

History, Religion, and Culture in the Land of the Bible
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
January 10 – 27, 2008

The January 2009 travel seminar to the Middle East will be led by Dr. Patricia K. Tull, A.B. Rhodes Professor of Old Testament. The trip is open to LPTS students, spouses, friends of LPTS, family members, pastors, alums—all who are willing to learn and able to make their way around—and can send in their registration by the end of September.

Trip dates are Saturday, January 10 to Tuesday, January 27, with an optional preparatory class to be held on campus for two full days during the week before we leave. We will travel up the Mediterranean coast, throughout the Galilee region, and to the Dead Sea, and spend four nights in Bethlehem at the International Center with Dr. Mitri Raheb, pastor of the Christmas Lutheran Church and a good friend of LPTS, and five nights at the Notre Dame Hotel just outside the walls of the old city in Jerusalem. There we will meet several experts in Israeli and Palestinian issues, including Dr. Mustafa Abu Sway, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Islamic Studies and Director of the Islamic Research Center at Al-Quds University in Jerusalem, Dr. Debbie Weissman, Jewish educator and writer, and Daniel Rossing, director of the Jerusalem Center for Jewish-Christian Relations. We will spend time in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, at the Western Wall, the Israel Museum, and the Holocaust Museum Yad Vashem.

The **purpose of the trip** is not only to explore the rich history, archaeology, and religious heritage of the region, but also to become acquainted with members of the complex societies living there today, and especially to understand better the nature of the struggles among Israeli Jews and Palestinian Christians and Muslims, to listen to their stories and to see firsthand efforts various groups are making for peace and justice. We will worship with Palestinians and Jews, and visit the holy sites in Bethlehem and Jerusalem that have attracted so much devotion and debate.

A few words about **safety**: TV news focuses on the excitement, but millions of people live uneventful lives from day to day in Israel and Palestine. Julene Miller of Academy Travel has many years of experience in Israel, and her colleague in Jerusalem, Raji Khoury, keeps us informed of developments that might alter our plans. We exercise caution and avoid areas of active strife. Statistically, however, the riskiest portion of the trip will be the ride from your home to the airport!

Cost, including roundtrip fare from Louisville, is \$4000 (plus approximately \$375 for departure taxes and fuel surcharge). This price includes airfare, land transportation, hotels, entrance fees, tips, tour guide and speakers, and bountiful breakfast and dinner every day. In addition participants should bring \$5 to \$10 per day for lunch on the road. Supplement for a single room is \$475.

Detailed itinerary and registration form are available here at the website. For more information, contact Prof. Patricia Tull (ptull@lpts.edu).

To register: Send one copy of the completed registration form (on the website) with a copy of p. 1 of your up-to-date passport and \$500 deposit to Academy International Travel. Send a second copy of the registration form and passport to Prof. Tull at Louisville Seminary.