



# MEJDI TOURS

## University Presbyterian Church Palestine-Israel, March 2016

### Pre Trip Add-on

#### **Christ at the Checkpoint Conference – Bethlehem, Palestine**

Arrive Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>: Conference Monday March 7<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>

### Core Trip

#### **Day 1: Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**

##### **Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport, Transfer to Hotel in Bethlehem**

Enjoy a free afternoon to relax and explore Bethlehem on your own. In the evening, meet tour host Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon & your MEJDI guide who will give an overview of your tour during a welcome dinner at the hotel.

*Hotel: Bethlehem*

#### **Day 2: Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> Musalaha – Introduction and Service Day**

All day. Orientation and introduction from Salim Munayer and Musalaha, a local NGO that seeks to promote reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians as demonstrated in the life and teaching of Jesus. See their work and receive short history of the region and core issues at stake. Meet representatives of Musalaha and begin service activity and work to support the efforts of Musalaha's reconciliation ministry.

This evening, attend Shabbat service at the Kotel and Shabbat dinner with local families.

*Hotel: Bethlehem*

#### **Day 3: Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> Musalaha – Service Day**

Spend the day continuing the Musalaha service project. End with a dinner celebration with Messianic Jews and Palestinian Christians over a meal and fellowship.

*Hotel: Bethlehem*

#### **Day 4: Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> West Bank and Dead Sea**

This morning worship with the Palestinian Christian community in Aboud; attend Evangelical, Catholic and Orthodox services. Spend time with Father Ibrahim at the Catholic Church for a briefing. Lunch with Abuna Immanuel. Afternoon visit and float and recreation at the Dead Sea.

*Hotel: Bethlehem*

### **Day 5: Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> Jerusalem**

Begin the morning with an overview of the religious and historical context of Jerusalem as you take in the city from the vantage of the **Mount of Olives**. Tour the various quarters of the Old City with one Arab guide and one Jewish guide. Visit the **Temple Mount** (home of the Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa Mosque), the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** and the **Western Wall**. Learn about the political significance of these contested sites. Delight in delicious local food on your own for lunch with Danny Seidemann, founder and director of **Terrestrial Jerusalem** and world-renowned **Jerusalem** expert. In the afternoon, have a facilitated discussion with leading thinkers and activists from the Jewish and Muslim communities. This evening have dinner at the Hotel with the group.

*Hotel: Bethlehem*

### **Day 6: Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> Hebron**

This morning visit the village of **Um El Kheir** and meet with representatives of the Bedouin community. Have a casual lunch in Hebron City. This afternoon tour the **Old City of Hebron**, visit the **Ibrahim Mosque** and meet with **Christian peacemakers**. Enjoy a simple dinner at the **Tent of Nations** with our host Daoud Nasser.

*Hotel: Bethlehem*

### **Day 7: Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> Jerusalem**

This morning sit with members of the Yesha Council (council of Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria), to hear about their ideology and goals. Meet locals from the settlement and learn about life there.

Enjoy a boxed lunch on the bus to Jerusalem on the bus where you will participate in a briefing with Sahar Vardi, Israeli peace activist.

This afternoon visit **Yad Vashem**, Israel's moving memorial to the Holocaust, meet with a Holocaust survivor for a personal glimpse into one of the darkest moments in history.

*Evening Dinner and Accommodations in Palestinian Host Homes in Bethlehem*

### **Day 8: Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> Bethlehem**

Visit the **Aida Refugee camp**, take a walk along the Separation Wall. Tour **Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity**. Enjoy a traditional Palestinian lunch with Salim Munayer of Musalaha to debrief and discuss the people and experiences from throughout the week.

*Hotel: Tiberias (Mt. of Beatitudes Guest House)*

### **Day 9: Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> Day in Galilee; Reflection, Prayer, & Commitment to Action**

Explore **Capernaum**, home of Peter and site of Jesus' ministry, the **Primacy of St. Peter** in Tabgha and enjoy a hilltop prayer in the gardens at the **Mount of Beatitudes**.

**Farewell Dinner in Jaffa.** This evening depart for Ben Gurion Airport.