



HOLY LAND TOUR
MAY 2016
ST. MINA CHURCH

Mike Azer, Ph.D.





IT ALL STARTED WITH THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM WHEN HE WAS BORN!
(and continues throughout past the last page)

This album is a humble attempt to record the Holy Land Tour that our group, mostly from St. Mina Church in Holmdel, NJ; enjoyed in May 2016. If you were one of the blessed group members, this book will refresh and revive your memories and let you relive the experience, and may kindle the desire to revisit this magnificent land which gave our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ a manger cradle to be born in, a home to grow, disciples to spread His message, jealous Scribes, Pharisees and priests to condemn Him, and a weak Roman governor to cave in to their pressure little they knew they were completing the plan of Salvation by crucifying "... the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" John 1:29.

If you are not one of the lucky group members you are about to take an "Armchair Pilgrimage" and I promise you will be almost as lucky as them. Just sit back and relax and start your private tour

My heartfelt gratitude to all who helped me: my daughter Irina Azer Ishak who fixed my grammar and spelling and made this readable, Ghabriel Haloun who reviewed the material, Jacob Salama who helped design the cover and provided many valuable pictures. Afaf Fam, Fathi Kareem, Samy Guirguis, Rafat Girgis, Dr. Mariam Dimian, Saad Youssef Salib and many others who contributed invaluable pictures. See you on the last page, I will be waiting for you.





To My wife Isis who could not join me in the tour.

To the tour members: Magda Antoun Girgis, Rafat Ragheb Girgis, Fathi Kareem, Claire R Kareem, Nashaat Hanna Sadek, Hoda Sadek, Nahed Ragheb Guirguis, Mariam Dimian, Karima Soliman, George Botros, Anesta Botros, Mourad Fam, Mervat Fam, Magda Alber Fam, Mokhtar Sourial Fam, Ezzat Fam, Afaf Fam, Azmy Malek, Alma Malek, Samy Guirguis, Mikhail Azer, George Kasisa, Maggie Kasisa, Caroline Kasisa, Vivian Fayez Shaker Georgy, Fr Abram Fakhry Georgy, Marina Markos, Albert Ibrahim, Doris Awad, Ana-Maria Sanovitch, Neven Phillip Riad, Atena Sedrak, Marcelle Salama, Hanaa Edward Ibrahim, Abram Napoleon Girgis, Sohir William Girgis, Jacob Salama, Mona Salama, Joanna Salama, Margaret Salama, Nasser Salama, Mariam Salama, Jessica Salama, Joshua Salama, Nancy Salama, David Salama, Gehane Daoud, Farrah Mina, George Fayek Girgis Mikhail, Mona Mouris Boulos Mikhail, Saad Youssef Salib Tadros, Laila Farag Samaan Abdelmalak, and last but not least Wisam Elyas.

You are one of less than 0.05% of the whole world population who took a Holy land tour let alone one of the best tours available. I just want to State the obvious: it was only thanks to God who gave us an extraordinary tour guide (Gabrial Haloun) and excellent tour organizer (Phillippi Ghabbour) and last but not least the extra blessing of Father Abram Georgy and Toussouny Vivian we had an extraordinary Holy land tour. Thank you God for arranging this beautiful tour to visit your beloved city Jerusalem. This album is a trial to capture our tour. It includes several photos some of you sent to me in response to my call for participation. I hope you will enjoy this album.

Most of this introduction was a text message at exactly 3:38 AM NYC time 5/24/2016 to the tour members at 37,908 feet above the middle of the Atlantic ocean, unfortunately the message did not leave the airplane cabin so I am repeating it here.

The following is directed to every one of you: old or young, tall or short, smart or very smart, used to be first on the bus or still lingering back trying to get the bargain of the century on isharbs and bags and I have to go (drag) him/her up:

@ My deepest and heartfelt congratulations for your pilgrimage.

@ I enjoyed every minute with you whether deep in a cave touching a tomb stone or 600 feet/ steps high sipping from St. Mary well or waiting in the omelet line in Leonardo's. I hope you did too.

@ From my iPhone estimates you have:

- o Walked 86,704 steps
- o Covered 33.44 Miles; almost the distance between our Church and Newark airport (38 M)
- o Climbed 60 floors; more than half the empire state sky scraper (102 Floors)
- o Burned 50,200 Calories; equivalent to 100 big macs (each 500 C)
- o Got blessings from over 25 Church's

@ We have covered a huge program in the Holy land, I may summarize it by dates as follows:

+ Monday May 16:

- \$ Bethlehem
- \$ The milk grotto
- \$ Church of the Nativity
- \$ Manger Square,
- \$ the shepherd's field.
- \$ Ein Karem Church of the Visitation

+ Tuesday May 17:

- \$ Mount Scopus and Mount of olives
- \$ The Ascension Church
- \$ Pater Noster Church place of the Lord's Prayer
- \$ The place where our Lord wept over Jerusalem and the Church "Jesus Wept"
- \$ The Garden of Gethsemane
- \$ The Church of Agony (also called Church of All Nations)
- \$ The Church of St. Mary Tomb Church
- \$ Mount Zion, the Dormition Abbey, Last Supper/Upper Room, and King David tomb
- \$ Peter in Gallicantu Church (where the cock crowed twice before Peter denied Jesus three times).

+ Wednesday May 18:

- \$ Mass in the Holy Sepulcher Church
- \$ Jesus empty tomb, crucifixion spot, Anointing stone, Holy fire columns, ..
- \$ Coptic patriarchate and H.E. Metropolitan Abraham
- \$ Via Do Lorosa, the way of The Cross, the 14 Stations:
 - + 1st Station: Jesus is condemned to death by Pontius Pilate at Gabbatha
 - + 2nd Station: Jesus carries His cross
 - + 3rd Station: Jesus falls the first time
 - + 4th Station: Jesus meets his mother
 - + 5th Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross
 - + 6th Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
 - + 7th Station: Jesus falls the second time
 - + 8th Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
 - + 9th Station: Jesus falls a third time
 - + 10th Station: Jesus clothes are taken away
 - + 11th Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross
 - + 12th Station: Jesus dies on the cross
 - + 13th Station: The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross
 - + 14th Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb
- \$ Pool of Bethesda
- \$ Church of Condemnation and St. Anna Church
- \$ Glance at the Dom of the Rock

+ Thursday May 19:

- \$ Bethany where Jesus performed the great Miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead
- \$ Mary and Martha (Lazarus' sisters) Church.

- \$ Lazarus empty tomb cave. Virgin Mary's Tomb
- \$ Cable Cart to the Mount of temptation
- \$ St. George Greek monastery and Church
- \$ Qumran caves area,
- \$ Jordan river the traditional place of Jesus baptism (we took a small dip). It is also the place where Elijah was taken in fire chariot and also Joshua crossed the river.
- \$ Dead Sea (where I fell and scraped my elbow)
- \$ Jericho Zacchaeus sycamore tree and Church

+ Friday May 20

- \$ The Wailing Wall.
- \$ St. George Church in Ludd (Biblical Lydda)
- \$ Jaffa: St. Peter Church where he saw the beast-filled blanket (a fountain near the Church commemorates this dream)
- \$ Church of Kana Galilee where Jesus performed His first miracle.
- \$ Arrive to Tiberius

+ Saturday May 21:

- \$ Nazareth, where Jesus spent His childhood and youth. "He will be called a Nazarene" Matthew 2:23.
- \$ Mass in the Coptic Annunciation Church.
- \$ Greek Annunciation Church and St. Mary's well.
- \$ St. Joseph Church
- \$ Kana Mount Tabor
- \$ Transfiguration Church

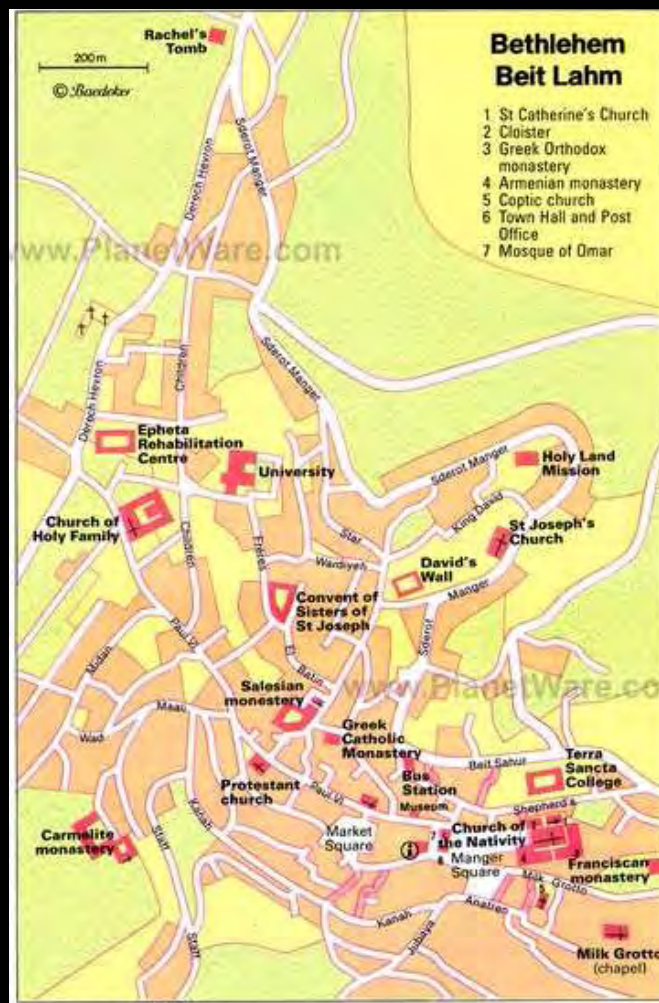
+ Sunday May 22:

- \$ Sea of Galilee cruise
- \$ 2000 years old fishing boat (photos only, the museum was closed unfortunately)
- \$ Capernaum synagogue where our Lord preached
- \$ Peter house where our Lord healed Peter's mother in law
- \$ Mount of beatitude The place of the sermon on the mount, Church of Beatitude
- \$ The five loaves and two fishes fresco Har Haosher in Tabgha
- \$ Jordan river and the real dip with tonyas

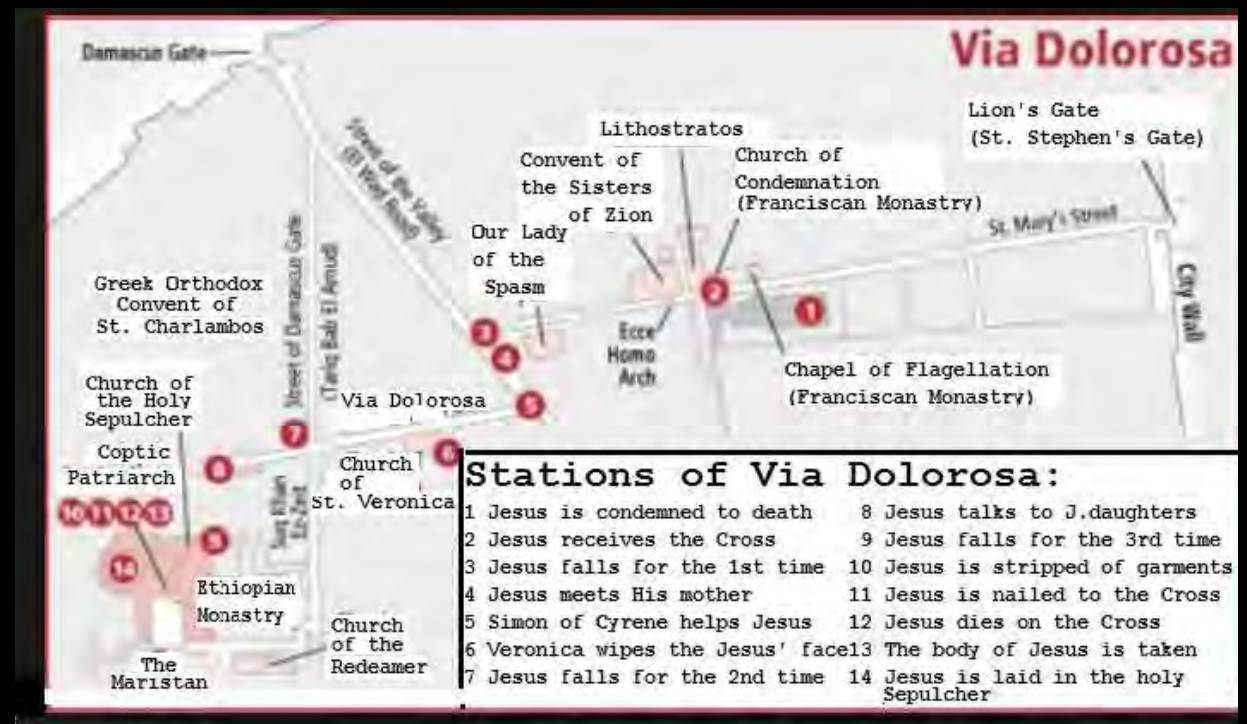
+ Monday May 23:

- \$ Haifa mount Carmel
- \$ Stella Maris (Star of the sea) Church
- \$ Bahia garden (was closed unfortunately)
- \$ Elmohrika monastery where Elijah confronted the Baal profits
- \$ Caesarea Aqueduct and the Mediterranean sea
- \$ To the airport to home with lot of blessings and memories.



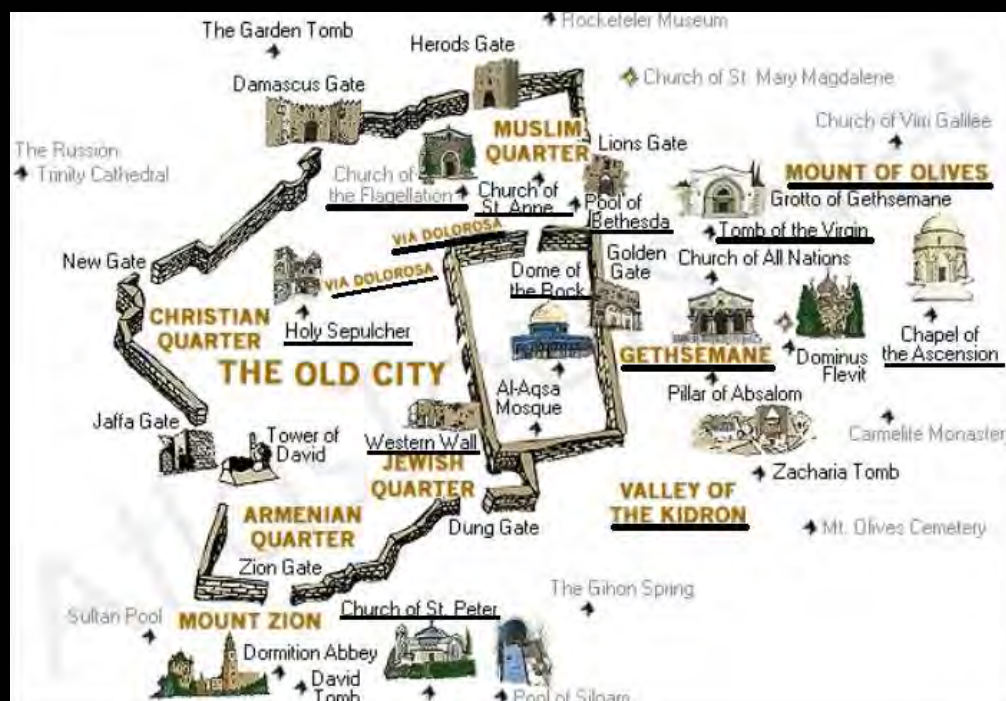


Bethlehem



Places we visited

Via Dolorosa



Jerusalem Holy Sites



Galilee Holy Sites

Milk Grotto Chapel

This is a Franciscan chapel built above a cave (grotto) in Bethlehem. It is considered sacred because traditionally the Holy Family took refuge here during the Slaughter of the Innocents, before their flight into Egypt. Tradition has it that while Virgin Mary was nursing Jesus here, a drop of milk fell to the ground, turning it white. A church was built here by the 5th century.



In front of the Milk Grotto Church in Bethlehem



Inside the Milk Grotto Cave



At the entrance of the Milk Grotto Church in Bethlehem



In front of the Milk Grotto Church in Bethlehem



Inside the Milk Grotto Church



Inside the Milk Grotto Church, St. Joseph cave



The Milk Grotto



The Milk Grotto

Nativity Basilica

The basilica of the Nativity is located in Bethlehem, West Bank. Originally built in 339 AD by Constantine and his mother Helena Over the traditional birthplace cave of Jesus. It was destroyed by fire during the Samaritan Revolts in the 6th century. It was rebuilt in 565 AD by Justinian, the Byzantine Emperor. Its prominent bell towers are amongst later several additions.



Approaching the the Nativity Basilica



".., the angel of the Lord appeared .., saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, .." Matthew 2:13



Inside the Nativity Basilica



Inside the Nativity Basilica
entrances were made small so
invaders can't go in on horses



Nativity Basilica



*Original floor mosaic in the
Nativity Basilica*



Inside the Nativity Basilica



Inside the Nativity Basilica



Construction in the Nativity Basilica



Inside the Nativity Basilica



Inside the Nativity Basilica



3D St. George icon Inside the Nativity Basilica



Inside the Nativity Basilica



Inside the Nativity Basilica



Inside the Nativity Basilica



Birth place of Lord Jesus cave



Inside the Nativity Basilica



Inside the Nativity Basilica



The Manger where Jesus was born



A quick rest In the Nativity Basilica



Inside the Nativity Basilica



The Star of Bethlehem marks the spot where Jesus was born



Not so far from where Jesus was born



Inside the Nativity Basilica



Greek Orthodox Church inside the Basilica



Inside the Nativity Basilica



Catching breath in the Nativity Basilica



Inside the Nativity Basilica



Inside the Nativity Basilica



Inside the Nativity Basilica



Inside the Nativity Basilica



Inside the Nativity Basilica



The Baby in the Manger



Manger Square Church



Renovations inside the Nativity Basilica



Manger Square Church



St. Jerome Cave under St. Jerome Church



St. Jerome Church



Prayers, Wishes,, and Donations are dropped here



The Manger Square: "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7.



Manger Square



"....., Arise, and take the young child and His mother, and flee into Egypt, .."Matthew 2:13

Manger Square

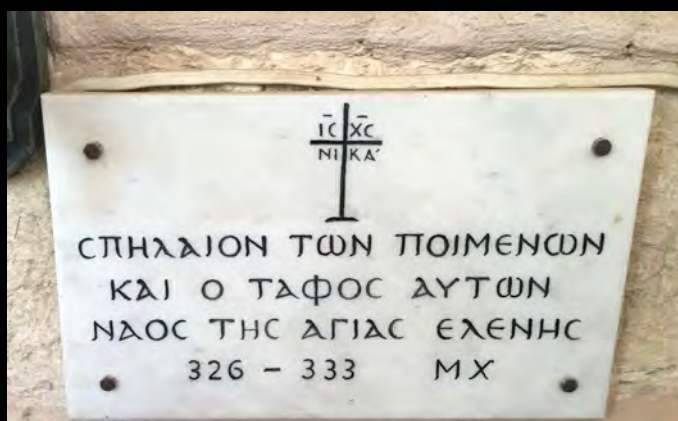


"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Luke 2 The Shepherds Field, Greek Orthodox Church of the Shepherds



In The Shepherds Field Greek Orthodox Church

Shepherds cave under the Shepherds Greek Orthodox Church



Greek Orthodox Shepherds Church



"... I bring you good tidings of great joy, .." Luke 2:10. This happened in this Shepherd Field



John the Baptist Head



"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: ..." Luke 2:10



Greek Church of the Shepherds



Group Photo In The Shepherd Field Church



In The Shepherds Field





*getting a sip from St. Mary
well in Ein Karem*



St. Mary well in Ein Kareem



St. Mary Spring in Ein Kareem

The Franciscan Visitation Basilica

"And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah." Luke 1:39.

The Church is in the village of Ein Karem, on the west side of Jerusalem, is named after virgin Mary's visit to the summer house of the parents of John the Baptist Elizabeth and Zacharias. Ein Karem is according to tradition the birthplace of John the Baptist. The Church was originally built by the Crusaders on top of the ruined Byzantine period Church. The visitation church was reconstructed in 1955. This Church was designed by the Italian famous church architect, Antonio Barluzzi, who also designed other churches such as the Mount of Beatitudes, Dominus Flevit and Basilica of Agony.



The Franciscan Visitation Basilica (Biblewalks.com)



*The stairs to the Visitation
Basilica*



*Catching breath at the entrance of
the Visitation Basilica*



the Visitation Basilica



The Magnificat decorates the Basilica promenade walls



The Altar



"And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me" Luke 1:43



Mary's trip to Elizabeth Mosaic on the Church of Visitation



The Upper Annunciation Church



Paintings in the Church



The Church of Visitation paintings



The stone that hid baby John the Baptist according to the traditions. (Samy Guirguis)



The Church of Visitation paintings



The Church Courtyard



"; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars" Revelation 12:1



The stairs from the Lower to the Upper Visitation Church



The Upper Visitation Church



In the Courtyard of the Church



In front of the Visitation Church



The Upper Church Altar



Inside The Upper Church

The Chapel of the Ascension

"Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight." Acts 1:9

The Chapel is a shrine located on the Mount of Olives, in Jerusalem. Part of a larger complex consisting of a church and monastery, then an Islamic mosque. It is located on a site traditionally believed to be the earthly spot where the Lord Jesus ascended into Heaven forty days after His resurrection. It houses a slab of stone believed to contain one of His footprints.



The Church of Ascension on the Mount of Olives



The Stone believed that Jesus ascended from showing His footprint



In the Ascension Church courtyard



"What does the tare has to do with the wheat" Matthew 13:24-30

The Church of the Pater Noster

"... Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." (Luke 11:9-11). These words reverberated here almost 2000 years ago coming from our Lord Jesus.

The Church is also known as the Sanctuary of the Eleona (French: Domain de L'Eleona), is a partially reconstructed Roman Catholic church located on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. It stands on the site of Christ's teaching of the Lord's Prayer. Today, the land on which the church stands formally belongs to France.



Pater Noster (Our Father) Church



Inside the Pater Noster Church



*"..Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name..."Matthew 6:9
Adorns the walls of the Church Promenade in 140+ languages*



*Entrance to the remains of the
original Pater Noster Church under
the current Church*



Traditional Cave where Jesus taught His disciples how to pray



Cave Beneath the current Church



Inside the Church



The Church Altar

Jesus Wept here

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." Matthew 23:37-38

Jesus wept on Jerusalem when He saw this view and prophesied her destruction.



On His way to the Cross, Jesus taught the multitudes The kingdom of heaven parables, prophesied the end of times, woe'd the Pharisees and Scribes, and wept on Jerusalem and prophesied its destruction from this Mount of Olives plateau edge overlooking Jerusalem.



"...if these should hold their peace, the stones would cry out."
Luke 19:40. This stone could've cried out on Palm Sunday



Oases in The Lord Wept Church Courtyard



Descending the Mount of Olives
(10 floors according to my iPhone)



The Dome of The Lord Wept Church



*"See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' " Matthew 23:38-39.
"Dominus Flevit" The Lord Wept Church. The only Church faces West to face the Old City.*



The Altar Looking WESTWARDS over the Old City



A Quick Lecture in The Lord Wept Church

Garden of Gethsemane

"Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." Matthew 26:36-46

Gethsemane means Oil Press, is Synonym of great agony. In the shadow of these 2000+ years old olive trees, laying on His face on a rock, Jesus prayed fervently to His Father to remove the cup of Agony from Him.



Jesus may have prayed under this 2000+ years old Olives tree in the garden of Gethsemane



Old Olive Trees one of them may have seen the Lord's Agony

and young Flowers

Basilica of Agony

"And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." Luke 22:44

This Basilica is also called Basilica of All Nations. The Altar of this Basilica stands on the rock on which traditionally great drops of Jesus sweat fell down like drops of blood.



Originally Byzantines built a basilica in the 4th-century, it was destroyed by an earthquake in 746. The Crusaders rebuilt it in the 10th century. During renovation in 1920, the original Byzantine basilica was discovered and excavated.





*Beauty budding in the garden of
Gethsemane like our salvation
rising out of Jesus crucifixion*



Inside the Basilica

"... and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: ..." Matthew 26:39. Jesus, contemplating on the agony waiting for Him on the cross to save us, prayed these words on this rock



Resting on the Door Steps



Inside the Basilica of the Agony

Virgin Mary Tomb Church & well

The Church is in the Kidron Valley - at the foot of Mount of Olives, in Jerusalem. The wide stairs (bottom middle) lead to the tomb cave. On the left side of the staircase (towards the West) there is the chapel of Saint Joseph, while on the right (towards the East) there is the chapel of Mary's parents, Joachim and Anne, holding also the tomb of Queen Melisende of Jerusalem.



Water Jars; St. Mary may have used similar ones



The Church of St. Mary Tomb and the well where she used to get water and where the Angle Gabriel appeared to her, Mount of Olives



Inside the Church



Stairs leading to the tomb



The Tomb cave entrance

The Upper Room

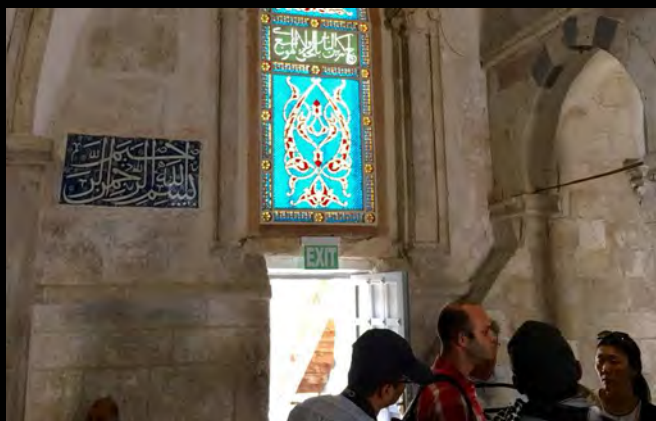
"And he will shew you a large upper room furnished and prepared: there make ready for us." Mark 14:15. Between the walls of this Upper Room, the new covenant was sealed the day of Passover. "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting" Acts 2:1-2. Hence the Church was born Fifty days after Resurrection.



The Upper Room, Jesus ate here His last supper and instated the Eucharist on the Passover and fifty days later His Pride, the Church, was born here on the Pentecost



Dormition Abbey housing "also" the Upper Room and King David's Sepulcher (Tomb), Mount Zion



A mosque right inside the Upper Room, "What does the tare has to do with the wheat?"



".the patriarch David, ..., and his sepulcher is with us unto this day." Acts 2:29. King David's Tomb



Jews worshipers lead by a boy dancing and singing around the scrolls in King David's Tomb



"And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to Him be 32 glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." Revelation 1:6



The Church of Dormition of Virgin Mary



The Group with the King



Statue for Virgin Mary Dormition



Rare Painting of Jesus carrying Virgin Mary after her Dormition



Virgin Mary Dormition Church



The other side of the Dormition Abbey

Church of Saint Peter in Gallicantu

A Roman Catholic church located on the Eastern slope of Mount Zion, just outside the Old (walled) City of Jerusalem. "Gallicantu", means cock's-crow. This is in commemoration of Peter's triple rejection of Jesus: "And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, that this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice." Mark 14:30 This Church is built on top of the ruins of Chiafa's house where Jesus was put on trial and locked up till He was taken to Pontus Pilate.



St. Peter in Gallicantu (cock 's-crow). It is built above remains believed to be Caiaphas' house



"... thou shalt deny me thrice." Mark 14:30, relief on Church door



A Cross and a Cock on top of the Church Dome



one of six Father Bosom/Altars in the Church of Dormition (Samy Guirguis)



There are several rooms beneath the Church believed to be the Caiapha's' prison where Jesus was held for trial



Caves under the Church were part of Caiapha's basement



The Church Sanctuary



"Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee." Matthew 26:69



"... another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth." Matthew 26:71



"... , and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth (betrayed) thee" Matthew 26:73



Jesus singled out the calling of Peter, James, and John specially when He prayed in Gethsemane. A relief on the wall



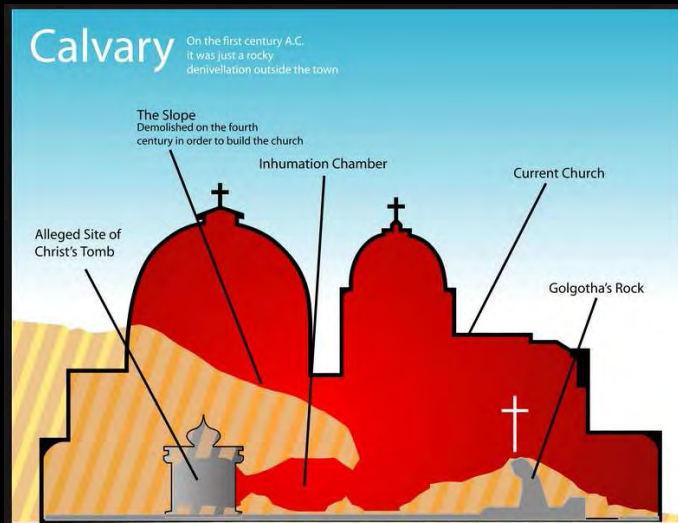
The Altar



" But he was wounded for our transgressions," Isaiah 53:5

The Holy Sepulcher Church

Built originally by Constantine, destroyed by the Persians in 614 and renovated right after by Heraclius, demolished by Muslims then rebuilt in the 11th Century. The Golgotha and the Sepulcher which are excavated from the rocks survived the several ordeals. The Schematics show sites of the Sepulcher, the Anointing (embalming), and the Golgotha.



Location of major sites in the Church



The Holy Sepulcher Church (Wikipedia)



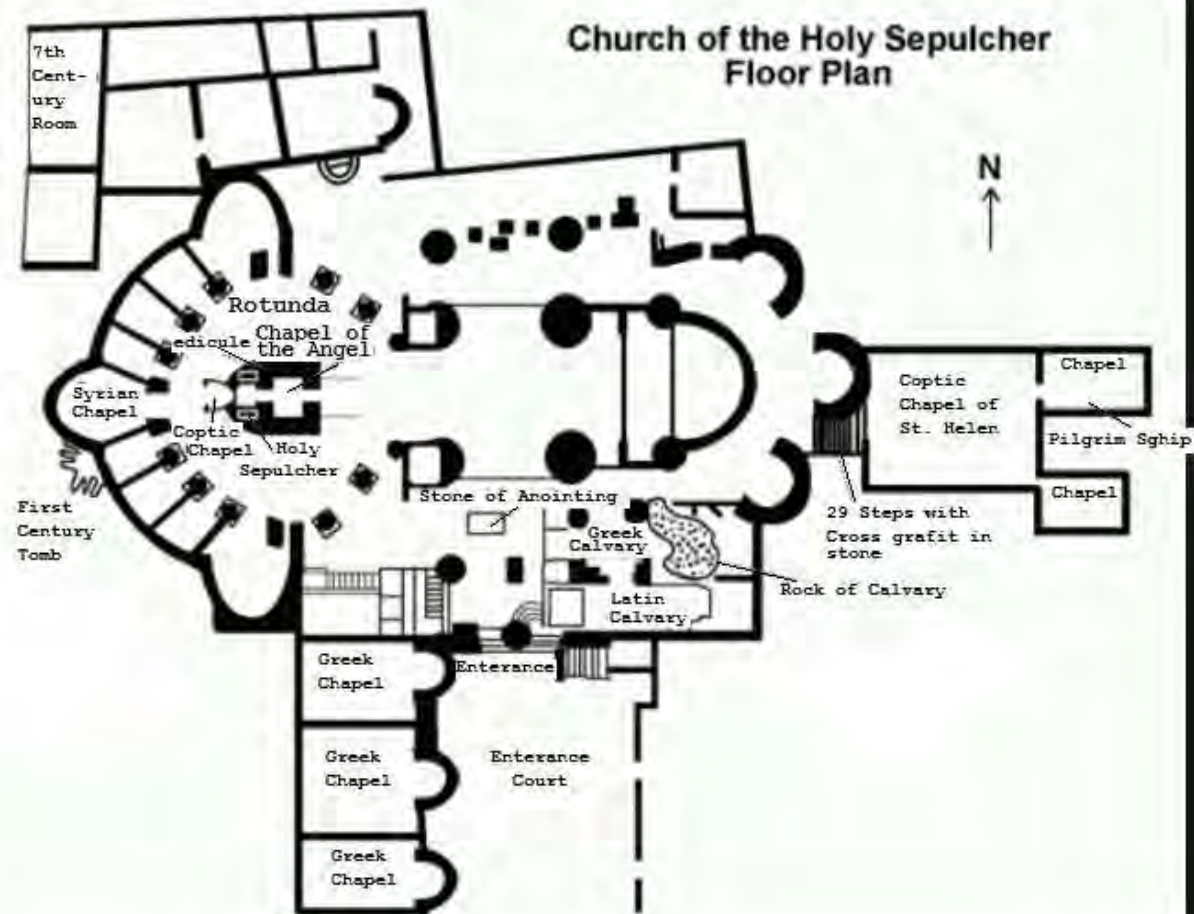
Abouna Abram led the mass in our Church located right next to the holy Sepulcher



Yours Truly



Our Coptic Chapel shares a wall with the Holy Sepulcher



Holy Sepulcher Church Floor Plan



Entering the Holy Sepulcher



The Coptic Resurrection Procession during the Coptic Mass (Rafat G.)

"For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ." Romans 5:17. He died so we can live.

"And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counselor; and he was a good man, and a just: (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God. This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulcher that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid." Luke 23:50-53. Here Jesus body rested from Friday evening to Sunday dawn.



The Empty Tomb (Holy Sepulcher) of the Lord Jesus, "He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." Matthew 28:6. It marks the station #14 of Via Dolorosa (Wikipedia)



The Holy Sepulcher Basilica Dome



The Holy Sepulcher Basilica Walls



Above the Holy Sepulcher entrance



In the line to enter the Holy Sepulcher

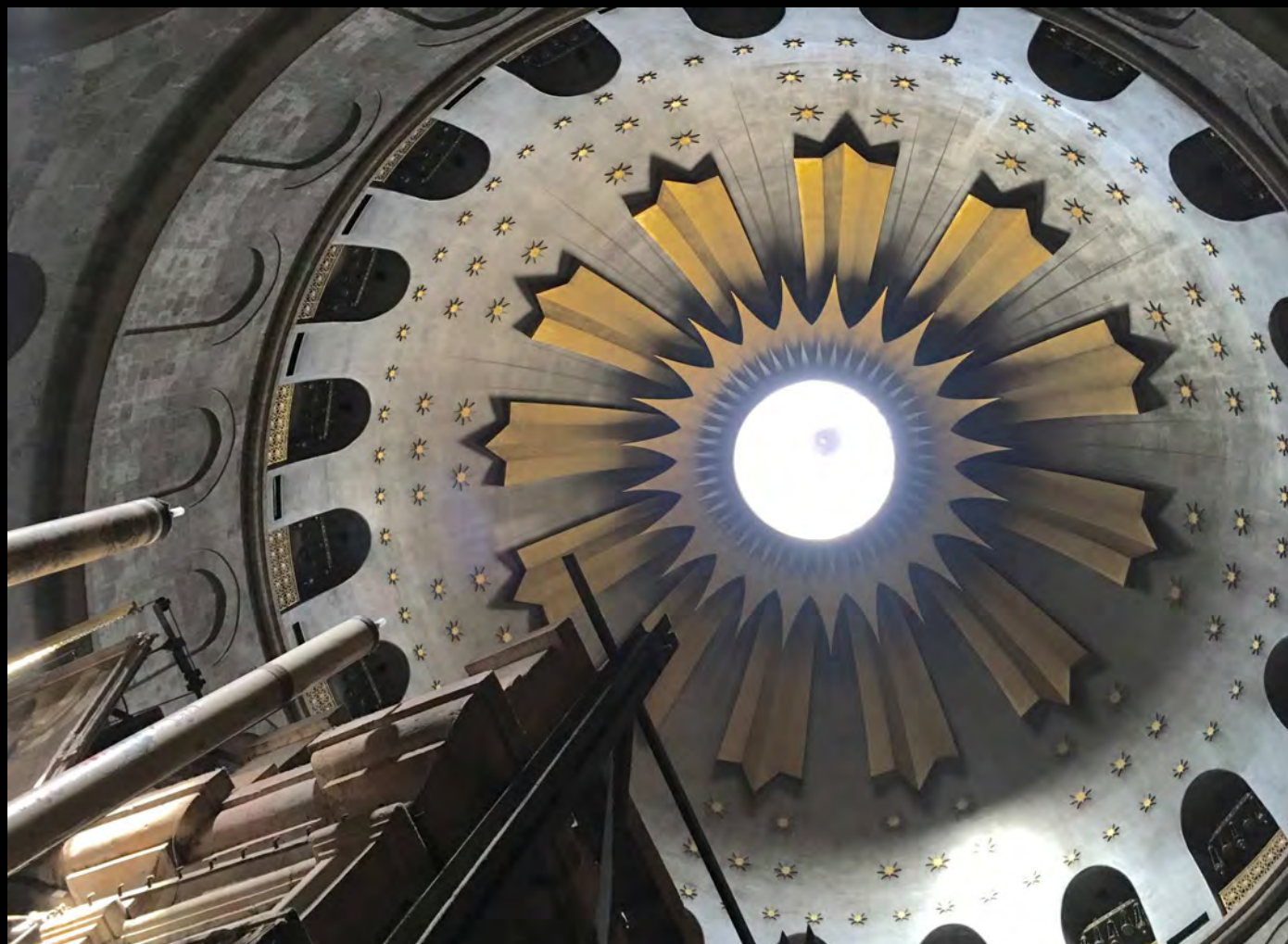


Stepping out of the Holy Sepulcher. Never forgettable experience.





These Candles in front of the Holy Sepulcher are let from the Holy Fire that appears on the Orthodox Resurrection Holiday



*The Holy Sepulcher Church Dome
The opening points to the Resurrection*



*Via Dolorosa Station #9
(Jesus falls the third time)
St. Helena Coptic Church*



His Holiness Metropolitan Antonious Bishop of Jerusalem met with us



The background of the Golgotha Altar



Golgotha Altar (from Wikipedia)

Touch and see from this hole the Golgotha Where Jesus Cross once stood from noon to 6 PM on the Good Friday. It marks the Stations #11&12 (Jesus Crucified, Jesus died) of Via Dolorosa



It is believed Joseph Aramiath and Nekodimos Anointed Jesus body on this stone (Afaf Fam). It marks Station #13 of Via Dolorosa



Golgotha, it is believed that the crack is caused by the earthquake.
Some scholars believe through this crack the Blood of Jesus seeped through to Adam's skull (and possibly the lost Arc of Covenant) Because "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission." Hebrews 9:22
This marks the Station #11 of Via Dolorosa



The column of the Holy Fire comes out since 876 AC and possibly since 385 (Wikipedia) (Rafat Girgis)



The Golgotha/Calvary as seen in the Chapel of Adam beneath Golgotha Altar

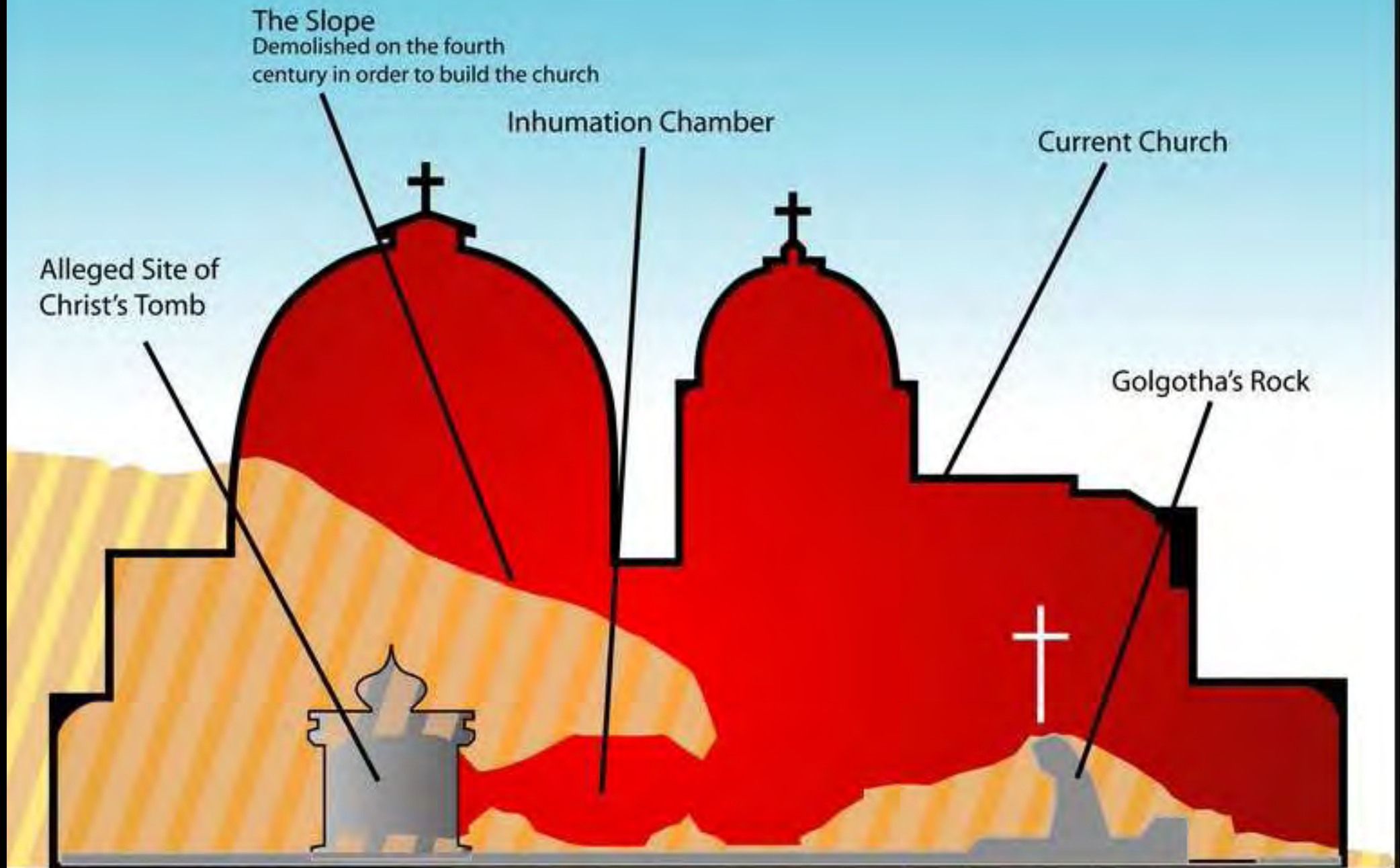


In the Holy Sepulcher line



Calvary

On the first century A.C.
it was just a rocky
denivellation outside the town



*Locations of the Stations 11, 12, 13, and 14 of Via Dolorosa in the Holy Sepulcher Church
(Wikipedia)*



The Golgotha/Calvary as seen in the Chapel of Adam beneath Golgotha Altar. This crack was caused by the earthquake when "... He had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost." Matthew 27:50

Via Dolorosa (Way of Grief)*

Station 1: Jesus is condemned to death "When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha." John 19:13

Station 2: Jesus receives His cross, now is a Franciscan monastery

Station 3 : Jesus falls for the first time under the weight of the cross that he is carrying.

Station 4: Jesus meets Mary His Mother, now Armenian church ("Armenian Church of Our Lady of the Spasm"). John 19, 26: "When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!"

Station 5: Simon helps Jesus to carry His Cross, now A small Franciscan church is located at this station. Luke 23, 26: "And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus".

Station 6: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus. 23, 27: "And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him". Her name, Veronica, may have been based on the Latin words "Vera"+"Icon", or "true image" Now A small Greek Catholic chapel is located at this station

Station 7: Jesus falls the second time. Behind the doors is a Franciscan small chapel,

Station 8: Jesus speaks to the women of Jerusalem. Luke 23, 27: "But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children".

Station 9: Jesus falls the third time. Our Coptic St. Helena Church is in this station.

Station 10: Jesus is stripped of His garments. Mark 15,24: "And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take". Station 10 is located at the entrance of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Chapel of the Franks.

Station 11: Jesus is nailed to the cross. Inside the Sepulcher Church a Latin (Franciscan) altar on Calvary (place of the skull - Golgotha). "... There they nailed him to the cross. ... on each side, with Jesus in the middle. 19 Pilate also had a notice posted on the cross. It ..." John 19:18

Stations 12: Jesus dies on the cross, is a Greek Orthodox crucifixion altar which is inside the Church of Holy Sepulcher. "And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit. Having said this, He breathed His last." Luke 23:46

Station 13: Jesus is taken down from the cross. John 19: 40: "Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury".

Station 14: Jesus is laid in the tomb. "And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulcher that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid." Luke 23:56..



Station #1

Jesus is condemned to death



Station #5

Simon Cyrene helps Jesus to carry His Cross



Station #9

Jesus falls the third time



Station #2
Jesus receives His cross



Station #3
Jesus falls for the first time



Station #4
Jesus meets Mary His grieving Mother



Station #6
Veronica wipes the face of Jesus



Station #7
Jesus falls the second time



Station #8
Jesus speaks to the women of Jerusalem



Station #10
Jesus is stripped of His garments



Station #11
Jesus is nailed to the cross



Station #12
Jesus dies on the cross



Station #14
Jesus is laid in the Holy Sepulcher (tomb)

It is believed that when Jesus fell the second time He leaned on this wall leaving His hand print at 7th station



Falling under the weight of our sins. A painting in the Church of Condemnation



Pool of Bethesda in the backyard of St. Anna Church. Here laid paralytic man for thirty eight years: "Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." John 5:8

Station #13
Jesus is taken down from the cross



Illustration of all the Fourteen Stations of the Via Dolorosa at its start point



Church of Condemnation

St. Anna Church

It is Roman Catholic, located at the start of the Via Dolorosa, next to the Pools of Bethesda in the Muslim Quarter in Jerusalem. It is a fine example of medieval architecture. The location was Egyptian pagan shrine, replaced by a Church in the Byzantine time, then was destroyed by the Persians in 614 AC then rebuilt by the Crusaders between 1131 - 1138. Virgin Mary grew up here for this the Church is dedicated to her parents Anna and Joachim. Unlike many other Churches this Church was not ruined by Salah-Eldeen but was converted to Madrasah (school). In 1856, Ottoman Sultan Abdülmecid I presented it (as Pater Noster Church) to Napoleon III. Still owned and administered by the French.



The Thorn Crown decorates the Dome of Church of Condemnation dome



St. Anna Church Courtyard



The stairs to and Virgin Mary Nativity Altar, it is believed that Virgin Mary was born here



The Father Bosom of Church of Condemnation



The Courtyard of St. Anna Church



Mother and daughter, St. Anna and Virgin Mary as a child.



Touching Jesus' hand print when He fell second time (Station #7 of Via Dolorosa)



Jacob & a Part of the chain that once tied St. George when he was being tortured for SEVEN years



Holy mass led by Abouna Abram in St. George's nuns Monastery Church



George Mikhail in the Resurrection procession



Jacob Salama in the Resurrection procession

Holy mass led by Abouna Abram



Mary and Martha (Lazarus sisters) church in Bethany (Wikipedia)



The Sanctuary, Jesus with Mary and Martha at Lazarus Wake



Lazarus empty Tomb. "..., he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." John 11:43. Azmy is coming out



Zacchaeus Sycamore Tree in Jericho. "..., and climbed up into a sycamore tree . . ." Luke 19:4



Zacchaeus Greek Orthodox Church



Zacchaeus Church Sanctuary



"Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house." Luke 19:5



The Church ceiling is an open Bible

The Greek Monastery of Temptation

"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights ..." Matthew 4:1-2. The Monastery was built by Byzantines in the 6th Century above the cave where Jesus stayed this 40 days. The Crusaders built 2 Churches in 1099. The monastery was constructed by the Greek Orthodox Church around a crude cave chapel that marks the stone where Jesus was tempted by the Devil: "...will give thee if thou wilt fall down and worship me." Mt 4:9.



The Temptation Monastery



The Church's Dome



Most of the Monastery is caves and tunnels in the Mount of Temptation



Most of the Monastery is dug inside the Mountain, like this Church's Sanctuary



52 The Church's icon Carrier
panorama



The monks cells



Endless winding stairs leading to the Monastery (14 floors as of my iPhone)



On the stairs to the Monastery



An Altar looking on the Jordan River at the traditional Jesus Baptism place



The Jordan River spot where John baptized Jesus



Quick dip in the Jordan River



Knees deep in the Jordan River where John baptized Jesus



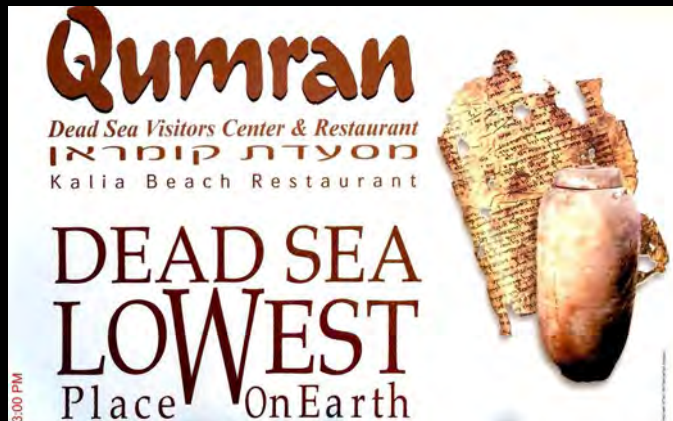
Looking across the River to Jordan



(Family Jacob Salama)



A White Pigeon Couple takes abode in the Church Pavilion



Food mat in Qumran Restaurant



It is not Hawaii, it is the Dead Sea



Almost Alexandria



A Dip in the Dead Sea



"..Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" Matthew 18:3



On the Wailing Wall courtyard

Wailing/Western Wall

Getting ready to inspect the Wailing/Western Wall. It is a 488 m (1600') retaining wall on the western side of the Temple Mount. Built by Herod to provide large plateau for the Temple and its auxiliary buildings. It is used by Jews for prayer, and weeping over the destruction of the Temples. The wall is most sacred area for the Jews.



Praying Jews



A Hall at the end of the wall used for praying and ceremonies



St. Peter Church in Jafa

"And now send men to Jafa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do." Acts 10:5-6. St. Paul came to Jafa from Ludd (Lydda), next page, to raise Tabitha (Acts 9:36-42, see below)

The church was built in 1654. It was twice destroyed and consequently twice rebuilt., latest in 1894.



Father's Bosom



The Altar



"... Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. .. " Acts 9:36-42. This happened close from here when St. Paul was called from Lydda (now called Ludd, next page)



"... large sheet ... contained all kinds of four-footed animals, ..a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." Acts 10:12-13. Peter's dream as a fountain



St. George Tomb in St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Ludd (Lydda)



The Icons Carrier



A quick living history nugget



The stairs leading to St. George Tomb



The Mediterranean Sea is barely seen in the background, but it is there, trust me, I was there :)

Galilee and Sea of Galilee

Here Jesus spent large part of His ministry, as examples:

Matthew 4:18 "And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers."

Matthew 15:29 "And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there."

Mark 1:16 "Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers."

Mark 7:31 "And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis."

John 6:1 "After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberius."



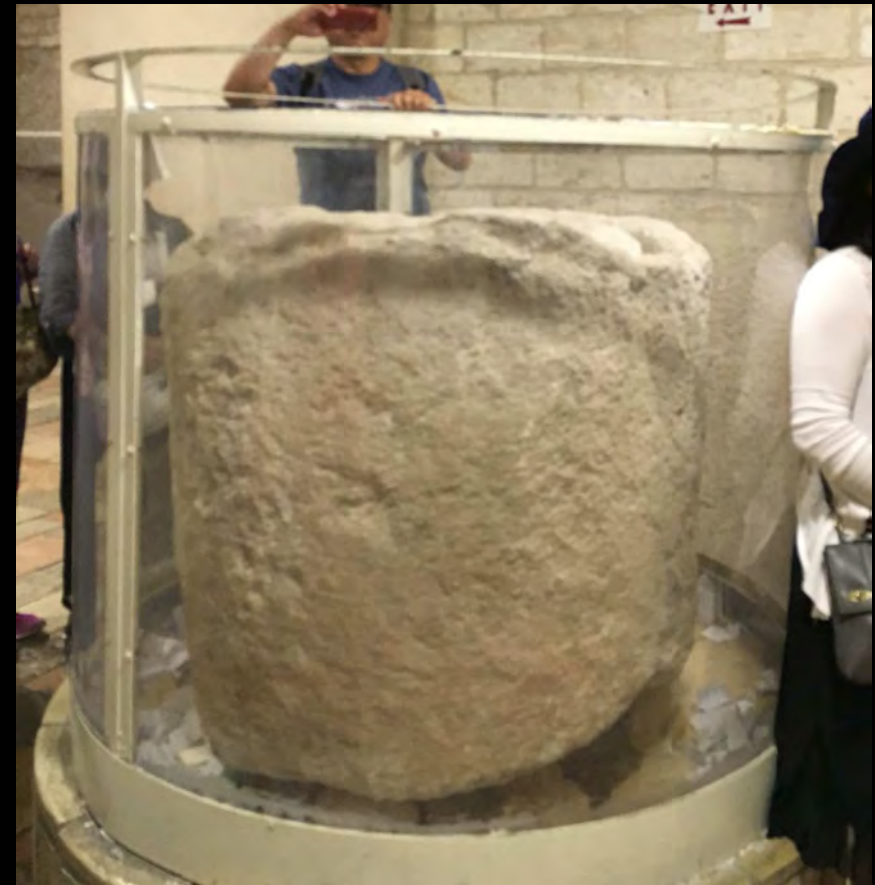
Sea of Galilee perhaps unchanged since Jesus last saw it



When the group is very large, and the roads are very narrow, and the traffic is very heavy service at road branching is very invaluable, thanks George :)



Kana narrow street like the ones Jesus once walked



Kana Galilee Church

Commemorates Jesus first miracle: Turning the water into Wine. "Jesus saith unto them, Fill the water pots with water. .. the water was made wine," John 2:7-10. The first Miracle Jesus made. This pot is the only survived pot of these six lucky pots. (Mariam Dimian provided the jar pic)



Remnant of ancient Church building and old pots



How the survived water pot looks from top.



Sunrise over Sea of Galilee as Jesus had seen it many times when he waked up early and went to pray. "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." Mark 1:35



The Coptic Orthodox Annunciation Church in Nazareth. We attended a mass on Saturday May 21 led by Abouna Abram



"..I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness"

Psalms 84:10



"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.." Psalms 23:6



Your's Truly in the Resurrection Procession (Alma Malek)



".. and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever." Psalms 23:6

The Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

The church is located over an underground spring, which according to Eastern Orthodox belief is where the Virgin Mary was drawing water at the time of the Annunciation. Water from the spring still runs inside the Father's Bosom it also feeds the adjacent site of Mary's Well, located 150 yards (140 m) away. first established in Byzantine-era, it was rebuilt during the time of the Crusades, and again in the 18th century.



Church of Annunciation and Mary's Well



Mary Well in the Church courtyard



Orthodox Church of Annunciation
and Virgin Mary Well



" .. Except ye be converted, and
become as little children, .."
Matthew 18:3

Basilica Of The Annunciation And The Church Of Saint Joseph's Carpentry

According to Latine Catholic tradition, the Annunciation took place here in contrast to the Greek Orthodox (previous page). The Church is constructed in 1964 over the site of an earlier Byzantine-era and then Crusader-era churches. The lower level contains the Grotto (cave) of the Annunciation, believed to be childhood home of St. Mary. The first shrine was an altar in the cave in which Mary had lived. Emperor Constantine I commissioned larger structure around the same time as the Church of the Nativity and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Persians conquest ruined this structure in 7th Century.

In 1620 the Angelical Franciscans constructed a small structure to enclose the holy grotto that is venerated as the house of Mary. In 1730 a new church was commissioned. The church was enlarged in 1877, demolished in 1954 to build a new basilica by the Italian architect Giovanni Muzio. In the courtyard of this Basilica is a gallery with mosaics representing some of the most important Virgin Mary devotions in different countries.

Side Note: Antonio Barluzzi designed all recent Holy Land Churches except this Church which was designed by Giovanni Muzio





Toddler Jesus with Joseph



The lower Alter as seen from the upper level



Altar in the Grotto (lower floor)



"Then Joseph her husband, being just and not willing to expose her publicly, desired to leave her secretly." Matthew 1:19. Observe the sad look on St. Joseph. (Rafat)



Saint Joseph's Church (1914). In Nazareth Is Built Over A Cave Known As ritual bath.



Egyptian icon on the Basilica promenade wall representing Virgin Mary Apparition in El-Zaiton Church in the 1960's



The Basilica main entrance

The Church of Transfiguration

"... And was transfigured before them: and His face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with Him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."

Matthew 17:1-8

The current church was completed in 1924 by architect Antonio Barluzzi (who designed most modern Holy land Churches except the Church of Annunciation on previous page). It was built on the ruins of an old Crusader Church which in turn was built on the ruins of an ancient Byzantine church. The church contains three Chapels representing the three tabernacles which Peter desired to build; for Jesus: Middle part, Moses: North tower, and Elijah: South tower.



On top of the Church

The two Peacock resemble Infinity

A selfie



Part of Crusaders Monastery
remnants



In the Courtyard of the Church



A mosaic In the upper part of the Church on a gold ground representing the Transfiguration. On July 28th, day of the Catholic Transfiguration, the sun strikes a glass plate set into the floor so that the golden mosaic is briefly illuminated.



Moses "Tabernacle" Altar
North Tower



Jesus "Tabernacle" Altar in the
middle



Elijah "Tabernacle" Altar
South Tower



A Beautiful Morning for a Cruise on the Sea of Tiberius, just like several Jesus had



Perhaps the last photo before I lost my TPT hat



Pack of happy, well-fed Pilgrims ready to take on a new packed day



A very quite Sea and beautiful weather, unlike the day Peter walked (a step or two) on the same water



After short pray the American and Israeli flags danced to the tunes of their National Anthems



Peace and Serenity



Unfortunately Boat's Museum was closed :(



"Now when he had left speaking, He said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto Him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net." Luke 5:4-5. This 1st Century Boat, discovered 1986, may had been the one which was launched out into the deep". (Wikipedia photo)



Beautiful Flowers



Mount Arbel across the Sea of Galilee



And more Flowers

The Church of Beatitude

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are the meek: for they shall possess the land. Blessed are they who mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice: for they shall have their fill. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven". Matthew 5:3-10. Jesus voice reverberated these Beatitudes here



The Altar



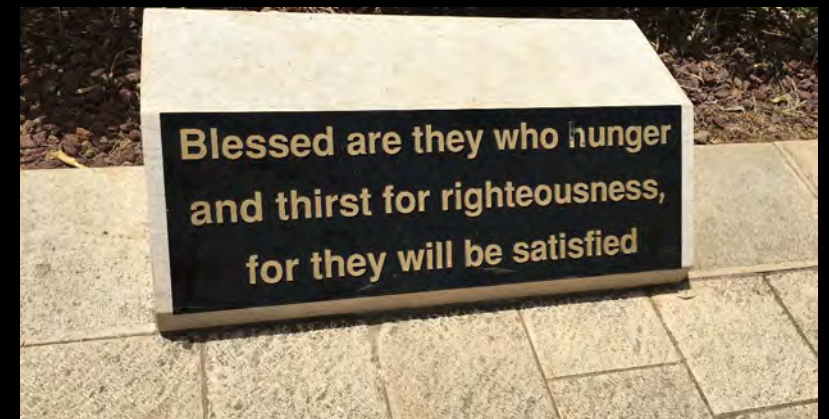
The Beatitude Roman Catholic Church, built on the traditional site of Jesus delivery of the Sermon on the Mount. This church sits near the ruins of a small Byzantine era church dating to the late 4th century. The Church is Located on a small hill overlooking the Sea of Galilee



Waiting our turn to enter the Church



The Sermon on the Mount Icon in the Beatitude Church



Every Beatitude is displayed on a Block like this



*In the Area where Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount, near Tabgha, the Mount of Beatitude
N.B.: I was not making myself cute, I was uncovering Tousouny Vivian and Marine Markos*

Church of the Multiplication

Originally built as a small shrine around 350 A.C. by a Jewish convert, Joseph of Tiberius who was contemporary of Emperor Constantine. Joseph was a Rabbinical scholar, member of the Sanhedrin. Following his conversion, Emperor Constantine gave him permission to build churches in the Galilee, specifically, in areas with a Jewish majority. In 480 A.C. it was replaced by bigger chapel by the Egyptian Patriarch of Jerusalem Martyrius. Martyrius covered the floor of his chapel with a beautiful Nile mosaic describing Nilotic landscape and the fest of the Nile. (Wikipedia) This Church was destroyed by the Persians and rebuilt by the Byzantines. In 1982 the area was bought and rebuilt by German Benedictines to its Byzantine form, incorporating portions of the original mosaics. In 2015 zealot Jews tried to burn the Church down on Atonement feast.



*The Church of
Feeding the Multitudes, Tabgha, the Mount of Beatitude*



*Church courtyard olive tree
(Wikipedia)*



Photos of the Damages made by zealots Jews in 2015



The Church Altar is above a rock believed to be where Jesus blessed the bread and fishes



This rock believed to be where Jesus blessed the bread and fishes above which the Altar was built



"And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, He looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided He among them all." Mark 6:41. First open buffet ever commemorated by this garden mosaic in the Mount of Beatitude



Martyrius, Patriarch of Jerusalem, who rebuilt the Church in 480 decorated the floors by mosaics like this Nile Flood level Meter to the right side of the Altar



An ancient Oil Press. Olives are crushed here by turning this conical block around the center by animal or human



The crushed olives are packed in baskets and pressed here in this piston block (the piston is missing). The Oil flows through the grooves

Church of the Primacy of St. Peter

".. Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? he saith unto Him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again .., lovest thou me? .., Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. .. third time, .., lovest thou me? .., .., Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep." John 21:15-17



Entrance to the Church of the Primacy of St. Peter



Church of the Primacy of St. Peter, Tabgha, the Mount of Beatitude (Wikipedia). The modern structure was built in 1933 and incorporates parts of an earlier 4th century church. The church survived longer than any other in the area, finally being destroyed in 1263. The present Franciscan chapel was built on the site in 1933.



In the Courtyard of the Church



"Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask Him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord." John 21:12. On this rock Jesus cooked breakfast by the sea for the disciples



".....Feed my lambs. .. second time,, Feed my sheep. .. third time, ..., ..., Feed my sheep" John 21:18



The Church is located on the Bank of Sea of Galilee

in Capernaum



Ruins of a Roman-period town in Capernaum



Capernaum Monastery



The remains of Byzantine Church which was built around St. Peter's house. This is the same house where Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law: "And He arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought Him for her. And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them." Luke 4:38, 39



With St. Peter and his Shepherd Staff

Capernaum Synagogue

"And leaving Nazareth, He (Jesus) came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim:" Matthew 4:13

Jesus left Nazareth and lived in Capernaum near the hometown of the apostles Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John, as well as the tax collector Matthew.

This synagogue was built around the 4th or 5th Century on top of foundation of a 1st Century synagogue. It is built with white stones unlike all other buildings in this region which are built with black basalt stones.

In the original Synagogue Jesus taught and healed many, e.g., the man with unclean spirit (Luke 4:31-36 and Mark 1:21-28). He also healed in Capernaum Simon Peter's mother-in-law (Luke 4:38-39), servant of a Roman centurion (Luke 7:1-10), the paralytic lowered through the roof (Mark 2:1-12.)



In the predecessor of this 4th Century Synagogue Jesus taught multitudes and healed many sick people



Jesus Lived here



The entrance of the Synagogue



*Remnant of the Byzantine Church
around St. Peter's house beneath
the current Church*



More Remnant of a the Church



*St. Peter Franciscan Octagon Church Built 1990 on the remnant of the
Byzantium octagon 5th Century Church which in turn was built around his
original house, Jesus called this house home while in Capernaum*



Inside St. Peter Church



*See through glass to see the
original St. Peter house below the
current Church*



"And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan." Mark 9:9



"And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:" Mark 1:10



*"And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Mark 9:11
Jordan River Baptism Area (Kinneret)*



Wet Joy



Fathi and Clair Kareem



Nahed Ragheb Guirguis



Rafat and Magda Girgis



Salama's



Beauty beyond imagination





*Stella Maris (Star of the Sea) Church and Monastery,
Haifa*



Mass was prayed



The Cave where Elia Lived



The Dome (Wikipedia)



"And Elijah took twelve stones,
.... And with the stones he built
an altar

... .. Then the fire of the
Lord fell, .. And when all the
people saw it, they fell on their
faces: and they said, The Lord, He
is the God; the Lord, He is the
God. And Elijah said unto them,
Take the prophets of Baal; let not
one of them escape. And they took
them: and Elijah brought them down
to the brook Kishon, and slew them
there." 1 Kings 18

The Mohrika Monastery is located atop Mount Caraml. Near the monastery is Carmel chapel, built in 1883. The Chapel altar is made up of 12 stones of Mount Caraml as Eliah built his Altar. Elijah monument commemorates the Challenge took place here between the prophet Elijah and the 450 Baal and 400 groves prophets (1 Kings 18). He slaughtered them in brook Kishon when the Lord has accepted his sacrifice.





Virgin Mary monument



Our Ladies pose with our Lady



Vertical panoramic view of a beautiful "tree"



Rafat, Fathi, Magda, Clair, Nahed, Hoda, and Nashaat



The Chapel Altar. Observe the 12 stones carrying the Altar



Oops



Caesarea Aqueduct: The first aqueduct was built by Herod at the time the city of Caesarea-Maritima was founded. It brought water from the Shuni spring, south of Mount Carmel, about 10 KM (6.2 Miles) to the northeast of the city. The water delivered per person is comparable to modern day urban city (145 liters). Aqueducts can be single, double side by side, and triple third channel on top of the double channels.





Mariam, Joshua, Nancy, and Margo Salama



Salama's



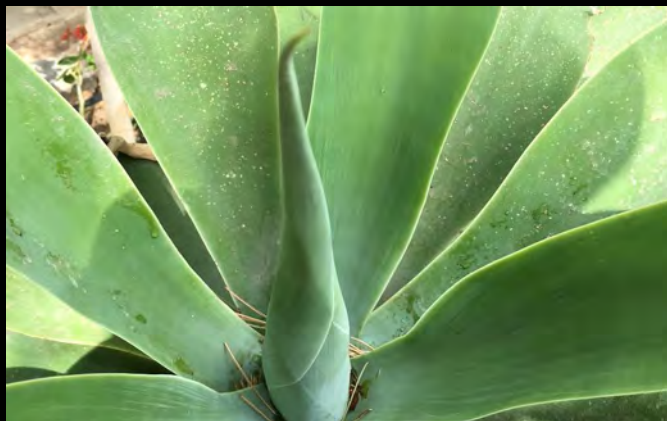
Saad and Laila Salib at Zacchaeus Tree



Posing with the King



Human Roses



Almost like a plant Peacock :)



A bargain from Yewel Jewellery plant. Indonesian Pearl Bracelet, just \$62,000 (reduced from \$70,000) Tax free



International "Giddo" grand pa



Hanaa and Marcelle Salama



*Fathi, Nashat, Rafat and their
dear wives*



Rafat and Magda Girgis



*With His Holiness Metropolitan
Antonious Bishop of Jerusalem*



*Big Jewish Celebration of a big
Rabbai Birthday*



*Jacob Salama and St. Peter Fish
Challenge, he won :)*



With His Holiness Metropolitan Bishop Antonious



Nashaat and Hoda Sadek



Afaf, Mervat, and Magda Fam



Kasisa Family, like all others, super happy



Mona and Jacob Salama with the "lucky" Jar



Marina and Albert Ibrahim



With Samy Girgis



At St. Peter Galicantu Church



Mostly Salama's



Afaf and Ezzat Fam



Laila and Saad Salib with Abouna



Doris Awad and Ana-Maria Sanowitch



Marcelle Salama, Doris Awad, and Marina Markos



Fathi Kareem and Nashat Hanna



Family Kasisa (and some extensions) with Abouna and the Sea of Tiberius



Mostly Salama's :) (Mariam Salama)



Abouna Abram and Toussony Vivian



Almost all Salama's with Gabriel minutes before the ride to go back



Nashaat and Hoda Sadek



Magda, Ezzat, and Mokhtar Fam



Mariam Dimian and Nevin Riad



Nancy Salama in red and Farrah Mina



Mother and daughter, Marcelle Salama and Hanaa Edward



Jacob and Mona Salama with the Split Column of the Holy Fire



"... , Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3



Karima Soloman and Abouna and Toussouny



Marcelle Salama, Mariam Dimian, Hanaa Edward, and Abouna at the Jordan River



Saad and Laila Salib in the Franciscan Annunciation Church, Nazareth



The Milk Grotto Church



The Milk Grotto Cave



Pool of Bethesda



The Agony Church



The Dormition Abbey



The Upper Room



In front of the Shepherd Field



In front of the Visitation Church



In Zacchaeus Church Courtyard



On top of Almohreka Church



In the Cruise in the Sea of Galilee



*At the Beatitude Church
Courtyard*



In the Mohreka Courtyard



On the Steps of the Agony Church



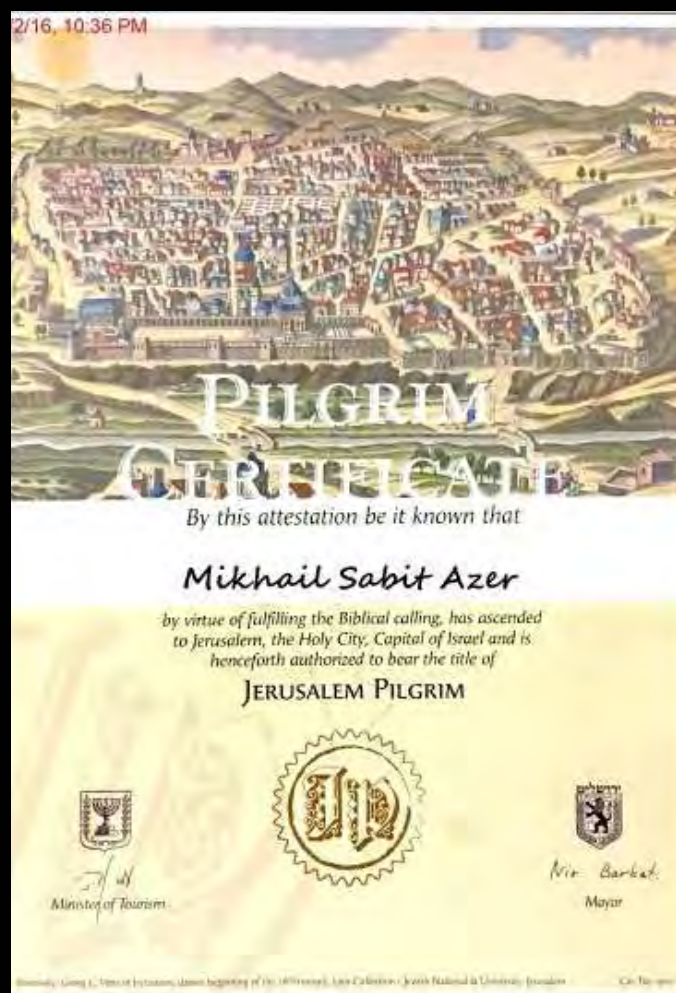
In Ben-Gurion Airport



At the Shepherd Field



At Jesus Wept Church



Put your certificate here



Me



Stick your name over my name



Salama's (Samy Guirguis)



Samy



Our tour guide Business Card



Back home and after 2 weeks I saw my first double Rainbow, just heavenly beauty



At the Dead Sea



***AND CONTINUES HERE WHEN HE ASCENDED TO THE HEAVEN
(see first page)***



At the Jordan River

Although I had the idea of making an album to record our tour I never thought it would be this size. I pray and hope you have enjoyed browsing this Album and learned something new. More importantly I pray and hope it gave you a new understanding and appreciation for the life, ministry, salvation and grace our Lord bestowed on us. Seeing the places and the traces the Lord Jesus left for us whether in real life or in photos gives deeper appreciation for the Word of God. Share this album with your family and friends, it is said "When shared, joy increases while sorrow decreases".

Quotation* : Why a Tour to the Holy Land is So Valuable?

Hundreds of people were asked this question, here are the most common answers:

- + *Sharper comprehension of the Bible*
 - + *Clearer understanding of biblical application*
 - + *More effective communication of truth to others*
 - + *A framework for better memory of biblical events*
 - + *Greater confidence in the Word of God—having*
 - + *seen the places the Bible speaks of*
 - + *More vibrant spiritual life and deeper love for God (99% of those who go affirm this)*
 - + *Learning the Word of God with all your senses*
 - + *Seeing the Bible when you read it for the rest of your life*
 - + *Experiencing a dimension of authenticity and history to your faith you could gain no other way*
 - + *A window of opportunity that may not last (the political situation is ideal for tourism now)*
- *) <https://www.waynestiles.com/10-reasons-to-tour->
+ [Israel-sooner-rather-than-later/](https://www.waynestiles.com/10-reasons-to-tour-)

