

# GLYPH

*Notes*

PRE-COLUMBIAN STUDIES INSTITUTE • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013 • VOLUME 20 NUMBER 5

## Impressions of Israel

*The end of May this year, 15 “pilgrims” went to Israel. Below are some favorite photographs and some thoughts by several of those who went. (Editor)*

Photographs by Sherrie Kline Smith unless otherwise noted.

### Nancy Huffman, Independence

Jay and I were so appreciative to go to Israel. What an incredible, life-changing experience we had. We were in awe of the many beautiful sights: Caesarea and Haifa and the ride along the Mediterranean Sea, the boat ride and sunrise on the Sea of Galilee, the views from Mt. Carmel over the Jezreel Valley or Armageddon and from the Golan Heights over Syria, and Mt. Zion from our bedroom window. There were so many beautiful sights. We were so impressed with the irrigation systems and the wealth of vineyards, fruits, vegetables, flowers, and other crops. It is a fruitful land, truly a land of milk and honey.

We learned so much history. Our guide had 35 years of experience teaching what has happened in Israel over several thousand years. It all seemed to come together in understanding the fortitude of these people and the hand of God as He preserved His people when they were righteous and how they suffered at the hands of great nations when they disobeyed and were not faithful.

*Cont. on Page 2*

*One of the beautiful sites around the Sea of Galilee is this church—part of a complex managed by Italian Franciscan nuns that commemorates the Sermon on the Mount and miracle of the loaves and fishes.*



*Our group of 15 posed for a shot in the synagogue at Capernaum, the town Jesus used as a home-base during his ministry and where Apostle Peter lived.*

Other tourist!



*It was incredible to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. We were overcome as we stood in the places where He ministered, worshipped, and lived.*

## Impressions of Israel *(Cont. from Page 1)*

We especially enjoyed Nazareth Village where we were taught everyday life in the time of Christ. We climbed all over and under temples, cities, and sites where great men ruled, good and bad, and strongholds were built and destroyed. It was truly amazing to go up to Masada and see where a people seeking refuge took their lives rather than be murdered or taken prisoner. We were so fortunate to have Lyle and Sherrie make arrangements for us to see evidences that proved The Book of Mormon to be true, and to see the Dead Sea Scrolls.

It was incredible to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. There were times when we were overcome as we stood in the places where He ministered, worshipped, and lived. As we first entered Jerusalem, the driver played

*One of two silver amulets found in the tomb at Ketef Hinnom from the seventh century B.C. Both are now on display at the Israel Museum. The two amulets not only are the oldest written records of Scripture, but they are written on metal. They predate the Dead Sea Scrolls by 400 years. The text on the amulets, a priestly blessing, is from Numbers 6:24-26.*



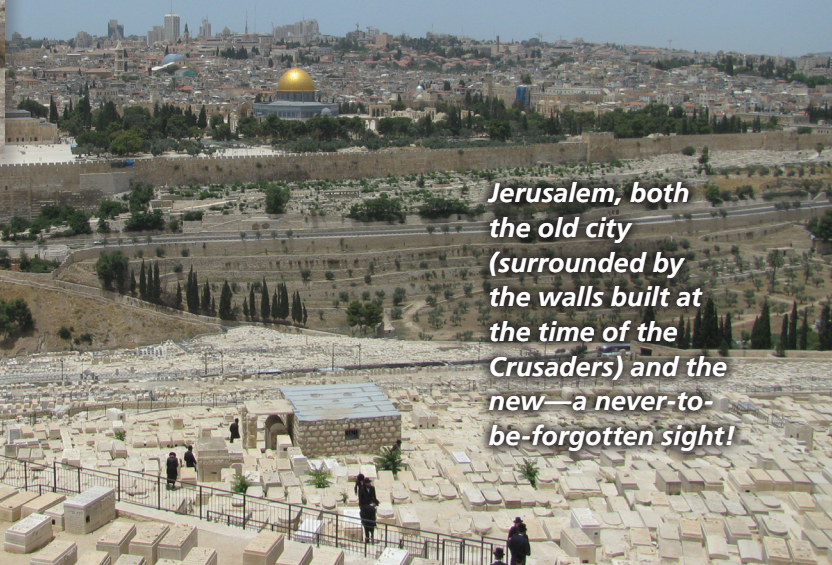
a CD of “The Holy City,” and we entered, all of us singing, many of us with tears. We first felt the spirit so strong on the southern steps of the Temple Mount where He was brought as a baby to the main entrance they would have used. We visited His birth place in Bethlehem and where He grew up in Nazareth, where He ministered in Capernaum, where He was baptized, where He fed the 5000, where He taught the Beatitudes and where He gathered His disciples. We could sense the effort to minister, where He could, to the needs of those who believed and followed Him. We could sense the little time He had to do all this. We had a wonderful worship at the Garden Tomb, a place that we felt was more correct where His body was laid and where He arose. We were so blessed with the Spirit. How blessed we were as we sang “Amazing Grace,”



*At Bethsaida, the University of Nebraska-Omaha archaeology team was having first-day orientation before beginning work the following day. One of the team members was a girl from Lee’s Summit—small world! If anyone wants to be an archaeologist, Israel’s the place to work. No matter where you put in your shovel, you’re bound to discover something from an earlier settlement.*



*Our guide, Yossi Weiss, points out the tomb opening where all the treasures and silver amulets were found. This tomb and the other six tombs nearby are from the time of Jeremiah, Zedekiah, and Lehi. See glyph notes, July/August 2012 for an in-depth discussion of the tomb and its contents.*



*Jerusalem, both the old city (surrounded by the walls built at the time of the Crusaders) and the new—a never-to-be-forgotten sight!*

“The Old, Old Path,” and “Redeemer of Israel” as we worshipped in St. Anne’s Church, the possible birthplace of Mary. The priest that was there really loved our hymns.

We wished we had more time to spend in the beautiful museums and around the Temple area. We saw large groups of people from Africa, Russia, China, all over the world, all coming to share in the Jesus experience. We realized what a small part we have in the great gathering that will one day take place. We went up to the Wailing Wall and put our own prayers on paper in the cracks of the wall, praying for the peace of Jerusalem and for the coming of our Lord and Savior. We never felt we were in any danger. There were military guards almost everywhere. We saw a lot of barbed wire and protective walls, and yet we had a great sense of

protection and peace as we traveled.

After spending time in the Garden of Gethsemane, we looked across the valley from the Mt. of Olives, near where Jesus sat and wept over Jerusalem, at the Temple Mount and the gates of “Repentance and Mercy” [also called the Golden Gate], which are now sealed. Our hearts were overcome with the knowledge that this is where our Savior willingly rode in to give His life for us and where He will return one day.

If there is ever another opportunity to go, we would do it again. Next time, I probably won’t ride on a camel.

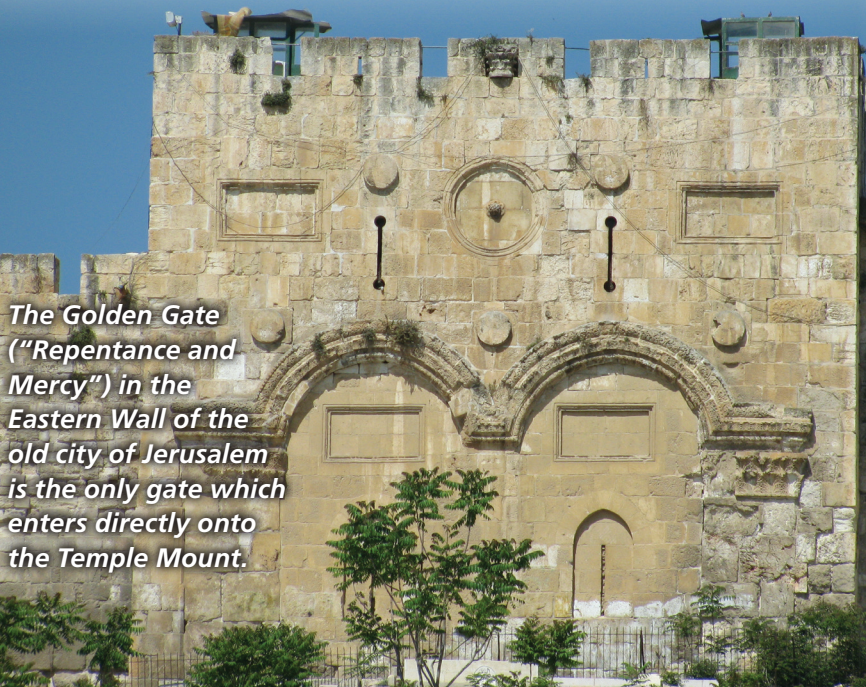
*Elaine Everhart, Iowa*

The one thing that really surprised me was that the Israeli government owns all the land, and it is leased out to the people.

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*Perhaps the most famous plaza in the world: the Western Wailing Wall precinct. Worshippers come to pray and slip their written prayers between the stones of the Wailing Wall—men on one side, women on the other.*



*The Golden Gate (“Repentance and Mercy”) in the Eastern Wall of the old city of Jerusalem is the only gate which enters directly onto the Temple Mount.*



*This stained glass window depicting the birth of Christ is in the Catholic Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.*

## Impressions of Israel *(Cont. from Page 3)*

Diane Peterson, Iowa

I enjoyed the tour and came home with a new appreciation for Israel. As we traveled the country, I thought of the prophecy of how in the latter days God would bless His chosen people, and you can see the blessings with your eyes. I especially enjoyed the Church of Many Nations. I definitely felt the presence of the Holy Spirit near the rock where Jesus prayed for the cup to pass from Him, but prayed not His will but the Father's be done. Also, our visit to Joppa really made the Scriptures come alive concerning Peter being sent to Cornelius' home and salvation coming to the Gentiles. It was a wonderful trip, and I would recommend any Christian to go and walk where our Lord Jesus walked.



Lyle Smith


*Donna Kelso (middle), a veteran traveler with PSI Tours, invited her sister Diane Peterson (right) and cousin Elaine Everhart to come with her to Israel.*

Barbara Allinder, Missouri

Israel is a land of contrasts. The beautiful lush valleys and hills of the fertile Golan Heights are a testament to God's promise that Israel will again become a land of "...milk and honey." The desert area of the Dead Sea, Qumran, and Masada reminded me of the harshness that many Biblical peoples had to endure.



*A tour of the Galilee area isn't complete without a boat ride on the sea! Christ performed so many miracles and taught so many lessons around and on this sea.*



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*Our spirits were touched as we visited the Church of All Nations built over the rock where Christ prayed in agony before his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane.*



*The excavations of the southern steps at the Southern Wall surrounding the Temple Mount were special as we contemplated Joseph and Mary bringing Jesus to be blessed in the temple soon after his birth. Later in life, Jesus climbed these stairs when he came to the temple. Blue awnings cover current archaeology work.*



The steps of the Southern Wall were especially exciting! Just to think about the fact that Christ actually walked these steps in and out of the temple on his frequent visits there was humbling. I loved the day trip that we took around the Sea of Galilee. We visited many of the towns and special areas



Lyle Smith

The Garden Tomb, where Jesus may have been buried and rose from the dead, is a special and beautiful place in Jerusalem. Barbara Allinder (left foreground), Lydia Brady, Jay and Nancy Huffman pause before entering the tomb “where the body of Jesus had lain.”

where Jesus spent his life. Now as I read about these areas in the Bible such as the Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum, Jordan River, etc., I immediately have a visual of these special places. It was the trip of a lifetime and one that I would take again in a heartbeat! 📷

For those who couldn't go this year, start planning now for a tour in 2015.



Caesarea, a Roman city at the time of Christ and now in ruins, touches the Mediterranean Sea. The left portion of the photo shows what may have been the room or hall where Apostle Paul skillfully presented his case before King Agrippa and Festus.

## GLYPH *Quotes*

by Kevin Anderson

Many of us have fallen into the trap: giving the Lord *our* counsel when we begin to feel that we have lost control of a situation. Occasionally we might even feel as though God has forgotten us and our desires, so we remind him. Jacob spoke to us concerning this matter in his writings, and though it may seem an easy point to understand, it can often become a problem in our life when we feel that God has not moved in the way we expect or when we feel we have failed to obtain “his ear” in a matter.

We sometimes hear it in our prayers—quoting Scriptures to God to remind *him* of *his* word. Other times we find ourselves telling him what the need is, as though he is not well enough informed on the matter. Occasionally we even hear ourselves boldly telling God just how a situation should be handled. This inclination to counsel the Lord should be a matter of concern for us. It reveals a level of distrust that can stand in the way of our relationship with him. Giving instruction or advice to God can put us in the precarious position of assuming greater foresight than our Heavenly Father when we do not have the gift of his infinite awareness.

When we begin counseling God, it often reveals that we have forgotten God’s promises to us or that we have lost confidence in his plan. We are told that

*Seek not to counsel the Lord, but to take counsel from his hand* —Jacob 3:14

he knows our need before we ask and that all things are present before him; therefore, we should be able to rest in the knowledge that he is never caught unaware.

Perhaps the most grievous act of counseling the Lord is when we “advise” him publicly. Not only do we do ourselves a disservice, but we also teach others to counsel him. In the midst of our desire to share Christ, we often negate our own witness. Even though our desire might be to teach others to trust, we sometimes expose disbelief rather than trust to those who are within hearing distance. At the least, we set an example that counseling him is acceptable.

Most of us can truly say that this has never been our intent. However, our hearts and our words can betray us. For this reason, it is profitable for us to live by the example that Jacob gave us, saying, “For behold, ye yourselves know, that he counseleth in wisdom, and in justice, and in great mercy, over all his works” (Jacob 3:15). “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways *acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths*” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Let us therefore “seek not to counsel the Lord, but to take counsel from his hand.” 📷

# GLYPH *Clips*

by Sherrie Kline smith

## Exhibits, Lectures, Workshops, and Conferences

**“Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed”**  
**Science Museum of Minneapolis, St. Paul**  
**June 21, 2013, through January 5, 2014**  
[smm.org/maya](http://smm.org/maya)

“At 15,000 square feet, Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed will be the largest exhibition about the ancient

Maya ever to be displayed in the United States. It [incorporates] a combination of never-before-seen artifacts [and] multimedia components.... It is designed to give visitors a glimpse [of] a cross-section of Maya life—from divine kings who ruled powerful cities to the artisans and laborers who formed the backbone of Maya society.”

A few highlights of the exhibit include:

- more than 300 authentic artifacts
- dozens of hands-on activities
- a huge re-created portion of the frieze from the El Castillo Temple in Xunantunich, in Belize
- several replica large-scale carved monuments, or stelae whose inscriptions give scholars valuable insight into ancient Maya history

The exhibit was put together by the Science Museum of Minnesota in conjunction with the Denver Museum of Nature and Science; Museum of Science, Boston; and the San Diego Natural History Museum. **After its run at the Science Museum of Minnesota, the exhibition will travel to Denver, Boston, and San Diego.**

(From Michael Ruggeri’s announcement on Aztlan listserv, May 27, 2013.)

Besides the exhibit, each month visiting scholars present a Friday night lecture and a Saturday workshop. Only three weekend events remain.

- **October 11 & 12:** Nick Hopkins, Maya poetics and storytelling lecture and hieroglyphic workshop

- **November 7-9:** Symposium of scholars, aspects of survival and sustainability
- **December 6 & 7:** Simon Martin, epigrapher, Maya site of Calakmul

If you can’t go on one of the PSI tours to Mesoamerica, visit one of the museums hosting this exhibition. Get a group together and make it an outing for your branch!



## Recent Discoveries

In the past six months several discoveries have been noted in Mesoamerica. While most of these date to after the close of The Book of Mormon, they indicate that the ongoing exploration and excavations taking place promise more to come. Below is an annotated list of these, some with a link to the report(s).

- Archaeologist Dr. Ivan Šprajc discovered another major Maya site in Campeche, Mexico. Chactun, covering 54 acres and not far from the site of Becan, has 15 pyramids in the center, palace structures, and ball court. To date 19 stelae have been found. *ArchaeoMaya: The Newsletter of Maya Exploration Center*, Summer 2013, p. 6. You can sign up to get their newsletter: [mayaexploration.org](http://mayaexploration.org)
- Burial remains (bones, jade beads, mirrors, and Teotihuacan, Maya and Nahua figurines) from 2000 years ago were discovered near Veracruz, Mexico. Additionally discovered was a brick workshop where bricks, similar to those used at Comalcalco, were manufactured. INAH (Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia) has the report (in Spanish) with a good slide show (click on the tiny white camera icon): [tinyurl.com/m3gujmo](http://tinyurl.com/m3gujmo)
- “A large and beautifully preserved temple facade has been unearthed this year at Holmul, Guatemala, by an archaeological team led by Francisco Estrada-Belli.” *National Geographic News* has photos and a report: [tinyurl.com/meeocku](http://tinyurl.com/meeocku)
- A new stela was found at El Peru/Waka. Washington University in St. Louis has a report and photographs here: [tinyurl.com/ldmm9st](http://tinyurl.com/ldmm9st)

*Cont. on Page 8*



*Join us for an  
enriching  
experience with  
fellowship and  
fun while  
learning more  
about The Book  
of Mormon.*

**Sponsored by Pre-Columbian Studies Institute**  
**Tour presented by PSI Tours, LLC; Lyle and Sherrie Smith, Tour Leaders**  
**Proposed Itinerary:** Let's visit The Land Northward! Our last visit here was 2007, six years ago. We'll begin and end in Mexico City with a stop at the ruins of Cuicuilco, an Olmec/Jaredite site, and the National Palace. We'll drive to nearby Teotihuacan to see its massive pyramids of the Sun and Moon. The world-famous national museum with treasures from the Maya and Olmec areas always gives us much to contemplate. We'll go south to Xochicalco with its plumed serpent building and possibly stop at Chalcatzingo, an Olmec/Jaredite site that we have never taken a group to before. We'll see Cacaxtla and its battle scene murals between the dark and light skinned people and will go to the Oaxaca area to tour Monte Alban, Mitla, Dainzu, Yagul, Lambityeco, San Jose Mogote (Jaredite) and the museum at Oaxaca. A highlight of the tour will be a visit to the Veracruz area and Hill Rabon (Cumorah), believed by many of us to be the resting place of the complete library of sacred records left by the Nephites. We travel where adventures often happen!

Call Lyle Smith, home **816.867.5057**, mobile **816.838.5192** or email: **smith.lyle@usa.net**

## REGISTRATION FORM

- COSTS:** Tour cost per person in double room: \$3,095 with at least 20 traveling (single supplement add \$799)
- INCLUDES:** Roundtrip AIR from Kansas City, hotels, breakfast and dinner in Mexico, English-speaking tour escort, guides, entrance fees, local transportation (bus), baggage handling tips at hotels (one large bag per traveler), tips to driver, guides, and hotel staff
- NOT INCLUDED:** Things like lunches, telephone, optional travel insurance, and laundry and additional air taxes and fuel charges if they rise before we travel
- LIQUOR or TOBACCO:** Please refrain from using either when our group is together.
- TRAVEL INSURANCE:** We urge you to purchase trip insurance. Call us and we will suggest easy ways to do so.
- PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** Deposits of \$400 per person due by November 15, 2013, along with a completed registration form and a photocopy of your passport.

**Final payment due January 15, 2014 (Deposits refundable until January 14, 2014)**

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**RESPONSIBILITY:** *Pre-Columbian Studies Institute; PSI Tours, LLC; Lyle and Sherrie Smith; and Don and Pat Beebe act only as agents for other tourist agencies, and accept no responsibility, or shall not become liable for delays, losses, damage or injury to persons or property, theft, mechanical defects or failure of any equipment, or substitution of hotel or carrier equipment beyond their control, and shall not be liable for any additional expenses incurred thereby.*

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**\*\*\* EACH TRAVELER MUST SIGN \*\*\***

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## glyph clips *(Cont. from Page 6)*

(See “clips” in the July/August 2006 *glyph notes* for news about the discovery of a tomb dating to A.D. 378 at El Peru/Waka.)

## Sermon of Note


### Jacob, younger brother of Nephi

Sunday evening, August 18, 2013, James Rao preached at the Summer Series in Independence with the theme, “Whom Do Men Say I Am?” He gave a masterful verbal portrait of Jacob in The Book of Mormon. Listeners not only gained a greater understanding of Jacob as a person and prophet, but also Jacob’s testimony of Jesus Christ. CDs of the service can be ordered by calling the Conference of Restoration Elders at 816-836-3421. They are open M, W, F, 10-4; for other hours you may leave a message.

In the 1980s, Bob Farley painted a series of oil paintings depicting prophets in The Book of Mormon. Concerning Jacob, Farley wrote the following in his testimony.

In the first painting I depicted Jacob preaching in the temple in the New World.... He was a preacher of righteousness and

longed to share with the Nephite people the lofty insights he had received through the Spirit. However, more often his lot was to chastise them for their sinfulness which caused him great sorrow (Jacob 2:2-11). He was a man of great spiritual power and could command the trees and waves of the seas, and they would obey him (*Recent Book of Mormon Developments*, vol. 2, 1992:154).

Farley’s painting of Jacob is owned by Quetzal Archaeology and is on display at The Book of Mormon Foundation, 210 W. White Oak, Independence, Missouri. 

## GIFT OPPORTUNITY

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