

COMMENTS ABOUT PREVIOUS PILGRIMAGES WITH DR. PATRICIA TULL

When I read the Bible now, I am able to visualize the setting and land. Seeing the wilderness, the Sea of Galilee, fertile valleys, and Garden of Gethsemene allowed the Bible to come alive in a new way for me. The journey also developed my understanding of the differences between Israelis and Palestinians and the ways these affect everyday life for both groups. *Lenor Ott, February 2014 traveler*

The trip we took to the Holy Land was life-changing. It opened my eyes to the reality of faith lived out in the 21st century in Israel and the West Bank. I could no longer dismiss the humanity of one group or the other. Instead, I saw the sacredness of both the Palestinian and the Jew because I saw God in each.

Rev. Bojangles Blanchard, January 2014 traveler



Because it was not a rushed tour and more of a pilgrimage, I had time to read through the Gospels again while I was there, and they were enlivened like never before for me. Most importantly, the pilgrimage allowed me to think about the conflict in the area, and I hope I am now a bit more empathetic to God's children on both sides of the walls. *Rev. Jean Hawxhurst, January 2012 traveler*

Trisha Tull and our other leaders were very patient and knowledgeable as our group toured all the amazing sites. They were sensitive to the local culture, they prayed with us, and helped

us to form a picture of what the Holy Land is both now and how it may have looked long ago. *Rev. Andrew Hartmans, January 2012 traveler*

Hardly a week goes by in preaching and teaching when I do not make some reference to my trip. *Rev. Ken Hockenberry, June 2009 traveler*

The conflict in the Middle East is complex, and before I traveled there I do not think I fully understood just how complex. Conversations with people there not only enriched my spiritual life, but gave me a new perspective on how the Middle East is portrayed in media. I was able to see the people and their lives, rather than a statistic. *Rev. Katrina Pekich-Bundy, January 2009 traveler*

It expanded my "neighborhood." I cannot watch the happenings and turmoil of that part of the world with detachment because it is now a part of me and my story. *Rev. Linda Martin, May 2008 traveler*

My trip to Israel opened the Bible for me in a way that I never thought was possible. After returning, every scripture came alive for me and my congregation commented on the change in the way I read scripture and preached. *Rev. Bonnie Orth, May 2008 traveler*

Not only did this trip grant me a much deeper understanding of the issues confronting the Holy Land, it deepened my understanding of Scripture and my spiritual formation as a Christian. *Rev. Anne Vouga, January 2005 traveler*

