

Summer 2016

Discovery

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Best Trip to the Holy Land

"There were people from all over the world singing and dancing. It was wonderful."

—Professor Robert Derrenbacher joined in the annual Palm Sunday Processional during a trip to the Holy Land in March 2016

We started in Bethphage at the traditional site where Jesus rode the donkey and processed over the Mount of Olives into Jerusalem," says Dr. Robert Derrenbacher, Professor of New Testament and President of Thorneloe University. Bob, as most people call him, co-led a group of twenty people on a Holy Land Tour planned by TourMagination in March 2016.

Participating in the annual Palm Sunday Processional was a highlight for the group. "There were people from all over the world singing and dancing. It was wonderful." It took about 3 hours to complete the 5 km walk that entered the city through St. Stephen's gate and ended at St. Anne's church.

Bob and the group also really appreciated their in-country guide. "Raouf made the tour," says Bob. A Palestinian Christian, Raouf added historical background at important biblical sites after Bob and his co-leader Reverend Steven Andrews shared short meditations. The group appreciated that Raouf was able to share his perspective as a Palestinian Christian.

"Our bus driver Khalid was also wonderful. He got us right in front of the church for the Palm Sunday procession. Wherever we wanted to go, he took us. He really knew the city." At the end of the tour the Muslim driver gave everyone in the group a big hug.

One of Bob's biggest concerns was whether his diverse group, including his two teenage children, would enjoy each other's company. Though some were on the tour to deepen their faith, others were more interested in Roman and Holy Land history. As well, three students who participated received university credits.



A group on a custom tour to the Holy Land with Thorneloe University College and the Algoma Diocese (Anglican Church of Canada) on the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem.



Bob Derrenbacher with his children Chloe and Jack who joined him on the tour.

Fortunately, there was something for everyone on the tour and Bob says his group "meshed together well."

"This was the best trip I have done to the Holy Land," says Bob, who has been twice before.

Bob appreciated assistance from TourMagination planning the tour. "TourMagination was wonderful. All of your staff were supportive and responsive... if we had a question, you got back to us quickly."

Farewell Judy!

With sadness (for us) and joy (for her) we announce the retirement of Judy Hoffman in June 2016. Judy has worked at TourMagination for 12 years answering phones, sending correspondence to tour members, and generally making sure you have a good time on tour. She has also led tours to Alaska. We'll miss you Judy! Who's going to make us laugh?



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, enjoy rich community as you travel with like-minded people of faith.


Join a TourMagination Tour in 2016, 2017 or 2018!

A cairn of rocks or inukshuk made by Inuit in the Canadian Arctic to mark a travel route or other important location. Explore the “great white North” on the Arctic Wonders tour in July 2017.



-  Heritage
-  Holy Land
-  Cruise
-  Natural Wonders
-  Cultural Learning

 **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.

 **Experience the Glory of Russia & the Mennonite Story in Ukraine**
with Leonard Friesen
Sept 21 - Oct 3, 2016
From US \$5,320; CA \$5,995
(International flights included)
ALMOST FULL. See Russian cultural riches in St. Petersburg and Moscow including Peterhof Palace and Gardens; the Kremlin, Red Square; and stunning cathedrals. In Ukraine, visit former Mennonite colonies, Chortitza and Molotschna. Explore villages related to your family roots or see other sights on a free day.

 **Mennonites of Ohio & Indiana Bus Tour**
with Lorne Smith & Wilmer Martin
Oct 24 - 28, 2016
From CA \$1,295
Explore the influence of German settlers—most Mennonite or Amish—in Ohio and Indiana with storytellers Lorne Smith, Wilmer Martin, as well as James and Bernadine Mast. Offered in partnership with the Pennsylvania German Folklore Society of Ontario.

 **Douro River Cruise: Portugal & Spain**
with Audrey Voth Petkau & Terry Petkau
Oct 25 - Nov 1, 2016
From US \$3,599
Enjoy a relaxing river cruise with TourMagination hosts and a group of like-minded travelers. During our seven days of cruising and land excursions tour vineyards and picturesque towns, and see historic churches, bridges, and other important landmarks.

 **Vietnam & Singapore**
with Luke Martin
Nov 21 - Dec 5, 2016
From US \$4,989; CA \$6,298
(International flights included)
See some of the most scenic places in the world and learn about the people of Vietnam from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City with former missionary to Vietnam, Luke Martin.

COMING IN 2017

 **Fresh Perspectives on the History, Church, & People of Cuba**
with Jack and Irene Suderman
Jan 20 - 29, 2017
From US \$3,895
(International flights included)
Learn about political, cultural, and religious changes in Cuba since the 1959 revolution and observe the Cuban social “experiment” in action. Enjoy rare opportunities to interact with both average and influential Cuban citizens. **As Americans begin traveling to Cuba, this destination is selling fast. But TourMagination has reserved flights and elusive rooms in popular hotels!**

2016–2018 TOURS CONTINUED



Natural & Cultural Wonders of Australia & New Zealand

with Audrey Voth Petkau & Terry Petkau

Feb 3 - 23, 2017

From US \$7,740

See highlights of these two spectacular but different countries—green, sheep-filled New Zealand and arid Australia with its unique animals and stunning landscapes.



Celebrating 500 Years of the Reformation & Life of Luther

with Dr. Bob Kelly

May 12 - 21, 2017

From US \$2,632.50

Reflect on the lives of Martin Luther and other reformers as you visit important sites in Germany. Engaging storyteller and Lutheran scholar Dr. Bob Kelly will help you go behind the facts to explore the transformational message that Martin Luther fought to make available to everyone. Enjoy historic European architecture and stunning natural sights.



Explore the World of Paul

with Tom Yoder Neufeld

May 19 - June 2, 2017

From US \$3,325

Guided by New Testament scholar Tom Yoder Neufeld, learn about the cultural contexts that shaped the Apostle Paul, his message, and the life of his congregations. Also see locations of interest in Turkey and Greece, including historic churches and mosques, Greek and Roman religious sites, and bustling modern cities.



Discover Prague & the Mennonite Sojourn in Poland

with John Sharp & Audrey Voth Petkau

June 19-29, 2017

From US \$3,150

Combine sight-seeing in Prague, Krakow, Warsaw, and Gdansk with investigating the centuries-long settlement of Mennonites in Poland. See stunning architecture and historic locations. Explore significant Mennonite villages and sites along the Vistula Delta.



European Anabaptist Heritage

with John Ruth

Summer, 2017

Tour dates & cost TBA

Don't miss this opportunity to travel with engaging storyteller John Ruth as he guides you to discover your Anabaptist roots in the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, France, and Austria.



AMBS Reformations Old & New: Cathedrals & Museums (London, Paris & Berlin)

with Allan Rudy-Froese and Sara Wenger Shenk

July 14 - 26, 2017

From US \$3,899

Tour storyteller Allan Rudy-Froese, Assistant Professor of Christian Proclamation at AMBS, will help you explore European faith and art—past and present—in London, Paris, and Berlin. Enjoy meaningful discussions, times of reflection and worship, as well as light-hearted fun.



Arctic Wonders & Peoples of Manitoba

with Darrel Toews

July 26 - Aug 3, 2017

From US \$4,396; CA \$5,495

See Beluga whales, polar bears, and other wildlife in Churchill, Manitoba. Also learn about the Native Canadians of Manitoba and the thousands of Mennonites who settled in this province.



India Photo Tour

with Jim Pankratz & Al Doerksen

October, 2017

Tour dates & cost TBA

Explore the vivid colors, cultures, and religions of India with avid photographers. Take photos or just enjoy the incredible sights. Dialogue with locals.



European Christmas Markets Cruise

with Audrey Voth Petkau & Terry Petkau

Nov 25 - Dec 2, 2017

From US \$2,082.40; CA \$2,603

Marvel at the cities along the banks of the Rhine River dressed in holiday splendor. Reflect on the birth of Christ as we visit historic cathedrals, listen to carols, and see nativity scenes at Christmas markets. Shop for unique gifts and sample traditional holiday fare.

COMING IN 2018



Land of Penguins: Antarctic Peninsula Adventure

Jan 1 - 14, 2018

From US \$7,993

Inhale the pristine air while surveying brilliant white icescapes brushed with hints of blue. Lean back in awe and wonder as you take in the enormity of glaciers and mountains. Observe and learn about the hardy wildlife—including penguins, seabirds, seals, and whales.

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 for more information on inclusions.

Win a Tour Deposit! Go on a Treasure Hunt on Our New Website

As you explore our new website, find the answers to the questions below. Send your answers to office@tourmagination.com by August 31, 2016 to be entered into a draw for a \$500 deposit on ANY tour in 2016 or 2017.

1. What Tour Styles does TourMagination offer?
2. What are the four different activity levels of TourMagination tours?
3. What is the activity level of the Australia & New Zealand Tour?
4. Where does the Antarctica tour begin?
5. What kinds of animals might you see on the Arctic Wonders tour in Manitoba?
6. What college is hosting the Reformations Old & New tour?
7. Who is the photographer leading the Focus on India tour?
8. In what city is the Sanctuary of Apollo located and on what tour will you see it?
9. Who is leading the Cuba tour and how many children do they have?
10. Name the different types of Faithprints TourMagination travelers can leave.



Reg. # 50014322

It's a New Day

While we are thankful for the legacy of Jan Gleysteen and carried on by Wilmer and Janet Martin, it is a new day at TourMagination.

Our commitment to quality, faith-based tours that travel to the important places in a country and help you engage with the local people will remain. However, we also plan to introduce different types of tours and new tour leaders.

We also plan to strengthen our relationship with non-profit organizations in Canada and the USA but also in other countries. We want to continue to leave a Faithprint



through wisdom exchanges, service opportunities, and financial giving projects.

I can't wait to travel back Tanzania to renew my friendship with Monika's Maasai family in Monduli who so warmly hosted us in February and see the advancement of the work with the community children in the village library. Or revisit the very heartwarming Shanga project based in Arusha that employs people with disabilities.

I am pleased to introduce you to my good friends Jim Pankratz and Al Doerksen who will be leading a unique photo tour to India

in 2017 called Focus on India. See photos and captions below.

I also want to let you know that I am open to your suggestions. Do you have a destination you'd like to visit with friends and family? Let us know about it, and we can plan a custom tour or look into offering it as a regular TourMagination tour.

The TM team looks forward to serving your travel needs.

The best is yet to come!

Kind regards,

Audrey Voth Petkau/President
TourMagination

What is special about the Focus on India photography tour?



Nearly all travelers engage in some form of photography. These days most people use a basic "point and shoot" camera. "Point and shoot" may refer to compact digital cameras or smart phones—often times users capture surprisingly good results. "Point and shoot" may also refer to a style of photography in which cameras, even sophisticated ones, are used in automatic modes with minimal attention to much more than the scene which needs to be "captured".

The Focus on India photography tour will be of interest to photographers who want to go beyond the "point and shoot" mode. Those who want to be more deliberate about composition, lighting, clarity, color, etc.

Some joint "jurying" of each other's photos will be arranged for constructive purposes. Suggestions for effective use of lenses, shutter speeds and aperture settings will also be made. Participants will be encouraged/helped to discard poor quality photos. This tour will be of special interest to those with more sophisticated cameras who shoot in RAW formats and who enjoy post processing exercises.

Tour members will be encouraged to look for creative points of view, intriguing lighting, human emotion, cultural events, and unexpected beauty.

Note: The Focus on India Tour will also be of interest to non-photographers who like to explore the art, history, religions, landscapes, and culture of different countries. Guided by tour leaders Al Doerksen and Jim Pankratz, who have



traveled extensively and lived in India, you will observe and interact with new people while discovering a whole new world in India.

Tour leader Al Doerksen is an avid street and event photographer, author of two photobooks, and blogger. See www.blipfoto.com/raspberryyefe

Photos on this page and front page by Al Doerksen

FEATURED TOURS



Ever heard of a red kangaroo? Have an opportunity to see this adorable fellow and many other unique animals on the Natural & Cultural Wonders of Australia/New Zealand tour. Photo credit: Richard Ashurst

Natural & Cultural Wonders of Australia & New Zealand

February 2-23, 2017

Tour Leaders: Audrey Voth Petkau and Terry Petkau

Vietnam & Singapore

November 21 – December 5, 2016

Tour Leaders: Luke Martin and Wilmer Martin

Incredible scenery and friendly people!

Celebrating 500 Years of the Reformation & Life of Luther

with Lutheran Scholar Dr. Bob Kelly
May 12-21, 2017

Tour Leader: Wilmer Martin

JOIN THOUSANDS OF OTHER PILGRIMS TO CELEBRATE MARTIN LUTHER'S ROLE IN THE REFORMATION.

We hope you can join us for one of these unforgettable experiences!

We Also Plan Custom Tours for Families, Schools, Churches, & Other Groups

Tell us your budget, where you want to go, and what you want to see. We'll arrange an outstanding tour with experienced in-country guides and a tour leader if required. We specialize in Mennonite Heritage tours, Holy Land tours, and educational tours that include a faith component. CONTACT US office@tourmagination.com or 1-800-565-0451.

For more information or to book your space, contact TourMagination today at office@tourmagination.com or 1-800-565-0451.

We hope to travel with you soon!

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