

Opportunities for Well-Designed Visits to Palestine



The universal experience of people who travel to Israel and Palestine is that they return from such trips with their understanding transformed. In the face of political uncertainties and religious conflicts, our church partners are urging us ever more strongly to deepen our commitment and involvement with them through such visits. Well-organized trips provide opportunities for establishing on-going partnerships as well as many sources of income for Palestinians working in the travel industry.

Many groups organize such travel. The following are trips which will provide you with an opportunity to see for yourself the world in which our faith was born, opening a deeper understanding not only of the historical artifacts but also of the living faith of the people of the Holy Land and the complex context in which their faith is being lived out.

March 17 - 31: Interfaith Peace-Builders delegation

March 19 - 31: Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation

March 31 - April 10: Congressional Accompaniment Program trip to Palestine

April 4 - 11: Olive Cooperative Teachers Study Tour

April 14 - 28: Middle East Fellowship Incarnational Pilgrimage

April 15 - 25: Meeting the Stones & Living Stones Pilgrimage

April 21 - 30: Global Exchange, Prospects for Peace with Justice

April 29 - May 12: Middle East Fellowship Incarnational Pilgrimage,

May 12 - 26: Friends of Sabeel-Colorado, Seeking Understanding in Israel/Palestine,

May 19 - June 2: Middle East Fellowship Incarnational Pilgrimage

May 26 - June 9, 2007: Interfaith Peace-Builders delegation

May 29-June 10: Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation

June 10 - Aug. 11: Middle East Fellowship Damascus Summer Encounter,

July 28 - August 11: Interfaith Peace-Builders delegation

July 30-August 11: Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation

August 12 - 22: Global Exchange, Prospects for Peace with Justice

Oct. 15 - Nov. 4: The Middle East Task Force of Chicago Presbytery's Traveling Seminar

October 16 - 28: Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation

November 3 - 17: Interfaith Peace-Builders delegation

November 19 - December 1: Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation

December 02 - 12: Global Exchange, Prospects for Peace with Justice

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Christian Peacemaker Teams: contact Claire Evans, the CPT Coordinator for Delegations, at clairee@cpt.org or telephone 773.277.0253

Congressional Accompaniment Project: contact Darrell and Sue Yeane at sue-dy@avalon.net.

Friends of Sabeel-Colorado: A Two-week Fact-finding trip. Download color brochure (pdf file) at this link: http://www.fosna.org/conferences_and_trips/index.html

Global Exchange: for details, see www.globalexchange.org

Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation: contact Gail Freeman, Pilgrimage Coordinator at 301-951-9400x206 or read more at www.hcef.org.

Interfaith Peace Builders: see www.interfaithpeacebuilders.org. These programs have been developed by the Fellowship of Reconciliation (www.forusa.org) and the American Friends Service Committee (www.afsc.org)

Middle East Fellowship: for more details, contact Christy Reiners at Christy@mef-sf.org (Tel. 925-934-1754) or at their web page, www.middleeastfellowship.org.

Middle East Task Force of Chicago Presbytery Traveling Seminar: this seminar will go to Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Israel/Palestine. For details, please contact Pauline Coffman at p.coffman@sbcglobal.net (tel. 708-524-5444).

Meeting the Stones and Living Stones Pilgrimage: For questions, please contact Rev. Keith Hill, Pastor, Douglasville, GA at Keith@fpcdouglasville.org (Tel. 770-942-0710) or Rev. Fahed Abu-Akel, at Fabu-akel@peachtreepres.org (Tel. 404-441-2702)

Olive Cooperative Teachers Study Tour: for details, please see web page: www.olivecoop.com

Presbyterian Church (USA) and Presbyterian Peace Program: contact Victor Makari at Vmakari@ctr.pcusa.org or Sara Lisherness at Slisshern@ctr.pcusa.org, the co-leaders of this trip.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES: There are other organizations that organize occasional conferences and trips or that are willing to organize trips and appropriate travel to suit needs of particular groups include:

Compassionate Listening Project (www.compassionatelistening.org)

Faculty for Israeli-Palestinian Peace (www.ffipp.org)

Holy Land Resources (www.holylandresources.net)

International Center of Bethlehem (www.annadwa.org)

Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (www.icahd.org)

Ministry of Money Reverse Mission Pilgrimages (<http://www.ministryofmoney.org/> - e-mail djtentmaker@insighbb.com or telephone 502-473-8343)

Palestinian Alternative Tourism Group (www.patg.org)

Palestinian Children's Welfare Fund (www.PCWF.org)

Pilgrims of Ibillin (www.pilgrimsofibilin.org)