

Come Home With Me to Israel May 17-28, 2007!

Judaism has always understood that the Holy Land has been a central element of our covenant with God and that every Jew is a member of *Am Yisrael*, the People Israel. I am delighted to report that our planning has begun for Temple Ner Ami's Second Trip to Israel.

Yes, we are planning to go to Israel in spite of the current situation and security issues. Having watched Israeli affairs over these many years, I can draw two conclusions: 1- Conflicts of the current kind in Israel generally don't last very long and 2- People I know that wait for the "perfect, peaceful time" to visit Israel never visit Israel at all.

I have traveled to Israel many times, working for Israeli companies during my physicist days, as a tourist, and of course living in Jerusalem for my first year of rabbinic school, and with 15 of you in May of 2005. Simply put, if you have any attachment to Judaism at all (and you do since you are reading this article), there is literally no place in the world like Israel. It is our ancestral home and it is our current home. The Bible comes alive in Israel with every step and every stone. Therefore, I am announcing that I will be leading a trip to Israel departing Thursday, May 17 and returning Sunday, May 27, 2007.

Our planning is in its early stages but, plans include staying 2 nights in Tel Aviv at the Dan Panorama Hotel, 5 nights in Jerusalem at the Dan Panorama there, and 2 nights on a Kibbutz Kfar Blum in the upper Galilee. We will visit all of the "must sees" (Tel Avid, Masada, the Dead Sea, Jerusalem, etc.) and several things off the beaten path, including Zippori with its magnificent mosaics, the Armored Brigade in the Golan Heights, and a unique Shabbat Service on the 2000 year old steps of the Temple's Southern Wall. We will be in private, secure motor coaches with our own driver and guides.

There are lots of details to be worked out but I am very excited about this trip. The current plan is to hold the trip from May 17-28. This will allow us to be in Israel during Shavuot. This, I guarantee, will be a memorable experience in itself if only to see the entire Western Wall Plaza filled with Jews in Shavuot morning. So far, we have more than 20 people who have expressed interest in the trip and I am hopeful that we will have a full bus. I hope that you will add your name to the list by contacting me.

We will be holding our first planning meeting for this trip on Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7:30-9:30 PM. Our travel coordinator, Carole Kracer, will be with us and handling all of our arrangements personally. You should come even if you have only the slightest interest in the trip. Let us talk you into it!

**NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM!!!**