

Israel - The land of the Bible

Once again I am looking forward to going back to Israel this to lead a Bible study tour, taking people to the places where the events of the bible actually happened.

My 'Home Church' back in the UK is Oak Hall Church. There is a Christian Holiday company, called Oak Hall expeditions, which grew from this church and still has very close links with it. Oak Hall Expeditions offers a range of holidays, all over the world, with a Christian message. But by far the most popular of the summer trips is the Bible Study Tours of Israel.

Oak Hall is keen to make these trips as accessible as possible and manage to keep the costs down by recruiting volunteers to assist. I am such a volunteer. Building on my training at Bible college and having been tutored in the necessary local knowledge, I am this year embarking on my sixth trip to Israel. There I will be leading a group of approximately 54 people around many of the Biblical sights of Israel.

The trip will be divided between time in Jerusalem, where we will stay within short walking distance of the Old City, and Galilee, where we will stay on the shores of the lake; with an overnight stop in Bethlehem in between.

We will visit Old and New Testament sites, and explore the relevant Bible passages. We will go on a boat on the Sea of Galilee and also enjoy the unique experience of floating in the Dead Sea.

For me, as tour leader, this will a hard working trip, to ensure that the quests have a great time. But it is a real pleasure to see how a group of strangers become a group of friends, in a very short time. But more importantly, it is a privilege for me to help them get the most out of this great visual aid that God has provided to help us to get a better sense of the sights and sounds of these Biblical events.

The other member of the team will be the Speaker. Each evening he will give a talk on a biblical subject (this year I believe my speaker will be doing a study on Mark's Gospel). He will also lead us in morning prayers, which in Galilee will be on the edge of the lake as the sun rises; a truly amazing experience.

[To learn more about Oak Hall expeditions visit their website:
<http://www.oakhall.co.uk/pages/summer13israel.asp>]

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