

Seminarians Study Tour of the Holy Land: Biblical Geography and Archeology, Cross-cultural Immersion, and Spiritual Pilgrimage

(41-681B)

15 Day Study Course in the Holy Land: December 11-25, 2008

*Note that The Study Course can be taken just as a personal study-trip without the registration of it for course credits (41-681B) at Garrett-Evangelical. This syllabus is for those taking this trip for course credits. If you sign up for the course, you must register for the Study Tour.

Led by Dr. K. K. Yeo [khiokyeo@gmail.com] for Garrett-Evangelical Students (joining Dr. Monte Luker, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary)

Maximum number in the group: 20 students (and spouses)

Tours provided by: Educational Opportunities, Inc.

Price of the trip (course registration is extra): Garrett-Evangelical students—\$1798* (*Departure from New York, ~ add \$100.00 for departure from Chicago) \$1798 includes roundtrip international airfare, housing, instruction, site entrance fee, tax, tips, admn. fee

Payment schedule: Send registration form and deposit to Dr. K. K. Yeo to receive \$300.00 scholarship.

I. Purpose:

A. To acquaint students with the history, geography, and archaeology of the Holy Land on the sites and to help them engage with the contemporary social, political, religious issues of the days.

B. To give students the opportunity to explore specific areas of interest on the relationship between the biblical texts and the biblical sites as they study with the instructors, peer students. A more critical and hermeneutical reflection of their research interest between the biblical texts/sites will be required of those interested in cross-cultural reading.

C. To provide a “cultural immersion” experience for students to grow in the customs, politics, language and the reality of life in the Holy Land in the context of theological reflection in their papers and also in group process. It is important that students engaging in historical texts/sites are aware of their "pre-understanding."

D. More importantly, for those students taking this course for cross-cultural credit, the aim is to equip them with critical tools of cross-cultural hermeneutics, so that:

(1) they know the historical connection between historical sites/texts and current issues in the holy land;

(2) they read the biblical texts with passion regarding its significance and problems our contemporary world faced with;

(3) they have the theological tool in analyzing and empathizing the current socio-political and religious problems in the Holy Land.

II. Course Requirements/Grading:

A. Pass/fail grading only.

B. Attend pre-trip and post-trip meetings and turn in a complete reflection paper.

III. Course Text Books:

A. Bible. NRSV is recommended.

B. Page II, Charles and Carl Volz. *The Land and the Book, An Introduction to the World of the Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993.

Murphy-O'Connor, J., *The Holy Land*, fifth edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

C. Required readings for those taking this course for the cross-cultural credits:

Donald E. Wagner, *Dying in the Land of Promise: Palestine and Palestinian Christianity from Pentecost to 2000* (2nd revised edition; London: Melisende, 2003) [available from the author via the instructor for \$15.00 a piece at pre-trip meeting. Or, you can get it elsewhere too.]

Collins, L. and D. Lapierre. *O Jerusalem!* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1988) (history of the Israeli war for independence).

Chacour, Elias. *Blood Brothers* (Grand Rapids: Chosen Books, 2003) (a Palestinian priest tells his personal story).

Ateek, Naim. *Justice and Only Justice: A Palestinian Theology of Liberation* (Maryknoll: Orbis, 1989).

VI. Reference Reading List:

- Aharoni, Y., and Avi-Yonah, M., *The MacMillan Bible Atlas*, third edition. New York: MacMillan, 1993.
- Aharoni, Y., *The Land of the Bible*, revised and enlarged second edition. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1979.
- Ben-Barak, Zafrira. *Inheritance By Daughters in Israel and the Ancient Near East: A Social, Legal and Ideological Turning Point*. Archaeological Center Publications, 2006.
- Ben-Tor, A., *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1992.
- Crown-Tamir, Hela. *How to Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus and the Prophets*. Jerusalem, New York: Gefen, 2000.
- Freedman, D.N. ed. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
- Isserlin, B.S.J. *The Israelites*. London: Thames and Hudson, 2001.
- Mazar, A. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible 10,000-586 B.C.E.* New York: Doubleday, 1992.
- McRay John. *Archaeology & the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1991.
- Meyers, E.M. ed. *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology in the Near East*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Monson, J., *Regions on the Run*. Jerusalem: Biblical Backgrounds, 1998; *Geographical Basics in the Land of the Bible: Maps for Marking*. Jerusalem: Biblical Backgrounds, 1975, 1992.
- Page II, Charles and Carl Volz. *The Land and the Book, An Introduction to the World of the Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993.
- Pappe, Ilan. *A History of Modern Palestine: One Land, Two Peoples*. 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Sasson, J. M. ed. *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1995.
- Schwartz, Regina M. *The Curse of Cain: The Violent Legacy of Monotheism*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1998.
- Shanks, Hershel ed. *Ancient Israel: From Abraham to the Roman Destruction of the Temple*, Rev. ed. Washington, DC: Biblical Archaeology Society, 1999.
- Stacy, R. Wayne. *Where Jesus Walked. A Spiritual Journey Through the Holy Land*. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 2001.
- Stern, E. ed. *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy*

Land. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 1993.

Wagner, Donald E. *Dying in the Land of Promise: Palestine and Palestinian Christianity from Pentecost to 2000*. New updated edition. London: Melisende, 2003.

Electronic Resources:

Biblical Archaeology Review – see their web page at: <http://www.bib-arch.org/>

Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions: <http://www.icahd.org/eng/>

BBC News: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Christian Zionist (Best of Israel's News in Real Time):

<http://christianzionist.org/>

Christian Zionism The True Story: [http://www.christian-](http://www.christian-zionism.org/altindex.htm)

[zionism.org/altindex.htm](http://www.christian-zionism.org/altindex.htm)

Defending the First Amendment against the Christian Right:

<http://www.jewsonfirst.org/>

Excellent news source on Middle East: <http://www.haaretz.com/>

Churches for Middle East Peace: <http://www.cmep.org/>

Mar Elias Educational Institutions: <http://www.meei.org/>

Pilgrims of Ibillin: <http://www.pilgrimsofibilin.org/index.html>

International Friends of Sabeel: <http://www.sabeel.org/old/friends.html>

Documentary Online:

The Iron Wall: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8PKqqMOOtU>

Occupation 101: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pV_T551jw88

V. Course Outline

Pre-meeting: December 3, 2008. Brown bag lunch meeting. 12:00-1:15 pm

15-Day Tentative Itinerary and Programs:

Since some students will take this course for the cross-cultural credit, the field trip will focus on the historical studies of the sites and the biblical texts, but the discussion and lectures will always engage the students to think theologically on the contemporary issues of the Holy Land. Dr. Don Wagner of Northpark University will be our cultural interpreter in Chicago. The following activities on site are being arranged (not guaranteed) will help our immersion experience:

1. Visit the International Peace Center at the Lutheran Church in Bethlehem and meet with the pastor to hear about Palestinian life in the West Bank. (This is Mitri Raheb who wrote the book, *Bethlehem Besieged*, an account of the occupation of Bethlehem in 2002).

2. Visit the Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives which is about the only hospital serving West Bank Palestinians in the area around Jerusalem.

3. Have a conversation with Elias Chacour, a Palestinian priest in Galilee. He is the author of the book, *Blood Brothers*, one of the texts the class will read.

[If at all possible, will meet with the Palestinian Christians like Rev. Mitri Raheb and Naim Ateek, Fr. Chacour in the Galilee, and with analysts like Dr. Jeff Halper of the Israeli Committee Against Home Demolitions with an analysis of the Wall, the "Jewish only Settlements," and the Apartheid situation. There is also a group called Rabbis for Human Rights (Rabbi Erik Asherman or Jeremy Milgrom--son of the famous scholar Jacob Milgrom) and another wonderful group in Hebron, Christian Peacemaker Teams. Will watch a documentary, "The Iron Wall" or "Occupation 101" in our pre-trip meeting on this. A YouTube version is available:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8PKqgMOOtU>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pV_T551jw88

Day Schedule: See the brochure from EO.

Reflection Paper Due: Jan 31, 2009

Post-trip meeting: Jan 7, 2009 (Wed). Brownbag lunch with Dr. Don Wagner.

VI. Reflection Paper (12-15 double-spaced paper, due Jan 31, 2009)

- A. A Study Guide will be given to each student by The Educational Opportunities to use in the study trip.
- B. Students taking the course as credit are expected to keep a journal on daily learning on especially three broad areas:
 - (1) The relationship between biblical sites and the biblical text (OT or NT);
 - (2) The learning experience on the relationship between theology (faith/Bible/religion) and culture (history, custom, language, etc.);
 - (3) The hermeneutical relationship between “what was meant/there” and “what it means now/here”, crossing the first two areas, especially the concern about cross-cultural sensitivity, immersion, and reflections of the trip. The focus of this course is on the historical meaning (75%), but for those taking this course for cross-cultural credit, they ought to demonstrate the learning experience of a

cross-cultural hermeneutic.

- C. Based on the journal and some research, turn your summary of 12-15 double-spaced page reflection by Jan 31, 2009 for those taking this course for course credit (academic or cross-cultural). We will process with one another as a group on the post-trip meeting. The passed/fail grade will be based partially on research and mainly on your on-site learning.