

*Great News Radio Trip for Women
Israel & The Netherlands
May 29 – June 9, 2010*

Most Frequently Asked Questions

Please read this carefully, even if you have traveled with us before because some things you need to know have changed. This information is important for you and will be invaluable when you discuss this trip with your family, church, and those who support you in prayer.

The four categories included in this document are:

- *First Things First*
- *The Nature of our Trip*
- *Logistical and Practical Matters*
- *Packing Concerns*

- *First Things First*

Do I need a passport?*

Yes. Check the expiration date. IMPORTANT: The nation of Israel requires that your passport is still valid for 3 months after your return to America from the trip. This means that if you have a passport with an expiration date in June, July, Aug or through Sept 9, 2010, you will need to renew it before leaving on our trip. If you do not have a valid passport, call your county courthouse or post office and begin the application or renewal process immediately. Or, for step by step instructions, go to http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

*Note: if you do not have a valid passport at the time you apply for this trip, fill out and submit the Application Forms for the trip and write "Passport Applied For" where the form asks for your passport number. When you receive your new passport, email Great News Radio at staff@greatnewsradio.org or call us at 217-367-7777 to provide the following information: 1. Passport number; 2. date passport was issued; 3. place passport was issued; and, 4. expiration date of passport.

Do American citizens need special travel visas?

No. If you live in America but are not an American citizen, let us know and we will apply for a special visa for you. Otherwise, our stay is brief and no special visa is needed for US citizens to Israel and Holland.

Do I need shots?

No. None are required.

Do we need to change currency?

Yes for Holland; no for Israel.

Please exchange \$50 to Euros at your bank before departing. You will need Euros at the beginning and end of our trip for incidentals and will not have an opportunity to change money while we are there.

In Israel, the dollar is accepted in most places we will visit. There is no need to exchange currency. When you pay for something in dollars, you will receive change (coins) in shekels.

I have a few health issues. May I still go?

There are a lot of stairs to climb, and a lot of walking. Most days we will tour from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm which requires endurance. You know what you are able to do in a group situation. Seek the Lord. Call Great News Radio and let us know your thoughts and concerns. If your condition will slow the group down, you might want to consider going another time when you feel better, or, go to with a group that has a less vigorous itinerary. With that said however, many of our seniors or those with health issues have done remarkably well because they take good care of themselves and have realistic attitudes about their limitations. For example, you may choose to stay back at the hotel to rest, remain in the air-conditioned bus while the group hikes up a hill, or sit under a shady tree while the group explores a Biblical site. Those who have realistic expectations of their limitations do the best on these trips.

Why is the Questionnaire Form included with the application materials, and why are references called?

In our experience, the questionnaires and calls to references have been invaluable in getting to know each pilgrim and their needs prior to traveling to the Middle East. The people you choose as references have your best interest at heart and will help us understand each applicant better and whether this type of trip is a good match for the individual and group. The information provided by the questionnaires and your references, will help us serve you and the group better.

• The Nature of Our Trip

What does the \$3576 fee cover?

- All trip expenses, which include:
- Lovely, first-class hotels with incredible views...
 - on the Mediterranean Sea (Sheraton Moriah Hotel, Tel Aviv)
 - on the Sea of Galilee (Gai Beach Hotel, Tiberias)
 - on the mountains of Jerusalem (Regency Hotel)
 - in Amsterdam (Golden Tulip Hotel)
- Delicious all-you-can-eat breakfast and dinner buffets in Israel
- Special sit-down lunch in Amsterdam
- Luxury air-conditioned coach transportation in Israel and Holland
- All entry fees, tips for guides, drivers, bellmen and waiters; airport taxes and security fees.
- The best guides in Israel and Holland to narrate entire trip, answer questions
- Breathtaking scenery: North Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Sea of Galilee, rural Holland, Golan Heights, Jordan River, mountains of Jerusalem, shepherds fields of Bethlehem...
- Exclusive and private entry to special sites
- Israel map and trip handouts including song book
- Lovely farewell dinner at a unique restaurant within a windmill, "Jongge Dikkert" in Holland
- Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee
- Canal cruise with breakfast and coffee on the Canals of Amsterdam
- Jordan River baptisms and re-dedications

Is there anything the trip cost fee does not cover?

The fee covers all expenses and everything except optional snacks, most lunches, personal purchases and other optional activities such as camel rides. Personal expenses such as water, ice cream, souvenirs, photos, etc., are on your own. The breakfast and dinner buffets are quite filling. The feedback we have received from pilgrims in the past is that they prefer more time visiting sites and learning than spending the time in restaurants for lunch arrangements.

Also, the fee does not cover the single supplement (\$758 if you prefer a single room).



Who will provide the Bible teachings on our trip?

Carrie Burns and Susie Sandager will provide most of the teachings and devotions, with help from other teachers who will be traveling with us.

Will there be any free time?

We have scheduled more “down time” on this trip than for any other in the past—for example, we have built-in an entire day for personal reading and studying (as you wish) on the Sea of Galilee. On another day, there will be a time to leisurely stroll and shop in the quaint Mediterranean community of Zichron Yaacov (Note: for beautiful photos of Zichron, see: <http://www.pbase.com/rbenny/zichron>). Dinners will usually be served at 7 pm, and after dinner we may have a lecture, devotions, or other activities. As time and schedules permit, free time will be extended.

What will our meals be like?

- **Israel:** buffet breakfasts and dinners-- abundant, beautiful, colorful and delicious. Everything is fresh in Israel. You will be served chicken and beef dishes, along with Israeli food such as figs, salads at breakfast!, falafel, humus, tabouli, and olives, olives, and more olives, lots of wonderful desserts and more. On Shabbat (Saturday) the menu will be slightly different to conform to kosher regulations. For example, on Saturday, no hot food will be served for breakfast and Nescafe will be served instead of brewed coffee. On most afternoons, we'll stop for snacks and ice cream—these can be purchased, or you can munch on a snack you packed from home.

- **Holland:** we have special meals planned in Holland, including coffee and breakfast on a canal boat on Amsterdam, lunch in a Dutch restaurant (named after Lady Haesje Claese, born in 1520 and founder of the Public Orphanage), and our farewell dinner inside a windmill that was built in 1672.

Will our group meet before our date of departure?

Yes. Those who live in Illinois will meet one to two times before our trip for orientation. Those who live outside the Illinois area, will receive the information by email or mail.

What other information will we receive?

In late spring, 2010, you will receive a booklet containing valuable information for our trip. It will list ways we can be contacted while we are overseas. It will also include an updated itinerary, flight schedules, a statement about baptism, packing tips and other helpful information. You will also receive a list of the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of your fellow travelers. Use the list to make carpool arrangements and to contact and get to know your fellow pilgrims. You will also want to keep in touch with your new friends upon our return home.

• *Logistic and Practical Matters*

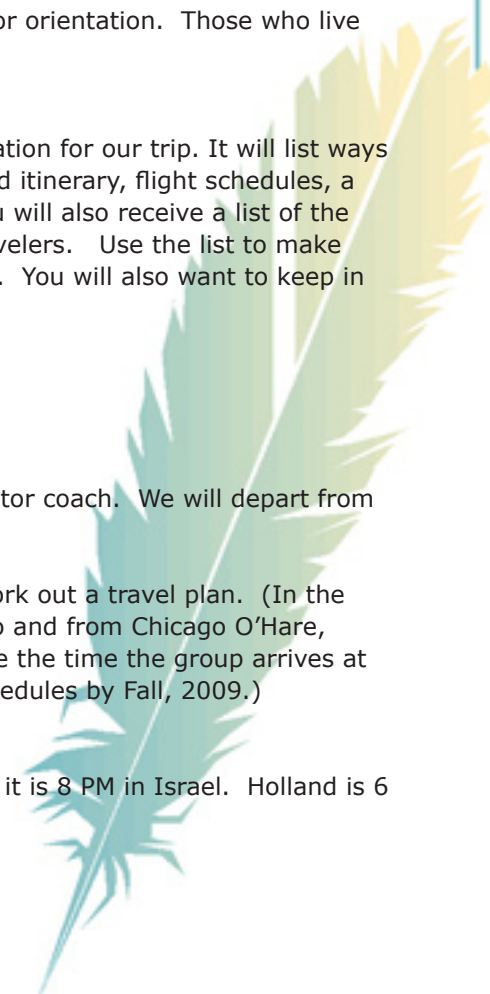
How will we get to Chicago O'Hare and back?

Those who live within the Great News Radio listening radius will take a motor coach. We will depart from and return to the Mahomet Community Free Church in Mahomet, Illinois.

Those who live elsewhere in the country should contact Carrie Burns to work out a travel plan. (In the past, it has been best for out-of-state travelers to book their own flights to and from Chicago O'Hare, ensuring that the domestic flights arrive and depart at least 3 hours before the time the group arrives at O'Hare Airport. Great News Radio expects to know the overseas flight schedules by Fall, 2009.)

What is the time difference?

Israel is 8 hours ahead of Illinois' Central Time, i.e., if it is noon in Illinois, it is 8 PM in Israel. Holland is 6 hours ahead of Illinois' Central Time.



Is smoking/alcohol allowed?

No smoking is permitted on planes, busses or in restaurants. For the sake of roommates who do not smoke, we request that you do not smoke in hotel rooms. Also, we kindly request that no alcohol be consumed on this special trip.

Who are our tour operators?

In Israel, our tour operator is Trans-Global Travel, Ltd., a division of IGT International Group Travel, Ltd., Jerusalem. They have been in operation for over 35 years and are considered the best in Israel. Kay Arthur, Jack Hayford, and Jimmy DeYoung are just a few that work with Trans-Global. This 2010 trip will be the 21st trip to Israel in which Great News Radio Staff will have worked with Trans-Global's Lindy Lazarow.

In addition, we are working with Nathalie Koning of Holland International for the Holland portion of our trip. Nathalie has been a delight to work with and has made wonderful suggestions for our itinerary.

What is a VAT tax and how does it work?

Israel: the 17% VAT (Value Added Tax) is refundable (to non-Israelis like us) at the airport in Tel Aviv. You need to spend \$100 or more in a single store to get the VAT refunded. (Note: some of the Arab and Palestinian shops we will visit do not participate in this program—we will inform you as we go.)

The strategy for the VAT refund is this: if you find a store that has many items that fit your purchasing needs, try to buy as much as you can in a single store or combine with a friend so that the total bill will reach \$100 or more. The clerk will give you a form to fill out and will place your purchases in a bag along with the form. Once you get to the airport, we'll direct you to the VAT Desk, then the Refund Desk. You will present your purchased items and forms to the clerk. The clerk will ask you if you want the refund in cash or applied to your credit card. Request a cash refund.

What languages are spoken?

In Israel, most everyone understands and speaks English. Road signs are printed in the three official languages of Israel: Hebrew, Arabic, and English. Our guide and bus driver speak English and will translate for us if a need arises. In Holland, Dutch and English are spoken.

How do we make phone calls home?

We will provide opportunities in Holland and in Israel for you to purchase phone cards for each country. Calling from your hotel room is extremely expensive—don't do it!

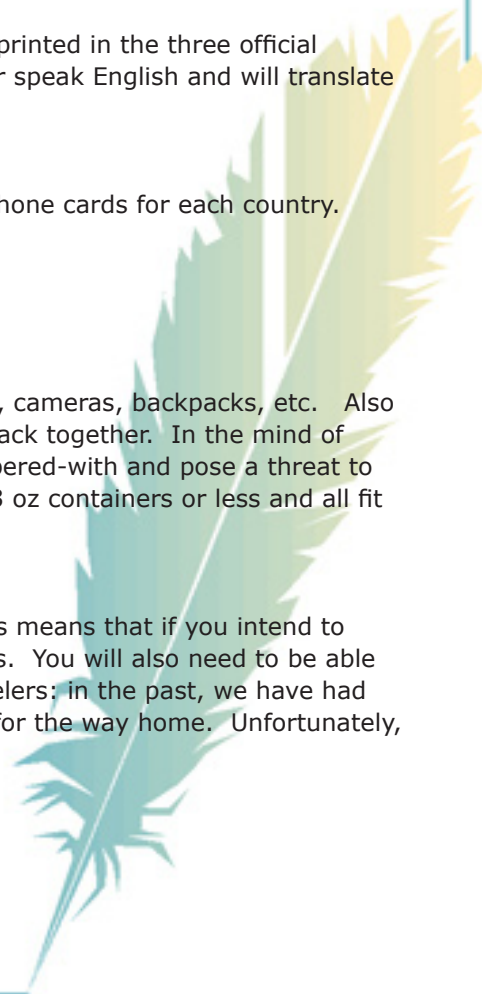
• *Packing Concerns*

In terms of packing, what should I know about airport security?

Do not borrow anything to take on this trip, including suitcases, appliances, cameras, backpacks, etc. Also ensure that all appliances and belongings have never been broken or put back together. In the mind of security agents, anything borrowed or taped together may have been tampered-with and pose a threat to security. Also, if you take liquids or gels in your carry-on, they must be in 3 oz containers or less and all fit in a 5 qt zip lock bag.

What are luggage limitations?

You are allowed one bag to check-in, with a weight limit of 44 pounds. This means that if you intend to bring souvenirs home, your suitcase will need to weigh less than 44 pounds. You will also need to be able to manage your own luggage, so please pack very light. (For veteran travelers: in the past, we have had the luxury of packing a foldable duffle bag in which to place our souvenirs for the way home. Unfortunately, we are not able to do this on this particular trip.)



One carry-on is also allowed per person, with a weight limit of 22 pounds and dimensions no more than 21.5" X 9 3/4" X 13 3/4"; you may also wear a fanny-pack and carry a purse.

How to pack light and travel happy:

- Your task is to put together as many outfits as you can with the fewest pieces of clothing and accessories.
- Plan, plan, plan. Wear solid colors- they mix and match the best. Lay your clothes out on your bed so that you can create outfits and then try things on together. Some savvy travelers will even make a list of possible outfits so that when they are traveling they do not need to take the time to try things on to see if they work.
- Goal: try to go with 4-5 bottoms and 5-6 tops, such as:
 - 2 pairs of capris
 - 2 pairs of pants
 - 1 skirt or casual dress
 - 4-6 tops (i.e., 2 tanks, 3 short-sleeved, 1 three-quarter sleeve)
 - 1 pair of pajamas or T-shirt
 - 1 light cardigan, jacket or long-sleeved shirt for layering
 - 1 swimsuit (packed in a plastic bag)
 - 5 pairs of underwear
 - 2 pairs of socks, if needed
 - 1 extra bra
 - 1 hat
 - Scarves, fun jewelry, belts
- You will be able to wash undergarments, pj's and tops in your hotel sink. They will dry very quickly.
- Shoes: at most, bring 3 pair: sneakers, sandals (or ballet or flip flops) and lightweight walking shoes. Tip: Birkenstocks can double as sandals and walking shoes.
- Bible: pack a small one with Old and New Testaments.
- Toiletries can be heavy. Conserve by bringing the minimum and transferring your products into smaller containers. Roomies can share products.
- This is a good excuse to leave your laptop at home.

I know I have to pack lightly, but kind of clothes do I bring?

In general, pack modest, casual and neat, khakis, cottons and jeans. At certain Holy Sites, shoulders and knees must be covered (that's why we suggest packing capris rather than shorts, and short sleeves rather than tank tops). Pack walking shoes that are already broken-in. The weather will be hot, but the nights may be cool. Pack comfortable clothing, and remember that modesty is key. Bare midriffs, low necklines (please: absolutely no cleavage showing), obvious bra straps, low waistlines, tops with spaghetti-straps and short shorts are not permissible for our group and the things we will be doing. For the sake of sensitivity to the culture avoid clothing with Christian messages. Remember, we will be out of doors most of the time so wear durable clothes. Skirts are nice for Jerusalem.

Will we need our swimsuits?

Yes. If you like to swim, you may have the opportunity for quick dips in the Mediterranean Sea and the Sea of Galilee. We will also have the opportunity for baptisms and rededications in the Jordan River. Swimsuits are needed if you choose to be baptized in the Jordan River.



I like to use washcloths-- should I bring my own from home?

Most hotels in Israel and Europe do not supply washcloths. If you like using washcloths, it might be a good idea to pack your own.

Can I bring my electric razor, blow dryer, curling iron and travel iron? Will they work?

Yes. To operate electrical appliances overseas you will need 2 converters (for Europe and the Middle East) AND a transformer. These can be purchased at Wal-Mart, Target, K-Mart, etc. For security reasons, do not borrow any of these items for this trip. Make sure that all are in working order and have never been taken apart or repaired. Consider sharing appliances with your roommate so that your suitcase is not overweight.

Should I bring a backpack or tote bag for our day trips?

Yes. Make sure your bag is large enough to carry your Bible, notebook, pens, sunglasses, bottled water, money, snacks, medicines, cameras, film, and other necessary items you will need to get you through the day. Our bus will be our "traveling-home" and many items such as sweaters, umbrellas, totes, etc. may be left on the bus if they are not needed at the moment. Our driver remains with the bus, and it is always locked. For security reasons the airlines ask that you do not borrow any packs, totes, or suitcases.

Should we bring snacks?

Yes, bring some. Our meal-schedule will undoubtedly differ from your usual meal times at home, especially on the initial day of travel. Here's some ideas on what to bring: protein bars, granola bars, raisins, nuts, trail mix, beef sticks, cookies, and candies, mints, cheese and cracker packets, etc. These kinds of things will help you make it to the next meal. Just a few are needed—you will be very well fed at meal times.

What about my medications?

If you are taking prescription drugs, it will be important to talk to your doctor before leaving for this trip. Find out how to get on a meds-schedule that takes the flight and time-change into consideration. This is critical—ask your health care provider the best way to put your body on the new schedule so that your transition will be smooth and healthy. Keep all your medications with you so that if there are any delays in picking up our luggage, you will have your medicine.

What kinds of identification should I bring on this trip?

In addition to your passport, be sure to bring your health insurance cards/data and your driver's license. In a separate place, pack photocopies of these important IDs, as well as a photocopy of the inside page of your passport and your credit cards. It is recommended to leave a set of photocopies of these documents with a family member or friend here in the States, just in case your documents are lost.

How much money should I bring?

It is up to you, but somewhere between \$150-\$300. In Israel, you will need cash for optional lunches, snacks, water, and personal hotel services. For these things we recommend that each person bring a bundle of 50 single dollar bills. Visa and MasterCard are welcome, as are traveler's checks. On average, a person might spend about \$20 cash per day for water, snacks, and trinkets; credit cards are used most often to purchase nicer gifts and souvenirs. Bottled water is usually \$1 per bottle. Baptism towel and gown is about \$6. NOTE: Do not depend on ATMs for cash.

For Holland, please use the Euros (about \$50) that you will have already exchanged at your local bank before the trip.

