



Discovery

MARCH 2015

Brad Farquhar took his family on The Great Trek Tour through Central Asia in 2013.

Passion for Family History Dovetails with Desire for Central Asian Tour

With extensive experience in federal and provincial Canadian elections, Brad Farquhar was hired to help with democratic elections in Tajikistan in 2005. He enjoyed the region so much, that he wanted to bring his family. "I wanted to see the cities on the Silk Road—Samarkand and Bukhara," says Brad.

Little did Brad know that his desire to return to Central Asia would dovetail so perfectly with his passion for genealogy.

Brad has always been interested in family history. He's a descendant of Scottish farm hands who came to Canada to start their own farms—but he also has royal connections. "My mother is something like the 35th cousin of Queen Elizabeth."

His own family is quite small, so he was pleased to marry Lynette Warkentin from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. "She is connected to a large extended Mennonite family."

While doing some "poking around" in Lynette's family tree, he discovered that people referred

to her great-great-grandfather, Cornelius, as Asia Unrau. That was because his family emigrated from Mennonite colonies in Russia to Central Asia in 1880 with end-times prophet Claus Epp. In fact, Lynette's great-great-aunt, Elizabeth Unrau, who traveled with the group as a young teen, left an important record of the trip in her personal diary.

Brad was pleased to discover that TourMagination offered a tour through Uzbekistan (next door to Tajikistan). "It is not an easy place to organize travel. I was happy to have someone else take care of all those details. I could just pay and show up."

Brad, Lynette, and their three children as well as Lynette's mom and sister went on The Great Trek Tour in 2013 led by John Sharp and Audrey Voth Petkau. On tour, excerpts from Elizabeth Unrau's diary were read, along with other first-person accounts, as the modern travelers traced the earlier journey of hardship and disillusionment across rivers and through rugged terrain.



The Farquhar family explored wife Lynette's (nee Warkentin) connection to Mennonites who migrated through Uzbekistan.

Lynette's great-great-grandmother's family parted ways with the Great Trekkers and settled in North Dakota and later the Canadian prairies. "For my mother-in-law going on the tour explained some things about her grandmother. She thinks she understands better why the family talked about some things and not others. The Trek definitely left some scars in her grandmother," says Brad.

Though not interested in all of the history, the three Farquhar children, who were 11, 13, and 15 at the time, did like the family connection with Elizabeth Unrau. Brad says he is gratified to hear the kids continue to mention the trip from time to time.

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

Children Bring Joy on Tours

I always enjoy having children on a TourMagination tour. In 2013, Tyler Hartford asked me to plan and lead an Anabaptist European Heritage tour for his family, which included his six children. This was a very rich experience as it allowed me to share stories of faith and history with the children. I was amazed at their curiosity and their interest—they took notes in their journals—and the impact the trip had on their family. I can still hear them call my name, “Wilmer,” and ask “Where is JP?”—our coach driver.

A year later, when I met them in their home in Indiana, they all gathered around, sharing artwork and writings that they have done and used in school since returning home from tour.

Parents and grandparents sometimes ask if it would be appropriate to bring a child or grandchild on tour. I often give them the example of the family that brought their eight-year-old son Andrew along on a European Heritage tour more than 30 years ago.

We had gone through the Dachau Concentration Camp museum. After leaving the museum and seeing the film, we were walking across the grounds. All of a sudden I felt a little hand in my hand, and I looked down. It was Andrew. He looked up at me with his brown eyes and asked, “Wilmer, I don’t understand. Why would people treat other people this way?” I squeezed his hand. I don’t remember my answer. But I often think of that special moment when I have other children on tour. This young man is now a father and actively involved in church activities. By taking him on tour at an impressionable age, Andrew’s parents provided him a rich opportunity that had a wonderful and lasting impact.



Miriam and Matthew (grandkids of Wilmer & Janet Martin) on the Christmas Markets tour.

A year ago, my son and his wife with my grandchildren, Matthew and Miriam, joined our Christmas Markets tour in Germany and Austria. All the adults on the tour enjoyed our grandchildren. I have a wonderful photo from the very first evening in Salzburg, Austria of my grandson Matthew sandwiched on the bench beside Peter and Pat, leaning against them, listening to the stories and the conversation around the supper table. Something about Peter and Pat made Matthew feel safe and secure. I guess they looked like cuddly grandparents.

The scriptures remind us that we are all responsible to teach children the values that will guide their lives. With ready access to smartphones and computers, our youth are regularly influenced by social media. TourMagination tours provide a different kind of social influence. As children and their families

explore other cultures and other parts of the world, they are influenced through fellowship with tour members and the locals we meet. Adults on tour have time to interact with each other and with the children.

I recall, on the flight from Munich to Toronto, Matthew and Miriam sitting on the plane with Wayne and Floris. Janet and I were pleased that our grandchildren were having a good time on a long flight. We knew that Wayne and Floris were enriching their lives.

We invite you to consider traveling with your children and grandchildren on a TourMagination tour. As blessings flow from the children to the adults and back again, everyone’s lives will be enriched.

– Wilmer Martin

Grandparents Want to Take Family to the Holy Land

Since traveling to the Holy Land with TourMagination in 2009, Daryl and Maxine Zook often see a mental picture when a Bible place is mentioned in church. “Our trip to the Holy Land with TourMagination made the Bible come alive,” says Maxine. They also enjoyed developing rich friendships on the tour.

Now they want to take their family. “I think it would be so beneficial for our grandchildren and children to experience the Bible and see where Jesus walked,” says Maxine.

When their two daughters were young, the Zooks traveled to Haiti. “It was so good for them to see a third world country.” Later when

the girls were married with their own children, Maxine and Daryl took them to Jamaica and some other destinations.

The Zook family will travel on a custom tour planned by TourMagination to Israel/Palestine in October 2015.

TourMagination Tours in 2015 and 2016



European Heritage

with John Sharp & Wilmer Martin
(May 19-June 1/15)



Explore the World of Paul

with Tom Yoder Neufeld & Fred Redekop
(May 27-June 12/15)



European Heritage

with John Ruth & Wilmer Martin (June 9-22/15)



Alaska Cruise Tour

with Judy Hoffman (July 3-13/15)



MWC #1 – Windows to the Past, Bridges to the Future: Mennonites in America

with John Ruth & Wilmer Martin (July 14-26/15)



MWC #2 – American & Mennonite Culture & History

with Ervin & Bonnie Stutzman (July 14-26/15)



MWC #3 – Following the Trail of the Conestoga

with Shirley Redekop & George Reesor
(July 17-27/15)



Emmanuel Baptist Church: China & A Yangtze River Cruise

with Audrey Voth Petkau & John & Mary Stam
(Sept 3-16/15)



Brethren European Heritage

with John Ruth & Wilmer Martin
(Sept 18-Oct 1/15)



Haiti: Hope, Beauty & Resilience Tour

with Janelle Martin (Oct 29-Nov 8/15)



Holy Land (Jordan, Israel & Palestine)

with Pastor Nelson Kraybill & Audrey Voth Petkau
(Nov 5-16/15)



European Christmas Markets

with Wilmer & Janet Martin (Nov 30-Dec 6/15)



Churches, Culture, & Beaches of Cuba

with Jack & Irene Suderman (Jan 8-17/16)



Faith, Spices, & Safaris in Tanzania & Zanzibar

with Wilmer Martin & Audrey Voth Petkau
(Feb 19-27/16)



Highlights of Eastern Europe:

Danube River Cruise

with Wilmer & Janet Martin (May 22-June 1/16)



European Heritage

with John Ruth & Wilmer Martin (June 21-July 4/16)



Amish European Heritage

with John Ruth & Wilmer Martin (July 3-31/16)



Russia & Ukraine: The Mennonite Story

with Leonard Friesen & Audrey Voth Petkau
(Sept 21-Oct 3/16)



Holy Land

with Ruben Chupp (Oct 19-28/16)



Heritage



Eco-adventure



Holy Land



Cruise



Educational



Fellowship

TourMagination Bridge Builders receive a 10% fee reduction on Family Travel*!

* on each tour booked when they bring their children and/or grandchildren.

Talk to us about how to become a Bridge Builder.

Did you know TourMagination plans custom tours for families?

Tell us your dream, where you want to go, and what you want to see. We'll arrange a memorable vacation with excellent in-country guides and a tour leader if you want one.

We specialize in Mennonite Heritage tours, Holy Land tours, and educational tours that include a faith component. With more than 45 years' experience, we can suggest places to see and can connect you with locals so you will have wonderful memories of your family trip together.

Celebrate Your Anabaptist Roots with a North American Heritage Tour

When Jesus taught in the synagogue in his home town of Nazareth, people were amazed at his wisdom and miracles—but they also took offense at him. They knew him as the carpenter, the son of Mary and Joseph, and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon. They failed to exalt him because in their minds he was common.

In the same way, we can often neglect to celebrate the uniqueness of the people

and places closest to us. Many locals have never visited the destinations that tourists travel hundreds of miles to see.

This summer, TourMagination is offering three North American heritage tours in conjunction with Assembly Gathered/Pennsylvania 2015 hosted by Mennonite World Conference. Mennonites from around the world only congregate once every six years. Make the most of this special assembly by going on one of the heritage tours featured below.

Join us Wednesday, February 25th at 4 pm for an online presentation with Mennonite World Conference President Elect J. Nelson Kraybill and General Secretary César Garcia, hosted by TourMagination's Wilmer Martin.

Nelson and César will share stories from past MWC Assemblies and talk about the importance of unity not uniformity. You will receive an email invitation to this webinar. Watch the recording on our website if you can't attend live.

FEATURED TOURS

Enjoy rich community with like-minded travelers as you celebrate Anabaptist beginnings in North America with fantastic Mennonite storytellers on one of these tours:

Tour #1: *Windows to the Past, Bridges to the Future: Mennonites in America (New York, Pennsylvania) July 14-26, 2015*

Discover significant American and Mennonite sites in New York City, Washington, and Philadelphia, as well as other locations in Pennsylvania with beloved Anabaptist storyteller John Ruth and TourMagination's Wilmer Martin. Attend Assembly Gathered July 21-26.

Tour #2: *American & Mennonite Culture & History (Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania) July 14-26, 2015*

Executive Director for Mennonite Church USA, Ervin Stutzman and his wife Bonnie will host this TourMagination tour and share Mennonite and Amish stories from their own ancestry. See Chicago, the Gettysburg Civil War battlefield, Goshen College, the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, and Amish/Mennonite museums. Attend Assembly Gathered July 21-26.

Tour #3: *Following the Trail of the Conestoga (from Ontario to Pennsylvania) July 17-27, 2015*

TourMagination tour leader Shirley Redekop and Mennonite storyteller George Reesor will guide you as you trace the journey of the Swiss Mennonites from Pennsylvania through New York State to the Niagara and Waterloo Regions of Ontario, Canada in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Attend Assembly Gathered July 21-26.

Visit our website for more details on these and other tours, or contact us today to book your spot.



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