



CURRENTS

From the Desk of Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D. | Senior Minister

Would you like to walk in the footsteps of Paul, explore archeological wonders related to the Bible, and just plain have some fun and adventure next year? I'm pleased to announce the Footsteps of Paul/Churches of Revelation Tour some of you have been asking about for years! Mark your calendars for a 14-day tour, April 16-27 (or add a 2-day extension in Istanbul, returning April 29).

Ever since 2009 when we explored the Seven Letters to the Seven Churches of Revelation, people have been asking when we're going to take a CCC tour of Turkey. I've toured Turkey twice, once as a tour participant and once as a leader. Melanie came with me the second time, and I think all of us agreed that it was one of the most incredible trips we had ever taken.

Turkey is a stunningly beautiful country. The people are friendly, the food is good, and the history is mind-blowing. One of the most impressive archaeological sites *in the world* is Ephesus, where Paul lived for two years and Christian tradition places John of Revelation (later exiled to Patmos). Even Mary, the mother of Jesus, is said to have spent her final years in Ephesus (Though I'm skeptical!). Inevitably, when people return from a Holy Land tour of Turkey or Israel, the Bible has come alive like it never has before - in 3D! So powerful is the experience that I vowed years ago to lead a tour there every other year. But "silly" things got in the way, like Middle East politics, walking across the country, and a move to Omaha.

After being flooded with interest two years ago, however, I did plan to lead a tour to Turkey. I assembled a tour that would be even greater than the ones I'd been on before. We would explore the Seven Churches and assorted other biblical sites along the western coast of Turkey, and venture further into the land of the Galatians and Cappadocia to gain a deeper experience of Paul's travels and early church history amidst some of the most unusual geography on the planet.

Yet, back then, gas prices made the cost of the tour too high for my comfort level. These trips are never cheap, but my object is to do everything humanly possible to make them affordable to the most people. Thus, I always travel on the outer edge of "low season" which yields the best prices and lowest crowds. And I use IGM Tours, whose decades of local relationships in both

Turkey and Israel ensure that we get the top guides, drivers, etc., for the most competitive prices. And of course, we leverage the power of group pricing. I've been to both Israel and Turkey twice with IGM and have always been impressed at the quality and cost. (Some tour companies will take you over more cheaply, but all you get is a glorified shopping trip, spending half your time in tourist traps.)

My jaw dropped (in a good way) when I received the latest numbers from IGM. Ironically, now that gas has shot up again, the pricing is sharply down! The world economy is taking its toll, making prices much softer. I don't have the final numbers yet, but I wanted to publish this right away so you can begin asking questions and planning.

You'll find the itinerary in this newsletter with descriptions of what we'll see and experience each day. Tour participation is limited to 30 people to ensure the highest quality experience while leveraging significant group discounts. Countrysiders will have the first opportunity to reserve spaces. Later, I'll open sign-ups to the rest of the country if spaces are left.

With 30 people, group pricing (which is virtually all-inclusive), should be well under \$4,000. It will include airfare from Chicago, airfare and bus travel in-country, breakfast and dinner each day, a mix of 4 & 5 star hotels, taxes, tips, entrance fees, etc.

Even with excellent prices, of course, many will not be able to go. I always wish there were a scholarship fund for pilgrimages like this, and perhaps there will be one day. But as past experience has shown, everyone tends to benefit when congregational groups travel to the Holy Land. Participants bring back insights and experiences to Bible studies, worship, and other settings, as well as energized faith. If you cannot afford to go this time around, or if the dates don't work for you, this shouldn't be your last opportunity.

Feel free to ask questions anytime. I'll also hold **two formal presentations on the trip on July 6 and 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.** Even if you're not seriously interested in going, please feel free to come.

Grace and peace,
Eric

Events and Meetings

Note: Child care will be provided for events by emailing Heather Dall at hdmdall@hotmail.com at least 48 hours in advance.

Lunch Bunch Circle will not meet in July or August. They will resume in September.

Friend to Friend will not meet in July or August. They will resume in September.

Young at Hearts will not meet in July or August. They will resume in September.

Mothers & More will NOT meet in the summer, but will resume in September.

20-30 Somethings will meet on Tuesday, July 19, at 7:00 p.m. Be watching for upcoming information regarding their meeting place. This group is open to anyone... married, in a relationship or single, 21-35 years of age. They will be planning upcoming social activities and service opportunities. For additional information about this group, contact Robert Alexander at robert.w.alexander@gmail.com.

ETC members will meet on Wednesday, July 13, 6:00 p.m. at Spirit World. RSVP to Mary Beth at marybeth@countrysideucc.org or 402-391-0350 ext. 112.

SOS will meet on Sunday, July 10, at 12:30 p.m. at the Old Country Buffet, 145th and Center. Call Betty or Harry Freeman at 402-333-8598 with questions.

Family Activities Committee will gather on Saturday, July 9, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at Stinson Park at Aksarben Village for an evening concert.

Los Chavalitos/Countryside South, the maternal/child clinic in Managua, Nicaragua is out of funding and must close. This clinic's mission is to combat infant mortality by providing pediatric care in an impoverished community. Please refer to the website <http://countrysideucc.org/our-ministries/mission-ministries/> to learn more about the clinic. Contact Dr. Susan Ward Susie.ward@methodistcollege.edu if you have any ideas about how to fund the clinic to keep it open.

A Word of Thanks...

"Where ye are gathered together in my name, there will I be"

The John Miller lyric we have sung at Countryside Community Church lifts up the importance of each one of you in our fellowship. You spread support, love and concern for our members' wellbeing. I am a good example. I can't tell you in words how humble it makes me feel to be surrounded by your love. Your faith and courage expressed in cards and messages have done a great deal to bring me home again. I thank you more than I can say.

Know that you have fulfilled God's challenge to "gather together" in His/Her name. It's God's promise come true that we experience here in the Countryside community.

Shalom,
Lea

Countryside Worship

July 3, 2011

"Praying for Revolution: The Lord's Prayer in its Ancient Context and Modern Voice, Part 4: Forgive Us Our Trespasses"

9:00 a.m. Classic Worship
11:00 a.m. Jazz Worship
5:00 p.m. Darkwood Brew
Dr. Eric Elnes preaching

July 10, 2011

"Praying for Revolution: The Lord's Prayer in its Ancient Context and Modern Voice, Part 5: Deliver Us From Evil"

9:00 a.m. Classic Worship
11:00 a.m. Jazz Worship
5:00 p.m. Darkwood Brew
Dr. Eric Elnes preaching

July 17, 2011

"Praying for Revolution: The Lord's Prayer

in its Ancient Context and Modern Voice, Part 6: The Power and the Glory"

9:00 a.m. Classic Worship
11:00 a.m. Jazz Worship
5:00 p.m. Darkwood Brew
Dr. Eric Elnes preaching

July 24, 2011

"The Psalms, Part 1"

9:00 a.m. Classic Worship
11:00 a.m. Jazz Worship
5:00 p.m. Darkwood Brew
Rev. Chris Alexander Preaching

July 31, 2011

"The Psalms, Part 2"

9:00 a.m. Classic Worship
11:00 a.m. Jazz Worship
5:00 p.m. Darkwood Brew
Rev. Chris Alexander Preaching

Pastoral Care



Countryside



Grieving All Losses

Presented by Rosemary Flecky Brownrigg

Loss comes in many guises—loss of a loved one, loss of a job, or loss of a shattered dream, such as a divorce or illness. Rosemary has worked in the field of bereavement for over 20 years. She will provide advice and counsel on how to comfort and support those grieving.

In addition, she will address the special needs and concerns of care givers. The morning will also include a panel comprised of individuals that will share their experiences with grief and recovery.

A Continuing Education Event sponsored by
Countryside Community Church Stephen Ministries

Saturday, July 23, 2011
Countryside Church Chapel
8:30 - Registration and Coffee
9:00 to 11:00 - Presentation

Anyone is welcome to attend. To register, please contact
Margie Bolte, margieb@countrysideucc.org (402)391-0350 Ext 117 or
Joyce Bunger, jbunger@creighton.edu 402-884-5002.

“TALK BACK” on Sunday, July 31!

Join Pastor Chris Alexander after the 9:00 a.m. service in the Sanctuary for an open discussion on the study of The Lord & His Prayer. Since this will be the final Sunday for this study, Chris looks forward to having anyone who would like to discuss the book and participate in the conversation. No need to sign up, just come and be a part of the discussion.

SYMPATHY:

Please remember in prayer the family of the following Countryside member:

William Graham – William, a member of Countryside since 1962, passed away on June 15. A memorial service was held here in Omaha at Crosby, Burkett, Golden and Swanson on June 18.

CONGRATULATIONS:

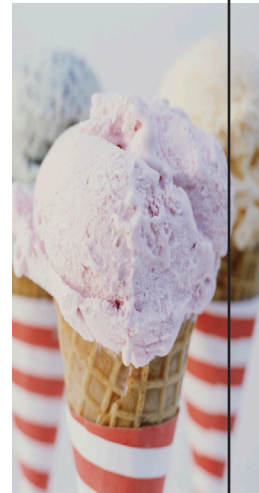
Anthony and Molly Britten-Campbell welcomed their second child, Andrew Dempsey, on June 19. Drew joins big sister, Hannah. Congratulations to all!

The Department of Family Life invites you to an...

ICE CREAM & ROOTBEER FLOAT SOCIAL

Thursday, July 28
6:00 p.m.

In the parking lot
behind the church
*Proceeds to benefit the
Garage Sale!*



Countryside is looking for additional help in janitorial services. If you are interested, please call or email Cindy Kadavy at 402-391-0350 ext. 102 or cindyk@countrysideucc.org.

July “Box”

Hope Center

- backpacks
- school supplies

MUSIC MINISTRY

2011 Faith Singers Tour – A Review

Early on Friday morning, June 3, twenty-five high school Faith Singers and their four chaperones departed Countryside's parking lot for ten day tour. Travelling some 2300 miles by bus, we passed through seven states and one Canadian province,



presented seven concerts and provided music for one worship service, singing in seven churches and one retirement center for four different denominations. We spent four nights in the homes of host church members, three nights at church camps, one night in a college dormitory and one night on a church floor.

Words fail in trying to describe time spent with these youth. They are incredibly fun, caring, sensitive, lively, compassionate, energizing, beautiful souls. Every time they sang they gave so much of themselves to the music they shared, in every instance moving their listeners – and themselves – to tears of joy, laughter, hope and solace. One of the concert pieces, *Go Light Your World*, talks of taking your candle to go light your world. That candle is the light that is within each one these youth, and they did indeed light the worlds of those for whom they sang. The second verse of *You Raise Me Up* talks of that which comes and fills us

with wonder, allowing us to glimpse eternity. If eternity is meant to be heaven and heaven is a place of sheer joy, these young singers brought to all who heard them that glimpse of eternity. Many, many thanks to Countryside Church for supporting ministries to such incredible young people!

Jim Larrabee
Minister of Music

2011 Faith Singers Eastern Mission Tour

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Friday, June 3 | Omaha to Union Church, UCC, Hinsdale, IL; 468 miles; concert and host homes
(This was the Faith Singers last stop on tour in 2010) |
| Saturday, June 4 | Hinsdale to First Congregation UCC, Saginaw, MI; 310 miles; concert and host homes |
| Sunday, June 5 | Warren Ave. Presbyterian Church worship, Saginaw; lunch with the congregation.
Afternoon sightseeing in Bavarian village of Frankenmuth, MI |
| Monday, June 6 | Saginaw to St. John's UCC, Port Huron, MI; 104 miles; concert and overnight at the church
Port Huron to Crieff, Ontario, Canada; 141 miles; lunch and sights in Statford, ON;
Group pizza dinner and overnight at Canadian Presbyterian church camp |
| Tuesday, June 7 | Crieff to Niagara Falls, Canadian side; 71 miles; day spent exploring the Falls
Group dinner at Old Country Buffet, Buffalo, NY |
| Wednesday, June 8 | Niagara to Dewittville, NY; 91 miles; overnight at Evangelical Covenant Church camp
Dewittville, NY to Avon Lake UCC, Avon Lake, OH; 160 miles; concert and host homes
(The Faith Singers sang here on their 2007 Eastern Tour) |
| Thursday, June 9 | Avon Lake to Cedar Point Amusement Park, Sandusky, OH; 50 miles
45 miles to Heidelberg University (UCC), Tiffin, OH; overnight in dormitory |
| Friday, June 10 | Tiffin, OH to St. John's Lutheran Church, Rock Island, IL; 429 miles; concert and host homes
(Hosted by 15th Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)) |
| Saturday, June 11 | Lunch and concert at Ridgecrest Retirement Center, Davenport, IA (Third visit in five years) |
| Sunday, June 12 | Davenport to Dayton, IA; 230 miles; Closing circle/overnight: Evangelical Free Church camp
Dayton, IA to Omaha, NE; 175 miles; Home Concert and overnight in our own homes! |

Fellowship Opportunities

Extreme Parenting is a ten week, interactive parenting group based on the book *Beyond Consequences Logic and Control: A Love-Based Approach to Helping Children With Severe Behaviors*. This course explores the Attachment Theory and the responsibility of both the parent and child in the attachment process. It also addresses the latest brain research and its effect on the development of secure attachments in both adults and children and its impact on severe behaviors. This course is facilitated by Susan E. Coffey MS, LMHP and runs through August 2, 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Chapel. There is a suggested donation of \$10/class. Child care is available by advanced reservations to hmdall@hotmail.com. You may sign up for this course by contacting Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org or 402-391-0350 ext. 112 or by stopping at the Information Station to register.

Mastering Life's Energy Are you ready to get in the game? This seven week class facilitated by Nancy Dennis on Wednesday evenings, July 6-August 10, 7:00-9:00 p.m. is coming to Countryside. Would it be all right with you if life got easier? Would you like to experience glowing and luminous moments in your day? What if you were introduced to some simple tools and principles that would help you live the life of your dreams? During this study you will discover how to find your life's plan, the value of obstacles, tools to move beyond the obstacles, and ways to live with clarity, focus ease and grace. This class will be held in the Chapel and fills quickly, so plan ahead! Sign ups are available by contacting Mary Beth at marybethl@countysideucc.org or 402-392-0350 ext. 112.

Reel Faith will NOT meet during the months of July and August.

Cinema Group will NOT meet during the months of July and August.

Volunteer Opportunities

Computer savvy? Enjoy helping others learn to navigate through cyber space? Do your friends consider you a computer "Geek?" Then you are just the person we are looking for to join in Countryside's newest small group. There have been multiple requests for assistance with Facebook, email and other basic computer functions. If this volunteer opportunity appeals to you, stop by the Information Station after services or contact Mary Beth at 402-391-0350 ext. 112 or marybethl@countysideucc.org for more information.

Brush Up Nebraska Paint-a-thon is in its 23rd year! Painting days are approaching quickly! The Paint-a-thon will be held on Saturday August 13 (prep day) and August 20 (paint day). BRUSH UP NEBRASKA Paint-A-Thon is a community-based volunteer program that paints the homes of low-income elderly and low-income disabled homeowners so that they may maintain their property, increase energy efficiency and beautify the community. Painting their home creates a new sense of pride for the homeowners and benefits the area. Countryside's own Tom and Sheila Pettigrew, Executive Directors of BRUSH UP NEBRASKA, shared that in the past 22 years over 2,273 homes have been painted by the volunteers participating in BRUSH UP NEBRASKA. For additional information, please contact Tom Korth at tgkorth@msn.com. Sign-ups begin soon. Together we can help others help themselves!

July's Month of Meals

Countryside Community Church members are invited to provide meals for families in need in the Omaha area through Together Inc's food pantry. This month we are asking for the following to be dropped off at the church by **July 31:**

\$10 check payable to Together Inc. for hamburger, 1 bag of hamburger buns, 1 bag of chips, 1 can of vegetables, 1 can fruit, 1 jar of ketchup, 1 cake mix, 1 can of frosting

Thanks to Molly Britten-Campbell, who is volunteering her time and talent in coordinating the Month of Meals program at Countryside!

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Summer Sunday School is off to a good start. Summer Sunday School is offered for children at both services, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 4-6 grade children stay in worship with their families. Please have your children dress in comfortable clothing as we will be doing crafts, playing in the gym and going outside. We also need Summer Sunday School volunteers at 11:00 a.m.

Fun in the Sun...The Sea.The Sand.The Bible

Volunteers are needed for Vacation Bible School to help with crafts and in the kitchen. VBS is July 11-15 from 9:00 a.m.-noon. If you are interested in volunteering for either of these activities, please call or email Nancy McCann at 402-391-0350 ext. 109 or nancym@countysideucc.org. High School Students may get community service hours.

Vacation Bible School will be having some "Fun in the Sun" this summer! If anyone has a round plastic pool (not the blow up kind) that we can borrow, please contact Nancy McCann at 402-391-0350 ext. 109 or nancym@countysideucc.org.

Fun in the Sun



The Sea The Sand The Bible

Nursery/Child Care "Free Will" Donation

The nursery is a wonderful ministry that Countryside is able to offer families with children. We are very blessed to be able to offer child care every Sunday for all three worship services. Countryside is a busy church with many activities such as small groups, Mothers & More, Center for Faith Studies, parenting classes, Wednesday Night Alive and choir practice, just to name a few. To fulfill our nursery ministry, we want to be able to provide child care for every event at Countryside whenever possible.

The nursery does have a budget, but with so many activities to provide child care for, we need to offset the cost of the nursery by implementing a "free will" donation for the nursery. Starting in May, we added a mailbox in the nursery that says Countryside Community Church Nursery/Child Care "Free Will" Donation. If you use the nursery or would like to contribute, please consider making a "free will" donation. You may donate by cash or check. Envelopes are provided. If writing a check, please put "nursery" in the memo.

If you have more time than money, you may volunteer some of your time in the nursery. We want to continue providing this wonderful nursery ministry at Countryside. If you have any questions, contact me at 402-391-0350 ext. 109.

Thank you!

Nancy McCann
Children's Ed. Director

Heather Dall
Nursery Coordinator



The Community Cupboard is at COUNTRYSIDE! If you would like to become a part of this ever-growing ministry, contact Molly and Anthony Britten-Campbell at foodpantryidea@yahoo.com, or Mary Beth Link at marybethl@countrysideucc.org.

The July Pantry's volunteer list is full. We are currently accepting volunteers for the next pantry which will be held on **August 6**. Thirty volunteers are needed to assist. Listed below are the times and volunteer descriptions.

9:00-10:00 a.m.

Pantry day set up, unload the Food Bank truck, arrange food & tables, put out forms, signs, clean up cardboard and plastic supplies as needed, host the pantry, greet, help people shop, carry bags to cars, hand out flyers & postcards.

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Host the pantry, greet and help people shop, carry bags to their cars, hand out surveys & postcards. Clean up, load unused food into trucks, take down signs, wipe tables.

If you are interested in helping, stop by the Information Station Sunday mornings to sign up or ask for additional information. We thank you.

Countryside's Food Pantry Committee is always recruiting new members. If you have a passion for working with the pantry, contact Mary Beth Link at 402-391-0350 ext. 112 or marybethl@countrysideucc.org or Molly & Anthony Britten-Campbell at foodpantryidea@yahoo.com. This group meets on the Wednesday evening following the Saturday pantry at 5:45 p.m. in the Commons.

SMALL GROUP STUDY

The Lord and His Prayer by N.T. Wright is the focus for the small group study running through July 31. The book is available for purchase on Amazon.com. Information regarding small group sign up opportunities is available in the hallway to the right of the main office door. As with the past studies, you will be able to access the following tools on your computer:

- The website www.darkwoodbrew.org
- A master schedule of bloggers and Skype Guests for Darkwood Brew series.
- The "Guided Episode", a small 15 minute video "summary" of the Darkwood Brew Service from the week that can be viewed by your small groups for the first 15 minutes of meeting and then discussed. This video piece will be available through the www.darkwoodbrew.org site as well.
- A small groups tab on www.darkwoodbrew.org for easy access to materials and more.

For information on the classes and/or the reading material, contact Mary Beth at 402-391-0350 ext. 112.

2011 Countryside Garage Sale Pick Up Request

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Items to Pick Up _____

Please Circle a Preferred Pick Up Date and Return this card to Jim Larrabee at Countryside Community Church

All Pick Ups will occur between 4pm and 8pm on the dates below.

You will receive a call **24 hours** prior to your pick up date to confirm the date and to schedule a specific time.

Mon., July 18th; Tues., 19th; Wed., 20th; Thurs., 21st; Fri., 22nd;

Sat., 23rd; Mon., 25th; Tues., 26th; Wed., 27th

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Circle date(s) under the shift you will work

**2011
Countryside
Volunteer
Card**

PICK UP CREW: 4:30-8pm

Mon., July 18th; Tues., 19th; Wed., 20th; Thurs., 21st; Fri., 22nd; Sat., 23rd

Mon., 25th; Tues., 26th; Wed., 27th

Organize and Sort: 5-9pm

Mon., July 18th; Tues., 19th; Wed., 20th; Thurs., 21st; Fri., 22nd;

Mon., July 25th; Tues., 26th; Wed., 27th; Thurs., 28th;

Unload Items from Millard Lumber at the Church

Sat., July 23rd, 10am-5pm

Fri., July 29th Sale Day Shifts (check time, circle room)

___ 7-10am (gym, Memorial Hall, Clothing, Antiques, \$.10 room, + size clothes)

___ 10am-1pm (gym, Memorial Hall, Clothing, Antiques, \$.10 room, + size clothes)

___ 1-4pm (gym, Memorial Hall, Clothing, Antiques, \$.10 room, + size clothes)

___ 4-6pm (gym, Memorial Hall, Clothing, Antiques, \$.10 room, + size clothes)

Sat., July 30th Sale Day Shifts (check time, circle room)

___ 7-10am (gym, Memorial Hall, Clothing, Antiques, \$.10 room, + size clothes)

___ 10am-1pm (gym, Memorial Hall, Clothing, Antiques, \$.10 room, + size clothes)

___ 1-4pm (gym, Memorial Hall, Clothing, Antiques, \$.10 room, + size clothes)



Countryside Youth COYO Garage Sale

Friday, July 29 and Saturday, July 30, 2011

Open to the public, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Private Presale event Thursday, July 28 for church members only, 6-8:00 p.m.

Starting Monday, July 18, to Wednesday, July 27, all donations may be dropped off at the church during office hours (M-F 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) and during the evening 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. No donations will be accepted Sunday, July 25.

If you have items to donate and are unable to get them to the church by yourself, contact Jim Larrabee to schedule a pick-up or return the attached pick-up request form.

We accept clean and gently used donations of:

Baby items	Sporting Goods	Clothing
Furniture	Household items	Toys and Games
Jewelry	Shoes and Purses	Books and Puzzles
CD's, DVD's	Appliances & Electronics in working order	

We cannot accept used exercise equipment, car seats or computer equipment.

Profits from the sale help the youth of Countryside fulfill their stewardship pledge and in turn support the Countryside Youth programs.

Unsold items from the sale this year will be donated to Together, Inc., UCC Nebraska Kamp Kaleo, The Humane Society, and other charities to be determined.

Please consider volunteering your time to help with the Garage Sale. If you would like to help please fill out the attached Volunteer Request Form and return it to the church.

IGM Regionaltour

LAND & WORD - authentic Bible sites with inspiring views & gentle walks



Hosted By: Dr. Eric Elnes

Depart: Saturday, April 14, 2012

Return: Sunday, April 29, 2012

Departure City: Chicago ORD

Airline: Turkish Airlines

DAY 1 Sat Apr 14

USA DEPARTURE

BLR = Bible Lands Resource: daily readings

Be at the Omaha Airport 3 hours prior to departure for security and check-in procedures. Hot meals and inflight entertainment are per airline policies.

BLR: p. 1 - *Destinations, Connections, Missions*

DAY 2 Sun Apr 15

ARRIVE ISTANBUL, ANKARA

Arrive at Istanbul Airport and be prepared to pay a \$20 visa fee (paid in US dollars) upon arrival. Proceed through passport control, exit the International Terminal and enter the adjacent Domestic Terminal for the flight to Ankara (ESB), the capital of Turkey (founded by the Phrygians in the 8th century BC). Upon arrival, meet your guide and proceed to the famous Museum of Anatolian Civilizations. Transfer to your Ankara hotel for dinner and lodging. D

BLR: p. 4 - *Architecture: Biblical Period*, p. 6 - #1 *Ankara*

DAY 3 Mon Apr 16

ANKARA, CAPPADOCIA

Visit the Temple of Augustus with its official inscriptions of his works and taxes. Continue to the mausoleum of Ataturk, the father of modern Turkey. Depart Ankara and travel through northern Cappadocia, enjoying the spectacular volcanic landscape of the Goreme Valley, including the unique "fairy chimneys." Visit a local pottery shop to watch pottery being made. Lodging for the next two nights will be at Nevsehir. BD

BLR: p. 1 - *Connections: The Hittites*, p. 2 - *Cappadocia*

DAY 4 Tue Apr 17

CAPPADOCIA SIGHTSEEING

The Cappadocia region, a stronghold of the ancient Hittites, was first settled by Anatolian people, followed with the Romans and Christians. Peter addresses the Christians in Galatia and Cappadocia (I Peter 1:1). Cave paintings give evidence of early Christian settlement here to avoid the Roman persecutions. Visit Urgup and the strange "Fairy chimney" rock formations of early Christian cave dwellings. Goreme Valley is filled with soft Tufta stone. Here and at Derinkuyu view the fresco art, and descend into some of the layers of 200 underground cities. The region also reports 365 rock-cut churches. Some observers suggest the landscape is mindful of a lunar landscape. Return to your lodging for dinner. BD **OPTION:** Sunrise Kapadokya Balloon ride over the region.

DAY 5 Wed Apr 18

ICONIUM, PISIDIAN ANTIOCH

Travel westward along the route that Paul took during each of his three Missionary Journeys. View the landscape, but there are no remaining first-century ruins to see at Derbe, Lystra, and Iconium (modern Konya). In Konya visit the "Whirling Dervish" Museum. Following lunch, travel to the ruins of Pisidian Antioch, an ancient crossroads city where Paul preached his first recorded sermon to the Jews and God-fearers (Acts 13). Continue to Isparta for dinner and lodging. BD

BLR: p. 2 - *The Second Journey*, p. 8 - #15 *Iconium*, p. 9 - *Pisidian Antioch*

DAY 6 Thu Apr 19

PERGA, ASPENDOS

Travel south through the rugged Toros Mountains to Antalya and visit the ruins of Perga, where Paul first set foot in Turkey on his First Missionary Journey. Visit the ancient Roman theater and aqueduct at Aspendos. Dinner and lodging will be on the Mediterranean coast at Antalya. BD

BLR: p. 1 - *The First Journey*, p. 9 - *Perga*

DAY 7 Fri Apr 20

COLOSSAE, LAODICEA, HIEROPOLIS

Depart for Colossae and stand on the mound beneath which lie the unexcavated ruins of the ancient city. Continue to the ruins of Laodicea, the location of the last of the Seven Churches mentioned in the Book of Revelation (Rev. 3:14-22). Continue to the ancient city of Hierapolis, mentioned in Paul's letter to the Colossians (Col. 4:13), and view the mineral deposits and thermal springs that were active during the first century as they are today. Optional: Enjoy the thermal pools located in your hotel at Pamukkale. BD

BLR: p. 2 - *The Second Journey (repeat)*, p. 7 - #8 *Colossae*, p. 8 - #14 *Hierapolis*, #17 *Laodicea*, p. 5 - *Laodicea*

DAY 8 Sat Apr 21

FOUR CHURCHES

Depart Pamukkale for Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-13), Alasehir. The few remaining ruins are approached by walking through the crowded shopping village. Continue to Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6), Salihli, one of the most picturesque of the seven churches. The Temple of Artemis Diana was built in the 4th century. Optional for serious hikers is an hour long climb up to the acropolis of Sardis. Also view a Byzantine church and the recently discovered synagogue, and a colonaded road. Proceed to Kusadasi for lodging. BD

BLR: p. 5 - *Philadelphia, Sardis, Thyatira, Smyrna*

DAY 9 Sun Apr 22

EPHESUS, MILETUS

Visit the celebrated ruins of Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7). Once a port town of 250,000 people, it is the best preserved of the seven churches. View the Agora, walk the marble Arcadian Way, visit the Temple of Diana (once one of the seven wonders of the world), the harbor baths, the small theater, the Temple of Serapis, the Temple of Hadrian, the Library of Celsus, the great theater (seats 24,000) where riots against Paul took place. He was arrested and cast out of the city. Time permitting (and additional fees), one may visit sites held important to some traditions, i.e. the Church of St. John, House of the Virgin Mary. Also subject to time, one may return via the ruins of Miletus, where Paul made his emotional farewell address to the Elders of the Church of Ephesus (Acts 20:17-38). Lodging is again at Kusadasi. BD

BLR: p. 2 - *The Third Journey*, p. 8 - #19 *Miletus*, p. 7, #12 *Ephesus*, p. 5 - *Ephesus*

DAY 10 Mon Apr 23

PERGAMUM

Depart for Izmir, the site of Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11), scene of the death of Polycarp. Continue to Pergamum (Rev. 2:12-17) to visit the spectacular ruins atop the mountain. The city was first mentioned in Zenophon's Anabasis in 399 BC. Revelation recorded, "the place where Satan has his throne." It was here the first Christians were executed by Rome. Visit the ruins of Asclepiion, health spa, the enormous library (2nd only to Alexandria), and the Sacred Alley where parchment was first made. Lodging is at Ayvalik. BD

BLR: p. 5 - *Pergamum*, #25 - *Pergamum*

DAY 11 Tue Apr 24

ASSOS, TROY, CANAKKALE

Follow the Roman road to visit Assos, where Aristotle taught, perched cliff-side high above the sea. Continue to the ruins of Alexandrian Troas (Acts 20:6-12), where Paul received the call from Macedonia. It was a preaching site for a week before sailing for Neapolis (Greece). Visit Troy where nine layers of history and myth mingle. View and enter the replica horse associated with Homer's *Iliad*, story of the Trojan War. Continue directly to Canakkale, beside the sea, for lodging. BD

BLR: p. 6 - #3 *Assos*, p. 10 - #37 *Troas*, #38 *Troy*, p. 8 - *Macedonia*

DAY 12 Wed Apr 25

GALLIPOLI, ISTANBUL

Cross the Dardanelles by ferry to the battlefields of Gallipoli. Begin the long drive to Istanbul and lodging. The balance of the afternoon will be at leisure for personal interests. BD

BLR: p. 4 - *Seven Ecumenical Councils (1st & 7th @ Nicea, near Istanbul)*

DAY 13 Thu Apr 26

ISTANBUL

Visit the ancient Roman Walls that encircled the ancient city of Constantinople. Visit the Archaeology Museum of Istanbul. View the ornate sarcophagus associated with Alexander the Great. Continue to the gallery of biblical inscriptions. View the Gezer Calendar (from Israel), the inscriptions from the Hezekiah's Tunnel beneath the City of David and the warnings to the infidels. Continue to the 17th century Blue Mosque with its six minarets, and the famous Hagia Sophia church, which was the most prominent church of Christianity for over 1,000 years. Continue to the special underground Imperial cisterns at Yerebatan Saray. Continue to the Grand Bazaar (alleged to have over 4,000 shops) for a time of shopping. BD

BLR: p. 8 - *Istanbul*

DAY 14 Fri Apr 27

TO THE USA

Transfer to the Istanbul Airport for the flight to the USA. Proceed through customs upon arrival. Continue to your home.

ISTANBUL OPTIONAL EXTENSION

DAY 14 Fri Apr 27

ISTANBUL

Visit the 11th century St. Chora's Church to view the earliest Byzantine frescoes and mosaics. Visit the Topkapi Palace, seat of the Ottoman Empire for over 400 years. Take a brief cruise on the Bosphorus Sea which separates Europe from Asia. The balance of the day is at leisure. BD

BLR: p. 8 - *Istanbul*, p. 4 - *Biblical Chronology*

DAY 15 Sat Apr 28

ISTANBUL FREE DAY

Today is at leisure in Istanbul for personal interests. BD

DAY 16 Sun Apr 29

DEPART FOR THE USA

Transfer to the Istanbul Airport for the return flight to the USA. Fly while reliving the experiences of having visited the vast and dangerous land through which Paul and his companions traveled "for the sake of the gospel." Upon arrival in the USA, clear customs and proceed to the connecting flight for home.



Countryside Community Church

Golf Outing, Putting Contest & Dinner



Saturday, August 6, 2011

Pacific Springs Golf Course

16810 Harney Street

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Saturday, August 6

1:30 p.m.—Four person scramble

4:00 p.m.—Putting contest

7:00 p.m.—Dinner

Maximum—124 golfers

\$75 each/\$300 per team

(includes golf, cart, prizes & dinner)

\$20 Putting Contest (includes prizes & dinner)

Paid Registration Deadline is July 24, 2011.

Funds to benefit the *Community Cupboard* at
Countryside Community Church.





United Church of Christ | 8787 Pacific Street | Omaha, NE 68114

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Family Life
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402-391-0350 | countrysideucc.org

Garage Sale Donations on Saturday

WHEN/WHERE?

10:00 a.m. to Noon

July 16

Drop off at Millard Lumber

12900 I Street

Customer Entrance

QUESTIONS?

Call Tim Kerrigan at 402-290-6868

Summer Office Hours

Church office hours are 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for the months of June and July. Only the main office door will be open during that time. For night activities, access to the church after 3:30 p.m. will be through the northwest door (upstairs by the gym) only.



Countryside

Community Church