Dear Fellow Communicators,

This particular tour of the Holy Land is primarily designed to bless and bolster those who communicate truth via teaching, preaching, or writing. Each communicator will join others who do likewise. The trip will be a fun, informative “game-changer” for any lay or vocational minister (pastors, youth ministers, Bible teachers, professors and more).

Over 20 years ago, a group of senior adults made a decision to bless me as a green youth minister by sending me on a study tour of Israel. That experience further solidified my calling and catapulted me into a new understanding of the Bible. Perhaps your congregation is willing to do the same for you or a member of your ministry team? No local church would ever regret sending a member of your team for the benefits to your ministry, for in doing so, there are many.

We will leave the Holy Land energized, inspired, and further equipped to provide excellence in ministry. “Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness” (James 3:1). Because preaching and teaching are not always easy, this pilgrimage is design to be refreshing and inspirational.

On a few occasions, our group will experience evening “group-think” sessions where we will each discuss preaching, teaching, and writing in light of what we have just seen and experienced in Israel. These creative, collaborative sessions are designed to provide fresh insights into how we each can be more effective in our communication of truth. Old Testament culture, customs, and shadows of Christ will greatly enhance your understanding and communication of the context and beauty of the New Testament.
"As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will make you fishermen.’” (Matt. 4:18-19)

We will at times trek the literal footsteps of Christ. A great deal of information will be imparted to us on our tour. We will collectively summarize each day’s travels before each day’s end. This trip will equal the retainable insights and information not provided for in one or two semesters of seminary. As a follow up to our pilgrimage, you will receive a recorded overview of each day’s travels and teachings.

In your “quiet times” ahead, you will study the Scriptures having experienced the sights and sounds and even the fragrances of the “Holy Land.” You will have acquired insights that many may never acquire. Our study will draw you nearer to our Lord and enhance your personal witness and ministry.

Let’s enjoy the Lord, let’s enjoy one another, and let’s enjoy the Holy Land as we build one another up in our most holy faith. “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (2 Tim. 2:15)

It is such a privilege to lead this wonderful group into the depth and riches of the Holy Land.

ָשלום! (Shalom!)
Gary & Angie Hewins
For decades, Dr. Gary Hewins has benefited greatly from the investment of many key strategic and influential church leaders, and the rich experience of pastoring, counseling, training, and consulting ministries around the world. His experience is extensive and includes:

★ Upper level pastoral leadership at Mount Paran Church in Atlanta, GA. He currently serves as the Senior Pastor of Community Bible Church in Highlands, NC.

★ An earned doctorate degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Hamilton, MA, and author of *Truth Serum: America’s Need for Pulpiteers*.

★ Leadership at Lifepoints, a beautiful training and retreat center providing practical solutions, inspiration and new strategies for kingdom-minded leaders.

★ The design and implementation of synergistic kingdom partnerships that are innovative and very attractive to the body of Christ.

★ The raising and distribution of over $100,000,000 of support for ministries domestic and global.

★ Leadership of adventures to Israel designed to be a game-changer for any preacher and/or teacher of the word.

Gary preaches with passion and candor, and reminds believers of a high calling in this world. He firmly believes that love, grace, and truth lead to freedom and fruit that will last. His preaching cultivates a greater appetite for the scripture, a deeper understanding of our limited opportunities, and an urgency to be productive, not busy. His execution of kingdom partnerships are in many ways ground-breaking and certainly long over-due.
“We went into Jerusalem, we went step by step where Jesus carried the Cross. It was hard for him. It was hard for me—not being beaten, not carrying the cross—and just walking. It was a pretty good haul. So I can say that Jesus was struggling. Out of all of this I would say, GO. Don’t be like me who turned his back and said no, and you will be able to understand what Jesus is all about.”

PASTOR FELIX VILLAREAL
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOVE
CASHIERS, NORTH CAROLINA

“The best thing about the Israel trip for me was not only to be able to journey through the steps of Christ and His life and ministry, but to be able to process that trip, process those steps, process those places with other believers, other pastors, other worshippers.

What I would say to anyone in a pastoral role—or to anyone who just simply loves Jesus and loves the Word—is that a trip to Israel is a trip to fully open up your eyes to the culture, to the areas, to the perspective, to the people that Christ came to. It’s a great opportunity to be able to allow the Word of God to come alive. To be able to walk through those steps, to see the sights, to be able to connect the dots and learn the details of the things He was talking about to different people.”

PASTOR CODY TURNER
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
HIGHLANDS, NORTH CAROLINA
“This trip for me as a pastor was a radical, life changing event and it still continues to be. When you’re there, it’s something more that you feel and you also sense. You’re sitting there and you’re thinking as you’re being taught, as we were on the Western Steps, that the Lord Jesus Himself taught His disciples there. I was sitting in that same place... so for me there’s that experience of being in the same place where Jesus actually was. In the evening meal, we would sit at the table often with pastors from India, Ethiopia, Kenya, and to sit down and talk to them about the things we got to see, it was a time of praise and a time of thanksgiving. Those churches that also realize that their pastors would benefit from a trip like this, they need to do something like this. And it’s not just for the benefit of those pastors but it would also be for the well being of the Church.”

PASTOR RICK PLOTT
THE CHURCH AT SAPPHIRE
SAPPHIRE, NORTH CAROLINA

“I think anyone in ministry can benefit from being able to put yourself in Jesus’s shoes, to not only be in the places He was but to sit in the Garden of Gethsemane, to hear the sounds of the city in the distance, and to think, what was Jesus thinking at this point? How would this atmosphere have affected His agony or what He was about to walk into? So just being able to enter more deeply into Jesus’s story and to relate to Him and to the people of that time, it makes scriptures come alive. Things that you’ve always believed were true, you’re now actually seeing it and you’re walking it and it just makes it even that more real.”

LEAH MEADS
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
HIGHLANDS, NORTH CAROLINA
The following is a list of the places we will visit. Our guide is easily considered one of, if not the best, guide in all of Israel. We will be well informed and certainly inspired as we make our pilgrimage together. Nearly every site will include educational information accompanied by biblical relevance in teaching, preaching, or writing.

**DEPART JANUARY 11 – ARRIVE JANUARY 12**

Too often, many travelers spend their first day trying to keep their eyes open. This trip is a bit different. On our first day we will check into our hotel only to rest, unpack, and enjoy a wonderful dinner together as we get to know one another and prepare for the journey ahead.

**JANUARY 13**

Onward to the sites that will form a foundation for our trip. By this day’s end, we will settle into our home for a few days on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

1. Caesarea by the Sea
   a. Augustus Caesar—Census (Luke 2)
   c. Pontius Pilate-outpost, purpose, uprising 66AD (Luke 23)
   d. Roman Aqueduct—as it relates to Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22)
   e. Herod the Builder
2. Mount Carmel
   a. Elijah and the Prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:16-19:21)
   b. Shunammite woman and Elijah (2 Kings 4:8-37)
   c. Meggido/Armageddon/Jezreel Valley (Revelation 16)
   d. Solomon’s Stables
3. Arrival for dinner and rest in Galilee
JANUARY 14 & 15

“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people” (Matt 4:23). For three wonderful days, we will track the ministry of Jesus in, on, and around the Sea of Galilee as He met with the fisherman, farmers, and tradesmen of His day.

1. Sea of Galilee/Jesus
   a. Jesus Calms the Storm (Mark 4:35-41)
   b. Walking on water (Matt. 14:22-33)
2. “Jesus Boat”
3. Worship on the Water
4. Mount of Beatitudes (Matt. 5-7)
5. Cities of Korazin & Bethsaida (Matt. 11:21)
6. Capernaum (Mark 1-5)
7. Peter’s Reinstatement (John 21:15-19)
8. Baptism in the Jordan (Mark 1:9-13, Matt. 3:13-17)
9. Tel Dan Nature Preserve/Abraham’s Gate
11. Military Outpost/History Modern Israeli Wars
12. Caesarea Philippi (Matt. 16:13-20)
   a. Mt. of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-13)
   b. Peter’s Confession (Matt. 16:13-2)

   “Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God” (Matt. 16:16).

JANUARY 16 & 17

With the Galilee behind us, we move south through the Jordan Valley to the Judean Wilderness. Our next resting place will be on the shores of the Dead Sea.

1. Beit Shean
   a. King Saul’s death (1 Samuel 31)
   b. Marvelous ancient ruins
2. Jordan Valley
   a. Samaritan vs. Galilean Culture
   c. The Woman at the Well (John 4:1-26)
   d. Jericho (Joshua 6)
3. Valley of the Shadow (Psalm 23:4)
   a. Monastery of St. George
   b. “Samaritan Road” Jericho to Jerusalem
4. Arid Judean Desert (Psalm 42)
5. Qumran Community/Dead Sea Scrolls (1948)
6. Masada (Herod’s Fortress)
7. En Gedi/David and King Saul (1 Samuel 24)
8. John the Baptizer from the wilderness (Matt. 3:1-12, Matt. 3:13-17)
9. Dead Sea (the lowest place on earth)
   (Gen. 14:3, Josh. 3:16, Zech. 14:8, Ezekiel 47)
The pinnacle of our trip still awaits us—Jerusalem! We will enter Jerusalem in worship, but not before we visit the Valley of the Shadow.

2. Entering Jerusalem
   a. Psalms of Ascents (Psalms 120-134)
   b. Going to the Temple Mount (Psalm 24)
3. Mount of Olives/Palm Sunday Walk (Matt. 24:1-3, 26:30)
4. Shrine of the Book/Model of Jerusalem (DSS)
5. Kidron Valley (2 Samuel 15:23)
6. Garden of Gethsemane (Private Garden Devotion) (Matt. 26:36-56)

“*My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,*” he said to them. “*Stay here and keep watch.*” (Mark 14:34)

7. Caiaphas’ House/Dungeon (Matt. 26:57-75)
8. City of David/Hezekiah’s Tunnel
10. Overview of Bethlehem/Shepherd’s Fields (Ruth, John 10:1-21)

“*Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world*” (John 1:29)

11. Temple Mount/Moriah (Genesis 22)
12. Western/Wailing Wall
14. Jewish Quarter
15. Temple Mount/Dome of the Rock
16. Destruction of the Temple/Rabbi’s Tunnel (Matthew 24)
17. Yad V’shem/Holocaust Museum
19. Pilate’s Praetorium/Public Trial (John 19:1-16)
20. Fortress Antonio
21. Church of the Holy Sepulchre
22. Stations of the Cross
23. Garden Tomb/Communion & Worship (John 20)

The sites above will be mixed with free time to eat and visit with one another or negotiate in the markets of Jerusalem. The above list may certainly change in terms of sequence or because of some rare unforeseen circumstances, and some will take place on the day of our departure.

**DEPART JANUARY 21 – RETURN HOME JANUARY 22**

After a wonderful farewell dinner and celebration, we will then head to Ben Gurion airport for our flight home! A week or so later, you will receive a recorded summary of our journey together.
In Israel, we will follow in the steps of Jesus throughout the Galilee, Jerusalem, and the Judean wilderness. This unique trip is specifically designed to inform and inspire all communicators of God’s word. A pre-trip interview concerning a traveler’s preaching or teaching ministry will help set goals and form a direction for our agenda. Our trip will incorporate a great deal of exposure to history but also refreshing times of personal ministry and sharing of ways to enhance one another’s ministry.

**THIS EXPERIENCE IS A GAME-CHANGER! YOU’LL NEVER SEE SCRIPTURE THE SAME AGAIN!**

Congregations now have a great way of showing their appreciation for their pastor and their spouse and/or youth ministers by sponsoring their trip to the Holy Land. This particular Israel trip is a great way to say “we love and appreciate you” while also enhancing your church’s ministry.

Pastors from other countries find this trip a life changing experience. Many times, church leaders and communicators receive a level of instruction that they otherwise would never have the opportunity to receive.

- Sponsor your pastor or youth leader
- Sponsor a pastor in a foreign land
- Sponsor a young person called into ministry
Interested in participating in this once-in-a-lifetime experience, or in sending a pastor or minister? To register or for more information, email us today at contact@lifepoints.org!