



Interfaith Journey to Israel

October 22-31, 2008



First stop: Caesarea at sunset, on the shores of the Mediterranean. We saw the ruins of a double aqueduct in this Roman city built by King Herod over 2,000 years ago to show his loyalty to Caesar Augustus.

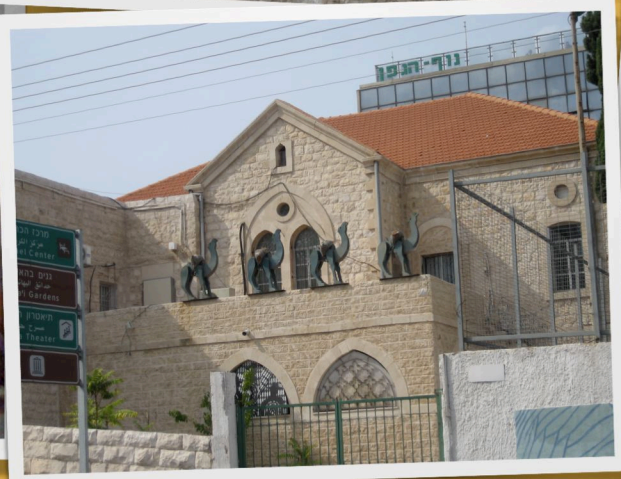




Above: A visit to the Stella Maris Carmelite Monastery in Haifa.

Next pages: The Bahai Gardens and the Arab village of Wadi Nisnas, where we enjoyed fabulous felafel, community art, and colorful markets. The man in blue is former Knesset member Zeidan Atashi, who welcomed us to his home in the Druze village, Dalyat El Carmel.







We were warmly welcomed guests at a Shabbat service and dinner at Congregation Ohr Hadash. Our tour included the lower level with a filtration system to protect the school children, teachers and families in the event of a chemical weapon attack.

Right: Howard with our host Ami Perlman and with Shalom Zimrin and his daughter, Reva.





ביום ז'ק
ביום מארק
ביום נעמי
ביום שטיין לידה
מאנס פרנבי
מסר ג'ורג'
מסר שרבל נאלי
בגאר אוסאמה
סופרן אירנה
פרנסיס חנא נעים
רגב גיר
יום זכרם בדרך

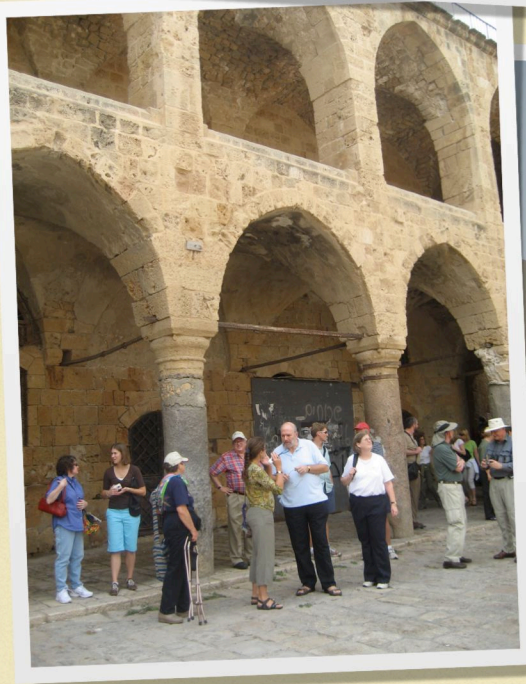
אלמוג זאב
אלמוג דות
מס'ר אסף
אלמוג חומר
אלמוג מוסק
ד' אביב נחוריה
ד' אביב בגלאל
ד' אביב קרן
ד' אביב לירן
ד' אביב נירה
יום זכרם בדרך

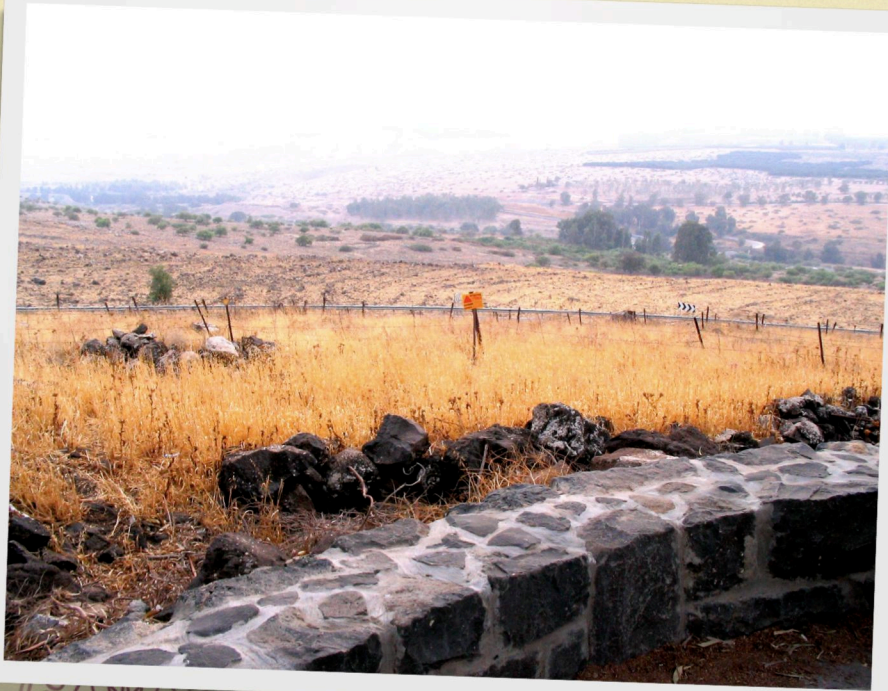
זכרם של 21 אזרחים
ובני שלוש משפחות
בשתי-תשס"ג ובמשפחות
בג' שלוש חדרות
שנחזו במסגרת טרור
במסגרת "מקסים"
במסגרת יום שבת
ול' במסגרת חשש"ר
4 באוקטובר 2003
כשתיהם יסוד אמת עד
ירושלם (ל.ג.)



Above: a memorial to the Shteier and Almog families adjacent to the restaurant, Maxim, site of a tragic suicide bombing.

Right: the Crusader City of Akko where we visited a mosque and attended part of a Mass.





On the Golan Heights, at the site of a former Syrian bunker, our incredible guide, Laura Nelson-Levy, told the story of the battle-worn area, still strewn with land mines.





Gathering on the shore of the Jordan River.





Left: We visited a museum with a 2,000 year old boat and took an American-friendly boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.

The site of the Sermon on the Mount at the Mount of Beatitudes, overlooking the Sea of Galilee.







Left: Capernaum, where St. Peter lived and the site of the synagogue where Jesus preached.

Above: Lunch on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Howard and Laura Ruth had St. Peter's fish, found only in the Sea of Galilee.

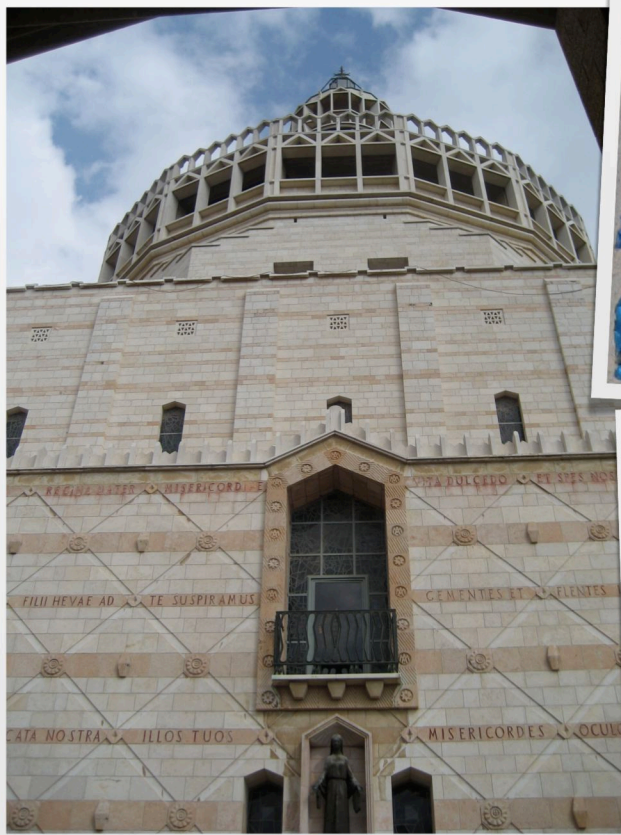
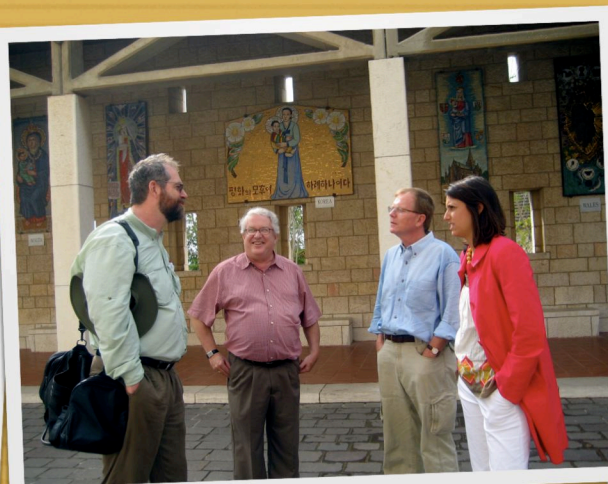
Safed, where we encountered ancient holy texts, sites of religious study, and art with Kabbalistic messages by an artist originally from Denver, David Friedman (lower right in gray shirt.) Above in green, Rev. John Gibbons with one of David's paintings.







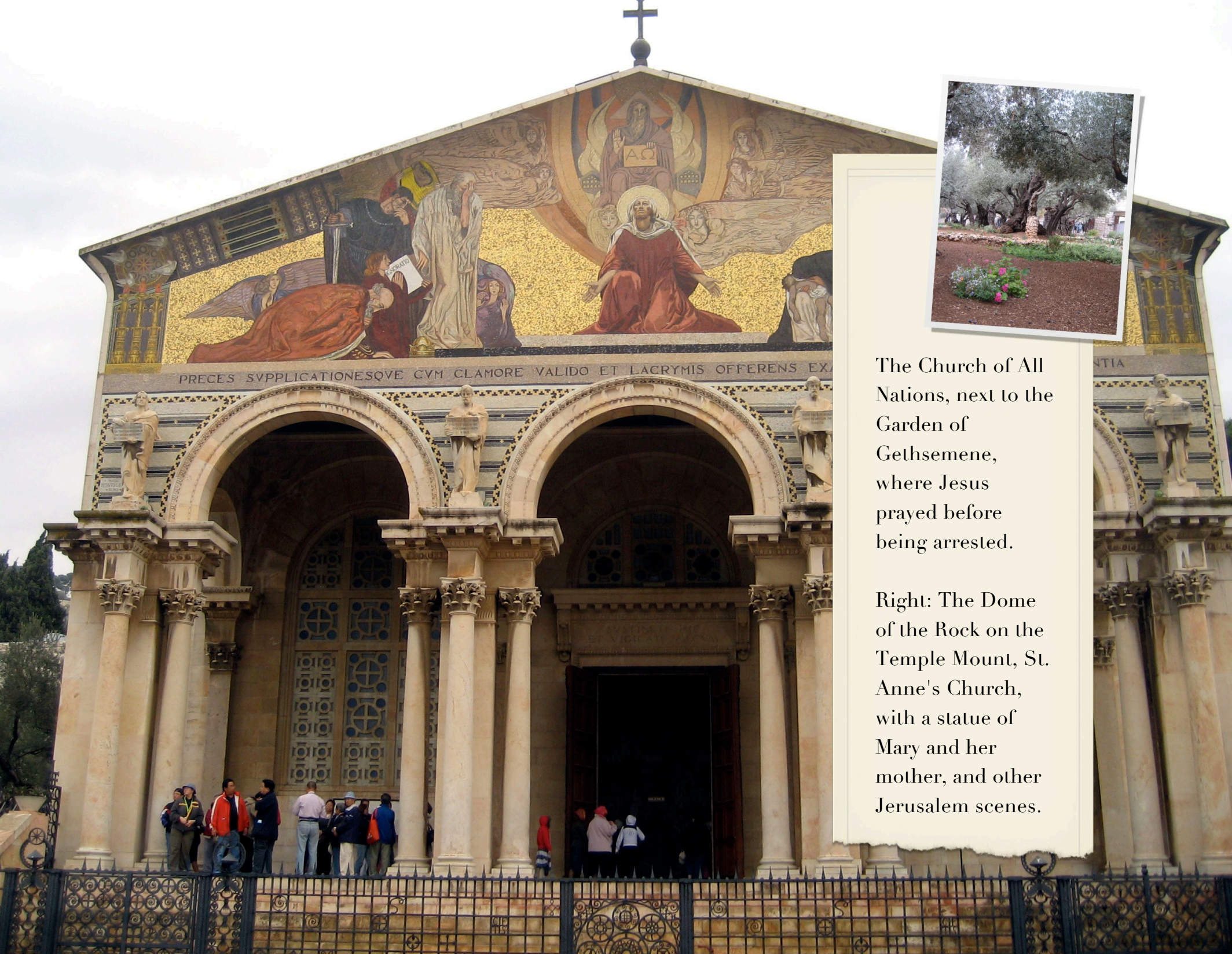
Above: The NAOT outlet in Tiberias, which had a good day when we came into town!
 Right: The Church of the Annunciation located at the childhood home of Mary. Mosaic depictions of Mary, as seen through the lenses of different cultures, appear in and around the church.





We visited Beit Shean National Park (above) where a Roman-Byzantine City is being excavated. Then we entered the city of Jerusalem and Howard recited the "scehechiyanu" blessing.
Right: The Western Wall.





The Church of All Nations, next to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed before being arrested.

Right: The Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount, St. Anne's Church, with a statue of Mary and her mother, and other Jerusalem scenes.



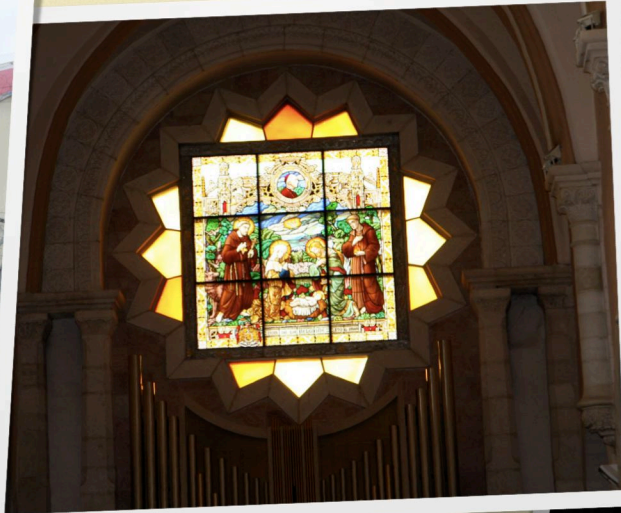




Left top: The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the traditional site of the last station of the cross.
 Left Bottom: The site of the tomb of Jesus, according to Protestants.
 Above: The view from, and the interior of, the beautiful Mount Zion Hotel in Jerusalem.



Father Mike McGary at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute, on the terrace overlooking Bethlehem. Right: The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. The man in black was our tour guide on the Arab side of the barrier.







Left: Col. (Res) Danny Terza (in a blue hat), designer of the security barrier, explains the complicated decisions that had to be made in the populated areas where the barrier was erected. Above: An 11 PM tour of the underground excavation of the Western Wall.



Our visit to Yad Vashem was prefaced by a thought-provoking talk by Holocaust scholar, Rachel Korazim. On the tour, we heard the story of Janus Korzcak, who refused to leave the children in his care and, as a result, went to his death (see above). The Children's Memorial (right) symbolizes lives tragically cut short.



יְבוּסֵי חֵרֵד יִשְׂרָאֵל שֶׁנֶּחֱמַד בְּשׂוֹאֵר
דָּוִד שֶׁנֶּחֱמַד בְּמִשְׁכַּת הָרֶגֶל לְחִינּוּתוֹ
שֶׁנֶּחֱמַד בְּאַרְבָּעֵי עָשָׂר לִשְׁנֵי
שָׁנִים
THIS MEMORIAL TO THE MONUMENTS
WAS ERECTED THROUGH THE
GENEROSITY OF ABRAHAM
IN MEMORY OF THEIR SON ISHMAEL



Sunset at Neve Shalom, a mixed Arab-Jewish community, followed by a farewell dinner in the Old City of Jaffa where we expressed deep gratitude to our leader, Rabbi Howard Jaffe, our tour guide, Laura Nelson-Levy, and the generous donors who made it possible for us to have such a rich experience.