

Join us on a journey to ...

THE WORLD OF SAINT PAUL AND THE EARLY CHURCH



SEPT. 29–OCT. 13, 2012

LECTURER/GUIDE:

DR. JAMES FLEMING

TRIP COORDINATORS:

REVEREND BRIAN HENDERSON

REVEREND MARY HULST

Dear Traveler,

Come with us to Turkey. Turkey is a crossroads of faith. It has been home to powerful Christian and Muslim empires and has played a crucial role in the development of both religions. As a land bridge between Europe and Asia, it has been a cultural crossroads for thousands of years. Numerous civilizations have left a bounty of stunning ancient ruins and history that tell the remarkable story of the apostle Paul and the early church. We will walk in the steps of Saint Paul, use the New Testament, especially the Book of Acts, as a primary source, and explore the rich history and cultures of a land like no other, where East meets West. Come away with new understanding for reading the Bible and newspaper.

—Brian Henderson and Mary Hulst



LECTURER and GUIDE DR. JAMES FLEMING

Dr. James Fleming is the director of Biblical Resources and the CEO of Explorations in Antiquity Center; a museum of daily life in the time of the Bible, formerly in Jerusalem, located now in LaGrange, GA. He has lived and worked as an archaeologist and educator in Israel since 1974 and has taught classes in the School for Overseas Students at Hebrew University and the Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem. He has developed courses in historical geography and biblical history, uniquely tying the studies with the biblical text, with an emphasis on the theological implications. He is on the advisory board of *The Biblical Archaeology Review*. He is the author of several dozen notebooks and teaching materials that are an excellent help in understanding the land of the Bible. Dr. Fleming is well versed in both political and interfaith issues and will bring new understanding to both the Bible and the daily news. He is a sought after lecturer throughout the world, and study tour leader in Israel, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Turkey, Greece and Italy.

THE WORLD OF SAINT PAUL AND THE EARLY CHURCH

Saturday, Sept 29 Depart USA for Istanbul, Turkey. We embark on our journey to a land of ancient treasures and Christian history.

Sunday, Sept. 30 Arrival in Istanbul. We begin in a city where East meets West. Istanbul is



the undisputed cultural, economic and historical capital of Turkey and one of the most unique cities in the world. This cultural crossroads is a place where the three major religions of the world have coexisted for centuries. Istanbul is a great mixture of modern and old world. It is a city divided. The Bosphorus-the water way joining the Black Sea to the Mediterranean-separates the European side from the Asian side. After a long flight, a city overview tour to get oriented and a

transfer to Hotel ARCADIA is all that is needed to discover the allure of Istanbul.

Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 1-2

High points of today's these two days will include: **The Blue Mosque**, with elegant cascading curves and a central location which makes it the most famous mosque in Istanbul. Inside is a spectacular coating of blue Iznik tiles, which give it its nickname; **The Hippodrome**, was once a Byzantine stadium for chariot racing, with seating for 100,000. Only the shape remains to hint at the festive atmosphere that must have prevailed during chariot races and circuses; **St Sophia Church** is a beautiful museum honoring both Christian and Muslim religions. It has been both mosque and cathedral: **Topkapi Palace**, was home of the Ottoman Sultans and the heart of the empire. Its grassy courtyards once buzzed with the comings and goings of soldiers and ambassadors, eunuchs and pashas. Dinners and Overnights at the Hotel ARCADIA.



Wednesday, Oct. 3 Early transfer to airport for flight to Nevsehir. Upon arrival at Nevsehir airport we transfer to Cappadocia region. Cappadocia is a world heritage site. It comprises the triangle of land formed by the towns of Nevsehir to the west, Urgup to the east, and Avanos in the north. Inside this triangle is a kind

of fairytale landscape where wind and rain have shaped the areas soft volcanic rock. Remote and inaccessible Cappadocia seemed custom made for the early Christian community whose members erected their churches in hollowed out caves and expanded vast underground cities to hide from enemies. We will start with Uchisar where a panoramic view of the whole region can be observed from a hill top. We continue to the fairy chimneys at Urgup and Ortahisar, Zelve, the valley of monks, and Avanos, where the traditional pottery makers still continue manufacturing pottery with the wheels. Dinner and overnight in the Hotel TASKONAK

Thursday, Oct. 4 A full day to tour the riches of this incredible fairy land of Cappadocia include Goreme open air Museum with its dozens of cave-churches with 12th Century frescoes. Goreme's rock cut churches were designed as chapels where members of the community could engage in prayer. Most of Cappadocia's churches were built between the 10th and 12th centuries, though some as early as the 6th century. We will visit the underground city of Kaymakli, built in the 2nd century by the early Christians of the region to escape from the invading Roman armies. In the late afternoon we will put an exclamation point on the day with a sunset at Guvercin (pigeon valley) and return to Hotel for dinner and overnight.



Friday, Oct. 5 Depart for our short drive to Konya, the biblical Iconium, which was visited by St. Paul and Barnabas several times around 50CE (II Timothy 3:11) En route we visit one of the ancient caravansaries from 13th century, which were the inns of the caravan routes. We continue to Konya to visit the Mevlana Museum, which holds the tomb of Rumi, the 13th century mystic who founded the order of Whirling Dervishes. We will also stop at the Karatay Tile Museum. Dinner and overnight at Hotel OZKAYMAK or similar.

Saturday, Oct. 6 After breakfast a drive to Antalya. The drive is scenic crossing through the Taurus Mountains, where Alexander the Great passed with his armies along his campaign to Persia and India. En route we visit the ruins of Perge, the ancient Hellenistic city established by Alexander the Great and that later flourished to a prosperous city during the Roman period. It was in Perge that John Mark decided to part company with Paul and Barnabas, while they continued on their missionary journey. Afternoon arrival in Antalya. Founded on the Turquoise Coast of the Mediterranean, Antalya has boasted a mild climate and beautiful beaches and harbors for centuries. In fact, Paul and Barnabas sailed from Antalya harbor in the 1st century on the first missionary journey. Evidences of the ancient harbor are visible. Dinner and overnight at HOTEL DEJA VUE or similar.



Sunday, Oct. 7 Following breakfast and a time of worship along the Mediterranean Coast of Turkey, known as the Turkish Riviera, we will visit the ruins of the ancient port city of Phaselis and Olympos, the ancient cities located just at the border of Pamphylia and Lycia. We continue on to Demre, the ancient town of Myra which was the birthplace

of St. Nicholas, and the church of St. Nicholas. The church was built to commemorate the early Christian bishop who was present at the First Ecumenical Council. It is interesting how time has turned this early church father into a mythical hero. To view the red and white statue of Santa Claus standing in the square, see the Muslim vendors peddling statues (idols to their thinking) and hear the call to prayer from the nearby mosque is strangely bizarre. In Myra we will also note that it was in the port there that Paul and Luke changed ships en route to Rome. Dinner and Overnight at HOTEL BARBAROSA or similar.

Monday, Oct 8 Morning drive to Patara.. In the afternoon we continue driving upwards to Pamukkale to visit the ruins of Hieropolis, famous for its Necropolis and natural setting on the travertine formed by the thermal springs. Mineral rich volcanic spring water cascades over basins and natural terraces, crystallizing into white curtains of solidified water seemingly suspended in air. The ruins that can be seen today date from the time of the Roman Empire. Dinner and Overnight in Pamukkale at HOTEL RICHMOND or similar.



Tuesday, Oct. 9 Today's excursion is to Laodicia and Colossae. Laodicia was one of the seven churches of Western Anatolia and famous for St. John's letter to Laodocian people. Colossae is another biblical city famous for the Epistle of St. Paul to Colossians. Afternoon return for dinner and overnight at HOTEL RICHMOND

Wednesday, Oct. 10 A morning visit to the ruins of Aphrodisias which was named after the Greek Goddess Aphrodite representing love and beauty. The city deserves this name with its romantic setting and beautiful statues made by famous Roman sculptors. In the afternoon we continue driving to Kusadasi.



Dinner and Overnight at HOTEL CLUB CARAVANSERAI or similar

Thursday, Oct. 11 Full day excursion to Ephesus. Ephesus was once a thriving port town of 250,000 people. With an ancient arena that dwarfs the one in Pompeii, and a lofty library that rivals any structure in the Roman Forum, Ephesus—once the most important Greco-Roman city of the Eastern Mediterranean—is among the best preserved sites in the world. It first won fame as a cultural and religious crossroads. Here the city silversmiths drove St. Paul out of town for fear that his words—“there are no



gods made with hands” —would lessen their silver sales. After Paul addressed a gathering in the amphitheater, the craftsmen rioted, but Paul did found a church here. St. John was here as well and legend has it that the Virgin Mary lived out her days here. We will visit the Mother Mary’s Church then stroll through the site of Ephesus. Dinner and Overnight at Hotel CARAVANSERAI.

Friday, Oct. 12 Today will highlight the Ionic cities: Priene, Miletus and Didyma located in the Meander River delta. Priene was famous for being the first city planned by the architect and



first urban planner, Hippodamas who lived in Priene. The city dates to about 350 BCE. Miletus was one of the greatest commercial centers of the Greek world before its harbor silted over. Saint Paul preached here. It was here that he said goodbye to his friends. Didyma was an important sacred site connected to Miletus by a road of statues. It was a pagan worship center for the people of Miletus. With the spread of Christianity, chapels were founded in Didyma which were later

destroyed by the Roman Emperor Julian the Apostate. The magnificent temple of Apollo is here. It is as grand in scale as the Parthenon.

Dinner and Overnight at HOTEL CARAVANSERAI
Our dinner will celebrate our journey with laughter and memories.

Saturday, Oct. 13 Transfer to Izmir Airport for flight to Istanbul and home.



INFORMATION

DATES – SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 13, 2012 – COST PER PERSON \$3,995 (DOUBLE OCCUPANCY) WITHOUT AIR FARE. \$800 ADDITIONAL for SINGLE OCCUPANCY.

It is critical that all travelers be in good health and be able walkers.

A \$500 deposit is due by May 15, 2012 and fully refundable until July 15, 2012. The deposit check should be made out to Mary Hulst. Air and land deposits to two different agencies are paid out of that check. Rates are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect in 2012. Rates and itinerary are subject to change. Cancellation with full land refund minus \$100 will be given until 60 days prior to departure. Final payment of \$3,495 is due by July 15, 2012, made out to Biblical Resources. Credit card charges are made directly to Biblical Resources (706-885-0363 ask for Ginny McCabe) and cost an additional 3%.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS

International and domestic flights in the US and Turkey are not included in the land cost. The group will fly from Denver to Chicago to Istanbul using United Airlines and Turkish Air, which is part of the Star Alliance. Until ticketed, airfare is not guaranteed – currently the ticket price is \$1,488.55 per person. That includes Denver to Chicago, Chicago to Istanbul, Istanbul to Nevsehir, Izmir to Istanbul and Istanbul back home. Taxes and surcharge can change.

INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM COST: Lecturer, scholar, archaeologist, guide: Dr. James Fleming. Twelve nights in first class lodging (in Turkey Deluxe is a class higher than first). All breakfasts and dinners. Comfortable bus with selected driver. All entrance fees to sites. All tips.

NOT INCLUDED IN PROGRAM COST: Airfare, lunches, beverages with dinner, travel insurance.

REGISTRATION FORM

(Detach and return one form per person to Mary Hulst: 6561 S. Pontiac Ct., Centennial, CO 80111)

Name (as it appears on passport) _____

Date of birth _____

Passport number _____ Expiration date _____

Address (Street/City) _____

ZIP CODE _____ Home phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Roommate _____

Name you wish to use on name tag _____

A SINGLE IS AN ADDITIONAL \$800

_____ ENCLOSED IS MY \$500 DEPOSIT. CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO MARY HULST AND SENT TO MARY HULST, 6561 S. PONTIAC CT. CENTENNIAL, CO 80111

DEPOSITS FOR AIR AND LAND ARE SENT IN AS A GROUP. Final Payments for air and land can be charged to a credit card, but will include an additional 3% charge. That information and process will be sent to you upon registration confirmation. For answers to further questions contact Mary Hulst at 303-779-0180 or revmhulst@comcast.net.