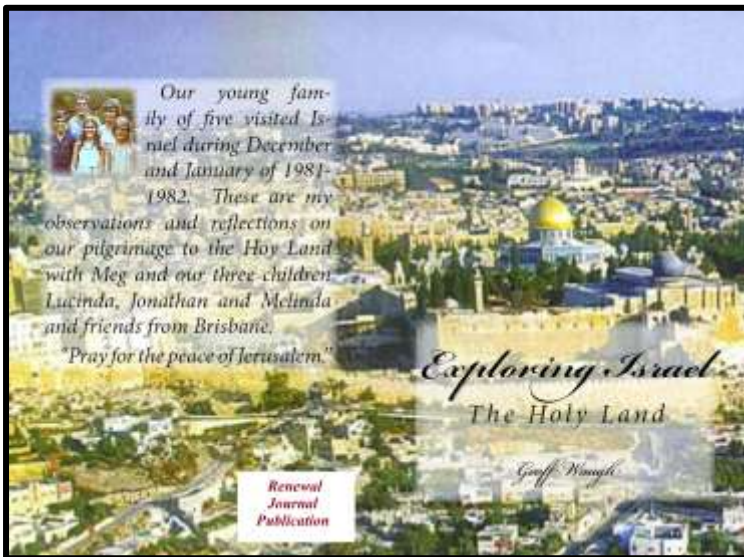


# *Exploring Israel*

## *The Holy Land*



*Geoff Waugh*

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**Logo: lamp & scroll,  
basin & towel,  
in the light of the cross**

*To  
Lucinda, Jonathan, Melinda  
and their families  
with love and appreciation  
and warm, wonderful  
memories of Meg*

## **PREFACE**

Our family of five visited Israel in December-January of 1981-1982, with our friends Di Reynoldson, Diane Farmer, Paul Varendorf and David Baker. This book combines two resources to tell that story.

**Part 1: Journey**, from page 5, I reproduced from pages 103-109 of my autobiography, **Looking to Jesus: Journey into Renewal and Revival** (2009, BookSurge) with an overview of our trip and my impressions.

**Part 2: Journal**, from page 17, I reproduced and expanded from **Our Trip**, my handwritten journal of entries made during the visit with daily notes of events and my thoughts at that time.

Israel is unique. This land of the Bible, the land of Jesus, grabs you. My memories remain vivid, strong and transforming. Being there brings the Bible alive in new ways. Scripture leaps from Bible picture books into the sights, sounds, smells, tastes and touch of living, breathing people today, saturated with yesterday's events.

Walk around the present Crusader walls of the old city of Jerusalem and you literally walk around the land and ruins of the smaller city of Jesus' day.

Wander on the pebbled shore of Galilee at Capernaum and you literally walk where Jesus walked. Or you can sit in a boat on the lake as he did.

Everywhere you go there, names of Bible places jump at you off large, modern road signs pointing to yet another biblical location, full of history's blood, sweat, toil and tears. The hundreds of signs in Hebrew and English remind you of events from 4,000 years of history there and of the astounding miracles seen in those places.

I pray that these brief memoirs will bless you and inspire you.

As you look through my eyes and our family's experiences with our friends I hope that you too may glimpse something more of the wonder of God's mighty purposes for us all, demonstrated in the long history of Israel and especially in the life of Jesus who lived there, died there, rose again there, and ascended in glory and authority there.

To God be the glory, great things he has done – especially in Israel. There he revealed himself in and through his one and only Son, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the King of kings and the Lord of lords who reigns forever.

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my 1982 newsletter as included in  
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Handwritten Journal  
December-January  
1981-1982

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Israel, 1981-1982

# ***Part 1***

## ***Journey***

**Reproduced from  
my 1982 newsletter as included in  
*Looking to Jesus:  
Journey into Renewal and Revival*  
2009**



**Old City of Jerusalem looking north, Temple Mount centre (Dome of the Rock where Temple was) with Zion down the ridge south, the Kidron Valley and the Mount of Olives east. Calvary west of the Temple Mount, just outside the original city walls (now possibly Church of the Holy Sepelcher site).**



## ***ISRAEL***

My living research included our family's visit to Israel in December-January, 1981-82. We saved enough to cover our fares when our children travelled half-fare at 12, 11 and 9, so we organised our own economical visit, staying in church hospices (hostels) with a few friends from Brisbane.

We explored the Holy Land from the lush Golan heights in the north to the dry Sinai desert in the south, and visited Egypt as well. This adventure brought the Bible alive for me in new ways. We discovered so many sights, sounds and smells as well as touching and tasting its unique variety.

This is the land of Jesus. He laboured as a carpenter in the hills around Nazareth. He often walked the 100 kilometres from Galilee to Jerusalem. Devout Jews attended the three main feasts in Jerusalem each year: Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles. He later walked with his followers in and beyond the towns and villages of the hills around Galilee. He traversed the land proclaiming and demonstrating the good news of God's Kingdom.

Some people from Wesley Church at Kangaroo Point in Brisbane joined us, including Diane and Paul from our community house as well as Diane Farmer and David Baker from the church. We stayed in the convenient Anglican hospice in the old city of Jerusalem as well as in the impressive Church of Scotland hospice at Tiberius on Lake Galilee. What an adventure! Together we explored Jerusalem, Bethlehem (on Christmas eve for carols and Christmas day to explore), Masada, the Dead Sea, Eilat on the Red Sea, the Sinai desert, the wide Jordan valley, Tiberius and Galilee including Capernaum. We saw the locations of so many Bible events we knew about.

While Meg and Diane visited England for a week that January, I toured with the children and some of our group by bus to Egypt. We climbed into the Great Pyramid visiting the hot, stuffy burial chamber inside, had camel rides at the Sphinx, visited the Cairo museum and zoo, and took a ride on the Nile in an ancient style of boat. We crossed the Suez Canal twice in our journey across the desert, but I think the children slept through most of that from exhaustion!

I noted the following impressions in a circular letter on our return, fresh with recent memories and new discoveries:

## ***FAMILY VISIT TO ISRAEL***

Hans Bouma writes free verse - personal and powerful. Here's a sample opposite a photograph of Galilee (*An Eye on Israel*, p. 68)

how in his element  
he was here  
at the shore of the lake

talking preaching  
healing liberating  
distributing bread and fish

a brother  
one of us  
man among men  
person among persons

it was the death of him  
anybody who lives like that  
needs to be eliminated

he came back ...

That's it. Meg found that book in a shop in Eilat on the Red Sea gulf, just like we found many treasures, thoughts, souvenirs, fellow Australians, pilgrims, tourists Christians, and scenic wonders from the fertile ranges of Dan in the north to the barren desert around Beersheba in the south; from the northern snow peaks of Mt Hermon to the southern gaunt crags of the Sinai.

How do you compress a month of vivid impressions into a few pages; over 4,000 years of history into one letter? You can't. Others have written books, or journals. I'll jot down some notes. These notes are a kind of travelogue, diary, family chronicle, impressions, highlights, devotional reflections, biblical discoveries, and personal pilgrimage all rolled into one jumble.

Professor E M Blaiklock noted, "The specious pilgrims, devotees or charlatans, who contrived a living across Europe on their way to the 'Sainte Terre', put the word 'saunterer' into the vocabulary of the West. By air, road and sea the pilgrims still arrive, perhaps with packs on back and seeking adventure or service in this kibbutz or that; with projects of

study in more than one notable university; to dig for a season in yet more ruin tells; or perhaps in eager parties, pastored, tutored, guided and comfortably lodged at night" (*Eight Days in Israel*, p. 7)

The two books I've quoted are our favourites. Both have magnificent photos in colour and clear, concise text.

## IMPRESSIONS

**First view** from the plane: the long straight coastline. Tel Aviv sprawling around Jaffa (old Joppa), so many stone and cream brick houses, flat roofs, sealed roads spreading out across fertile coastal plains; and landing over cultivated fields and orange groves.

**Israeli soldiers** in battle green - gun strung from shoulder strap, mostly young. National service is compulsory for all at 18 for three years. Alert. Few signs of active war; just a sense of immediate readiness to act - quickly. Peaceful atmosphere. Friendly. Quick action if needed. On guard.

**Bargaining** began on stepping outside the terminal; cab drivers competing for a fare to Jerusalem or anywhere. We arrived late Saturday afternoon and all of us, five Waughs plus three friends piled into one 7-seater sherut (taxi) for the breath-taking 50 kilometre drive south east to Jerusalem.

**Road signs** leapt from the Bible onto huge notice boards; we followed those on the four lane main highway to the hills, to Jerusalem. Evening came. A big city set on hills, lit by a thousand lights, like any city, yet unique. Very hilly. Weaving through crowded modern streets in West Jerusalem to our hospice (hostel) inside the walls of the Old City just near the Jaffa Gate. Those walls! History in stone.

**Jerusalem.** Now tumbling impressions, so fast, old and new together, scores of languages, tourists, people milling about in the Old City, arriving Saturday evening at the end of the Sabbath, Christians sharing travel talk at the hospice, our family in a 16-bed dormitory used as a family room in winter. Cool and crisp. Woollens needed each night and many days in the hills.

**First night in Israel**, in Jerusalem. Travel weary but too wide awake to sleep yet. So with the family bedded down I walked-ran-sauntered around the Old City walls; about 3 kilometres, none flat. All our impressions are personal, different, vivid. As I circled flood-lit city walls at night I was swamped by history I'd read, studied, taught, preached,

and heard all my life. The impact of that still remains, but is also too big. Just one circuit of the walls and you have encircled events like Abraham on Mt Moriah (probably), David, Solomon - that Temple Mount still there, still walled, still standing high over David's Zion on the ridge to the south of it, the deep Kidron Valley and sentinel Mount of Olives immediately east, and Calvary and a silent tomb somewhere close by to the west - the kings, prophets and priests of Judah, Rehoboam's stupidity, Josiah's reforms, Zedekiah's surrender to yet another army, Isaiah, Jeremiah, then Ezra and Nehemiah (those walls again), on past Greek and Roman invasion to the central drama of the universe – Jesus. You can't absorb it all. It's immense.

And 2,000 years of history is written there since then. That's more obvious. Turk, Muslim, Crusader, Arab, Jew. Israel today. So small. 70 kilometres wide; 200 kilometres long (*i.e.*, Dan to Beersheba).

## SUNDAY

Here are a few impressions from our first full day there.

7.30am, hospice breakfast - bacon and eggs (pork in Jerusalem!).

8.00am, Anglican service and communion inside the Old City just beside our Anglican hospice (English service, English Prayer Book, English hymns – home away from home).

9.30am, a quick walk to the Garden Tomb for an evangelical service there - they were singing "Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings" as we came in. The organist played *He is Lord* and *How Great Thou Art* at the end of the service and we wandered in that beautiful, serene garden, the favourite spot in Jerusalem for most of our group and our family; quiet, beautiful, easy to reflect or meditate or just think or pray. Holding the tiny black speck of a mustard seed from a bush there.

10.30am, sauntering into the Old City again; bazaars; store keepers' urgings to buy souvenirs wares, post cards, gifts; bargaining; people milling everywhere in narrow streets; Old City streets so narrow no vehicle can come in so donkeys still carry loads there; on to the Temple Mount, spacious, dominated by the Dome of the Rock mosque, clear views of the Mount of Olives to the east; on by an underground path beneath old, old arches beside the Temple Mount (once bridges between the temple area and the western part of the old city) to the Western Wall (previously called the Wailing Wall) of the Temple - the

only remains of the buildings there from Jesus' day - the Jews' most holy site, now with a huge cleared and paved plaza beside it, their substitute for their temple; eating pomegranate - sweet but messy; one main English language paper *The Jerusalem Post* follows Israel's tradition by not printing the name of God, prints G-d instead. All that before lunch!

Back to the hospice for lunch, then we walked again exploring the southern side of the Old City including the continuing excavations at the Southern Wall of the temple where buildings long buried since Bible days are partially uncovered and restored.

Then in late afternoon some of us returned for sunset at the Western Wall of the Temple Mount and the first day of the Festival of Lights (see John 10:22 - It was winter, and the Festival of the Dedication of the Temple was being celebrated in Jerusalem). Still is. Every day, beginning at sunset, the Jews light an oil lamp for 8 days commemorating their deliverance from the Syrian Greeks in the days of the Maccabean revolt against Greek rule. Their story is that a tiny amount of olive oil lasted miraculously for 8 days when they reclaimed and restored the desecrated temple and lit the 7-branch candle-stick (menorah). By the end of the 8 days they had been able to produce more oil from olive trees.

Our first week in Israel was in Jerusalem, so we saw the lamps being lit – an extra one each day - and we were there when all 8 were alight on the 8th day - the following Sunday evening.

After supper (English name for dinner) at the hospice, we piled into Christ Church cathedral for the Anglican and interdenominational carol service, for Christmas came that week too.

I was able to fit in a visit to the Jerusalem Baptist evening service after that (arriving late but glad I found it). As we prayed there at their charismatic service, a strong aroma of burning filled the room, noticed by everyone. [Years later, I occasionally noticed that same fire smell in other prayer times in other countries, usually at significant times of sensing the Lord's mighty presence.] On my walk back to the hospice I made another complete circuit of those Old City's ancient stone walls, now flood lit.

That was just one day! So many were like that.

## REFLECTIONS

Here are a few memories of those first 10 days in and around Jerusalem. Christmas Eve at the Shepherds' Field opposite Bethlehem only 15 kilometres south of Jerusalem's Old City where we joined bus loads of tourists for a carol service as we sat on the ground around and above caves possibly used as shelters by shepherds; a fantastic American choir (one of many visiting Israel for Christmas) singing unaccompanied songs including "*Down from his glory, ever living story, my Lord and Saviour came, and Jesus was his name. Born in a manger, to his own a stranger ... O how I love him*" and finishing with the *Hallelujah Chorus*. Singing carols on the bus back to Jerusalem.

A Christmas Day visit to Bethlehem on a local bus; wandering around 'David's wells' there - three ancient wells in a monastery garden. Too many churches crowding sacred sites! Too much religious paraphernalia. You get more of the feel of original biblical places if you stay clear of the religious monuments in churches: altars, icons, incense, and religious rituals.

A full day's bus trip to the Dead Sea - from Jerusalem via the Mount of Olives and Bethany down to the Jordan Valley near Jericho, on to the Dead Sea past Qumran (Dead Sea scrolls caves) and En Gedi (David's hideout with fresh water springs) to Masada - stark mountain fortress where the last of the Jews held out against the Romans following the 70 A.D. war when Jerusalem was destroyed. A cable car now lifts you quickly there to wander in the remains of Herod's palace and garrison. The huge stone and dirt ramp hill still remains, built by slaves under Roman rule to reach the top after a four-year siege. Those Jews committed mass suicide rather than surrender; and that stands for Israel like Anzac does for Australia. Soldiers now vow: Masada shall not fall again.

Down for a swim in the Dead Sea, some getting salt in eyes and mouth and regretting the savage sting. The road back was closed for an hour or so by Israeli soldiers who had found footprints along the shore, so they stopped all movement till they checked it out - for fear of terrorists from Jordan. It proved to be tourists - maybe friends of ours who camped on the beach that previous night! Our women and children returned by taxi on a longer inland route through Hebron and Bethlehem. I returned later by bus with David Baker (in our group) after the road was opened again. We beat the taxi home as it turned out. The bus driver was in a hurry, being late.

We drove south on a long bus trip from Jerusalem past the Dead Sea - to Eilat on the Red Sea (old Aqaba now new, beside a large Jordanian sea port just over the border from Eilat). We stayed in a caravan park near the beach, with one leisurely day at the beach - a pleasant change from exploring and walking every day. Then we took a guided tour for two days into Sinai and stayed at St Catherine's monastery there near one of the presumed (but unlikely) sites of Horeb, Sinai. That involved long desert bus rides, a 4am start in the dark to climb 'Mt Sinai' and watch the sun rise from the top for some of us, a wander through the old monastery dating back to the 6th century A.D. It was built there because of a bush in the valley. It's the only bush of that kind in the Sinai ranges, so someone thought it may have been the burning bush - a rather unlikely story. It still grows! The monastery is built around it. Actually it's more like a creeping vine and weeping willow combination. There's lots of history there - monks and pilgrims for centuries. No one knows exactly where the real Horeb is; maybe around there, but more likely across the Red Sea in Midian, Jethro's area in Arabia (Galatians 1:17; 4:25).

Back to Eilat and an early start on New Year's Day to travel by bus to Tel Aviv on the coast, change buses there and head north to Galilee via the coast, across the Plain of Sharon and the Valley of Jezreel, past Megiddo south of the Galilee hills where Nazareth strides the hill tops, on to Tiberias on the south-west of Galilee lake.

Galilee is beautiful. The lake nestles 700 feet (200 metres) below sea level, surrounded by rolling hills and the Mt Hermon ranges to the north where the Jordan head waters form in the snows and tumble from 8,000 feet above sea level to below sea level in about 40 kilometres. 'Jordan' means 'descender' and it does - all the way from the northern ranges steeply down to Galilee and down the wide Jordan Valley rift to the Dead Sea 1400 feet (400 metres) below sea level, the lowest place on earth.

Of course we saw the sights around the Sea of Galilee too - ruins of Capernaum, lakeside historical places like Magdala and Bethsaida, even a drive right around the lake on our first full day there in the car of one of the guests at the hospice, a 50 kilometre round trip. The Church of Scotland hospice provided the most beautiful setting we stayed in, right by the lake in an old Turkish government centre, now a church hostel. We swam in the hot springs there. It was even warm enough one day later on for me to dive into the lake - clear and bracing. I took the children on a motor boat ride to Capernaum.

## EGYPT

The Egypt interlude trip involved a long day of getting there by bus (to Gaza, to the Suez and then to Cairo) and another long day returning by bus across the Sinai desert coastal road with long waits at the Israel-Egypt border in the desert of 3 to 5 hours! On the trip south we left Jerusalem at 8am after a quick breakfast, then spent all afternoon at the border clearing passports and baggage along with some hundreds of other bus travellers - all arriving around the same time. We changed to an Egyptian bus and guide, scored a flat tyre so returned to the border for another hour and a half while that was fixed. So we crossed the Suez Canal on a passenger barge at night and another tourist bus took us to Cairo for dinner at 11.30pm!

Next day was full of guided activity. A visit to Memphis - the capital in Joseph and Moses' day, bargaining again, and the visits to tombs and pyramids and Sphinx, including camel rides and the tourist hike into the hot and stuffy burial chamber in the middle of the Great Pyramid.

The second day included a visit to the Cairo museum with the displays of Tutenkahmen the boy king, now famous because his tomb was the only one recently discovered which had not been plundered by grave robbers over the centuries. So the burial artefacts are now on view - layers of gold and hundreds of symbolic figures. We also visited the bazaar, then saw an old church said to be where Mary and Joseph took Jesus to stay in a cave for a while (!) and a nearby synagogue dating centuries back on the site of an earlier one belonging to Jews in Egypt in Bible times, where it's assumed Joseph took Mary and Jesus. At night we returned to the pyramids and Sphinx for a sound and light show, seeing them lit by coloured lights while watching the story of 5,000 years of history dramatically recalled.

Our free day in Cairo gave us time for a ride on the Nile River in a Falukka sail boat modelled on ancient ones, and a visit to the Cairo zoo, followed by a long walk back to the hotel and an early night ready for a very early start next morning. We left Cairo about 4.30am after a quick breakfast, retraced our way to the Suez Canal, but this time crossed in the bus on a vehicle ferry, after we had watched a few ships sail south through the sand. We drove through the desert and sat around at the border for some hours then slumped into our Israeli bus to doze most of the way back to Jerusalem, arriving there about 7pm.



## OBSERVATIONS

We hired a car so we could catch up on scattered places from Eilat and the Dead Sea, Jericho, the Jordan Valley rift, return to Galilee, over the hills to Nazareth and nearby Cana, past Mt Carmel to Haifa on the coast. A sherut (taxi) driver took us on the return trip down through the central ranges along the Jezreel Valley into old Samaria, a stop at Jacob's Well, through the hills and valleys heading into the Judean hills and back to Jerusalem for our final days together in Israel. Shalom

Those were my 1982 impressions, and they remain vivid!

So do other impressions. My perspectives shifted from pretty story book pictures to living, current ones.

**Jerusalem.** Everything jams together in the Old City of Jerusalem. I walked around it all each night in an hour or so. Jesus, while bound, walked quickly from Gethsemane to Caiaphas' house, to temple prison, to Pilate's residence, to Herod's palace, to Pilate again, to the fortress barracks for flogging, to Calvary (not a hill, but Golgotha, the place of a skull on the main road just outside the city wall, as was Roman custom to terrorise conquered subjects), all by 9am one fateful morning.

**Bethlehem.** No room in the what? Mary and Joseph weren't trying to check into an inn, because they stayed with relatives. Luke has a different word for inn (*pandeion*), which he uses in the Good Samaritan story. The word in the Christmas story (*kataluma*) is the word used for the room in which Jesus shared the Last Supper with his disciples — the guest room of a house. The guest room in Bethlehem was already full, so they had to use the crowded, smelly stable with the feeding box for a crib.

**Galilee.** Jesus had to live outdoors, forced by hot, desperate rabbles, pushing and shoving to touch him because all who touched him were healed (Matthew 14:36, Mark 6:56). No pristine, bleached white robes for him! Just dust, and noise, and thousands of sweaty hands, with barely any space or time to eat.

Bible picture books and Christmas or Easter cards look so pretty. They're like serene, stained glass fiction, compared to the dirty, smelly reality. This reality no children's book can depict, especially the bruised and bloodied victims gasping in excruciating pain on ghastly crosses along the main road while their executioners grabbed the victim's clothes for themselves or gambled for them.

My search and research about Jesus led me to explore all these interesting and often surprising discoveries.



## Old City of Jerusalem

The Old City of Jerusalem stands high among surrounding hills. David's city of Zion continues south, sloping down the ridge with the Kidron Valley and the Mount of Olives a short walk to the east. Gates into the Old City today are the Jaffa (west), New, Damascus, Herod's (north), Stephen's or Lion, Golden – walled in (east), Dung and Zion (south) Gates. We stayed at Christ Church hospice in the Christian Quarter near the Jaffa Gate. I walked around the floodlit Old City walls each night for seven days, beginning and ending at a different gate each time, remembering and meditating on what happened there.

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## **OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM TODAY**

*This description of the Old City of Jerusalem today was compiled by Elisha Chowtapalli in his 2016 book **Walking in Jesus' Footsteps**. I walked here daily in 1981-82 and 30 years later in 2013.*

The Old City is divided into four neighbourhoods, which are named according to the ethnic affiliation of most of the people who live in them. But they were also divided politically, culturally, religiously and even historically. They are The Christian Quarter, The Jewish Quarter, The Muslim Quarter and The Armenian Quarter. Each of the four quarters is unique in its own way, providing a sense of history along with its own religious beliefs.

These quarters form a rectangular grid but they are not equal in size. The dividing lines are the street that runs from the Damascus Gate to the Zion Gate which divides the city into east and west; and the street leading from the Jaffa Gate to Lion's gate which divides the city north and south.

Entering through the Jaffa Gate and traveling to David Street places the Christian Quarter on the left. On the right, as you continue down David Street, you'll enter the Armenian Quarter. To the left of Jews Street is the Muslim Quarter and to the right, is the Jewish Quarter.

### **The Christian Quarter**

The Christian Quarter of the Old City is probably the first most tourists visit. It can be accessed through the Damascus Gate, New Gate, and Jaffa Gate. The Christian quarter was built around the Church of the Holy Sepulchre which is the heart of the quarter. It also has Christ's final walk along the Via Dolorosa (Latin for The Way of Suffering), or the Stations of the Cross. Believers walk along the Via Dolorosa following the final path of our Lord.

Besides the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the largest site, the Patriarchate of the Greek Orthodox, the Franciscan monastery, San Salvatore and the Latin Patriarchate take up significant areas as well.

Around the church, there were 40 other churches and monasteries. In general the quarter contains few houses, which are mostly concentrated in the southern-eastern part of the quarter. It contains mostly religious, tourist and educational buildings, such as the Lutheran school and St. Pierre school.

The quarter also contains souvenir shops, coffee houses and restaurants. The shops are concentrated in the market street, David Street, and along the Christian Road. Some of the hotels, such as the Casa Nova hotel and the Greek Catholic hotel, were built by the churches as places for visitors to stay. Others are private hotels.

The quarter contains some small museums, such as the museum of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate. In the southwestern part of the quarter there is a pool called Hezekiah's Pool that was used to store rain water for the area.

The market in the Christian quarter is one of Jerusalem's most popular tourist attractions and is a noisy, colourful market where one can buy decorated pottery, candles, souvenirs, ethnic costumes, mats, rugs, beads, jewellery, glass lamps and decorative items. The merchants call out their wares and the food stands emit tantalizing aromas. One of the most outstanding attractions of this market is that shoppers are expected to bargain for wares, and if you insist, you can bargain shopkeepers down from their original price.

There are a number of different Christian groups that keep and maintain the Christian Quarter. Over the centuries, competition has increased for land, power and influence in the Christian Quarter between the various Christian denominations. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, for example, is held under custody of the Greek Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and other sectarian authorities, under a centuries-old arrangement. This has led to competing claims on limited time and space in the Church, and has even been the cause of violent outbreaks over the years. It shows the squabbling is no different than anywhere else around the world.

## The Jewish Quarter

The Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem has been the home of continuous Jewish presence since 800 B.C. Bordered by the Zion Gate on the south, the Armenian Quarter on the west, the Cardo on the north, and the Western Wall and Temple Mount on the East. It is the main residential area for Jews in the old City.

This quarter also contains the Western Wall, or the Wailing Wall which is a holy place for the Jews since it was part of the Temple and close to the Holy of Holies within the Temple.

The Jewish Quarter is a thriving modern community with more than 1,000 families. Following the 1948 War of Independence, when the Old City fell under Jordanian rule the Jewish inhabitants were driven out of the quarter. However the Old City was captured by Israeli paratroopers in the 1967 Six Day War. It has been rebuilt out of the rubble that was left from Jordanian occupation of the area from 1948 until the Six Day War of 1967. Since the destruction was severe, the Jews who returned to the Old City in 1967 excavated the quarter's archaeological remains first and then built their city over, around and beside the ancient discoveries.

The current Jewish Quarter today looks almost brand new and usually sparkling clean. The oldest synagogues, the Elijah the Prophet and Yohanan Ben Zakkai, are roughly 400 years old. These synagogues are below street level because at the time they were built Jews and Christians were prohibited from building anything higher than the Muslim structures.

In the main plaza, the famous arch that used to stretch skyward where the Hurva Synagogue once stood, has been replaced with a rebuilt and rededicated Synagogue. Originally the Great Synagogue, the Hurva was built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but was destroyed by the Ottomans. The synagogue was rebuilt in the 1850's, but was damaged in the 1948 war and later destroyed after the Jordanians took control of the Old City. After Israel recaptured the Old City in 1967, debate lasted for decades on whether to rebuild the Hurva or leave it in the destroyed state to memorialize the conflict. Finally, in March of 2010 the newly rebuilt Hurva was dedicated and the synagogue is now in regular use.

Nearby is the Ramban Synagogue, named after Rabbi Moshe Ben-Nahman, the Ramban who helped rejuvenate the Jewish community in Jerusalem in 1267, after it had been wiped out by the Crusaders.

Just off the plaza is the Cardo, which was a Byzantine road, roughly the equivalent of an eight-lane highway that ran through the heart of the city. Today, a small area is preserved with some of the original Roman columns. Just beyond the columns is an underground mall with a number of Jewish stores and art galleries. This is a good place to purchase Judaica, and it is possible to haggle with shopkeepers. Compare the prices with the shops downtown before you buy.

The Jewish Quarter of today is located on the remains of the upper city from the Herodian period (37 BC-70 CE). The Wohl Archaeological Museum contains what are now the underground remains of a residential quarter where wealthy families belonging to the Jerusalem aristocracy and priesthood constructed homes overlooking the Temple Mount. Some archaeologists believe the palace of the Hasmoneans (also known as the Maccabees) is among the ruins.

The Jewish quarter also contains archaeological sites such as the Burnt House - the remains of a house from the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans 2000 years ago. The Cardo is a typical Roman street built in the 6<sup>th</sup> century consisting of stores situated between two rows of columns. The remains of the tall columns, arches, and stone floor can still be seen in the Cardo.

Today there are numerous synagogues and schools for Jewish studies, along with contemporary shops and restaurants up and down the streets. The ancient Roman Cardo Street (135 AD) with its old Byzantine bazaar (325 AD) has been preserved and is filled with trendy new businesses that sell a wide variety of items, including original art work by local artists.

## The Muslim Quarter

The Muslim Quarter is the largest and most populated of the four quarters in the Old City, covering 31 hectares (76 acres) and housing 22,000 residents. Most of its population arrived after its original Jewish and Christian residents moved to newer neighbourhoods. Today 60 Jewish families live in the quarter and numerous Yeshivot can be found there. Yeshivot is a Jewish institution that focuses on the study of traditional religious texts, primarily the Talmud and Torah study.

Many Christian sites can be found in the Muslim Quarter, including seven of the Stations of the Cross as well as many churches, most famously St. Anne's. The Muslim Quarter is also home to many Roman and Crusader sites.

Sitting in the northwest corner of the Old City, the quarter is accessed through Stephen's Gate (Lion's Gate), Herod's Gate and Damascus Gate. The most important sites in the Moslem Quarter are sacred sites for the Moslem faith such as the Dome of the Rock on Mount Moriah (also a holy place for the Jews). The Dome of the Rock sits above the Western Wall Plaza and while non-Muslims are not allowed to enter the building itself, tourists are able to tour the compound and nearby Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The Muslim Quarter is a huge contrast to the Jewish Quarter. Its streets are busier, more crowded with vendors, especially within the famous Shuk selling all varieties of products. Shuk is literally an ancient shopping mall in the 21<sup>st</sup> century where one can practice their bargaining skills and buy almost anything imaginable from spices, textiles, meats to vegetables, along with the usual touristy fare. We see kids play in the street, and men sit out in cafes smoking Nargila (hookah or shisha).

The main streets, El-Wad which leads to the Damascus Gate and Via Dolorosa which runs from the Lions Gate to intersect El-Wad, are bazaars with Muslim shopkeepers ready to sell the Christian Pilgrim a plastic crucifix or olive wood nativity set. When Jesus walked through these streets to his crucifixion they were busy even then and would have been filled with shops.

I think it is important to know a little more about Al-Aqsa Mosque which is in the Muslim quarter. At the southern end of the Temple Mount is the grey domed Al-Aqsa mosque. The name means "the distant one," and refers to the fact that it was the most distant sanctuary visited by Mohammed. It is also the place where Mohammed experienced the "night journey," which is why it is considered the third holiest Islamic shrine after Mecca and Medina. In 1951, King Abdullah of Transjordan (Jordanian King Abdullah's great-grandfather) was assassinated in front of the mosque.

Between the mosques (Al-Aqsa and Dome of the Rock) is a great water fountain used by Muslims to wash their feet before entering the holy places. Visitors must also remove their shoes. Both mosques are closed to tourists during the five times each day when Muslims pray. The Temple Mount also has a small museum.

A radical group of Orthodox Jews have periodically issued threats against the Muslim shrines in hopes of rebuilding the Temple there. These threats are treated seriously by the Israeli authorities and the group is kept away from the Temple Mount.

### **The Armenian Quarter**

The smallest quarter of the Old City is the **Armenian Quarter**. This area is home to some 2,500 Armenians, an ancient community who have resided here for over 2,000 years. Neither ethnically Arab nor Jewish, the Armenians were converted to Christianity soon after Jesus's death. Armenians first settled in Jerusalem around 300 CE after making pilgrimage to the city for many years.

The Armenians claim a presence in Jerusalem since the first century when an Armenian battalion fought under the Roman emperor Titus. The Armenians have accepted Christianity as their official religion in 286 A.D, before the days of Constantine. The nation of Armenia was the first nation to declare itself as a Christian nation. For the last 1,700 years Armenians have been living in Jerusalem, frequently finding themselves between warring factions.

The Armenian Quarter was established on Mount Zion in 301 AD Right before the Crusader period (1099-1187 AD) the Armenian Quarter



began to develop. It reached its current size during the Ottoman period (1517-1917). Today the Armenian “quarter” covers about one sixth of the Old City.

The Armenian section is almost a city within the city. The walled compound surrounds the Church of St. James, the Convent of the Olive Tree, the Armenian Patriarch residency, a monastery and a number of shops.

St. James Cathedral was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. This church later became the centre for the Armenian people in Israel. It is named after the brother of Jesus, who was the first bishop of the Jerusalem church and for James the Apostle. It is renowned for its beauty. The domed ceiling is illuminated by gold and silver lamps. Jesus' brother James is said to be buried in the central church and beyond the wooden doors inlaid with mother of pearl and tortoise shell is a place where the head of James is said to be buried.

The St. James Cathedral which takes up about two thirds of the quarter, houses gifts left by pilgrims over the last 1,000 years. It also includes a quiet residential area. The Gulbenkian Library is also inside the monastery. It holds more than 100,000 volumes, many dating back hundreds of years. The Mardigian Museum is nearby and it contains exhibits on Armenian art and culture and the genocide of 1915. Oddly enough, only one Armenian Church is in the Quarter, but four other denominations (Syrian, Maronite Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Anglican) have churches in this part of the city. Christ Church, the Anglican Church located just inside the Jaffa Gate, the oldest Protestant church in the Middle East (completed in 1849) has a Guest House for tourists in their small compound.

The seminary for Armenian priests and the Armenian Museum which presents the cultural and national history of the Armenian people are also located in the Armenian quarter. The most important site in the quarter is the building that houses the Armenian Patriarchate.

Between the fourth and eighth centuries, the Armenian population in the Holy Land grew and several Christian monasteries were built in the Armenian Quarter and throughout the Holy Land. The Armenians hung on to their holdings in Jerusalem throughout history as the city has

changed hands. The Armenians are known for their beautiful tile and ceramics and many tile shops can be found in the quarter.

The Armenians are not Palestinians, but they generally sympathize with their political agenda, although the Armenians have not supported the idea of Palestinian control over the Old City. In fact, during the Camp David Summit, leaders of the Armenian Church insisted the Christian and Armenian Quarters were inseparable and expressed their preference for international guarantees.



Old City of Jerusalem

## **Historical events related to Jerusalem**

### **c. 2000 Abraham**

Abraham blessed Melchizedek, king of Salem.

### **c. 1800 Israelites in Egypt**

### **c. 1500 Moses**

### **c. 1400 Joshua**

### **c. 1200 The Judges**

### **c. 1000 David made Jerusalem his capital**

**c. 930 Divided Kingdom, Israel in north, Judah in south with capital Jerusalem**

**723 Israel fell to Assyrians**

**586 Judah fell to Babylon, temple destroyed (539 Persians conquer Babylon)**

**536-516 Second Temple built, return of Jews**

**333 Greeks conquer Palestine**

**63 Rome conquers Palestine, Herod restores Temple**

**JESUS**

**70 CE The second Temple is destroyed**

**638 Muslims conquered Jerusalem**

**1099 Christians return to Jerusalem (Crusader walls built)**

**1517 Ottoman Turks conquer Jerusalem (1540 present walls built on Crusader walls)**

**1917 British conquer Jerusalem**

**1948 War of Independence & State of Israel**

**1967 Six-Day War and Jerusalem ruled by Jews**



**Old City of Jerusalem with  
Temple Mount, Kidron Valley and  
Mount of Olives with  
Lion's Gate & Golden Gate east,  
Jaffa Gate west,  
New, Damascus & Herod's Gates north  
and Dung & Zion Gates south**

## **GATES OF JERUSALEM**

Crusader walls of 1,000 years ago surround the Old City of Jerusalem today. The city of Jesus' day was about half this size, west and south of the high Temple Mount made from huge limestone. The temple entrance was where the Golden Gate is today, now walled in, facing east. The Golden Gate and Stephen's (Lion) Gate faced the sunrise and the Mount of Olives (where Jesus ascended) with the Olive groves of Gethsemane on its slopes. Calvary, Golgotha (the place of a skull) would be just outside the original city walls.

The gates of Jerusalem today mostly date from the time when Suleiman the Magnificent (1520-1566) rebuilt the walls. Work began in 1537 and was not completed until 1541. The length of the walls is 4,018 meters (2.5 miles), their average height is 12 meters (39.37 feet) and the average thickness is 2.5 meters (8.2 feet). You can walk on top of the northern walls from the Jaffa Gate to Lion's Gate, including many steps and ramparts.

The Old City covers roughly 220 acres (one square kilometre). The Old City has seven open gates (Jaffa, New, Damascus, Herod's, Lions'/St. Stephen's, Dung, Zion). The East Gate or Golden Gate is closed.

## Jaffa Gate



## Jaffa Gate

Named Jaffa Gate because of the road leading to the port city of Jaffa (Joppa), this gate is the only one on the western side of the Old City. It is one of busiest gates, located right above the Hinnom valley. On the inside it opens between the Armenian and the Christian Quarters.

In ancient days, pilgrims used to dock at the Mediterranean port of Jaffa. From Jaffa, if they walked east for 40 miles for three days or more along the Jaffa Road, they would have reached the Jaffa Gate. That's how it got its name. Now Jaffa is a suburb of Tel-Aviv. Today the Jaffa Gate is widely used for commerce as well as for access to the Holy sites by tourists and pilgrims.

The Jaffa Gate also faces Hebron where Abraham is buried. The Arabic name for Jaffa Gate is Bab el-Halil, Gate of the Friend or Hebron Gate. In Islam Abraham's title is Friend of God. The gate offers easy access to the Citadel Museum and a walk on the ramps.

Until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the early Ottoman rulers kept the Jaffa Gate locked from sunset to dawn for security reasons. Jaffa Gate was locked every night to keep out marauders, hyenas, jackals and dragons. The dragons may have been imaginary but the others were real. Travelers arriving at dusk had to carry lanterns so they could be identified and admitted into the city. Latecomers had to sleep outside the walls and wait until dawn when the Jaffa Gate opened. On Fridays the gate was locked so that infidels would not take over the city while Muslims were busy praying.

Jewish visitors entering the Jaffa Gate were required to tear their clothes as a sign of mourning for the lost city of David. A rabbi would be stationed at the gate to supervise the ceremony. The entrance in Jaffa Gate is angled which makes the entrance for automobiles very difficult. Vehicle traffic moves through the opening in the wall right next to the Jaffa Gate. The hole in the wall was cut in 1898 by the Ottoman rulers to accommodate the visiting ally, the German Kaiser Wilhelm II, who entered the city in a horse carriage accompanied by other German dignitaries.

On December 11, 1917 British general Edmund Allenby entered Jerusalem through the Jaffa Gate as a victor after routing the Ottoman army. Before entering the city he dismounted and together with his officers entered Jerusalem on foot so he would not be seen by the locals as a conqueror. He later accepted the official surrender from the Turkish representatives at the Citadel's Tower of David, located nearby.



**New Gate from outside  
looking into the Christian Quarter**





## **New Gate**

Its Hebrew name is Sha'ar Hadash and its Arabic name is Bab el Jedid, both meaning "new." This is the only Old City entryway not part of the original design of the 16<sup>th</sup> century walls. The New Gate is located on the north-western side of the Old City and represents the closest physical entrance to Jerusalem's Christian Quarter. It's the newest of all Jerusalem gates and was constructed in 1896 by the Turkish Sultan Abdul Hamid II, that's why it is sometimes called the Gate of Hamid.

The New Gate is a modest structure, not nearly as grand as the other Jerusalem gates in stature or in history. It was built at the request of some European governments who had influence with Sultan Hamid. They convinced the Turkish authorities to open a breach in the existing wall and to make a gate out of it. It was needed because the Christian population of the Holy City was growing outside the Old City walls and the New Gate gave them direct access into the Christian Quarter and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

After Israel's War of Independence of 1948 the Jordanian Authorities ended up in control of East Jerusalem. The international cease-fire line separating Israelis and Arabs crossed just near the New Gate so the Jordanians sealed it off completely. It was kept sealed until 1967 when as a result of the Six Day War, the Israelis ended up in possession of East Jerusalem and all the city gates. They reopened the New Gate, allowing full access to the Holy City for all religious denominations.



**Damascus Gate**  
**(Above c. 1900)**



## **Damascus Gate**

The Damascus Gate is the largest and most decorative of all the Jerusalem gates. It was built in 1541 AD by the Ottoman ruler Suleiman the Magnificent on the top of two older gates, one built by Herod the Great and another one built by the Roman Emperor Hadrian. It was primarily built for defensive purposes with slits for firing at attackers and an opening for pouring boiling oil on enemy soldiers trying to climb the wall.

The name Damascus Gate derives from the fact that it was a starting point for early travellers on their way to the city of Damascus in Syria. Muslims also refer to it as the Column Gate or the Gate of the Pillar because of the column inside the gate that allowed people to calculate the distance to Damascus.

The Damascus Gate is located on the northern side of the city and leads directly into the Muslim Quarter of East Jerusalem. On Fridays the crowds of Muslim worshipers make their way through the Damascus Gate to East Jerusalem after the morning prayers at Al-Aqsa mosque on Mount Moriah. There is a spacious plaza in front of the gate where the street vendors sell souvenirs and refreshments especially useful during the hot summer days. On Fridays and Saturdays it is the busiest gate leading into the city, with hundreds and sometimes thousands of shoppers looking for bargains, home-grown spices or fresh fruits.

The Jews call it the Shechem Gate as it also leads to the city of Shechem to the north of Jerusalem. On his way to Canaan, Abraham travelled through Shechem where he built an altar and offered his first sacrifice to God. It later became the first capital of the Kingdom of Israel. Presently Shechem is called Nablus and is the third largest Palestinian city.



**Herod's Gate north of the Temple Mount  
Sheep market above (c. 1900)**



## Herod's Gate

Herod's Gate is located in the north-eastern section of Jerusalem's Old City. It opens up into the heart of the Muslim Quarter which is full of small shops and houses. The gate is believed to be named after Herod the Great who rebuilt the Jewish Temple around 26 BC, although some sources believe that it was named after his son, Herod Antipas. Reconstruction of the temple under Herod began with a massive expansion of the Temple Mount. The old temple built by Zerubbabel was replaced by a magnificent edifice. Herod's Temple was one of the larger construction projects of the 1st century BC. Jesus' disciples commented on this: *Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!" And Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down"* (Mark 13:1-2). The Romans destroyed the temple and the city in 70 AD.

Herod's Gate is also known as Sheep's Gate because it led to the sheep market in ancient times. The Sheep Gate is mentioned by Nehemiah who came to Jerusalem with his followers to rebuild the desolate city. Nehemiah 3:1 says, "Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and as far as the Tower of Hananel".

Throughout the history of Jerusalem Herod's Gate was a place of non-stop bloodshed. Most invaders, including the Babylonians, Romans and Crusaders, came to Jerusalem from the North and inevitably had to use the Sheep's Gate and adjacent walls to get into the City.

Herod's Gate also is known as Flower Gate because of the floral designs engraved on the wall above the gate. Another reason it's called Flower Gate is because the local merchants sell fruit and flowers near the entrance.

## Lions Gate or Stephen's Gate

Lions' Gate is another name for this eastern entrance into the Old City because of the four lions that decorate the gate's façade, reportedly placed there because of a dream of the builder Suleiman.

This gate is so named because of the tradition that the first Christian martyr was stoned outside this gate. However an earlier tradition locates this execution outside a north gate of the city. Christians have identified this gate with Stephen's name in honour of his martyrdom outside the city (Acts 7:58-60).

This gate now gives access for small vehicles to the road in the Kidron Valley east of Jerusalem.



## Golden Gate

The Golden Gate is the only readily visible gate in the east wall. Its architectural style indicates that it was constructed by the Omayyad caliph Abd al-Malik (685-708 AD) when he refurbished the Temple Mount and constructed the Dome of the Rock (691 AD), a Muslim shrine not a mosque. The Golden Gate stands on the site of the original eastern entrance to the city. Monolithic stones in the wall just above ground have been identified as 6th century BC masonry from the time of Nehemiah (see Nehemiah 3:29, "East Gate").

Closed by the Muslims in 810, reopened in 1102 by the Crusaders, it was walled up by Saladin after regaining Jerusalem in 1187. Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent rebuilt it together with the city walls, but walled it up in 1541, and it stayed that way until today.

While Suleiman may have taken this decision purely for defensive reasons, in Jewish tradition this is the gate through which the Anointed One (Messiah) will enter Jerusalem, and it is suggested that Suleiman the Magnificent sealed off the Golden Gate to prevent the Messiah's entrance. The Ottomans also built a cemetery in front of the gate, in the belief that the precursor to the Anointed One, Elijah, would not be able to pass through the Golden Gate and thus the Anointed One would not come.

The Muslim cemetery still blocks the entrance. The Eastern Gate has remained sealed since that time just as prophesied in Ezekiel 44. The world would call that an "amazing coincidence." I call it a "God-incidence." Many believe that the Eastern Gate confirms the ancient prophecy.

**The gate has been closed, walled in, for most of 12 centuries from 810 AD.** It faces the Mount of Olives right across the Kidron valley. **Jesus entered into city on Palm Sunday through the eastern Gate. An Eastern gate into the temple was called the "Beautiful Gate" in Acts 3:2, 10.** The modern term "Golden Gate" may have been derived from the Latin Vulgate version of the Bible: When Jerome translated the text of Acts 3:2 he changed the Greek **oraia** (meaning "beautiful") into the

similar sounding Latin **aurea** ("golden"). So the Latin Vulgate text reads "Golden Gate" instead of "Beautiful Gate."

The Golden Gate is a structure that consists of the two gates that lead directly to the Temple Mount. The southern part of the gate is called the Gate of Mercy (Shaar Harashamim in Hebrew) as in ancient times Jews would pray in front of the gate asking the Almighty for mercy. The northern part is called the Gate of Repentance (Shaar Teshuvah in Hebrew). During the time of the First Temple period this was the closest entrance to the Temple of Solomon.







**Model of Golden Gate and Temple**



**Golden Gate, Eastern Gate  
Eastern wall of the Temple Mount**

## Dung Gate



**Dung Gate from inside**

The Dung Gate is located on the South Eastern side of the Old City. It's the only gate that opens up into the Jewish Quarter and is most often used by the pedestrians and the vehicles to get to the Western Wall, the most sacred place in Judaism.

From inside the city, to reach the gate, one would walk downhill and it's where Old City residents, over the centuries, would throw their

garbage. The Dung Gate is today one of the cleanest areas in the Old City.

The Hebrew name for Dung Gate, Sha'ar Ha'ashpot, can be traced back to biblical times. During the Temple period, Jewish priests performed thousands of animal sacrifices that produced an enormous amount of waste which was taken out of the City through the Dung Gate to be disposed of in the Kidron Valley nearby.

Sha'ar Ha'ashpot is mentioned in the book of Nehemiah as the gate used to take "piles of sweepings off the streets". Nehemiah 3:14 mentions the Dung Gate in relation to the rebuilding process of the second Temple: "Malkijah son of Recab, head of the district of Beth Hakkerem, worked on the Dung Gate. He rebuilt it and positioned its doors, its bolts, and its bars".

It is not clear if the biblical Dung Gate was located exactly at the same spot as the current gate because throughout the history the walls of Jerusalem were destroyed and rebuilt several times. But the old gate was located at least within the vicinity of the current structure.

In 1949, as a result of the Armistice Agreement between Israel and Jordan, the Dung Gate fell under Jordanian Control. The Jordanians renovated the structure built by the Ottomans by widening it in order to accommodate vehicles. In 1967, after the Six Day War, Israel captured East Jerusalem with the Temple Mount and the Western Wall. For the first time since 1948, Jews were able to pray at the Western Wall of the Temple Mount.

Currently the Dung Gate is the only entrance for the Jews to the Temple Mount. The Dung Gate is also referred to as the Gate of Silwan due to its close proximity to the Arab village of Silwan. In Arabic the gate is called Bab el Mugarbi meaning the gate of the North Africans. During the Turkish times in 16<sup>th</sup> century there was a neighbourhood inside the Dung Gate, close to the Wailing Wall called the Mugarbi neighbourhood whose residents had originated from North Africa. The Moors have not lived in the city for centuries but the name remains.



**Zion Gate**

## Zion Gate

The Zion Gate is located on the south western side of the Old City. Its Arabic name Bab Nabi Daud, "Gate of the Prophet David", came about because David's tomb that supposedly rests on Mount Zion is only a few steps away. Outside the gates to the south is the ridge called Mount Zion after which the Zion Gate was named.

The current structure was built by Suleiman the Magnificent. It allows a convenient entrance into the Armenian and Jewish Quarters. The entrance through the Zion Gate is L-shaped. It was constructed that way in order to slow down the potential invaders from entering the city in a rapid fashion. Today the Zion Gate is used by both pedestrians and motorists.

One of the main attractions of Mount Zion is a Tomb of David where King David is believed to be buried. That is why Muslims call it the Gate of the prophet David. Zion Gate is also called a Gate to the Jewish Quarter because of its close proximity to it and the fact that during periods of the Ottoman rule the keys to the gate were given to the city's Jews. Mount Zion is also a place where Christians believe the Last Supper took place in the Upper Room.

During the War of Independence in 1948, the Zion Gate was a major battleground in a fight between the Jewish and Arab forces. As a reminder of those events, the Zion Gate is covered with bullet holes providing the visitors with a glimpse into how fierce the fight was for the ownership of the Holy City.

While the Israelis won the War of Independence, they did not succeed in holding on to the Eastern part of Jerusalem and the Jewish Quarter which fell under the Jordanian control. Zion Gate also ended up in Jordanian hands and the area around it was called a "No-Man's-Land" because it was heavily mined and under constant sniper fire.

For 19 years from 1948 to 1967 the Jordanians kept the Zion Gate closed. That changed after the Six-Day War, when Israel took control of the entire Jerusalem. They reopened the Zion Gate and allowed full access to the holy places for all religions.

## JERUSALEM OLD CITY

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### Old City Gates & Walls

— Old City Walls



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***Part 2***

***Journal***

**Reproduced from  
*Our Trip,*  
Handwritten Journal  
December-January  
1981-1982**



**NASA photo above the Middle East**  
**Egypt - Nile River, Cairo, Pyramids**  
**Red Sea, Gulf of Suez, Gulf of Aqaba**  
**Israel – Dead Sea, Galilee**  
**Mediterranean Sea, Cyprus, Turkey, Greece**



## ***ITINERARY***

Fri Dec 18, 1981: Brisbane – Singapore – Rome

Sat Dec 19: Rome – Tel Aviv – Jerusalem

Mon Dec 28: Jerusalem – Eilat

Wed Dec 30: Eilat – Sinai

Thu Dec 31: Sinai – Eilat

Fri Jan 1, 1982: Eilat – Tel Aviv – Tiberius

Tue Jan 5: Tiberius – Jerusalem

Wed Jan 6: Jerusalem – Cairo

Sun Jan 10: Cairo – Jerusalem

Wed Jan 13: Jerusalem – Eilat

Thu Jan 14: Eilat – Tiberius

Fri Jan 15: Tiberius – Haiffa – Tiberius

Sun Jan 17: Tiberius – Jerusalem

Tue Jan 19: Jerusalem – Tel Aviv – Rome

Wed Jan 20: Rome – Singapore

Fri Jan 22: Singapore – Australia

Sat Jan 23: Brisbane

## ***TOUR GROUP***

Our family, Geoff & Meg, Lucinda (12), Jonathan (11), & Melinda (9) planned and travelled with our friends Di Reynoldson and Paul Varendorf who lived in community with us and also Diane Farmer and David Baker from Wesley Uniting Church at Kangaroo Point where we were involved when I was teaching at Alcorn College nearby.

We all made our own itineraries, using the Christ Church hospice in Jerusalem and the Church of Scotland hospice in Tiberius on Galilee as our main bases. Paul and his friend Nigel went backpacking and camping, but the rest of us preferred hospice (hostel) accommodation.

Our visit coincided with Hanukah and Christmas in Israel's winter, cool and bracing in the hills of Jerusalem. Most of our photos have been lost or damaged but a few old ones remain.



### **NASA photograph of Israel**

The Jordan Valley flows from  
the Sea of Galilee (700 feet below sea level)  
to the Dead Sea (1300 feet below sea level)

**DATE: Friday, December 18, 1981**

**PLACE: Brisbane – Sydney – Melbourne – Singapore – Bombay**

**BIBLE: *They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint (Isaiah 40:31).***

Rain in Brisbane – then clear mostly.

Meg Lucinda, Jonathan, Melinda & I to airport with Di Reynoldson joining Diane Farmer & David Baker – taken by Dave Turnbull, Neil Ennis, John Patton.

To **Sydney** on TAA Airbus – 1<sup>st</sup> snack.

In Sydney Meg phoned Anita & Molly & we all had salad roll & apple juice at cafeteria – 2<sup>nd</sup> snack.

Boarded Alitalia before 2pm – two window seats.

To **Melbourne** – 3<sup>rd</sup> snack – arriving 3.30pm.

Depart Melbourne 4.45pm – dinner, 4<sup>th</sup> snack over S.A. Scattered cloud. Dry, flat, brown desert S.A.-W.A. Film: Superman II (power for mission!). Sunset above clouds – bright golden/red (9pm EST). 5<sup>th</sup> snack, 11pm EST. Melinda on floor – all dozing.

Arrive **Singapore** 8pm (11pm EST); stroll around airport shops; depart 9pm (12 EST). 6<sup>th</sup> snack & sleep.

Arrive **Bombay** 1am (6am EST). Stay on board. 7<sup>th</sup> snack and film: The Way We Were (relationships).

(UN vote on Israel annexing Golan Heights – null and void)

[I add occasional comments in these square brackets for this book, approximately 30 years later. I wrote daily Good News Bible quotes, and included world news (in normal brackets) in my original journal. In Jerusalem we stayed in the Anglican hospice attached to Christ Church Cathedral inside the Old City near the Jaffa Gate. Buildings in Jerusalem are made from limestone, shining golden in the sunrise and sunset. In Galilee we stayed at the Church of Scotland hospice in Tiberius on the south western shore of the lake, formerly a grand Turkish government administration building, made from bluestone. Israelis have 3 holy days a week, **Friday** for Muslims, **Saturday** for Jews, and **Sunday** for Christians. Our visit felt like holy days every day in the Holy Land.]



**Jerusalem, looking west from the Mount of Olives with the Temple Mount (and the Dome of the Rock mosque) on the eastern edge of the Old City**

**DATE: Saturday, December 19**

**PLACE: Rome – Tel Aviv – Jerusalem**

**BIBLE: *As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people, now and for ever (Psalm 125:2).***

Cool weather.

Breakfast – 8<sup>th</sup> snack – at 4am, Rome time (2pm EST), after dozing. Children had turns on floor and across seats. Melinda's tooth loose and out (pillowed coin at night); Jonathan doing puzzles; Lucinda reading.

Arrived **Rome** 5.30am – all a little weary. Rome airport till 11.30am. Walking – reading *Wizard of Earthsea* (spirit power). Meg regarded as Italian often; men eye women; novelty and excitement fading through weariness, yet keenly anticipating Israel, and especially Jerusalem. Reflecting on Paul being here – touching history now like entering via Acts instead of Genesis – going backwards into time past.

Calm sunny flight from Rome to **Tel Aviv** above the clouds; from Italy shore to Israel shore – near Rome to near Joppa – Paul to Peter – to Jerusalem in 7-seater Sherut (taxi), to hospice with driver 'Isaac'.

First vivid impressions – calm coast, stone and brick city in white – flat roves, green fields, rocky hills, mountains ascending to Jerusalem – drove past two kibbutz [farming settlements].

Delivered to hospice by 6pm – lights of Jerusalem decorating hill tops. Clean up & Paul & Nigel arrived with oranges [Sabbath ended at sunset].

Supper [English dinner] in hospice dining room – inside Old City.

Then walk-run around walls: **Jaffa, New, Damascus, Herods, Stephens (Lion), Golden, Dung, Zion Gates**; and back. Amazing, awe inspiring – history in stone. Old man on leaded donkey near Zion Gate: Me: "Shalom." Reply: "Shalom, Shalom."

More vivid impressions – floodlit walls, solid; deep valleys – Kidron [east] & Hinnom [west] – very hilly – detailed southern excavations [outside city walls]. Remembered Nehemiah. Back to Jaffa Gate. [Each night, when Meg and the children retired in the dormitory bedroom that we had to ourselves – off season - I walked, sauntered around the floodlit Old City walls beginning at a different one of the 8 city gates each time.]

(USA cancels strategic co-operation with Israel.)



### **Garden Tomb**

**Ancient tomb in beautiful peaceful garden**

**Possible, but unlikely, resurrection site north of Old City**

**DATE: Sunday, December 20**

**PLACE: Jerusalem**

**BIBLE: *And now we are here, standing inside the gates of Jerusalem. ... Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May those who love you prosper (Psalm 122:2,6).***

Fine, sunny. First full day in Jerusalem – ‘The Lord’s Day.’

7.30am Breakfast – bacon and eggs!! – 8 together at table.

8am Communion at **Christ Church Cathedral**, rail kneeling.

Hurry to **Garden Tomb** for last part of service. Singing “Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings” as we walked in. Sermon on Christmas – Revelation, Response, Reality. Sang “All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace.” Organ: He is Lord. How Great Thou Art. Then wandered through the garden and went straight into the tomb. “He is not here; he is risen” on door, open. Path to skull hill closed. Walking, strolling hand in hand with Meg and children, often.

Back to **Old City** via bank; buy bread, paper, tapestry; through Herod’s Gate to **Temple Mount** – view of Golden Gate & Mount of Olives from Temple stone platform. To **Western Wall** – spacious – through Chain Street – sheepskin mat, postcards – fruit (pomegranate!) – sheepskin coat [bargain, his first sale of the day] – Meg and Melinda’s leather bags & clay pots – Jerusalem Post [spells God – ‘G-d’ - holy]. Fruit for lunch. Postcard home, Mum Maude – walk with group, 10, to **southern wall**, Zion, excavations, film of Mount of Olives, through Jewish and Armenian Quarters to hospice (2 bios) – then with Lucy and Di to **Western Wall** for 1<sup>st</sup> day of Hanukkah – deliverance from Syrian Greeks and cleansing of the Temple – flame alight (1+1). Prayer at **Western Wall**. Back for supper and Carols Service – “Glory to God in the highest”. Then to **Baptist Church**, Narkiss Street – prayer: manifestation of strong presence [charismatic; burning smell everyone noticed; deacon checked electric points! Run back to New Gate.]

Walk, run, prayer around walls. “Jerusalem, Shalom” – hospice gate keeper returned greeting, “Shalom, Shalom” after return via **New Gate**.

A great day – the stuff of which memories are made. Light – presence – tears – joy – praise – prayer – worship.

(Knesset denounces USA)



**Entrance to Church of the Holy Sepulchre**

**Likely site of Calvary**

**An ancient tomb nearby**



**DATE: Monday, December 21**

**PLACE: Jerusalem**

**BIBLE: *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem - How many times I wanted to put my arms around all your people, just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would not let me. And so your temple will be abandoned and empty. From now on, I tell you, you will never see me again until you say, God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord (Matthew 23:37-39).***

Fine, sunny. After family breakfast with David, led by 'Michael' [walking tour guide] through the Old City – including Western Wall (with Bar Mitzvah), Golden Gate and Temple Mount, olive trees (Ez 44:1-3 – outer gate which faces east – This gate shall remain shut).

**Bethesda**, near old market – sheep pool, House of Grace/Mercy – pillars – John 5 [by the sheep gate there is a pool – five porticoes].

**Antonia Fortress**, Pilate's fortress – model of fortress/garrison – on Via Dolorosa – original floor and cistern.

**Stations of the Cross**, dug up for TV cables – original pavements in place.

**Calvary in Church of the Holy Sepulchre** – 15 chapels! Not here – risen.

Return to hospice to family – Meg, Di and children in New City. Laundromat – 3 hours. Postcards to Bramleys, Pauline, Jean, Doug, John, Neil, Elaine, Hazel, Graeme, Heather, Daphne, Lyn, Dianne, Philip. PO, mailing, stamps.

Light rain at supper time after visit to Western Wall for 2<sup>nd</sup> lamp of Hanukkah – 3 lights.

After supper, 3<sup>rd</sup> circuit of Old City by floodlight, from and to **Damascus Gate**. Clear sky – stars.

Meditation between **Gethsemane** and **Golden Gate** – love and rejection and sacrifice – “Not my will, but yours be done” – having set his face steadfastly toward Jerusalem. God's purposes are hidden – the inside is bigger than the outside – the Kingdom of God is within.

Shalom – Jerusalem Shalom.

(USA pact in abeyance, not cancelled)



**Masada mountain fortress beside the Dead Sea,  
Remains of a fortress built by Herod the Great  
and the last stand of Jews in the 70AD war with Rome.  
Melinda and Jonathan at Masada ruins  
Overlooking the Dead Sea**



**DATE:** Tuesday, December 22

**PLACE:** Jerusalem - Masada

**BIBLE:** *I will comfort you in Jerusalem as a mother comforts her child. When you see this happen, you will be glad; I will make you strong and healthy. Then you will know that I, the Lord, help those who obey me, and I show my anger against my enemies (Isaiah 66:13-14).*

Fine, warm. Trip to Masada.

8am by bus 20 to Egged Central Bus Station. Missed 8.30 – too many in queue. 9.30 bus – around north wall, across Kidron brook, around slopes of **Mount of Olives** – through hills dropping east to **Jordan River** – barren countryside – Bedouin tents – shaggy sheep on rocky hills.

South to **Dead Sea** – 1400 feet below sea level – Along shore to **En Gedi** and on to **Masada**.

Cable car to top. Rubble and ruins of strange, sad story. Some amazing stone work. Remains still show former futile glory and folly ending in suicide. Most impressive to me: permanence of constructions, mosaics, rain water cisterns, huge earth ramp. Snake path, amazing historical track to top.

Wait for bus to **En Gedi Beach**. Swim in Dead Sae. Mud smears – black – floating – salt taste – eyes sting – refreshing.

Taxi offered return trip. Waughs and Di set off. Stopped at **En Gedi** – terrorist scare – road blocked – return to beach. I swap with Diane Farmer – taxi returns by scenic tour south of **Masada (Arad, Hebron)**.

David and I wait and wonder. Soldiers say road clear soon. Bus arrives about 5pm – night trip back, fast. Lights along shore – Jericho – and Jerusalem like a crown of diamonds in the distance – spread out.

Some reflections on history there – Jerusalem-Jericho road, barren – wide **Jordan River** valley, Jordan hills and **Mt Pisgah (Moab mountains)**.

Dinner at Select Restaurant. 4<sup>th</sup> circuit of walls from/to **Herod's Gate** – songs – back via Hanukkah flames at Western Wall. Shalom.

(Knesset Opposition plans no confidence vote.)



**Gordon's Calvary, hill with graves near Garden Tomb**

**Just north of the Old City**

**DATE: Wednesday, December 23**

**PLACE: Jerusalem**

**BIBLE: *No one can really build a temple for God, because even all the vastness of heaven cannot contain him. How then can I build a temple that would be anything more than a place to burn incense to God. (2 Chronicles 2:6). King David, Solomon's father, had already prepared a place for the temple. It was in Jerusalem, on Mount Moriah ... (2 Chronicles 3:1).***

Fine, warm. 2<sup>nd</sup> Guided Walking Tour: **Outside Old City** with Di and Diane, led by 'Michael'.

**Armenian Quarter Cathedral** (St James' head buried! James the Less too) to **Zion Gate**

**Church of the Dormition** – Mary sleep – 2 levels – recent 1906.

**House of Prayer for All Nations.** Built on site of Last Supper and Pentecost after 1188 Crusader/Turk war – Mosque till 1948, hence minaret!

**Hinnom Valley** and **Field of Blood** and **Mt of Evil Counsel** (British then U.N. base!)

**Church of the Cock Crow** – High Priest's house and prison. Steps to Kidron Valley, and

**Zion City** – Mount Zion – near water. Go up to Temple Mount.

**Mount of Olives** – **Palm Sunday Road** – **Gethsemane** in Olive trees garden/grove. Rock in **Church of All Nations** (Church of Agony).

**Tomb of the Blessed Virgin** – and oil press.

**Garden Tomb** – **Skull Hill** – and wine press. Meg and children also here. Mustard tree and seeds – black specks.

Back to hospice. Family walk on the Old City wall [2 horses wide] – **Jaffa Gate to Damascus Gate**. Meg to King David Hotel, enquiry re London visit. Children and I went to Baptist Book Shop – souvenirs. Paul and Nigel back from Dead Sea. Meg, Di & Diane out for dinner.

5<sup>th</sup> circuit of Old City walls from/to **Stephen's Gate**, via 5 Hanukkah flames at Western Wall, soft chants. Longest trek!

Shalom Jerusalem Shalom.



**Western Wall Plaza**

**Beside the Temple Mount**



**DATE: Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve**

**PLACE: Jerusalem**

**BIBLE: Jerusalem, I can never forget you! I have written your name on the palms of my hands (Isaiah 49:16 GNB. – your walls are continually before me. NRSV).**

Cool, overcast, some light rain.

Early morning walk with Melinda to **Zion Hill** – up minaret on site of Last Supper and Pentecost – view of city.

Meg and Di arranged London trip (January 10-17).

To **Citadel** – multimedia view of Jerusalem, exhibition of dress, on fortress roof.

With children to **Western Wall** – Bar Mitzvah on film – family clusters – women by rail – Torah read.

Afternoon to YMCA for bus trip to the **Shepherds Field, Bethlehem**.

Left in bus at 3.30 for 4.30 Carols Service. Barren hills, rocky outcrops, view of Bethlehem.

Sky clear for service. Carols, readings, and choirs, finish with **Hallelujah Chorus**. Bus back to **Jaffa Gate** – singing on bus.

With Lucy to **Baptist Church** – carols finished! Back again.

Old City walls still have special appeal. Late evening walk-run from/to the **Dung Gate**, through **Western Wall** plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Hanukkah flame burning – 6<sup>th</sup> circuit of walls.

Looking forward to finish, yet exhilarating sense of greater purpose to be completed, Christmas night, followed by Sabbath service and Sunday services.

11.30pm service at **Christ Church**. Very weary – hard to stay awake but enjoyed carols and wanted Communion. No great depth of feeling – just peace.

So began Christmas Day in Jerusalem – kneeling for communion, rising for carols.



**Church of the Nativity and Plaza**

**In Bethlehem**



**DATE:** Friday, December 25 – Christmas Day

**PLACE:** Jerusalem – Bethlehem

**BIBLE:** *People of Jerusalem, gather your forces! We are besieged! They are attacking the leader of Israel! The Lord says, "Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are one of the smallest towns in Judah, but out of you I will bring a ruler for Israel, whose family line goes back to ancient times." So the Lord will abandon his people to their enemies until the woman who is to give birth has her son ... When he comes he will rule his people with the strength that comes from the Lord and with the majesty of the Lord God himself. His people will live in safety because people all over the earth will acknowledge his greatness, and he will bring peace (Micah 5:1-5).*

Christmas Day dawned bleak and wet. Cool, overcast, light rain to clearing. Christmas presents, greetings. Bacon and eggs for breakfast!

Through **Old City** to **Garden Tomb** for Carols Service. Packed chapel. Standing. Children sit at front. Walk back via **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. Much discussion. Not impressed with religious overlay.

Meg and children to **Christ Church** for family service and communion. David and I to Alpha office for Egypt tickets. I went on to Egged bus terminal for Eilat tickets. Back on bus.

Christmas Dinner (lunch) – candles – meats & vegetables, pudding, white wine. Dates and sweets with coffee/tea in lounge. 3 meals there today!

To **Bethlehem** on bus with Lucinda and Melinda, David, Diane, & Philip (USA). **Church of the Nativity, Jerome's Cave**, town square – crowded. Film of Shepherd's Field. Walk to David's Wells – many steps – film. Return to hospice for Supper – smorgasbord and Christmas cake.

Final walk around **Old City** walls from/to **Zion Gate**. Some reflections: Dates astounding for first week. Saturday arrival. Sunday first full day. Friday Christmas conclusion to daily circuit of walls. Communion on walk – close and clear – together. Dark section lit for first time! No detour! Eastern hill open – hallelujah. Pinnacle of temple corner – leaning and looking. Diamond stars. Closer walk to wall. Clear weather every night! Inside final gate, felt Presence, strong.

Thank you Jesus, Messiah, Lord and God.

Jerusalem. Shalom Jerusalem Shalom.



**Ruins of Pool of Bethesda beside Temple Mount  
Diane Reynoldson and Diane Farmer view ruins**

**DATE: Saturday, December 26 – Boxing Day**

**PLACE: Jerusalem**

**BIBLE:** *People of God, walk around Zion and count the towers; take notice of the walls and examine the fortresses, so that you may tell the next generation: "This God is our God for ever and ever; he will lead us for all time to come" (Psalm 48:12-14).*

**Sunrise over Jerusalem** – photo from Pentecost tower. Cloudy, cool, clear at times.

**Baptist Church** with Di. Charismatic service.

9.30am Begin with "O come let us adore him, ... Christ the Lord" Message on cultural clothing of the gospel – our language.

10am Morning Tea – met Kelvin & Philip from Australia. Manifestation of Presence in both services.

10.30am Worship – Hebrew and English. Gentle. Many participate. Sensitive to the Spirit. Prophetic Word: Worship – glory of God revealed – healing/deliverance/salvation – his holy temple – his people. Message: Jeremiah 31:31-33 and 2 Corinthians 5:17 – NEW: no longer see from a human point of view – now from God's Spirit.

Fruit for lunch at hospice, then walk through the **Old City** to 'Ecco Homo' in fortress - models of fortress and photo of Shroud of Turin. Original pavement, markings, cisterns. Ice cream for children near **Stephen's Gate**.

**Pool of Bethesda.** Ruins. Grassy ledge. St Ann's Church – echoes – woman's solo, "How Great Thou Art". Fantastic. Moving.

Walk back through **Old City**. Jonathan's skull cap. Lucy's scarf. Resting and notes. Supper and early to bed. Meg to "Ruth" film.

Prayer, communion in bed. Manifestation of loving Presence.

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us

with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work

to your praise and glory. Amen

(Christ Church communion prayer)



**Western Wall of the Temple Mount**  
**Original wall from Jesus' time**  
**Sacred place for Jews to pray**  
**Ground level higher now over ruins**  
**Top of ancient arch doorway visible**

**DATE: Sunday, December 27**

**PLACE: Jerusalem**

**BIBLE: The Lord built his city on the sacred hill; more than any other place in Israel he loves the city of Jerusalem. Listen, city of God, to the wonderful things he says about you: ... "In Zion is the source of all our blessings" (Psalm 87:1,2,7).**

Cloudy, cool. Breakfast – bacon and eggs.

Communion at **Christ Church** – kneel – tears – close to him, to Calvary. "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face ..."

Playing with Jonathan and Melinda – blind man's bluff. Meg and Lucy to Laundromat, and collect London ticket. Hospice lunch – salad.

Family to **Holocaust Museum** – a glimpse of hell on earth. Return via bank. Huge flock of birds swirling at dusk.

To 8 lights of **Hanukkah**, with Lucy near **Western Wall**.

Supper – chicken and vegetables (3 meals at hospice!)

**Baptist Church** prayer meeting – 8 candles lit – celebration of end of Hanukkah – Festival of Lights or Feast of Dedication, commemorating dedication of the Temple when oil burned for 8 days till Olive oil could be made. Back to **Old City** with Lawrence.

*John 10:22 – It was winter, and the Festival of the Dedication of the temple was being celebrated in Jerusalem.*

*- v 23 - Jesus was walking in Solomon's Porch in the Temple when the people gathered around him ...*

*- v 31 – My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me ...*

*- v 39 – Once more they tried to seize Jesus, but he slipped out of their hands.*

*- v 40 – Jesus then went back again across the Jordan River to the place where John had been baptizing, and he stayed there.*

*- v 41 – Many people came to him ...*

*- v 42 – And many people there believed in him.*



**Walls of Old City of Jerusalem**  
**from the south**

**DATE: Monday, December 28**

**PLACE: Jerusalem - Eilat**

***BIBLE: The Lord is great and is to be highly praised in the city of our God, on his sacred hill. Zion, the mountain of God, is high and beautiful; the city of the great king brings joy to all the world. God has shown that there is safety with him inside the fortresses of the city (Psalm 48:1-3).***

Fine weather. Breakfast at Christ Church hospice – accounts paid and return bookings made.

By bus 20 to Central Bus Station at 9.30am. Whole group met there – Waughs, Di, Diane, David, Paul, Nigel & Rob. Coffee, Hanukkah roll for children. Huge photo of Jeruslaem over Temple Mount.

11am Egged bus to Eilat via Qumran, En Gedi, Sodom; 20 minutes stop at Ein Yahav; to Eilat on Red Sea gulf.

To Blue Sky Caravan Park in taxi. Organizing for 11 people! Waughs in one caravan; Paul, Di & Diane in one; David, Nigel & Rob in one.

Phone call re Egypt tour – extended one day because border closed on January 7, so now leaving on January 6 for 5 day trip, January 6-10.

Supper at Blue Sky cafeteria – soup & Vienna Schnitzel & chicken. Children early to bed. Cool beach walk. Bed on floor.

### **Reflections:**

Days pass so quickly – so much to see and do. All fascinating. So much history in each place.

Today's trip passed by Moab mountains (Pisgah – Moses); En Gedi caves (David & Saul); Masada; plains of Sodom; Arava Valley to Eilat (Moses) and port of Eilat (Solomon). Barren desert except where watered – then flourishing green oasis.

Different spiritual atmosphere: in Jerusalem a sense of extremely powerful and holy angels guarding Old City area. Elsewhere, sense of purpose and peace amid dedicated human activities.

[Nice to have 'breathing space' together by the beach – gulf. Walking, dancing, playing with children; sitting, hugging with Meg.]



**Red Sea near Eilat on the Gulf of Aqaba**

**View from Sinai desert along the gulf**

**Looking east to Arabia**



**DATE:** Tuesday, December 29

**PLACE:** Eilat (Gulf of Aqaba)

**BIBLE:** *We finally turned and went into the desert on the road to the Gulf of Awaba, as the Lord had commanded, and we spent a long time wandering about in the hill country of Eden. Then the Lord told me we should go north (Deuteronomy 2:1-3).*

Clear, sunny, & cool breeze. A rest day – very welcome.

Breakfast at Blue Sky Caravan Park – Israeli style – salad, boiled egg, cheese, bread, coffee.

To beach to lie in the sun. Warm. One swim, no burning. Children played on rocks and sand. Meg to shops for cash and Sinai bus ticket. Washing dried, and more hung and dried.

Meg bought books, especially *An Eye on Israel* – photos and poetry, also *The Clowns of God* (Morris West).

Lunch by the beach – chicken schnitzel. Ice cream for children. View of 4 countries – Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Arabia. Taking 8mm film, children play.

Supper at Blue Sky – soup and coffee. Reading. Bed on floor.

Good to have a change of pace and a quiet day.

everything here

    makes you think ...

what do I look for here

God knows

    In some way

    here

I need to come

to terms with myself

    get it together.

(*An Eye on Israel*, Hans Bouma, 1978, p. 68)



**Bedouin well in Sinai desert**

**Desert road to 'Mt Sinai'**



**DATE: Wednesday, December 30**

**PLACE: Eilat – Sinai**

**BIBLE: *One day while Moses was taking care of the sheep and the goats ... he came to Sinai, the holy mountain ... a flame coming from the middle of a bush ... When the Lord saw that Moses was coming closer ... he said, "Moses! Moses!" He answered, "Yes, here I am" (Exodus 3:1-4).***

Clear, cool. Quick breakfast – Israeli style again.

Egged bus to Sinai. Collected Di and Diane near Youth Hostel. South along Red Sea past inland harbour (Ezion-geber?) to **Neviot**.

Drinks and walk on sand at Neviot oasis. Then south west into Sinai desert – stark sandstone mountains with wide flat valleys or wadis. Bedouin camps. Lunch at Wadi Sa'al – camel, goats, sheep, well. Bread roll with tomato, cucumber, chicken and orange. Bottled water.

Border check points. Drop toilets! Israeli and Egyptian soldiers. On to airfield at St Catherine's. Change to Egyptian bus – air-conditioned.

To St Catherine's Monastery on a presumed site of the burning bush [unlikely]. Tour around outside of monastery.

Hostel rooms – bunks – 2 blankets. Cold as sun sets – sharp shadows and sharp mountain skyline. Extra clothes for warmth. Dinner at 7pm – schnitzel and chicken with salad, plums, coffee.

To bed early under clear, desert stars. Layers of clothes – 2 trousers, 2 socks, 2 jumpers, 2 blankets. Candle and matches on floor.

### **Reflections:**

Life in the wilderness – dusty but hardy – camels, goats, sheep, donkeys kept by Bedouins.

Flat valleys, sometimes wide, between steep rocky hills or mountains. Stillness.

Monks attracted to the desert – time and solitude to meditate.

God is everywhere – we just need to listen.



**St Catherine's Monastery in valley**

**With unlikely 'Mt Sinai' behind**

**DATE: Thursday, December 31**

**PLACE: Sinai – Eilat**

**BIBLE: *The people of Israel ... came to the desert of Sinai. There they set up camp at the foot of Mt Sinai, and Moses went up the mountain to meet with God (Exodus 19:1-3).***

2.30am woken. Clear, cold. Coffee and pastries.

3am off to **Mt Sinai** with Lucy and Jonathan. Bright starlight. Falling star. Satellites.

5am on summit. Cold. Leather coat and scarf & 2 jumpers. Stillness. God almighty. Grandeur. Serried ranks of ranges. Red-crimson sunrise.

New day – new way. No longer in tablets of stone, but in the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34; see v26 “I went to sleep and woke up refreshed” – new year’s eve!).

6am sunrise and descent past stone chapel and Stephanus’ Gate. 3,000 stone steps.

7.30am back again, ready for

8am breakfast – bread roll, salad, egg, plums, juice, coffee.

8.30am run up valley to photograph Mt Sinai and valley floor, to Sadat’s villa.

9.30am return and tour of monastery dating from 6<sup>th</sup> century. **Codex Sinaiticus** (Greek OT translation) written there. Library. Minaret and bell tower (for protection!). Icons. Bush – climbing vine!

10.30am leave in buses to airstrips. Change buses (older, hard to start!) and return same route to **Neviot** oasis for lunch – passports stamped on route.

2pm lunch near beach under palm shelter – purple cabbage & chips in bread and fish and chicken schnitzel.

Return to **Blue Sky Caravan Park** for supper – soup and drink.

Beds organised. Notes made. Meg on floor. Cold night.

[So ended 1982 – as in the OT era – the old has gone, the new has come with a new year and new adventures.]



**Galilee**

**North west Sea of Galilee**

**Looking north to Magdala and Capernaum**

**DATE: Friday, January 1, 1982**

**PLACE: Eilat – Tel Aviv – Tiberius**

**BIBLE: *After this Jesus appeared once more to his disciples at Lake Tiberius (John 21:1).***

Very Happy New Year! Clear, cool. Early start from **Eilat** after coffee and choco. Driven to bus station by manager. Breakfast in 2 boxes.

Bus from **Eilat** along **Arava Valley**; stop at **Ein Yahav** for drinks. Inland to **Beer Sheva** and on to **Tel Aviv**. Heading from barren hills of **Negev** into cultivated country – trees – orange orchards and crops.

Change bus at **Tel Aviv** – pile of ports and bags down bus isle. Bus full. Finishing boxed breakfasts – bread, tomato, cheese for lunch.

North to **Hadera** past more orange orchards and cultivated hills. Then north-east through green **Sharon Valley** and wooded hills to **Jezreel (Megiddo) Valley** – fertile, wide, green. Past **Nain** and **Mt Tabor** into **Galilee** hills.

First view of **Sea of Galilee** from hills above **Tiberius**. Descent to town (700 feet below sea level).

Carrying bags down street to **Church of Scotland hospice** on shore.

Four rooms in Samuel House. Spacious beautiful grounds. Crusader walls. Gardens. Bluestone mansion, former Turkish government HQ.

Supper – soup, meat & veggies, pineapple & oranges – welcome food after sparse eating on buses.

With Meg in front room – beautiful view of lake.

### **Reflections:**

Galilee!

He came back

at the shore of the lake

he's one of us for good

listen

his voice echoes

over the water

*(An Eye of Israel, Hans Bouma, 1978)*



**A view of Capernaum and north western Lake Galilee**

**Plain of Bethsaida and hills to north**

**Photograph © Ferrell Jenkins 2010**

**[<http://ferrelljenkins.wordpress.com>]**



**DATE: Saturday, January 2**

**PLACE: Tiberius – Lake Galilee**

**BIBLE: *Jesus went across Lake Galilee (or, Lake Tiberius, as it is also called) ... they saw Jesus walking on the water (John 6:1,19).***

Galilee!

Clear, warm. Breakfast by the Sea of Galilee – toast, boiled egg. Washing and hanging clothes. Wandering in the hospice garden. Films.

Lunch – soup and hamburger mince & chips & salad, and fruit. Met Jacqueline – offered to drive us around lake.

Drive around Sea of Galilee – 30 miles (50 K) – to **Jordan** exit in south (baptisms site), **En Gev** kibbutz in east [Gadara madman, pigs], **Jordan** entry in north [& Bethsaida, feeding crowds], **Mount of Beatitudes**, **Capernaum** [disciples, base], **Tabgha**, **Nof Ginnosar** kibbutz, to **Tiberius**.

His place – manifestation – his presence – strong.

Dinner – soup, chicken & rice & vegetables, sweets. Reading Blaiklock's *Eight Days in Israel* and *Israel, Past and Present*.

With Meg, in comfort.

**Reflections:**

O Sabbath rest by Galilee  
O calm of hills above  
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee  
The silence of eternity  
Interpreted by love.

how in his element

he was here

at the shore of the lake

talking preaching

healing liberating

distributing bread and fish

a brother one of us

(*An Eye on Israel*, Hand Bouma, 1978)



**View of Lake Galilee from  
Church of Scotland hospice  
Former Turkish government HQ In Tiberius**

**DATE: Sunday, January 3**

**PLACE: Tiberius**

**BIBLE: *Jesus went to Galilee and preached the Good News from God. "The right time has come," he said, "and the Kingdom of God is near! Turn away from your sins and believe the Good News" (Mark 1:14-15).***

Clear, warm. Breakfast at hospice – grapefruit, toast, egg.

Shopping, bank, coffee & cake on Promenade, 3 films, Galilee book. Slides, biscuits, fruit & tinned coffee.

Lunch together on front porch.

Walk to Hot Springs – Lucy slept – warm in baths – spa water. Return walk – view old city walls.

Ice cream on Promenade with children. Telephone calls to arrange Meg's trip.

Dinner – mince and vegetables, with soup and sweets.

**Church Service** with Communion – new year, new beginnings. So good to have Communion by the Sea of Galilee, and remember – till he come.

### **NOTES ON JESUS IN GALILEE**

Mark 1:1-13 Jesus at the Jordan River, south of Galilee

Mark 1:14-34 In Capernaum – calls disciples – delivers man in synagogue, healing in Peter's house

Mark 1:35-45 Prayer alone, Galilee travels

Mark 2 Paralyzed man in house (Peter's?), Levi called

Mark 3 man's paralyzed hand healed in synagogue, teaching by the lake, Capernaum disputes

Mark 4 Parables by the lake, stilling the storm

Mark 5 Gadara demoniac healed, back over lake, Jairus' daughter raised

Mark 6 Feeding more than 5000, prayer on mountain, walked on lake

Mark 7:31-37 Deaf mute healed in Decapolis, ten towns region

Mark 8 Feeding about 4000, blind man at Bethsaida healed

Then from Mark 9, the transfiguration in the northern mountains and from then the final journey to Jerusalem



**Church of Scotland hospice in Tiberius**

**Diane and Lucinda**

**DATE: Monday, January 4**

**PLACE: Tiberius – Golan Heights**

**BIBLE: *As Jesus walked along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw two fishermen, Simon and his brother Andrew, catching fish with a net. Jesus said to them, “Come with me and I will teach you to catch people.” At once they left their nets and went with him (Mark 1:16-18).***

Cloudy, fine. After breakfast the family went with ‘Max’ on drive to the north: **Golan Heights** – Along the lake at **Migdal (Magdala)**, **Tabgha** (4000 fed), **Capernaum** (with **Mt of Beatitudes**) and across the **Jordan**.

To Syrian border and soldiers, past **Kuneitra** (empty Syrian town) and view of **Mt Hermon** with snow. To **Crater Lake** at **Moassada** and castle at **Nimrod** (Crusader fortress).

To **Caesarea Philippi** [Who do you say I am? You are the Christ, the Son of the living God – on way to Mount of Transfiguration.] and **Banias** (source of Jordan) for lunch at ponds with fish. Feeding fish! To **Banias Falls** and on to **Tel Dan** – beautiful walks to large, overgrown Tel (mound over ruins). To **Metulla** and **Good Fence** (**Lebanon** border). Return to **Galilee** past **Hazor**.

A sense of having completed a view of the promised land (Dan to Beer Sheva). Table tennis with children and veal for dinner.

Preparing for journey south.

**Notes on northern mountains and Jesus’ final journey:**

Mark 8 Caesarea Philippi, Peter’s declaration – the Messiah

Mark 9 Transfiguration. Talked with Moses and Elijah about his death (Luke 9:31). Then final journey to Jerusalem began.

9:30-31 on through Galilee, Jesus did not want anyone to know where he was because he was teaching his disciples, about his death – 3 times.

9:34 to Capernaum, disciples argue about who is the greatest!

9:51 Have the salt of friendship among yourselves, and live in peace with one another.



**Tiberius hospice garden on Sea of Galilee**

**Di, Jonathan and Lucinda**

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 5

**PLACE:** Tiberius – Jerusalem

**BIBLE:** *As the time drew near when Jesus would be taken up to heaven, he made up his mind and set out on his way to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51).*

Rain, cool. Breakfast together at Tiberius hospice. Organising for tours – Meg packing for London and Cairo. Bank visit.

Morning tea on Boulevard by lake – indoors – Lake misted over, like an ocean. To bus with ports. Chicken while waiting at bus stop.

Bus to Jerusalem along Jordan Valley – wide and fertile – gradually becoming brown in Judean hills – passed border fence and army posts.

Past **Beth Shean** near **Jericho**. So much history in this valley – from Joshua to Jesus (Yeshua/Joshua).

Taxi from bus station to Christ Church hospice – blackout! Then taxi to Daphna Tours – finalise Cairo tickets – run back – rain eased.

Evening prayers in Christ Church by candlelight.

Chicken supper. Washing clothes. Early night.

**Notes on Jesus' journey to Jerusalem:**

Mark 10:11 Then Jesus left that place and went to the province of Judea, and crossed the Jordan River. Crowds came flocking to him again, and he taught them as he always did.

Mark 10:17 As Jesus was starting on his way again, a man ran up, knelt before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to receive eternal life?" – the rich, young ruler.

Mark 10:32 Jesus and his disciples were now on the road going up to Jerusalem. Jesus was going ahead of the disciples who were filled with alarm. The people who followed behind were afraid.

Mark 10:46 They came to Jericho – blind Bartimaeus.

Mark 11:1 As they approached Jerusalem, near the town of Bethpage and Bethany, they came to the Mount of Olives.



Map of Sinai peninsular  
with road from Jerusalem to Cairo



**DATE:** Wednesday, January 6

**PLACE:** Jerusalem – Cairo

**BIBLE:** *An angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph and said ... “... get up, take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you to leave.” So Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and left during the night for Egypt (Matthew 2:13-14).*

**PROGRAM:** *Drive from Jerusalem to Neat Sinai – El Arish border. After formalities our bus takes us to Cairo across the Mediterranean Road, the Suez Canal and the Ismailya-Cairo road. You reach your hotel in Cairo and have your dinner.*

Meg and Di, bus to Ben Gurion airport and flight to London.

With the children, Dianne and David, on Egypt tour.

Notes at the border: overcast and light rain into clear and sunny.

Early breakfast (7am) at Christ Church hospice. Walk to King David Street and tour bus at King David Hotel.

Drive through hills to undulating fields of coastal areas near **Ashdod** and **Aschelon** – fertile, orange orchards, barley, and many trees.

To **Gaza** – clear weather. Sandy hills. More palm trees. 4 bottles of mineral water.

Long wait at Egyptian border for passports. Reading and writing.

Change bus and guides. Egyptian bus returned to border with flat tyre! Leave border at 4pm – sandy flats.

Suez Canal at 6pm. Cross in ferry in dark. Another bus to Cairo.

International Hotel for dinner by 11.30pm! Tired. Quick meal – rice, chicken, salad, plus noodle/vegetable soup, and oranges.

Far from Israel, yet close.

**NOTES:**

Abraham, Joseph and Jacob, Moses, Jeremiah and Joseph, Mary and Jesus all were here – but all in dark or difficult circumstances, yet God’s hand on them all, and God’s purposes being fulfilled.



**Great Pyramid of Giza and Sphynx**

**DATE:** Thursday, January 7

**PLACE:** Cairo

**BIBLE:** *It was faith that made Joseph, when he was about to die, speak of the departure of the Israelites from Egypt, and leave instructions about what should be done with his body (Hebrews 11:22).*

**PROGRAM:** *Day tour of the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphynx. Visit the ancient capital at Memphis. Visit the burial chambers and the Step Pyramid at Sakkara. Visit the Papyrus workshop. Dinner and overnight at Cairo hotel.*

7.30am morning call and 8am breakfast – bun with honey and cheese, salad and coffee. Clear, cool, sunny day.

8.30am tour begins with ‘Ali’. Along **Nile** past mud brick buildings and Nile boats to **Memphis** and **Museum of Raamses II**. Treasures and souvenirs.

On to **Sakkam** and burial chambers and **Step Pyramid**.

To bazaar and lunch – chicken and salad and bread.

To carpet making and **Pyramids of Giza** (Goshen area). Inside tunnel to burial chamber and black stone sarcophagus ‘coffin’ open – surprised children. Stuffy, warm. Camel rides for children by the **Sphynx**.

To papyrus workshop.

Return to Hotel for dinner – spicy soup, beef, rice, chips; jelly. French coffee.

Noise of Cairo – car horns – many languages. Letter to Meg for London.

**NOTES:**

Muhammad’s birthday! Holiday, so border closed. Hence tour one day early, so 5 days – a bonus free day!

Inside the Great Pyramid – monuments to death and afterlife?

The Living word – I am the resurrection and the life.

[Egypt’s contrasts, cosmopolitan Cairo surrounded by vast desert sands with ancient pyramids on the edge of the empty desert, the Nile River busy with commercial and commuter boat traffic.]



**Pyramids of Giza near Cairo**

**DATE: Friday, January 8**

**PLACE: Cairo**

**BIBLE: *I will set fire to the temples of Egypt's gods ... a few of you will escape death and return from Egypt to Judah (Jeremiah 43:12; 44:28).***

**Program:** *Visit the famous Archaeological Museum of Cairo. Visit the old citadel and Moslem Cairo. Free stroll at the Han el Halili market. Dinner and overnight at Cairo Hotel.*

Clear, cool, sunny. A different kind of day – a mixture of past and present, biblical and secular history.

**The Museum** took 2 hours. Endless stone monuments. Objects from the tomb of Tutankhamen, most preserved and ornate.

To Hilton Hotel for lunch – hamburgers!

To **Ben Ezra Synagogue** and **Abou Serga Church** (St Sargius). Long traditions for oldest synagogue and church in Egypt [assumed place of child Jesus and a Jewish community there].

To ancient **Mosques** – in ‘slippers’ [quiet, prayer mats, spacious].

To Bazaar – children shopping for souvenirs.

To Hotel – showers – and taxi to **Sound and Light Show** at the **Great Pyramid** (Cheops) and **Sphinx**. “Offer your thanks to God” – from multi-media Show. Impressive; and full moon rising over the desert scene.

To Hotel for dinner – fish or chicken and chips.

**NOTE** from Ben Ezra Synagogue booklet, p. 7:

To the west of the Synagogue is the Abou Serga Church. There is a Crypt. ... The Virgin Mary, Joseph and the child Jesus fled to Egypt and sheltered in this Crypt for three months. It is positively known that Joseph was a Jew and the logical thing for him to do was to go to his own people for a refuge for his family and himself.

[Maybe, but like so many traditions and churches built on sacred sites, the facts are lost in the mists of time. However, the sites are a reminder of so many significant events shaping Bible people such as Joseph, Moses, Joshua and Jesus.]



**Falukka boats on Nile river**

**DATE:** Saturday, January 9

**PLACE:** Cairo

**BIBLE:** *I pulled him out of the water, and so I named him Moses. ... He led the people out of Egypt. ... It was faith that made Moses leave Egypt without being afraid* (Exodus 2:10; Acts 7:36; Hebrews 1:27).

**PROGRAM:** Free day.

Slept in till 8.30am – pleasant change after being on the go.

Overcast, some light rain.

Breakfast at 9am.

Taxi at 10am to buy film and go to the Shepherd Hotel on the Nile for a falukka boat ride [original style of ancient boat].

One hour on the river [relaxing and story telling with children].

Reflections on Moses.

Taxi to Zoo.

Walking around zoo. [Mostly Middle Eastern – dry – various camels, horses, ponies, a couple of wallabies] Feeding animals.

Lunch at Zoo – chicken and ice cream. Light rain.

Walk back to hotel – long walk!

TV in our lounge. [Cartoons the favourites]

Packing for early departure.

Dinner at 7pm.

Lights out by 8pm.

[A really pleasant day doing what the children wanted to do. Relaxed. God's gracious provision of an extra day! Time together to do what we wanted to do, ambling along the Nile, boat ride of the river, visiting the zoo and exploring city streets.]



**At Christ Church hospice  
in Jerusalem**



**DATE:** Sunday, January 10

**PLACE:** Cairo – Jerusalem

**BIBLE:** *I called my Son out of Egypt. ... When Israel was a child, I loved him and called him out of Egypt as my son (or, from the time he left Egypt I have called him my son)*(Matthew 2:15; Hosea 11:1).

**PROGRAM:** Early morning drive to El-Arish and back to Jerusalem.

Woken at 3.30am! Hard to get going.

Family on high level for breakfast in dining room.

Bags piled in lobby.

On bus in the dark. Cold.

Cold drive to Suez Canal.

Sunrise in the desert.

Overcast to sunny, cool.

Wait for loading vehicular ferry.

Ships pass in the desert.

Remained on bus on ferry.

Continued through desert to El Arish border.

Long wait.

Change bus through border.

Family dozing on bus.

Arrive **Jerusalem** by 7pm.

Family to Select restaurant.

Church service: God's soft points – Father, sorry, love, Jesus, you.  
Communion.

Bed early after a very long day.

[An interesting dawn ride to the Suez Canal crossing, and then most of us dozed on the bus ride over the desert, especially the children, recovering from a short night and such an early start.]



**Playing recorder flutes**

**at Christ Church hospice in Jerusalem**

**DATE: Monday, January 11**

**PLACE: Jerusalem**

***BIBLE: Rejoice with Jerusalem, be glad for her all you that love this city! Rejoice with her now all you that have mourned for her! You will enjoy her prosperity like a child at its mother's breast. The Lord says, "I will bring you lasting prosperity; the wealth of the nations will flow to you like a river that never goes dry. You will be like a child that is nursed by its mother, carried in her arms, and treated with love." (Isaiah 66:10,11).***

Overcast, cool.

Breakfast bell at 7.30am – action!

Good to have scrambled egg on toast again – English style.

Bank and more film and sorting clothes.

Group together by bus to Israel Museum, including specials – guided tour, **Shrine of the Book** (Isaiah manuscript) – children's museum.

Lunch in cafeteria after guided tour.

Run to large **Menorah** at **Knesset** entrance for photos, then joined the others on the bus.

Back to hospice for Supper – chicken soup, beef and vegetables, fruit in jelly.

Buying souvenirs at office.

Notes to Diane, David and Susan [new friend; all helping].

Washing clothes.



**Model of Jerusalem in Jesus' time**  
**With Temple Mount left (east)**  
**Pool of Bethesda (sheep pool) nearby**  
**Antonia Fortress (Roman palace) alongside**  
**with four towers**  
**City walls and Herod's Palace right (west)**  
**Golgotha/Calvary just outside western walls**

**DATE: Tuesday, January 12**

**PLACE: Jerusalem**

**BIBLE: *Look at Jerusalem. I put her at the centre of the world with other countries all around her (Zechariah 5:5).***

Sunny, cool. Breakfast – rush – poached egg.

Walk with girls to film: around walls to **Herod's Gate, Solomon Quarries, Garden Tomb, Tombs of the Kings, Via Dolorosa, Church of the Redeemer tower, Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. Blitzes with chicken schnitzel and soup (reverse order) for lunch at Kosher Restaurant.

By bus to Model of Jerusalem at **Holyland Hotel**. [Impressive large model of Jerusalem in Jesus' time]. Return by bus to Central Bus Station – ice creams for children. By taxi to **Christ Church** – dark at 6pm.

To Inter-Rental for car – VW Polo. Drive to hospice!

To **Ecco Homo** prayer group with David Merret (Melbourne, JBCE). Colonel Dobbie leading – invitation to **International Christian Embassy**.

**Reflection** – related to Model of Jerusalem: Holy Week

**Palm Sunday** - Day of Demonstration

Mark 11:1-11 (Zech 9:9) - enters Jerusalem

**Monday** - Day of Authority

Mark 11:12-19 - fig tree, temple cleansed

**Tuesday** - Day of Conflict

Mark 11:20 - 13:36 - debates with leaders

**Wednesday** - Day of Preparation

Mark 14:1-11 - anointed at Bethany

**Thursday** - Day of Farewell [possible day of crucifixion]

Mark 14:12-42 - last supper [same Jewish day as crucifixion]

**Good Friday** - Day of Crucifixion

Mark 14:43 - 15:47 - trials and death

**Saturday** - Day of Sabbath

Mark 16:1 - tomb sealed

**Easter Sunday** - Day of Resurrection

Mark 16:1-18 - resurrection appearances



**En Gedi spring and pool**  
**On the road south near the Dead Sea**

**DATE: Wednesday, January 13**

**PLACE: Jerusalem - Eilat**

**BIBLE: *So we moved on and left the road that goes from the towns of Elath and Eziongeber to the Dead Sea (Deuteronomy 2:8).***

Sunny, cool. Packing and breakfast and more packing.

Drive in VW Polo down **Jericho Road** to **Dead Sea, Qumran, En Gedi** – swim – past **Sodom**, through wilderness to **Eilat**, stopping at **Ein Yahar** for petrol and lunch. Through **Arava Valley**.

Return to **Blue Sky Caravan Park**. Reclaimed Jonathan's watch. Beach, briefly.

Dinner at Blue Sky – rissoles and vegetables, after pea and meat soup.

Children watch TV.

Early to bed. Reading of Elath and Eziongeber. A turning point in Israelites' travels – northward to the Promised Land.

**Reflection:**

you wonder about Israel  
the certainty  
with which God planted  
his people in this land  
the endless care  
with which he surrounded them  
but more  
you wonder about yourself  
and you ask amazed  
why doesn't he give up on us?

*(An Eye on Israel, Hans Bouma, p. 84)*



**Gulf of Aqaba, Red Sea**

**Near Eilat**

**From Sinai desert looking east to Arabia**



**DATE: Thursday, January 14**

**PLACE: Eilat – Tiberius**

**BIBLE: *Jesus appeared once more to his disciples at Lake Tiberius. ... Follow me ... follow me (John 21:1,19,22).***

Cool, clear to overcast.

Children playing on Eilat beach.

By car along Arava Valley, Dead Sea and Jordan Valley to Galilee, Jericho on route [tasted salt at the Dead Sea, saw Jericho excavations – layers of history, past Roman theatre excavations at Beth Shean to Tiberius.]

Dinner at Church of Scotland hospice. Washing clothes.

Praying together. Lucy read from Psalm 69:34-36 –

Praise God, O heaven and earth,

seas and all creatures in them.

He will save Jerusalem

and rebuild the towns of Judah.

His people will live there and possess the land;

The descendent of his servants will inherit it,

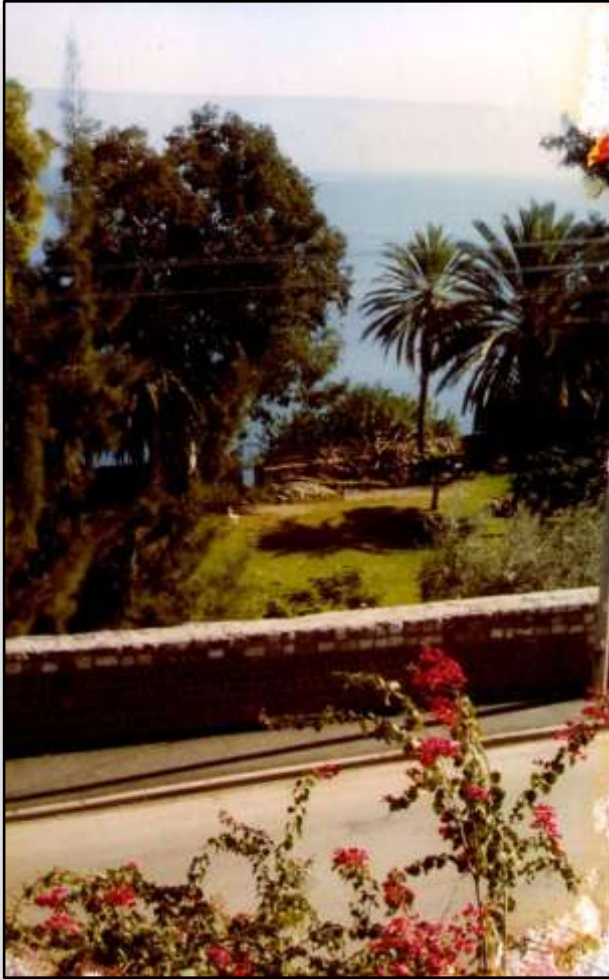
and those who love him will live there.

Tender moments with children – valued and loved so much. Tender Shepherd hold them.

Alone in room. Missing Meg especially. Valuing harmony together as a family.

Not forsaken – His presence near and dear. Awake late. Needing to ‘be’ – to cease from ‘doing’. Time to reflect, remember and respond.

[A multitude of impressions, discoveries, Bible events and lifetime memories bombard you. You can’t capture it all. We drove north where Moses and Joshua walked, past Abraham and Lot’s Sodom, David’s En Gedi, Joshua’s and Jesus’ Jericho, John the Baptist’s Jordan, and to Galilee, the base for Jesus’ miraculous ministry. Driving a car enabled us to explore particular places of interest at our own pace and remember what had happened there 2,000 years ago and more.]



**Sea of Galilee looking toward eastern hills  
from Tiberius**

**DATE: Friday, January 15**

**PLACE: Tiberius – Nazareth – Haifa**

**BIBLE: *If the Lord by God, follow him ... The god who answers by fire, let him be God (1 Kings 18:21).***

Watching dawn over Galilee from bedroom window. Clouds and wind.

Clear, cool, windy. Breakfast by 8am – boiled egg, toast.

Bank and food for lunch. Children to library. Reading.

Car to **Haifa** via **Cana** and **Nazareth**. On through valley past **Mt Carmel**.

Car returned to Inter-Rental in **Haifa**.

Return trip to Tiberius by express bus.

Walk along shore of Galilee with children to Hot Springs and back to Boulevard for ice cream and coffee. Windy on lake.

Folding washing. Children reading. Fast from breakfast to dinner – 10 hours. Sense of 2 days of fasting for 10 hours unknown to children. Enjoy meals with them [drink at lunch].

Early to bed. Melinda and Lucy in with me.

**Reflection** – especially on Mt Carmel and Galilee.

Let God be God in everything

In heart and mind and soul.

Let God be God in everything

And let him take control

Let God be God in everything

And yield to him your all

Let God be God in everything

And let him take control.

To see the Sea Walker

the blind man Healer

the leper cleansing man from Galilee

He's the soul saver

the one who set me free.

Take my hand and follow me.



**Meal at Church of Scotland hospice  
in Tiberius by Lake Galilee**

**DATE: Saturday, January 16**

**PLACE: Tiberius – Capernaum**

**BIBLE: *Come ... Save me Lord ... What little faith you have! Why did you doubt? (Matthew 14:29-31).***

Sunny, warm to cool.

Breakfast – boiled egg and toast.

Washing clothes. Hung out in the sun – dry early afternoon.

Key to beach garden and shore. Children playing and reading.

Meditation by Galilee in the sun. Peaceful. Peace. Can't hold experiences; can hold Jesus. He holds us. To follow is to live in the light.

Dive in. Bracing and clean. Fresh. Alive. Warm in sun.

To Boulevard with children – schnitzel, chicken, orange juice and cake cream for them. Drinking by Galilee. Mt Hermon clear in sunlight.

Speed boat ride together to **Capernaum** and back. Film. Meditation on the lake – Come. I come.

Tea and talk. Check provision: in God we trust.

Cards. Bed – Melinda with me.

## **Reflections**

### **Resurrection Appearances**

#### **Sunday**

Mary Magdalene - Mk 16:9, Jn 20:11-18

The Women - Mt 28:9-10

Cleopas and friend, Emmaus Road – Mk 16:12, Lk 24:13-34

Simon Peter - Lk 24:34, 1 Cor 15:3

The Disciples, Upper Room - Mk 16:14, Lk 24:36-49, Jn 20:19-23

**40 Days** - Acts 1:3

Disciples with Thomas, one week later - Jn 20:24-29

500 at once - 1 Cor 15:6

James - 1 Cor 15:7

Galilee beach - Jn 21:1-25

Galilee Mountain - Mt 28:16-20

Mount of Olives, Ascension - Acts 1:6-9



**Jonathan with load-bearing donkey in Jerusalem  
used in the Old City's narrow lanes  
between stores and houses**

**DATE: Sunday, January 17**

**PLACE: Tiberius – Samaria – Jerusalem**

**BIBLE: *Peace, be still (Galilee) Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid (Jerusalem) (Mark 4:39; John 14:27).***

Sunny to overcast, cool.

Breakfast after filming sunrise on Galilee. Washing clothes.

Walk with children to Hot Springs. Back to Boulevard after swim. Ice cream – snow on **Mt Hermon** – peace by Lake.

Sherut (taxi) to **Nablus** and **Jerusalem**; through **Jezeel Valley** (views of **Nazareth**), **Samaria (Sebaste)**, **Sychar** – **Jacob's well** – deep, tasted the brackish water, **Shiloh**, and on to **Jerusalem**.

Meg and Di returned from London by 9pm. Snack at Select Restaurant.

Bed together.

[What a day! Beginning in peaceful Galilee, then driving through the hills of Samaria, stopping to 'rest' at Jacob's well in the valley where Jesus also sat and drank and then accompanied the woman of Samaria to her village there about 2000 years ago. Jacob's men dug the well almost 4000 years ago! They all walked where we drove. We covered the 100 kilometres, Galilee to Jerusalem, in a few hours. Jesus and his family and friends walked it in a few days. Most Jews avoided the Samaritan hills and villages, and used the wide flat Jordan Valley route to Jericho and then up the mountains to Jerusalem. Jesus combined both routes on his final journey to Jerusalem, beginning from the Mount of Transfiguration in the hills north of Galilee. There he talked with Moses and Elijah about his coming exodus in Jerusalem. He then journeyed south through Galilee, to Samaritan villages and hills, to Jericho on the Jordan at 1000 feet below sea level and up the ranges to Jerusalem at 2500 feet above sea level. Half of every Gospel covers that final journey and about one third of each Gospel tells of Jesus' final week in Jerusalem through to his death and resurrection there. Then he appeared there and in Galilee again – no travel limits for his resurrection body.]



**Jerusalem, looking west from the Mount of Olives with the Temple Mount (with the Dome of the Rock mosque) on the eastern edge of the city. Romulo Nayacalevu from Fiji blows a shofar.**



**DATE: Monday, January 18**

**PLACE: Jerusalem**

**BIBLE: *Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. ... Be still and know that I am God (Exodus 14:13-14; Psalm 41:10).***

Clear, cool.

Breakfast at Christ Church hospice.

Meg, Di and children to Baptist Book Shop.

I visited the Christian Embassy – talks with leaders about their work.

Back to rest. Bed. Lamital tablets!

Family walk to **Mt Zion – David’s Tomb, Upper Room, Peter’s Church.**

Prayer at **Christ Church** – alone in church [last full day in Jerusalem].

General confession in Evening Prayers (Book 3 meaningful) – in ‘chapel’ room for cleansing, deliverance, salvation – Release.

Walking and talking with Meg. Both weak [final night in Holy City].

Bed together again.

### **Reflections:**

Salvation (Crudens):

- 1 Preservation from trouble or danger.
- 2 Deliverance from sin and its consequences.

Crossing the Red Sea:

Don’t be afraid! Stand our ground and you will see what the Lord will do to save you today; you will never see these Egyptians again. The Lord will fight for you and all you have to do is to keep still.

[Last full day in this holy place, staying in the hospice inside the Old City just beside the cite of Calvary and the empty tomb – the greatest event in all history and in all the universe – God loved the world so much he gave his one and only Son, so that whoever believes in him will not perish but will have everlasting life]



**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem**

**Stone plaque inside Old City**

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 19

**PLACE:** Jerusalem – Tel Aviv - Rome

**BIBLE:** *Fear not, I am with you, be not dismayed. I am you God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness. ... Lo, I am with you all the way (Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 28:20).*

Sunny, clear, cool. Last day in the Holy City – now full of significant memories.

Yet, “He is not here (only). He is risen as He said – and He goes before you ...”

Wog! Bed rest and prayer. Time for prayer and some fasting – visit to the Holy Land complete.

Final meal at Christ Church hospice – omelette, cornflower drink.

By sherut (taxi) to airport early – 3pm.

Through customs quickly – no bags opened.

Watching curtain close on today in Israel through glass walls.

Face turned toward journey home. With Meg ambling – books – speedcar toy – watches – boarding Alitalia.

Transit lounge at Rome – full.

7 seats upstairs in front of Jumbo 747.

### **Reflection:**

Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed.

I, I am your God and will still give you aid.

I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand

Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

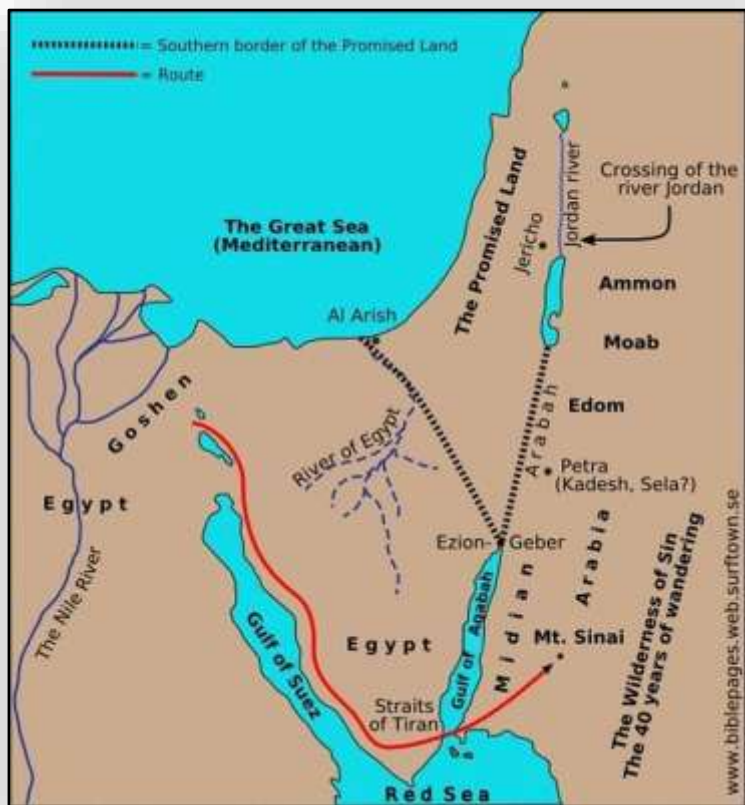
When through the deep waters I cause you to go

The rivers of death shall not you overflow

For I will be with you in trouble to bless

And sanctify to you your deepest distress.

Isaiah 41:10.



**The Exodus**  
**Likely route of the Exodus with Moses**  
**to Mt Sinai in Midian, Arabia**

**DATE: Wednesday, January 20**

**PLACE: Bombay – Singapore**

**BIBLE: Go throughout the whole world and preach the gospel to all mankind (Mark 15:16).**

Warm, sunny.

On plane – 7 seats across nose upstairs. Reading.

Economy seats with more space around them upstairs.

Check with doctor at Bombay airport. Pills for Di.

Dozing. Little to eat. Soda water!

To Singapore by 8pm.

Met by Wei Lein and Pohem and Enghi.

McDonald's chicken and chips for children.

To Methodist Conference Centre to settle in, and Dave and I to tailor for suit - \$95.

Back to Conference Centre for bed at 11pm.

[So we journey toward our home – our exodus to our own land. Reflections include new discoveries about that original exodus to Sinai in Jethro's land of Midian in Arabia (Galatians 1:17; 4:25) and to Israel.

Our route was by air and the family had time to explore tourist attractions in Singapore. Friends from the lively, charismatic Methodist Church in Singapore cared for us, provided accommodation, and a place for me to rest and recover.]



**Our Family in 1982**

**DATE:** Thursday, January 21

**PLACE:** Singapore

**BIBLE:** *The message about repentance and the forgiveness of sins must be preached to all nations (Luke 24:47).*

Bus ride with Adrian to scenic spots in Singapore.

Resting. With Wei Lein to doctor. Staminade and vitamin pills.

To Wei Lein's flat – sleeping.

Family to Singapore Experience and shopping and meals. Back by 10pm.

To Conference Centre to sleep.



### **McArthur's Universal Corrective Map of the World**

[Those early followers of Jesus turned their world upside down (Acts 17:6). We **orient** (verb from facing east, to the Orient) ourselves by facing Jesus, our bright, morning star (Rev 22:16)]



**The wide, brown land  
Australia**



**DATE:** Friday, January 22

**PLACE:** Singapore - Australia

**BIBLE:** *Peace be with you. As the Father sent me so I send you (John 20:21).*

To Wei Lein's flat with bags.

Sleeping.

Family on bus trip and Big Slide, shopping.

Back to flat for shift to airport with Gordon and Wei Lein.

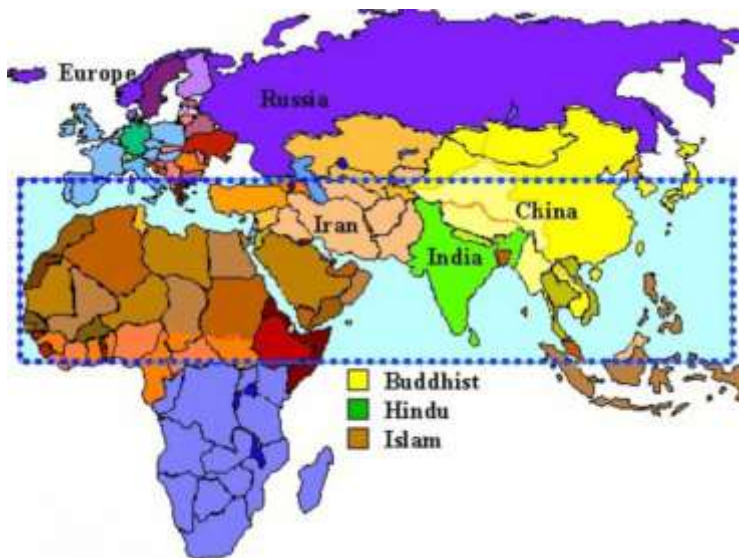
Check in by 4pm. Light tea in cafeteria.

Bought watch - \$17 digital.

Full plane. Smoking section!

Weary, dozing, little eating.

[We head homeward and to future ministry in and beyond the 10/40 window (10-40 degrees north – with the most unreached people groups) through 30 years visiting many of these and other countries in mission.]





**DATE: Saturday, January 23**

**PLACE: Melbourne – Sydney – Brisbane**

**BIBLE: *You will be filled with power ... and you will be my witnesses (Acts 1:8).***

Dawn over Australia! Home.

**Melbourne** transit lounge. Reading.

Short hop to **Sydney**.

Straight through customs to TAA. Meg phoned family.

Brief run to **Brisbane**. Everything so green.

Warm. Home again. Met by Dave & Bron, Neil, Neville, Ian. John collected Dave Baker.

Ronto excited, thinner, healthier [Australian Terrier pet dog].

Green after a week of rain.

Unpacking.

Resting.

[We lived in community in our Corinda home at that time with Di, Paul, Neil, and Dave & Bron involved. We attended Wesley Uniting Church at Kangaroo Point for their traditional morning service with the hymn book and organ and Sunday School for children, and the charismatic renewal evening service with an amazing group of musicians helping to lead worship. Revs Wal Gregory, Col Warren and I took turns to preach, and each Sunday night we normally prayed with people at the communion rail at the end of every service. So we reported on our trip there on Sunday, January 24. The years since then have included telling the good news of Jesus on mission in Africa, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, China, and the South Pacific nations of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Australia.]

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Family in 2001 and 2008



## ***Appendix: Books***

### **Renewal Journal Publications**

See

**[www.renewaljournal.com](http://www.renewaljournal.com)**

for Blogs on each book

PDF Books, eBooks, and Paperbacks

Available on

Amazon and Kindle

Most Paperbacks in both

Basic Edition and

Gift Edition (colour)

## **[Renewal Journal Publications](https://renewaljournal.blog/)**

**<https://renewaljournal.blog/>**

**PDF Books, eBooks, and Paperbacks**

**Most Paperbacks are in both**

**Basic Edition and**

**Gift Edition (colour)**

### **Revival Books**

**[Flashpoints of Revival](#)**

**[Revival Fires](#)**

**[South Pacific Revivals](#)**

**[Pentecost on Pentecost & the South Pacific](#)**

**[Great Revival Stories](#)**, comprising:

**[Best Revival Stories](#)** and

**[Transforming Revivals](#)**

**[Renewal and Revival](#)**, comprising:

**[Renewal: I make all things new](#)**, and

**[Revival: I will pour out my Spirit](#)**

**[Anointed for Revival](#)**

**[Church on Fire](#)**

**[God's Surprises](#)**

# Renewal Books

[Body Ministry](#), comprising:

[The Body of Christ, Part 1: Body Ministry](#), and

[The Body of Christ, Part 2: Ministry Education](#), with  
[Learning Together in Ministry](#)

[Great Commission Mission](#) comprising:

[Teaching Them to Obey in Love](#), and  
[Jesus the Model for Short Term Supernatural Mission](#)

[Living in the Spirit](#)

[Your Spiritual Gifts](#)

[Fruit & Gifts of the Spirit](#)

[Keeping Faith Alive Today](#)

[The Leader's Goldmine](#)

[Word and Spirit](#) by Alison Sherrington

## Study Guides

[Signs and Wonders: Study Guide](#)

[The Holy Spirit in Ministry](#)

[Revival History](#)

[Holy Spirit Movements through History](#)

[Renewal Theology 1](#)

[Renewal Theology 2](#)

[Ministry Practicum](#)

# Devotional Books

[Inspiration](#)

[Jesus on Dying Regrets](#)

[The Christmas Message – The Queen](#)

[Holy Week, Christian Passover & Resurrection](#) comprising:

[Holy Week](#), and

[Christian Passover Service](#), and

[Risen: 12 Resurrection Appearances](#)

[Risen: Short Version](#)

[Risen: Long version & our month in Israel](#)

[Mysterious Month – expanded version](#)

[Risen: Long version](#)

[Kingdom Life series](#)

[Kingdom Life: The Gospels](#) – comprising:

[Kingdom Life in Matthew](#)

[Kingdom Life in Mark](#)

[Kingdom Life in Luke](#)

[Kingdom Life in John](#)

[A Preface to the Acts of the Apostles](#)



[The Lion of Judah series](#)

[The Titles of Jesus](#)

[The Reign of Jesus](#)

[The Life of Jesus](#)

[The Death of Jesus](#)

[The Resurrection of Jesus](#)

[The Spirit of Jesus](#)

[The Lion of Judah](#) – all in one volume

[Discovering Aslan - comprising:](#)

[Discovering Aslan in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe](#)

[Discovering Aslan in Prince Caspian](#)

[Discovering Aslan in the Voyage of the 'Dawn Treader'](#)

[Discovering Aslan in the Silver Chair](#)

[Discovering Aslan in the Horse and his Boy](#)

[Discovering Aslan in the Magician's Nephew](#)

[Discovering Aslan in the Last Battle](#)

## General Books

[\*You Can Publish for Free\*](#)

[\*My First Stories\* by Ethan Waugh](#)

[\*An Incredible Journey by Faith\* by Elisha Chowtapalli](#)

### Biographical:

[\*God's Surprises\*](#)

[\*Looking to Jesus: Journey into Renewal & Revival\*](#) - Geoff's autobiography

[\*Journey into Mission\*](#) – Geoff's mission trips

[\*Journey into Ministry and Mission\*](#)

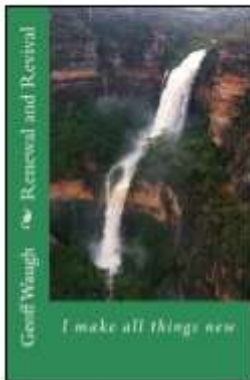
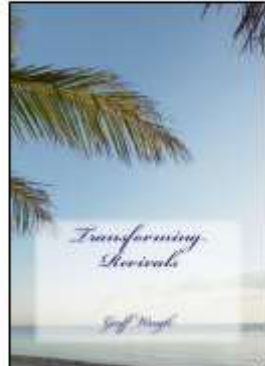
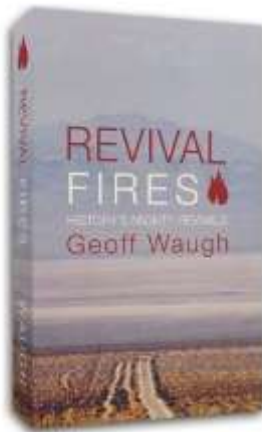
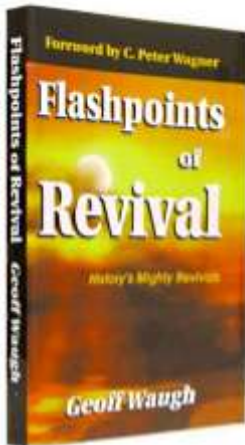
[\*King of the Granny Flat\* by Dante Waugh](#)

[\*Exploring Israel\*](#) – Geoff's family's trip

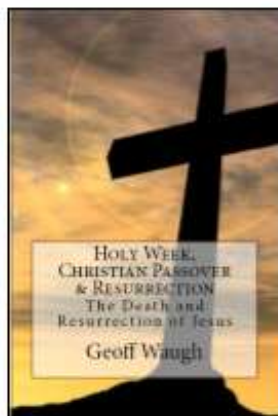
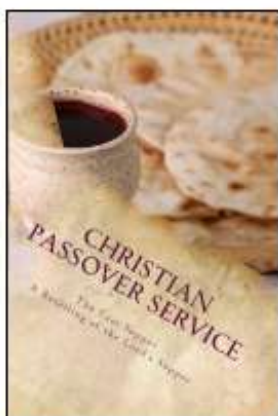
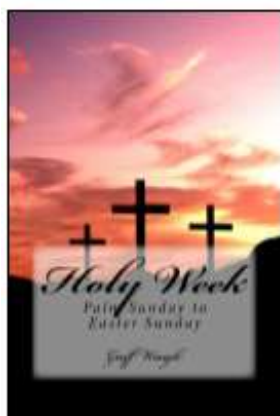
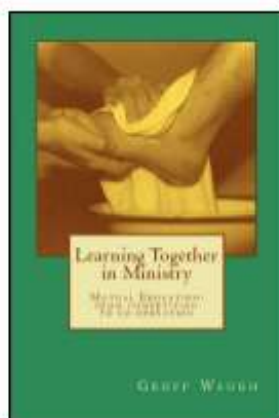
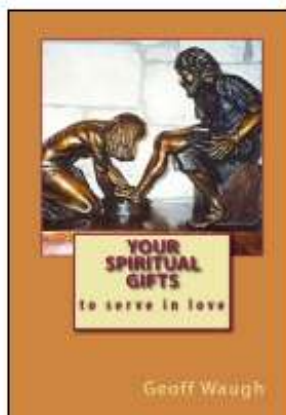
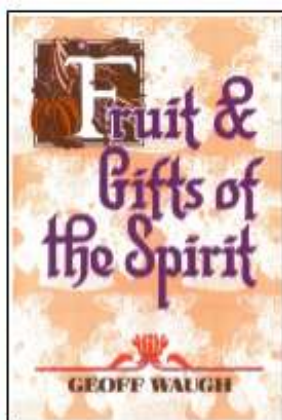
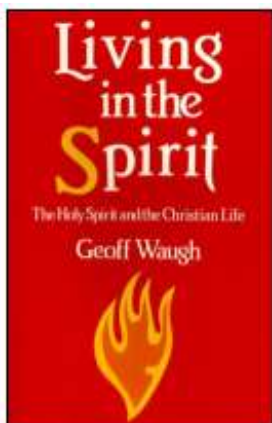
[\*Light on the Mountains\*](#) – Geoff in PNG

[\*Travelling with Geoff\* by Don Hill](#)

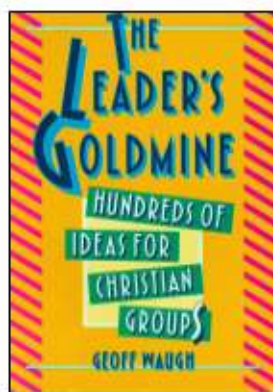
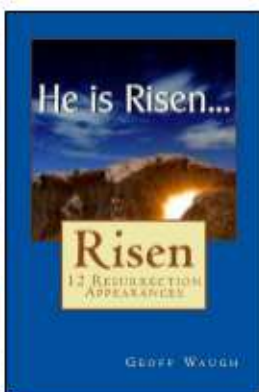
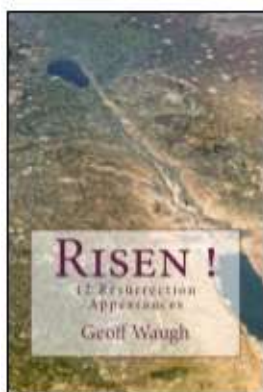
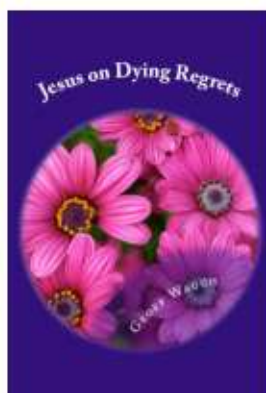
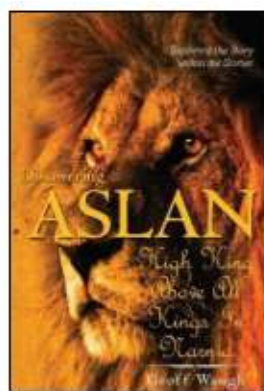
[\*By All Means\* by Elaine Olley](#)



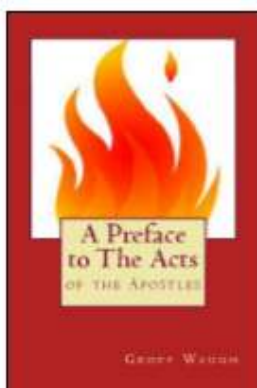
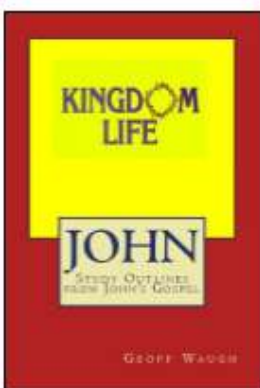
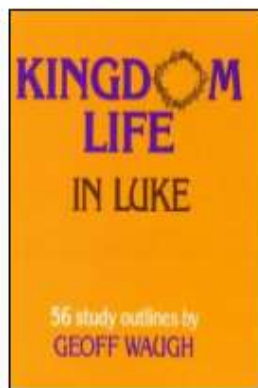
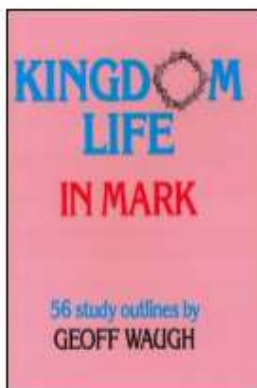
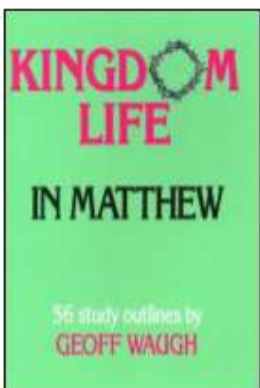
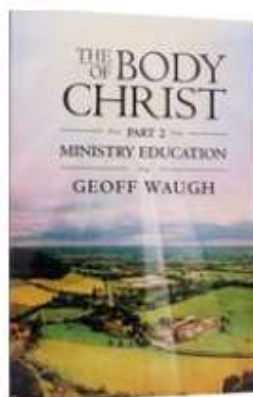
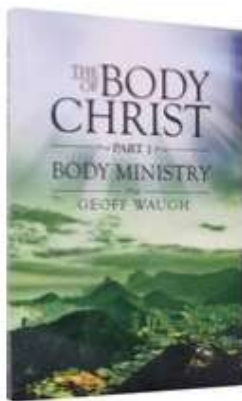
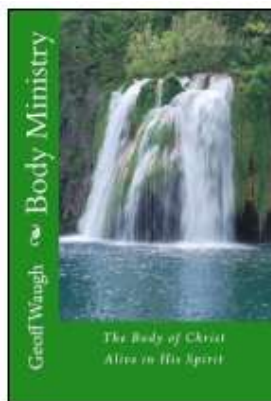
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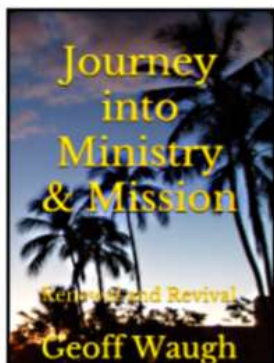
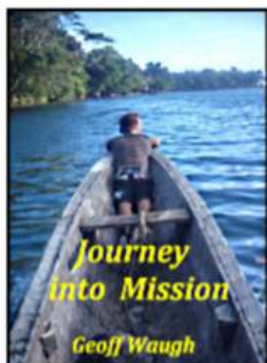
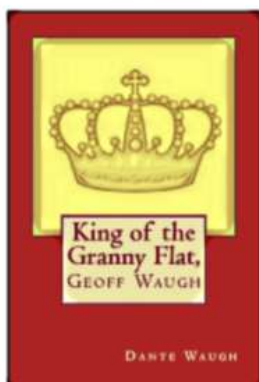
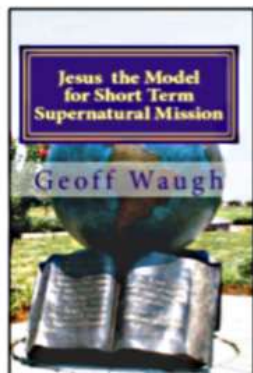
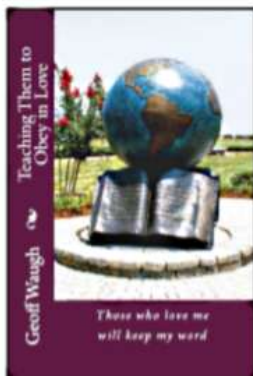
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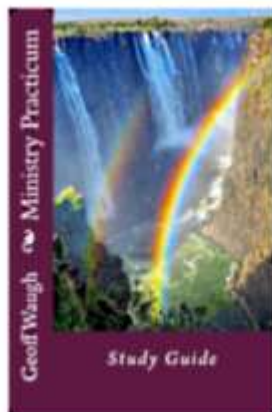
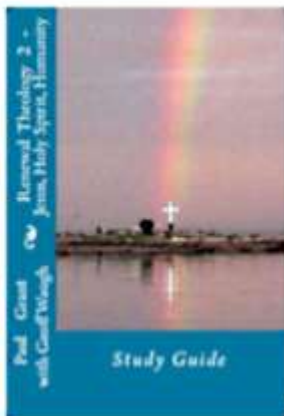
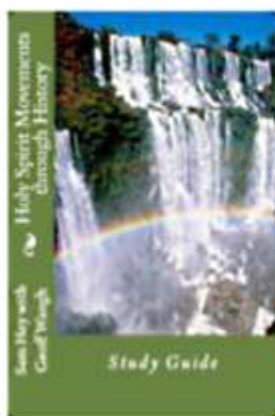
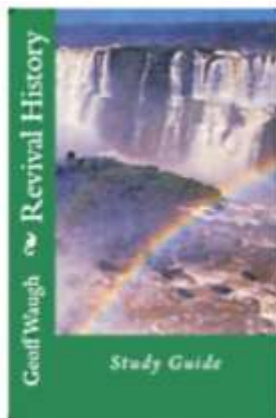
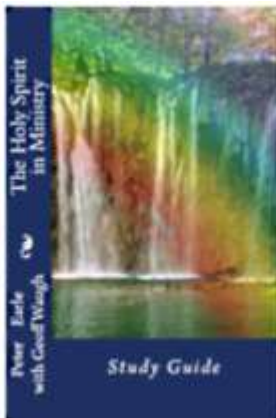
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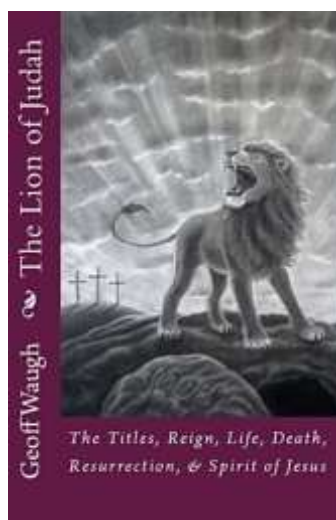
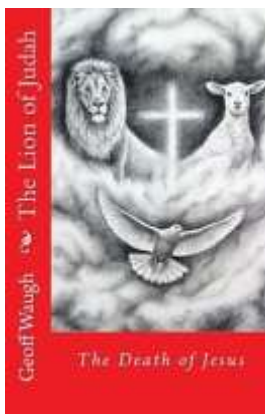
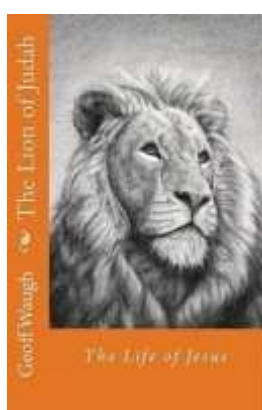


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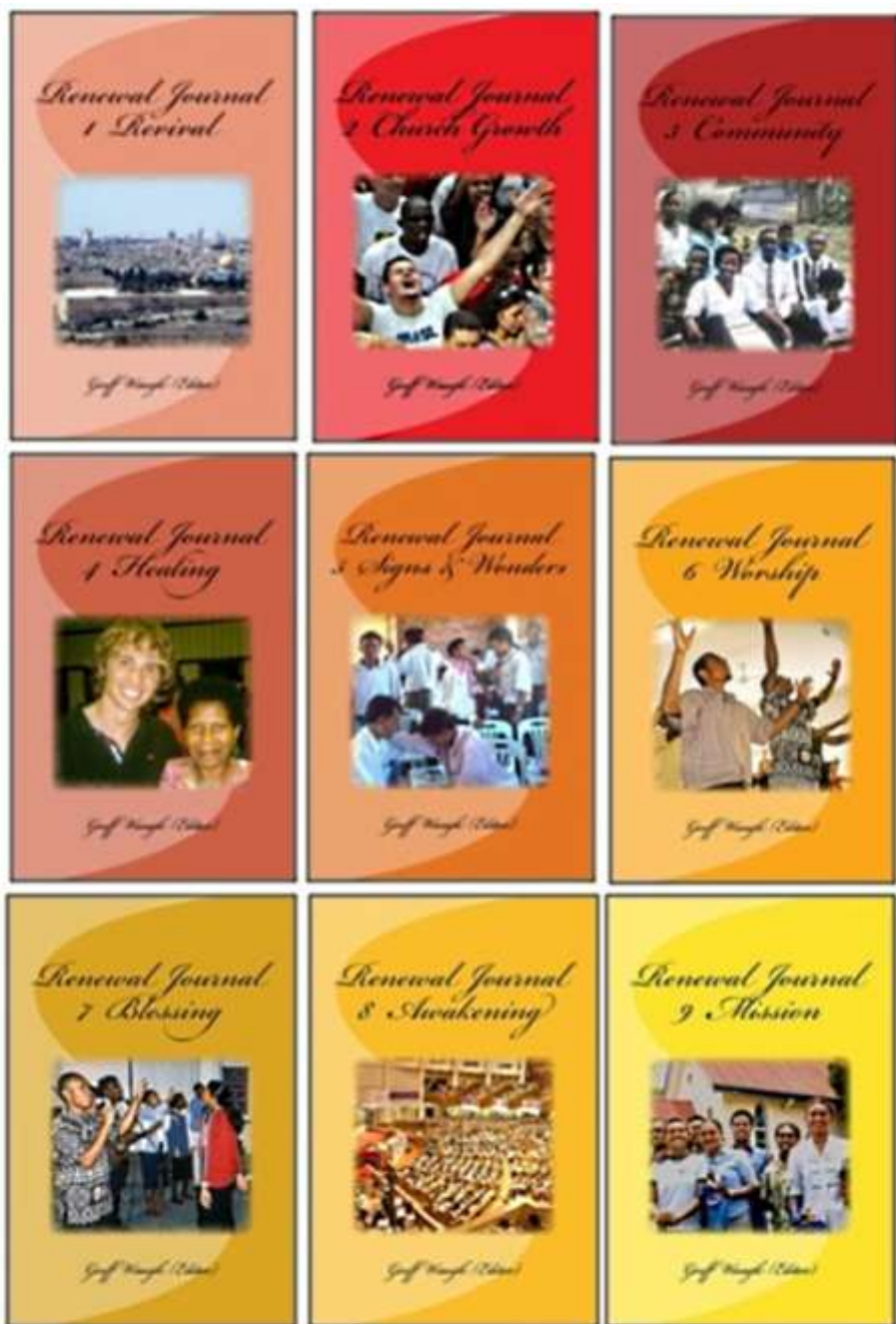


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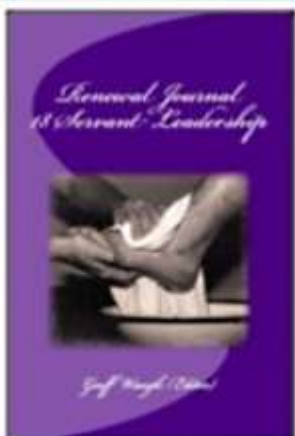
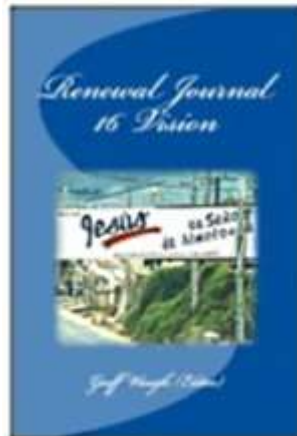
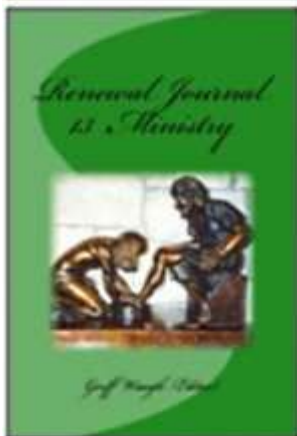
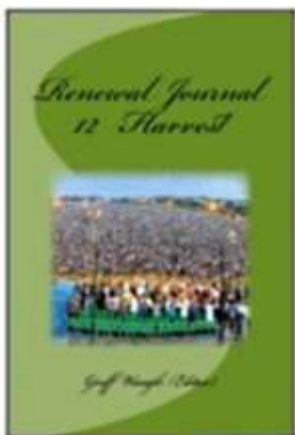
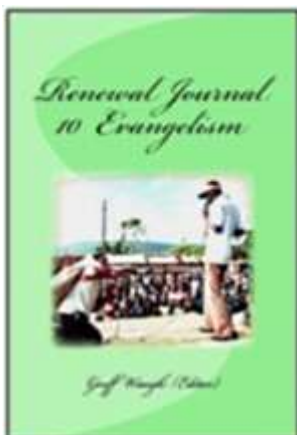




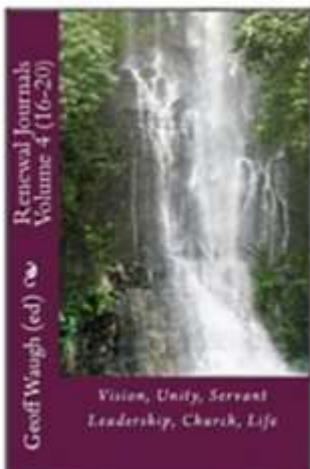
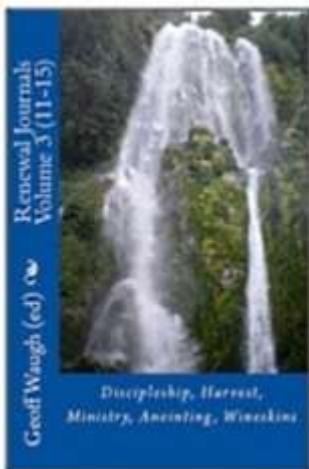
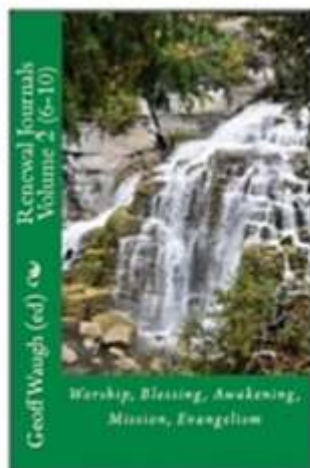
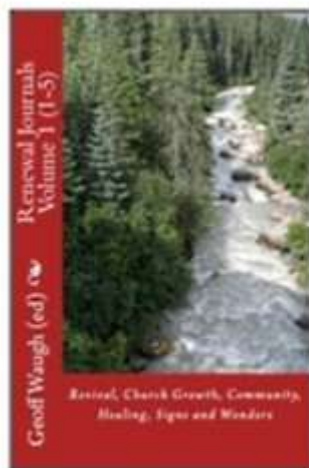
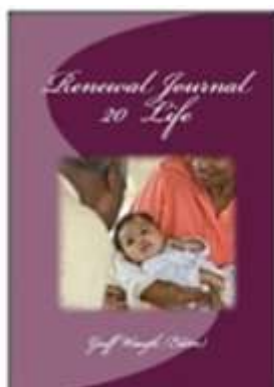
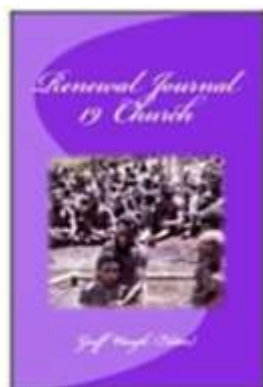
**[The Lion of Judah Series](#)**

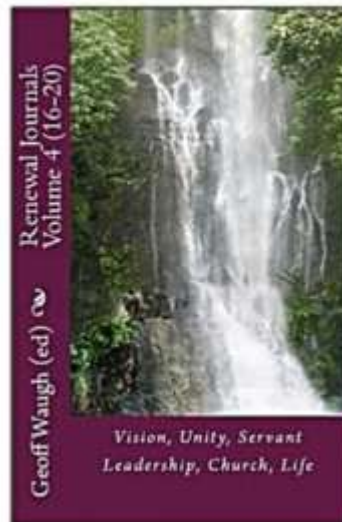
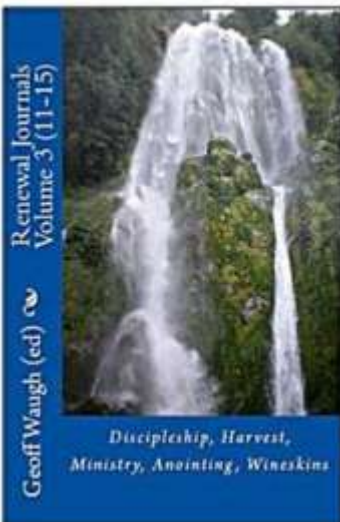
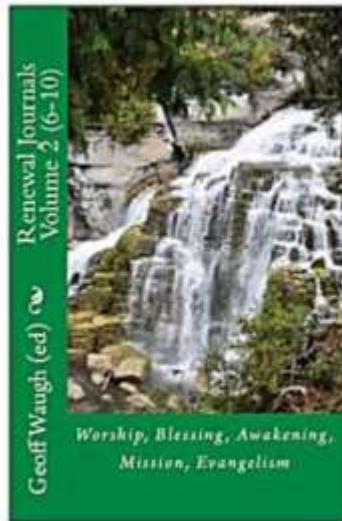
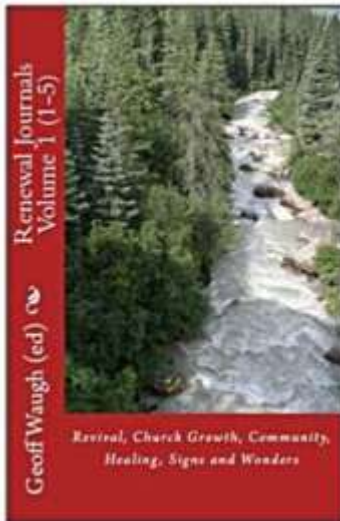


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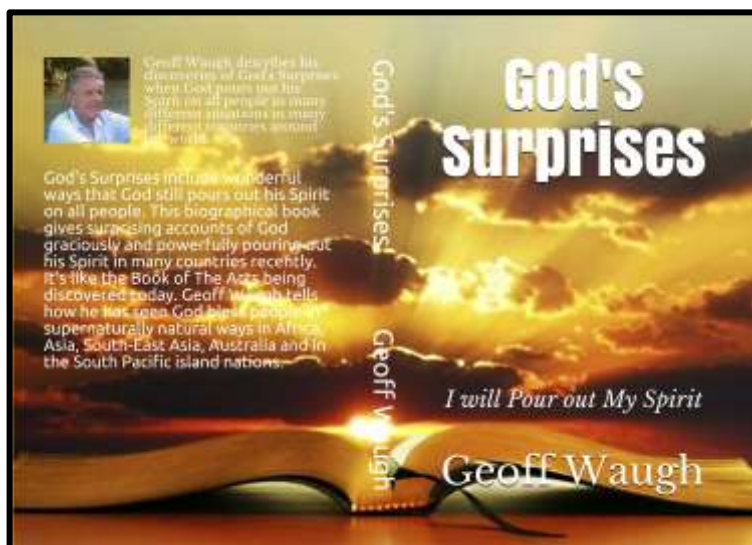




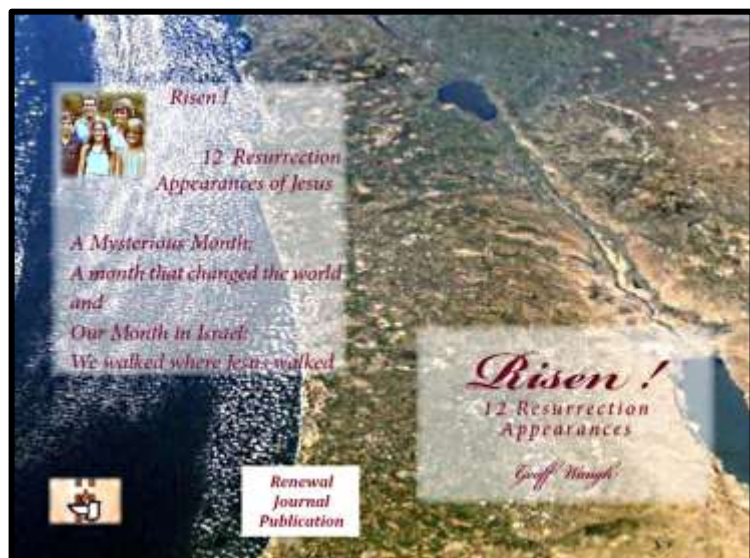
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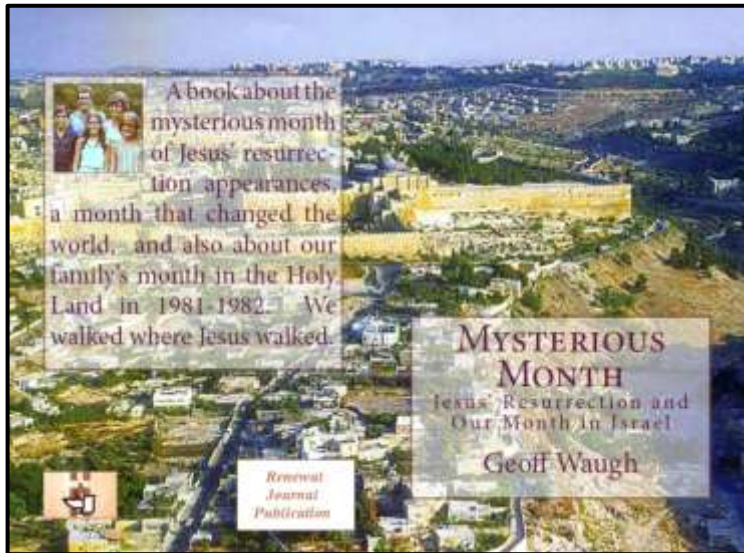
## Double Page Book Covers



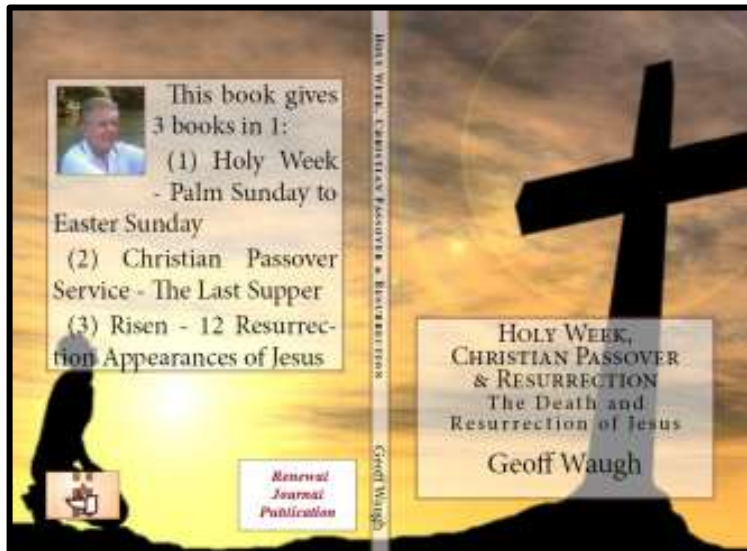
### [God's Surprises](#)



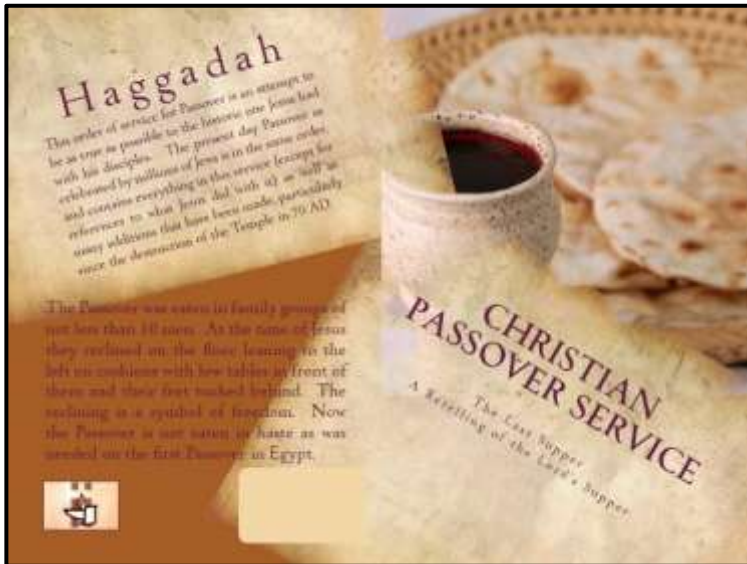
### [Risen!](#)



[\*Mysterious Month\*](#)



[\*Holy Week, Christian Passover & Resurrection\*](#)



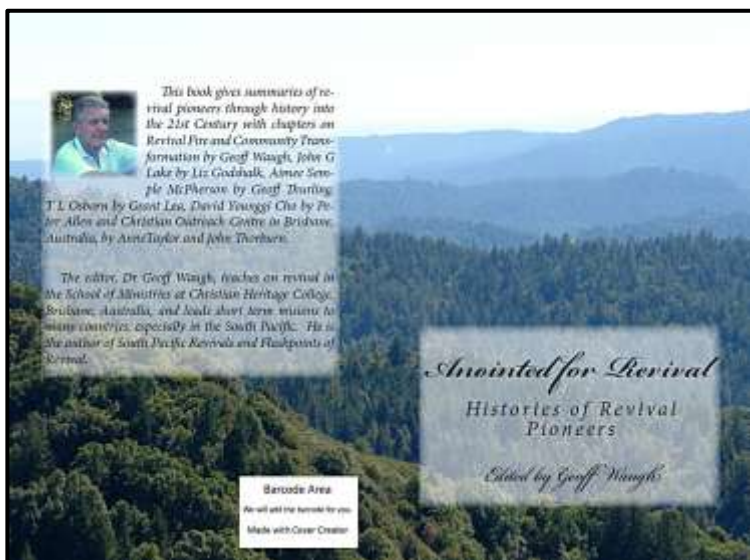
[Christian Passover Service](#)

*A Retelling of the Lord's Supper*

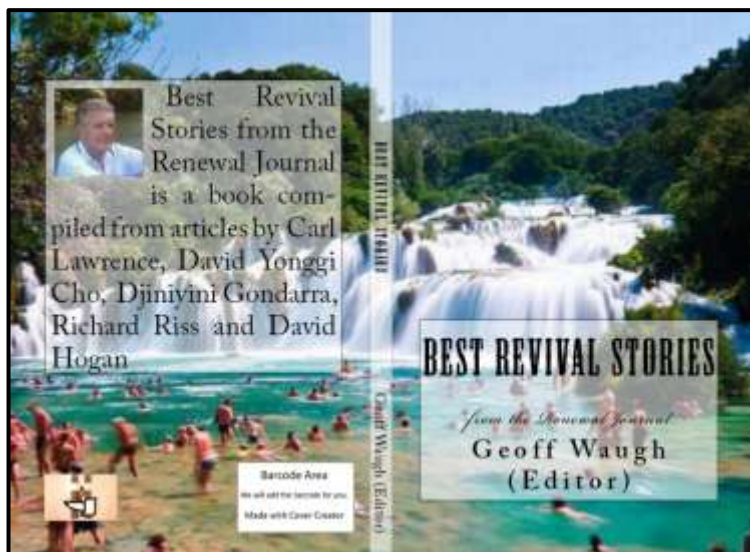


[The Christmas Message](#)

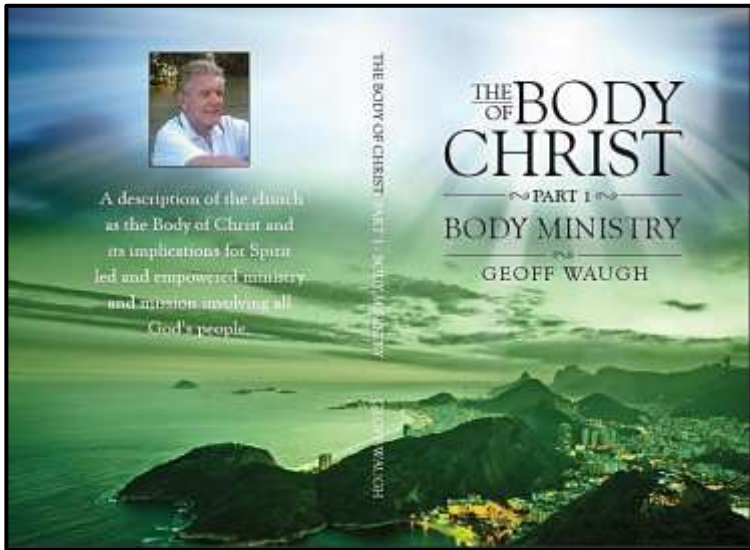




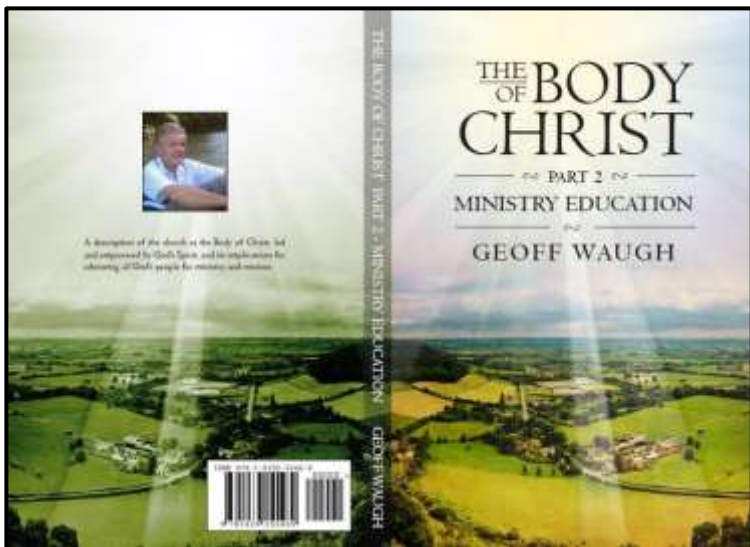
## [Anointed for Revival](#)



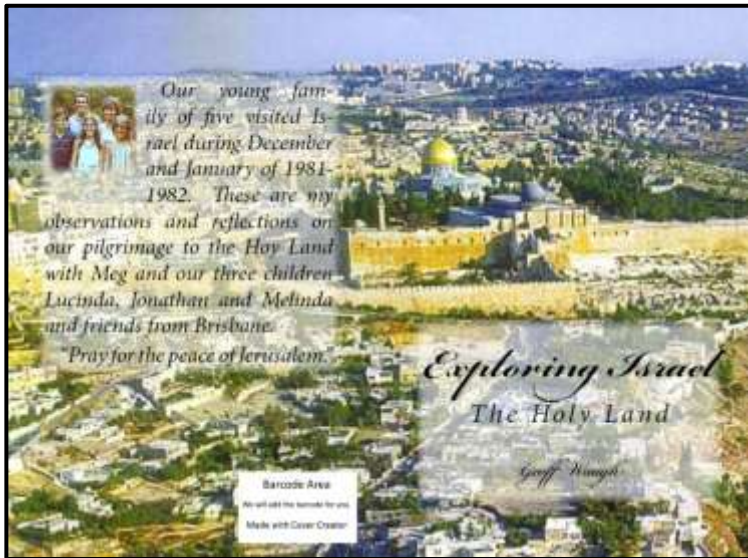
## [Best Revival Stories](#)



***The Body of Christ, Part 1: Body Ministry***



***The Body of Christ, Part 2: Ministry Education***



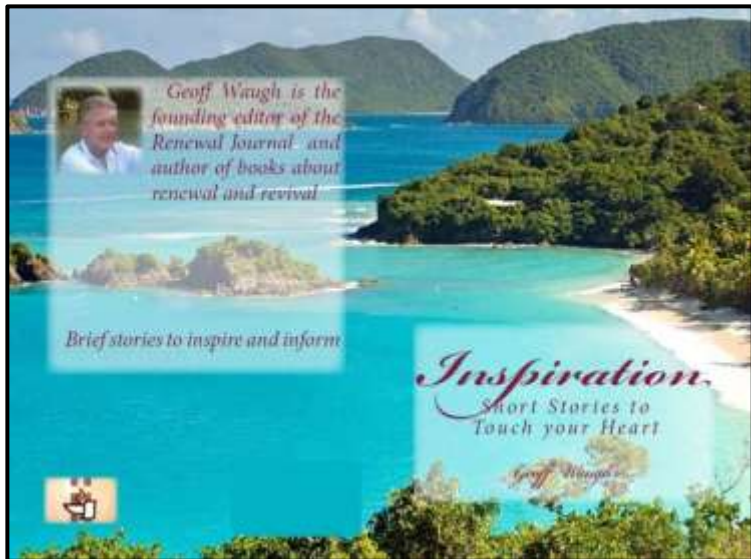
[\*\*Exploring Israel \(colour\)\*\*](#)



[\*\*Exploring Israel \(black & white\)\*\*](#)



**Great Revival Stories**



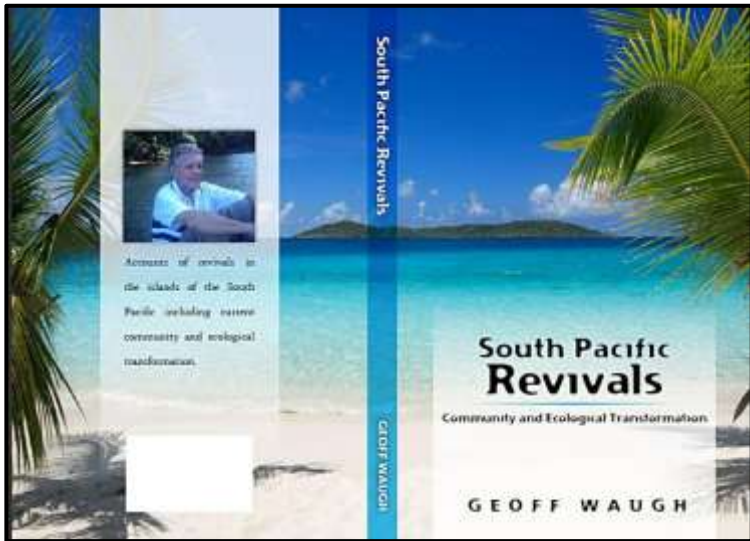
**Inspiration**



[\*\*Renewal: I make all things new\*\*](#)



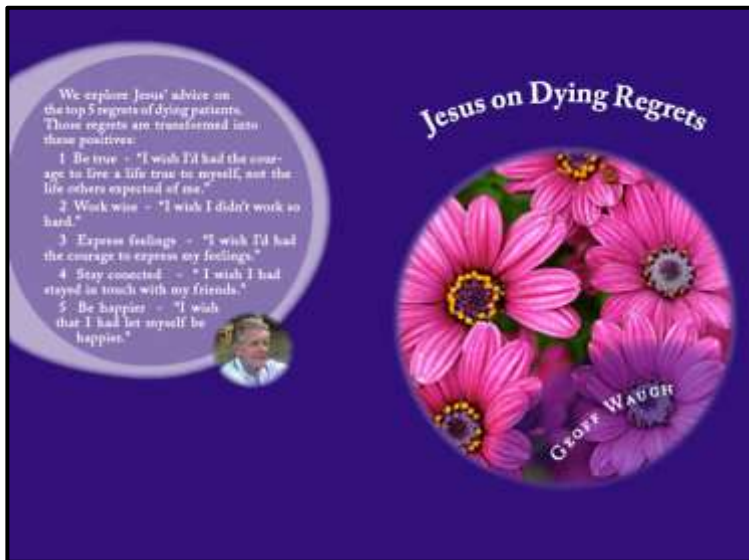
[\*\*Revival: I will pour out my Spirit\*\*](#)



[\*South Pacific Revivals\*](#)



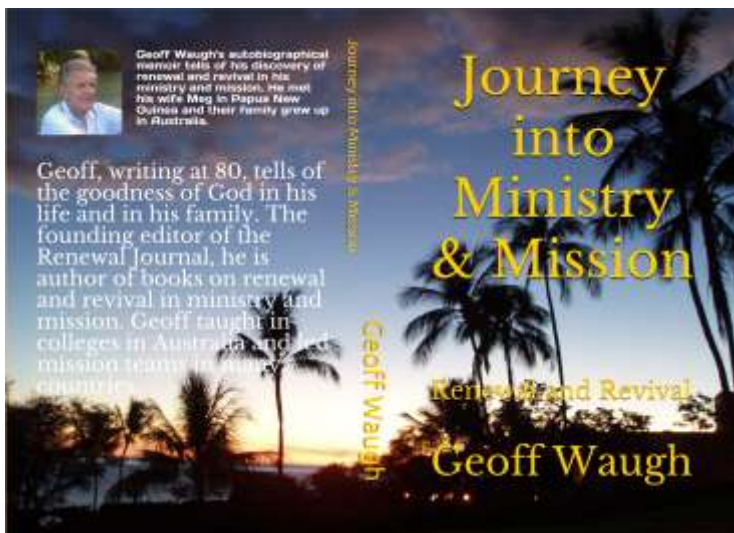
[\*Transforming Revivals\*](#)



[\*Jesus on Dying Regrets\*](#)



[\*Looking to Jesus: Journey into Renewal & Revival\*](#)



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**Condensed from two biographical books:**

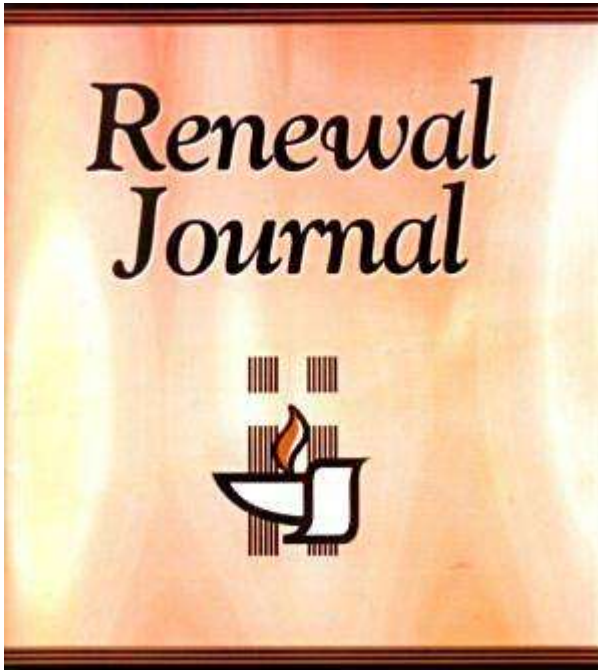
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