

November 2015

# Discovery



*Len Friesen with granddaughter Ella on TourMagination's Russia /Ukraine tour in 2012.*

**New Beginnings** by Wilmer Martin , p. 5

**2016-2017 Tour Pull-out**, p. 3-4

*Travel done well makes you think about the people and landscapes you are observing and about who you are.*

Len Friesen, TourMagination Tour Leader, p. 2



**TourMagination**  
discovery+community

*Building bridges among Mennonites, other Christians and  
faiths around the world through custom-designed travel*

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# Travel Stimulates New Thinking

**T**ourMagination tour leader and Wilfrid Laurier University associate professor Len Friesen says a hallmark of good travel is that it “engages and confronts you.”

“I realized on my first trip to Central Asia that this was a culture that did not have its alpha story as a Christian story. It is overwhelmingly an Islamic culture. It was extraordinary to consider a culture based on a completely different faith. It raised questions about my own culture and my faith,” say Len.

A guide once told Len that she sees tourists who spend 20 minutes in a museum only to go and sit in the coffee shop for the rest of the visit and who later shop for items that they can mostly buy at home in North America. Len refers to this as “traveling in a bubble.”

To be engaged by a tour Len says it helps to be attentive in everyday life. He also recommends seeing a few sites and pondering them rather than rushing to dozens of sites with little time to catch your breath or reflect. Rushing through an art gallery is not helpful. “No one can absorb thirty paintings in an hour.”

On his upcoming Russia/Ukraine tour in September 2016 with TourMagination, Len plans to bring travelers to the Tretyakov Art Gallery in Moscow. He will introduce them to two areas of the gallery and set them loose to explore more deeply on their own.

Len has visited more than twenty countries—often with his wife Mary. He has led TourMagination heritage tours to Russia/Ukraine, Europe and Central Asia. In 2016, Len will be the storyteller on a brand new tour to Spain and Morocco co-lead by Audrey Voth Petkau.

He is excited about the tour because



these two countries on the edges of Europe and Africa are at “the intersection of great faiths, continents, and peoples.” He says the two nations are like “labs” where we can explore great cultural movements past and present.

Len looks forward to helping tour members better understand Catholicism and Islam and to telling intriguing stories about

- The way in which human civilization has long been intertwined with the beautiful physical landscape of both countries
- How the south of Spain went from being Islamic 600 years ago to mostly Catholic, and how best to understand both of these faiths
- The enduring Roman influence in both nations

- The Berbers’ involvement in the slave trade in the beautiful Moroccan coastal town of Essaouira
- The complex relationship of African migrants/refugees and European society
- The life and work of artists Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali and architect Anton Gaudi in Barcelona and Cadaqués
- Morocco’s push to become part of the European Union, and Catalonia’s desire to break away from Spain.

“These stories are dynamic—they are rooted in the past but also alive in the present,” says Len.

He adds, “Travel done well makes you think about the people and landscapes you are observing and about who you are.”

## Discover the World with TourMagination

A unique blend of learning and recreation, expect an authentic cultural experience as you interact with locals on our tours. Our expert storytellers and knowledgeable in-country guides help you understand the significance of sites. Best of all, experience rich community as you travel with like-minded people of faith.

# Join a TourMagination Tour in 2016 or 2017!



Kris Nisley with sister Marie Burkholder and cousin Nancy Burkholder on a European Heritage Tour.

RANDY MARTIN

- Heritage
- Holy Land
- Cruise
- Eco-Adventure
- Cultural Experience
- Fellowship

### Churches, Culture & Beaches of Cuba with Jack & Irene Suderman Jan 8 - 17, 2016

**From US \$3,599; CA \$4,498  
(International flights included)**  
Visit significant political sites including Che Guevara's tomb, the Bay of Pigs, and underground tunnels used during Cuban Missile Crisis. Tour Havana, Trinidad, and Cienfuegos. Worship and dialogue with Cuban Christians. Reflect on successes and challenges resulting from Cuba's 1959 Revolution. Consider social justice at Martin Luther King Jr. Center. Enjoy Varadero's beach.  
**Almost full—book soon!**

### Faith, Spices & Safaris in Tanzania & Zanzibar with Wilmer Martin & Audrey Voth Petkau Feb 20 - 27, 2016

**From US \$4,215**  
Go on not one but three safaris to see lions, cheetahs, elephants, antelope, colorful birds, and more. Worship with Mennonites in Tanzania. See and interact with locals in a traditional Maasai village. Sample aromatic cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, and other spices along with fresh fruit after a plantation tour on the famous spice island of Zanzibar. Relax on the beach.

### Spain & Morocco: A Crossroads of Faith, Art & Culture with Leonard Friesen & Audrey Voth Petkau Apr 3 - 15, 2016

**From US \$3,995**  
Explore the complementary histories of Spain and Morocco. Wonder at the contrasts of world class cities including Barcelona and Marrakesh and tiny seaside and desert villages like Cadaqués and Ouarzazate. See awe-inspiring cathedrals, a mountainside monastery, Roman ruins, and desert fortresses. Reflect on your faith as you learn about Islamic and Catholic influences in these nations that embrace the Mediterranean.

### The Great Trek: A Silk Road Odyssey with John Sharp & Fred Redekop June 5 - 17, 2016

**From US \$5,095; CA \$5,995  
(International flights included)**  
Retrace the Great Trek taken by five wagon trains of Mennonites who left Russia in 1880-81 for Central Asia. Marvel at Islamic architecture as you tour cities along the famous Silk Road—Khiva, Samarkand, and Bukhara. Hear the Trekkers' story of joy and sorrow through journals, letters, and archival documents.

### European Heritage with John Ruth & Wilmer Martin June 26 - July 9, 2016

**From US \$3,995**  
Our classic heritage tour traces the Anabaptist-Mennonite story through the Netherlands, Germany, France, Switzerland, and Austria. Premier storyteller John Ruth will regale you with stories about Menno Simons, Jakob Amman, Conrad Grebel, Martin Luther and other Reformation and Anabaptist leaders.

### Amish European Heritage with John Ruth & Wilmer Martin July 6 - Aug 9, 2016

**From US \$7,782  
(International ship travel included)**  
Seeing historic sites in the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, France, and Switzerland brings to life the stories of Amish founding father Jakob Amman, Menno Simons, and other Anabaptist leaders. Ride a cogwheel train up a mountain, worship in the Cave of the Anabaptists, and visit Passau where the Ausbund hymnal was written.  
**Travel from the USA by ship and within Europe by bus, boat, or train.**

# 2016-2017 TOURS CONTINUED



## Alaska Cruise

with Wilmer & Janet Martin

Aug 19-29, 2016

From US \$2,479

Enjoy rich times of fellowship with Wilmer and Janet Martin as you travel by coach, train, and cruise ship, to view fantastic scenery and wildlife that will inspire you to worship.



## Jordan, Palestine, Israel: A Journey of Hope

with Nelson Kraybill

Sept 8 - 19, 2016

From US \$4,095

(International flights included)

In Jordan, reflect on the Israelites' trek toward the Promised Land as you visit Mount Nebo, Moses' Spring, Mount Hor, and the site along the Jordan where God parted the waters. Guided by popular tour leader Nelson Kraybill, learn about the life of Jesus by the Sea of Galilee, in Bethlehem, at the Mount of Olives, at the Nazareth Village living museum, and at sites in Jerusalem.



## Discover Canada: The Canadian Rockies

with David & Joyce Eshleman

Sept 20 - 29, 2016

From US \$4,490

See incredible scenery and natural wonders—from rock bridges and hoodoos to glaciers and dazzling emerald green lakes. Highlights include a two-day ride on glass-domed train allowing full view of the picturesque mountain landscape from Jasper, Alberta to Vancouver, BC.



## Natural & Cultural Highlights in Switzerland, Germany & Austria

with Wilmer Martin

Sept 21 - Oct 1, 2016

From US \$4,395

(International flights included)

Mountain passes through the Alps, cascading waterfalls, winding rivers, world-class cities, quaint towns, plus historically meaningful sites like Trachselwald Castle and Dachau Concentration Camp. This tour has a little bit of everything—natural and cultural sites, worship with locals, and souvenir shopping.



## Experience the Glory of Russia & the Mennonite Story in Ukraine

with Leonard Friesen & Audrey Voth Petkau

Sept 21 - Oct 3, 2016

From US \$5,320; CA \$5,995

(International flights included)

Russian cultural and architectural riches await you in St. Petersburg and Moscow including Peterhof Palace and Gardens; the Kremlin, Red Square; and several stunning cathedrals. In Ukraine, engage with the Mennonite story, past and present, as you visit former colonies, Chortitza and Molotschna. On a free day, explore villages related to your family roots or see other sights of your choice.



## Holy Land & Harvest the Olives

with Ruben & Idella Chupp

Oct 10-18, 2016

From US \$3,595; CA \$3,965

(International flights included)

Bible passages leap off the page at Old and New Testament sites in Nazareth, Caesarea Philippi, Bethlehem, Jericho, the Sea of Galilee, and Jerusalem. Experience first-century life as you help to harvest olives at Nazareth Village—a living museum that recreates Jesus's boyhood hometown.



## Mennonites of Ohio & Indiana Bus Tour

with Lorne Smith & Wilmer Martin

Oct 24-28, 2016

From CA \$1,295

Explore the rich influence past and present of German settlers—most Mennonite or Amish—in Ohio and Indiana. Tour leaders Lorne Smith and Wilmer Martin will share facts and stories along the way. Local storytellers James and Bernadine Mast will give you an insider tour of Amish farmland in Ohio.



## Haiti: Hope, Beauty & Resilience Tour

with Janelle Martin

Oct 27 - Nov 6, 2016

From US \$2,985

(International flights included)

Discover Haiti's proud and sometimes tumultuous history. See stunning natural attractions like the Bassin Bleu, Kabic Beach, and the protected caves. Enjoy Haiti's vibrant arts and culture, including the mosaics of Jacmel. Dialogue with Haitians and development organizations that are making a difference.



## Vietnam & Singapore

with Luke Martin & Wilmer Martin

Nov 21 - Dec 5, 2016

From US \$4,989; CA \$6298

(International flights included)

Enjoy the spectacular beauty and unique culture of Vietnam from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City. See limestone mountain islands and the vast rice-producing countryside. Rethink the legacy of the war with the United States. Dialogue with MCC workers and Vietnamese Mennonite leaders.

## COMING IN 2017

### Australia/New Zealand with Audrey Voth Petkau & Terry Petkau

European Heritage

with John Ruth & Wilmer Martin

### Explore the World of Paul

with Tom Yoder Neufeld

### Cathedrals & Museums

(London, Paris & Berlin)

with Allan Rudy-Froese

& Audrey Voth Petkau

### Mennonite Story in Poland

with John Sharp & Audrey Voth

Petkau

Unless otherwise stated, flights are not included in the price. Payment in Canadian currency is accepted, using the conversion rate posted on the day of payment. Contact [TourMagination](http://TourMagination.com) for more information on inclusions.



Reg. # 50014322

## Thinking about a meaningful Christmas gift for family or friends?

Give a travel experience—not more stuff! Contact us at 1-800 565-0451 or [office@tourmagination.com](mailto:office@tourmagination.com) to order a gift certificate or to book a tour.

# New Beginnings

Traveling creates many opportunities for new awareness and inspiration.

Back in 1973, Arnold Cressman and Jan Gleysteen, the founders of TourMagination, chose to take me on a complimentary European Heritage Tour in the third year of TM's operation. I just needed to find the resources to bring my wife Janet along.

That first tour changed my life.

It awakened in me a deeper awareness of the historic Anabaptist vision as I learned about the beginnings of the Believers' Church, the first baptisms in 1525 in Switzerland, and many other significant moments. I am forever grateful for Arnold's and Jan's generosity.

The other tour members on that first tour created a setting where discovery and community could thrive as we explored our European Anabaptist heritage and dialogued about its meaning in the contemporary church.

That's one of the reasons we continue to offer TourMagination tours—to help people rethink their faith and lives.

On that first European Heritage tour, we were hosted by a Mennonite congregation in Berlikum, Friesland that still hosts many of our groups. I recall sitting in the parsonage that night with the pastor talking about World War II. He told me how he and his family hid from the Germans. He was deeply grateful for the liberation of the Netherlands by the Canadian military. As pacifists, we reflected on the struggle that war creates.

As TourMagination grew, our alumni requested tours to other destinations in addition to Europe. They liked the way our tours helped them interact with local people, which allowed for deeper learning and opportunities to develop.

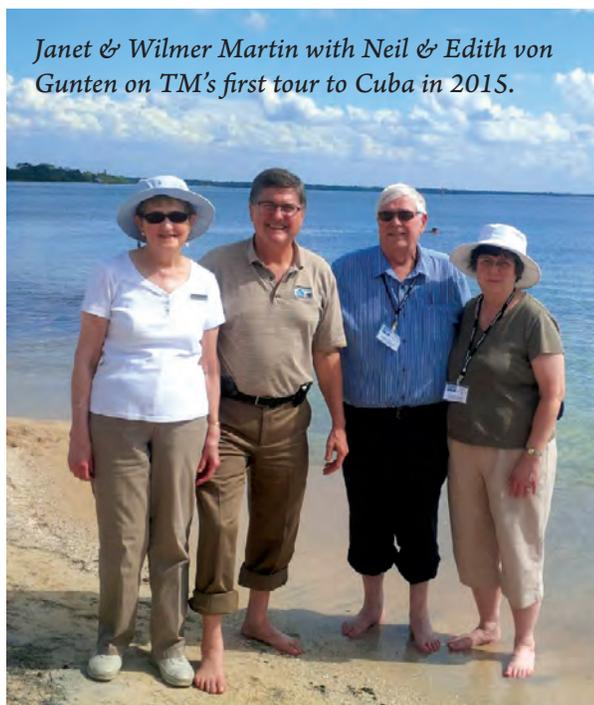
**“Thanks to all who gave their best wishes to Wilmer & Janet Martin for their 50th wedding anniversary!”**

When we visit places like Vietnam and Cuba, we gain new understanding as we take another's perspective and re-examine our own. In Vietnam, the civil war that lasted from 1954 to 1975, between North Vietnam and South Vietnam (aided by the United States), was called The War Against the Americans to Save the Nation. In the US, this same conflict is referred to as The Vietnam War. On our first tour to Cuba back in 2015, tour leaders Jack and Irene Suderman helped us reflect on the positives and negatives of their communist experiment—or “the revolution” as Cubans call it.

Sometimes TM tours also lead to fresh opportunities for the people we visit. More than one in-country tour guide got their start through TourMagination tours traveling to their nation—including the late Audley Nugent in Jamaica and Greyson Mchau in Tanzania. Other guides became local experts on the Mennonite story in their areas because of our interest—including Onijdes Sijsma in the Netherlands and Kasia Czaykowska in Gdansk, Poland.

Inspired by what they saw on a TourMagination tour, travelers have also put their faith into action and created new beginnings for locals.

Last year on our tour to Vietnam, several tour members were impressed with the Mennonite congregation in Hoi An, and the vision of Pastor Sang. On Sunday afternoon as we visited a number of house churches, the conviction grew among several in our group that we should help them obtain land to build a house of worship. Up to this time, the congregation met in Pastor Sang's house. Located on a floodplain, worship had to be cancelled



*Janet & Wilmer Martin with Neil & Edith von Gunten on TM's first tour to Cuba in 2015.*

several times each year due to flooding of the home.

This year, TourMagination alumni forwarded more than enough money for the congregation to buy land in Hoi An's urban area of Trang Keo. On August 25, 2015 the congregation purchased land and plans to construct a meeting place in 2016! We can't wait to see their church building on our Vietnam tour next November.

Traveling can also provide personal new beginnings. After a divorce or death of a spouse, some of our tour members have experienced the healing of traveling with a like-mind community of faith. They have found new hope—and even joy on our journeys.

We welcome you to join our upcoming tours. While fellowshipping with other Christians and traveling to new destinations, you'll enjoy enriching experiences and open yourself to new possibilities.

Wilmer Martin

## New Beginnings for TourMagination

Have you noticed TourMagination's new logo? As we rethink the way we tell our story, our mission remains, “Building bridges among Mennonites, other Christians and faiths around the world through custom-designed travel.” Shortly we will also have a new website at [www.tourmagination.com](http://www.tourmagination.com)

# What TourMagination Travelers Are Saying

*The daily activities were enjoyable. Our group get-togethers were meaningful...it was great to meet new friends and the stories we shared are memorable.*

Hawaii Tour Participant

*It was a very educational and interesting tour and the leaders were knowledgeable and helpful.*

Churches & Safaris  
Tour Participant

*Audrey is amazing, she is a wonderful tour guide who is in touch with where people want to visit and what they want to do.*

Holy Land Tour Participant

## FEATURED TOURS

### Spain & Morocco

#### A Crossroads of Faith, Art & Culture

with Leonard Friesen & Audrey Voth Petkau

Apr 3-15, 2016



Cadaqués, Costa Brava, Spain

Photo: Mario Alejandro Sánchez Martíne/  
Flickr

### Churches, Culture & Beaches of Cuba

with Jack & Irene Suderman

Jan 8-17, 2016



Varadero Beach, Cuba

Photo: Mark Krudjerski/Flickr

*TourMagination can also help you plan a custom tour for your family, friends, church, high school, college, university, historical society, or any other group. Past custom tours include: Mysteries & Missionaries of China with Emmanuel Baptist Church, MEDA Tour to Uzbekistan & Tajikistan, Hesston College Choir Tour to Europe, Pennsylvania-German Folklore Society Tour to Europe.*

## We hope to travel with you soon!

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9 Willow St., Waterloo, ON, Canada N2L1V6 | 2308 Wood St., Lancaster, PA, USA 17603  
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2308 Wood Street  
Lancaster, PA 17603