oz. or less and fit in a quart bag] An extra shirt, underwear, socks  Extra glasses (if you wear them) Bible, Journal and pens Book for reading Camera I-Pad  Cell Phone Electronic Adapters (Two Prong Converter Adapter from 220 to 110 Volts used in Israel) Snacks   |  | | --- | | **RECOMMENDED LADIES LIST**  5 Shirts  5 Pants 3 Tank Tops for Layering 2 sweaters 1 Lightweight Coat (wear onto plane) Lightweight Thermal Vest A Few Silk Scarves for Warmth and Color Cheap Jewelry Underwear and Socks PJ's Bathing Suit and Cover-up Hat / Gloves  3 Pairs of Shoes (1 pair flats for the evening) Sunglasses Umbrella  Extra glasses (if you wear them) Bible, Journal and pens Camera Umbrella (small and collapsible)  Sunscreen |   **RECOMMENDED MEN’S LIST**  5 Shirts; 2 Long Sleeved, 3 Short 5 T-Shirts  3 Pants  2 Sweaters Underwear and Socks 1 Light Weight Coat (wear onto plane) Long Sleeved Windbreaker  Lightweight Thermal Vest  Cap / Scarf / Gloves PJ's 2 Pairs of Comfortable Walking Shoes Bathing Suit Flip Flops Sunglasses Umbrella (recommend small collapsible style) Additional Electronic Converters  Sunscreen  Umbrella (small and collapsible)  Extra glasses (if you wear them) Bible, Journal and pens Camera  Sunscreen |

**The following are a few testimonials from those who have joined us for our past pilgrimages to the Holy Land:**

*“I did not know what to expect before making this pilgrimage since I had heard so many differing experiences from others who have gone to the Holy Land.  So, I went with no expectations and prayed that God would meet me in a new way!  And He did just that.  I can honestly say that I am changed because of having made this pilgrimage.  Being in the places of the Bible and seeing what Jesus saw, walking where He walked and standing at the exact places where He performed miracles has opened the eyes of my understanding of His Word. He has given me a new hunger and thirst to rush to Him first thing in the morning.  His word has come alive for me!  Going to the Holy Land has deepened my relationship with Christ, and I am forever thankful.”*

*Mrs. Marilyn Heigl*

*Dear Fr. Dean,*

*What a tremendous blessing our pilgrimage to the Holy Land was to our whole family!  We are still unpacking our souvenirs, looking at our photos and savoring all the memories.  Perhaps the most moving experience I had was the worship and singing that we did every day.  You even called us, the “Pilgrimage Choir.”  I remember singing The Lord’s Prayer with a group of Japanese pilgrims at the Church of Our Father where Jesus taught his disciples to pray.  That really brought home to me our unity in Christ with fellow believers from all over the world.*

*Traveling with a one-year old granddaughter went more smoothly than I could imagine.  To everyone’s delight, she took her first steps in Jerusalem at the Farewell dinner on the last night of our tour.  What a memory!*

*Several of the sites we visited made a huge impression on me.  Nazareth Village, a living history museum, opened my eyes to Jesus’ teaching on separating the sheep from the goats, shepherds leading their flocks, the significance of “roots and shoots” of the olive tree and most of all the parallels between the olive press and Jesus’ time in the Garden of Gethsemane.  The Bible lunch we enjoyed there was delicious as well as authentic.  Visiting Jacob’s well in modern day Nablus (Biblical Shechem), where Jesus spoke with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4) as well as the actual very DEEP well that the patriarch Jacob dug to water his flocks and herds made a huge impression on me when I saw the rope marks cut into the stone from drawing up a bucket over thousands of years.  Visiting the kibbutz in Galilee and seeing the 2000-year-old preserved fishing boat from the Sea of Galilee in Jesus’ day was absolutely mind blowing!  Stepping over the threshold of the first century synagogue where Jesus worshipped and taught in Magdala and knowing we could put our feet where He is known to have been was awe inspiring.*

*One of my most precious experiences was sitting on the balcony of our hotel room in Tiberias, reading my morning devotional and watching the sun rise over the Sea of Galilee where Jesus lived, taught and performed so many of his miracles then going down to the dining room for a fabulous breakfast buffet.  I loved the Shakshuka and the fish salad.*

*Our Israeli tour guide, Ruby, was so knowledgeable, flexible about rearranging our itinerary to suit the various changes in the weather and fun.  I learned so much about Israel in Bible times as well as the customs and conflicts in Israel today.  I now have a much greater appreciation for the land and its various people than I had before the trip.*

*I also appreciate all the logistical arrangements for the entire pilgrimage so that we did not have to be concerned with managing luggage, finding places to eat, currency exchanges, reservations needed to visit holy sites, even arrangements for Holy Eucharist were all taken care of ahead of time.  Vendors were pre-screened to ensure we had positive experiences and fair prices as we all picked up souvenirs on the trip.*

*One concern my family had before our trip was safety since much of the Middle East is so dangerous.  We felt and were completely safe the entire time we were in Israel—safer than we are at home.*

*Fr. Dean’s teaching on the bus and at various holy sites enriched our time on this pilgrimage.  I know my whole family has been changed by this pilgrimage.  Our eyes have been truly opened to the Bible and to our Lord by this experience.  We have all deepened our faith.  I would travel with Fr. Dean and Glorianne to the Holy Land again in a heartbeat.”*

*Blessings,*

*L. Hanna*

*2017 Pilgrim*

*“Just like our bodies and minds can become weary, so can our spirits. I left for this trip with a weary spirit in such need of rest and renewing. I was both worn and tired in my soul.  This trip was such a refreshing and reviving time with other believers who have such a tender heart for the Lord. I have a new understanding of the deep love for Christ in other nations.*

*There were so many groups of people from other countries who were overcome with emotion by the significance of what took place in the many sites we visited. A well needed and unforgettable experience and I am so thankful the Lord allowed me the privilege of being able to go on this trip.  Thank you Dean and Glorianne!!! Praise His Holy Name!!”*

*C. Buchanan*

*“As I begin to process our trip and all that happened, I am overwhelmed with memories of the many places we visited, our worship times, our singing and the entire band of stalwart pilgrims visiting this Holy, Holy Land!  
  
There are two ways to visit Israel… as a simple tourist traveler, and with a group of Christians who are awed by it!  I recommend the latter!  
  
What an experience.  Friends said it would be life-changing and it was.  Thanks, Dean and Glorianne for your great leadership and kindness!”*

*Joyce*

*“I wish there were more expressive words in the English language than fantastic for it was more than that. I took my slide show to my Bible study class and they were in awe. I would and will recommend this experience to all Christians that I know”.*

*Thanks for everything.*

*Wendy*