



The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 20, No.11

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

June 29, 2011

Toledoans Share Their Experiences in

ASIA



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Black To The Future

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, D.Min.

... *The solution to poverty is not combating fertility. It's creating opportunities.*
~Walter Allen



For the first time in U.S. history, black and brown babies outnumber white babies, according to preliminary 2010 census findings as reported by The Washington Post.

If the increasing contentiousness and histrionics of current demographic-driven politics and policy decisions are any indication, a lot of people are beginning to get very uneasy.

Forty four states and the District of Columbia currently have budget issues. Republican Congressional leaders have reportedly walked out of the fiercely-contested budget negotiations led by Vice President Biden. Drastic cuts mainly aimed at Temporary Aid to Needy Families and other programs which support child and families in poverty appear to be the strategy of choice in dealing with the crisis.

A national leadership alliance with representation from the private, nonprofit and public sectors has urged the White House and Congress to take a common sense approach that balances the budget without increasing poverty and inequality.

John Irons of the Economic Policy Institute, citing a CBO report, adds "by simply refusing to extend the Bush-era tax reductions it would place the budget on a sustainable path over a 25 year horizon."

Irons also suggests that the budget showdown is about unspoken motives and in reality has nothing to do with either deficits, economics or jobs but rather about hidden motives. "What is needed now - as the Republicans put forward proposals that necessitate multi-trillion increases in the debt ceiling - is additional job creation, not premature austerity," he asserts.

One thing however, is crystal clear.

America, always heavily flavored and influenced in every area of its cultural essence by its black citizens, is now more unequal and fractured than it has ever been. It is also, in reality, becoming darker, poorer, younger and angrier than ever.

And really, as Irons intimates, we've been in denial, particularly about the consequences. And for a long time.

Our youth, ineligible to hold public office until they are 25, or 35 in some cases, but qualified and selected to die as teens fighting for their country, and whose quality of life is greatly determined by the policy decisions of an older generation of white males, often vote or protest with their behavior instead.

With youth violence continuing unabated in our community, frequently I am asked about possible solutions to the interconnected problems of youth, race and poverty.

My advice?

"Don't fight the funk."

To accept the inevitable changes and adapting to them is much more productive than the selfish sibling-rival-like competitive complaints of Republicans and Democrats or the "fault-finding, finger-pointing squabbling of adults who won't grow up," says observers such as journalist Eric Utne.

Additionally, in this 'sibling society,' where "we tolerate no one above us and have no concern for anyone below us and live with, work with, and hang out with people like us," it will also be necessary to learn to speak cultural languages that are different from what we are accustomed to.

A "cultural humility" where differences are respected and cultural traditions or "generational, social, and cultural beliefs about the way people feel, think, and behave day-to-day" should be a high priority (Guskin, 1991).

Also, if the existing societal dysfunction caused by poverty and the racial and generational fractures caused by privilege and cultural arrogance are to be healed, a comprehensive community commitment and strategy will be required despite the challenging political landscape and dire fiscal straits we face.

Youth policy advocates suggest that "funding streams from education, workforce development, CDBG, the justice department and child welfare will effectively put youth back on track when it includes advocacy, career support, education and other pathways leading to good jobs, wages and careers."

The final and perhaps most important ingredient is the necessity of conversation and dialog around youth at all levels of government and in the community.

At the center of this type effort is Toledo City Councilwoman Paula Hicks-Hudson. "This began as a safety issue where we looked for a solution for people to feel safe and secure in their homes and neighborhoods," she describes.

"Issues such as the Moody Boys' beef with the Greenbelt Boys is part of a larger issue revolving around youth. So we are trying to get everyone, including parents, government, churches and youth themselves involved in finding out how do we reconnect the community."

A "new synergy, new ideology, and change" will take place at the Toledo Synergy Teen Summit to be held on July 23 at the Collingwood Art Center, 2413 Collingwood beginning at 8a.m sharp.

The event is an opportunity for youth to speak and for adults to listen as we've always been quick to offer criticism but delinquent in listening.

We may not yet have all the answers, but we cannot afford to ignore the inevitabilities and realities of the changes taking place before our very eyes.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, D.Min., at drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

Community Calendar

July 27-July 1

Braden United Methodist Vacation Bible School: 5 to 8:10 pm nightly; 1st grade to adult; Dinner provided: 419-386-2700 or www.bradenumc.org

June 29-July 1

Jerusalem MBC Revival: 7 pm nightly; Guest Evangelist Charles Emery of Gary IN Pilgrim Baptist: 419-248-2139

July 2

All Saints' Episcopal Church BBQ Cookout: Noon til 6 pm; Fund raiser

July 2-3

St. Martin de Porres Annual 3 on 3 Basketball Shootout: 8 am registration; Central Catholic HS; Student teams 12 and under and 15 and under; Open to boys and girls: 419-241-4544

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Sisters Helping Everyone School Supplies Dropoff: Smith Park; 8:30 am to noon: 419-461-0123

July 4

Independence Day!!
Braden United Methodist Church Community Picnic and Fireworks: 6 to 10 pm: 419-386-2700

July 8

Liberty Ministries Church Kingdom Family Fellowship: 7 pm; Guest speaker Pastor Rodney Jackson

July 9

Bethlehem Baptist Church Meeting: "Where is God in all this?" 10 am: 567-249-7470
Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral: CPR/First Aid/AED; 9 am to 3 pm: 419-699-7944

July 10

Bethesda Christian Center Cathedral Women's Day: 11 am

July 11-15

Third Baptist Church Vacation Bible School: 5:30 to 8:30 pm nightly; Food, prizes, games and crafts

July 16

Isaiah Thomas Giving Foundation First Annual DAD 4 Life Conference: Wayman Palmer YMCA; 10 am to 32 pm: 419-213-0323

July 17

Indiana Avenue MBC Music Ministry's Homecoming 2011 Reunion Concert: Seeking all former choir members: 419-535-3126

July 21

UT Campus [Exposure: First through 12th grade students invited to spend a day on campus: 419-381-3280

July 23

201 Toledo Synergy Teen Summit: 8 am to 3 pm; Collingwood Art Center
St. Stephens COGIC Community Fest: 11 am to 5 pm; Food, games, music

July 23-24

St. Martin de Porres Food Pantry Fund Raiser: Saturday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm; Sunday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm; "Everything But the Kitchen Sink Sale;" Gently used kitchen items and small appliances: 419-729-3829

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African-American

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One Nation Under God, Yeah...right!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column



Our coinage and our currency indicate that we "Truly In God." Our Pledge of

Allegiance says, "One Nation Under God." We open sessions of Congress with a prayer to God for his guidance and protection.

Some of the buildings in the nation's capital are embellished with biblical statements or images of biblical characters.

The Declaration of Independence makes copious reference to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as being the reason for our existence as a nation.

Presidents end their addresses to the nation with the phrase, "May God Bless America."

We even swear-in our presidents with their right hands on the Bible. The Bible being the epitome of integrity, honesty, virtue and, above all, truth.

Even the U.S. Supreme Court has chiseled on its walls the image of Moses the Lawgiver and, for those in doubt, Moses was giving the law of God. Not the laws of Islam or Buddhism or Hinduism or secular humanism.

So, tell me. Why then when it comes to ostensibly following this "God" that we profess to submit to or worship or give a head nod to, that when it comes to following this God, we all but shred the Bible. The very Bible that this God that we profess so mightily in our public discourse, why do we blatantly dishonor?

We do acts of dishonor by repudiating, refuting or denying the very words that were spoken in this Bible that we as Americans love to bring out on special occasions and swear to in a court of law or by whom we will invoke a pledge of allegiance.

Now, New York State has joined five other states in thumbing their nose at this God and his written word by voting to allow same sex marriages.

Anyone who can read past the third grade level could read in the Word of God, the Bible, and quickly discern that this God that we profess with our lips but not with our hearts, does not condone

same-sex marriages.

In the plan of God, mankind was given the template for human conduct and interpersonal relationships including what is marriage and who can be married.

For those who are biblically illiterate, marriage in the eyes of God and as stated in his Word (that we purportedly follow) is a holy union only between a male and a female. Not between a Steve and a Bob or a Carol and an Anita.

What is difficult about that concept or adhering to that concept? The answer is simple. We give lip service to such a concept but in reality, everyone acts as his or her own god and thus chart their own course as they see fit.

Secular society has taken the liberty to refuse the template that God has given about marriage and who can get married and it has mandated that same sex unions should be given the same status and recognition as heterosexual

marriages.

Can states legislate the definition of marriage. Obviously they have and that definition is increasingly shouting that God has it wrong about marriage and that the creature rather than the Creator has a better idea about matrimony than God does.

Does such a statement of defiance change the written Word of God? None in the least. Because one may not obey a command does not make that command any less effective. If you choose to go 75 miles in a 35 mile zone, that does not make the posted speed limit of no effect and you can suffer the consequences of excess speed.

Well, it is the same with God. Mankind can legislate laws that are to their liking and, although they are in derogation to the stated law of God, that does not diminish the fact that the Lawgiver, God, still holds intact his

moral laws in spite of legislatures and pollsters stating otherwise.

God is not a god of popular culture who is anxiously watching what new-fangled idea or conduct mankind engages in and then changes his moral code to "stay ahead of the curve."

God's character never changes. His methods...yes. His character. No.

Same sex marriage is simply another petulant act of a child that is in rebellion against his creator and by engaging in same sex marriages, mankind can now tell themselves that they are in charge of their moral destinies.

To a degree yes. But, someone needs to tell the so called winners of this same sex marriage issue and those who champion "committed relationships" that God will have the last say on the matter and nothing escapes his purview.

So, to the Steve's and Bill's and the Ashley's and

Debbie's.....take your same sex vows. Share the same marital bed. Revel in the fact that, "you have won!" but remember one thing as you celebrate and believe that you are tossing off a tired and lame prohibition regarding marriage being intended for a man and a woman only. God is not mocked and whatever a man sows, that he shall also reap!

Sour grapes? No. Just a prophetic voice remarking to a society that is seemingly hell bent upon creating itself in its own image, that it is appointed unto every person to die...and then the judgment.

The true Church of God will never relent and condone same-sex marriages and perform "holy" rites for them. Yes, profane, apostate churches and false clergy will perform such rituals but evil always resides right alongside good and will attempt to mock and imitate the good.

Is this a sad day for America? It depends. If you are engaged in a same-sex union, you are euphoric about the recent New York State vote and see it as equalizing the marital playing field and you are no doubt eager to get that wedding band on your same sex partner.

If you are a believer that marriage is what it was always intended for and that being limited to heterosexual couples and the procreation of the human gene, then this decision is simply a mocking of what which God has ordained as being good and wholesome in his sight.

Will other states follow suit and cave in to this surging demand for "marital equality?" Absolutely. Once mankind has lost the reverential fear of a holy God, the reconstituting of a Tower of Babel mentality is only a matter of time.

Contact Lafe Tolliver at tolliver@juno.com

Lucas County Treasurer Mails 2nd Half Real Estate Tax Bills Bills for Second Half of 2010 are due July 29th, 2011

Lucas County Treasurer Wade Kapszukiewicz announced today that his office has begun to mail the real estate tax bills for the second half of 2010, which are due by Friday July 29, 2011. There are roughly 208,000 parcels in Lucas County, and Kapszukiewicz said that his office mails roughly 140,000 tax bills, with the remaining parcels billed electronically. He said that all bills should be in the mail by the end of the week.

Kapszukiewicz said he expects to collect at least \$240 million, which will go to fund local schools, senior citizen services, libraries, metroparks, the 911 system, the zoo, and other agencies supported by property tax levies.

Payments sent via mail must be postmarked by Friday July 29, 2011 to avoid a late payment penalty. Also, due to a recent legislative change, Lucas County property owners with prior year delinquent taxes will soon face higher interest rates (8 percent effective August 1, 2011 and 12 percent annual interest thereafter).

Taxes can be paid in person at the Lucas County Treasurer's office, located on the 5th floor of One Government Center (open 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Mon-Fri.), or at branches of the following local banks: Key Bank, Huntington Bank, Fifth Third Bank, First Federal Bank, State Bank and Trust, and Genoa Banking Center. For payments made at local bank branches, taxpayers must bring their tax bills and pay in full.

Payments can be made with cash, personal check, certified check, or money order. Credit card payments cannot be made by mail, but will be accepted from those paying in-person at the Treasurer's office. Credit card and E-Check payments may also be made by phone through Federal Payments (1-877-690-3729) or through the Treasurer's website (www.co.lucas.oh.us/treasurer).

Per section 323.122 of the O.R.C. members of the National Guard or reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces that are called to active duty may be granted an extension on their property taxes.

Questions can be directed toward the office's Real Estate Department, at 419-213-4305.

THIRD IN A SERIES

Letters from the Heart

My mom was able to hold her grandson again thanks to Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Before they arrived, she was in too much pain for my son to be on her lap. But they got it under control.
Tim, 1985

My wife and I were treated with dignity by the Hospice of Northwest Ohio team. Sometimes, they knew my feelings even before I did, and offered support and encouragement.
John, 2007

Hospice of Northwest Ohio showed respect and compassion for my grandma. Their experts came in and instead of worrying, we could just be with her and love her.
Kate, 2009

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House Democrats Stand United to Defeat Partisan Attack on Health Care

Special to The Truth

House Democrats stood solidly together last week to defeat Senate Joint Resolution 1, a partisan measure that would have jeopardized health care access for Ohioans by placing an issue on the ballot to repeal portions of federal health care reform law. House Republicans took the measure to the floor today needing a three-fifths majority or one Democratic vote. Every House Democrat voted no, denying House Republicans the ability to place this measure on the ballot this fall.

Democrats have been fighting every day to stand up for middle class Ohioans and I'm pleased we stood together today to defeat this partisan attack on access to affordable health care for Ohioans."

Defeating Senate Joint Resolution 1 stops one option for placing this measure before voters. The Affordable Health Care Act enables individuals with preexisting conditions to get health insurance and it allows young adults to get insurance on their parents plan until they are 26. It also helps seniors with free preventative health visits and financial assistance to those seniors in the donut hole. Repeal of the Affordable Health Care Act could cost Ohio nearly \$500 million in federal funds and would throw Ohio's budget out of balance, say the Democrats.

"This is a cynical, partisan ploy by House Republicans who are more concerned with imposing their extreme ideological agenda than finding pragmatic solutions to make our state stronger," said House Minority Leader Armond Budish (D-Beachwood). "House



African Art Has Arrived!!

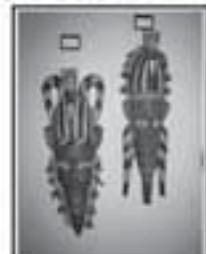
Hundreds of wood carvings from Ghana have recently arrived at The Truth Gallery – masks, statues, village scenes! All at unbelievably low prices!



The Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM



See more art online at www.thetruthtoledo.com



The Truth Gallery
1811 Adams Street
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Tokyo, Japan: The Land of Cherry Blossoms and More

By Ardenia Jones Terry
Special to The Truth

The trip to Tokyo, Japan initially was to be a mere stop on our group's voyage to Bali for a women's conference. However, it also turned into an opportunity to visit with Ichuro and his brother Keiji. Thirty years ago, Ichuro, a Japanese exchange student, attended Northwood High School for one year while living with the Schlichers of Northwood, Ohio. The group of four, Virginia Schlicher, Sharon Vass, Joyce Brown and I, flew 13 hours nonstop from Detroit to Tokyo and then were to fly eight hours nonstop from Tokyo to Bali. As the plans for the trip progressed, the excitement of being in Tokyo grew and the stop in Tokyo expanded from two days to six days.

In an effort to see as much of the countryside as possible, the group decided to participate in as many excursions as we could. This meant we were in perpetual motion every day seeing the sites and taking in as much of the Japanese culture that was achievable in six days.

Our love for the city and countryside grew with each new experience. Therefore you can imagine the hurt and pain we felt when Japan was later hit with an earthquake, the tsunami, and then the nuclear event which caused untold destruction and human devastation to one of the cleanest cities, best-maintained countrysides, well-maintained rice paddy fields, with the friendliest people we have ever encountered on our travels.

Upon our arrival in Tokyo, we checked-in to the New Otani Hotel which serves as the hotel for the descendants of the Shoguns, ancient military commanders. The hotel's 400 year old 10-acre garden is one of the most renowned gardens in Tokyo and once belonged to the Shogun. People come from all over the world to see the beautiful garden and to enjoy the peace and tranquility.

Jazz has a long tradition in Japan. One evening, we were fortunate to hear a jazz trio in one of the restaurants in the New Otani Hotel. The trio played both smooth jazz and traditional jazz. We munched on Japanese appetizers and sipped beverages as we listened to jazz in Japan sung by



Joyce Brown, Sharon Vass and Ardenia Jones Terry

a woman from San Francisco. Another evening, Ichuro and Keiji took the group to the Akasaka Ninja Restaurant a few blocks from the hotel.

The entrance to the restaurant was extraordinary with trap doors and draw bridges as the entrance to the restaurant. When the Ninja characters appeared at our table, they were entertaining with exploding menus, cards and the Magic Ninja performed fantastic tricks. My favorite dish was the stir-fried chicken with cashews and red hot peppers sautéed in flavored oil. It is truly something everyone should try.

We arrived in Tokyo, Hakone, and Nikko, 10 months before the earth quake and tsunami. It is our hope that many of the "Must Sees" described within this article remain intact for you to view and enjoy. The "Must Sees" that made our trip are as follows:

Mount Fuji

Mount (Mt.) Fuji, which is 12,389 feet in elevation, is much more than just a mountain in Japan. It dominates Japanese culture and the landscape for Mount Fuji is visible from all over Tokyo. It is an active volcano. As we ascended to the top of Mt. Fuji, we stopped at the Fuji Visitor Center and purchased t-shirts, posters, etc. The second stop on our climb to the top was at the Mt. Fuji Fifth Station; there are eight Mt. Fuji stations. At the Fifth Station, we enjoyed the view from 2,300 meters above sea level, took pictures, and shopped. There were several buildings for shopping at the Fifth Station. Unfortunately, due to the dense cloud cover, we could not see the peak at the Mt. Fuji Fifth Station as expected. The peak, however, was visible from a distance as we descended the mountain.

Tokyo Tower

In the Tokyo Tower on the Observation Level, we met Japanese students who were on vacation and had come to Tokyo to enjoy the sites. The height of the Tokyo Tower is 333 meters. It is a striking orange color and resembles the Eiffel Tower in Paris. The Tokyo Tower has been the world's tallest self-supporting steel tower since 1958. The Eiffel Tower in Paris is 320 meters high.

Meiji Jingu Shrine

The Meiji Jingu Shrine is a popular Japanese Shinto shrine in the heart of Tokyo. A "torii" or traditional Japanese gate dividing the physical and spiritual worlds greets you at the entrance to the shrine. The Meiji Jingu Shrine is a great contrast to the hustle and bustle of Tokyo with a forest of 120,000 evergreen trees surrounding the Shrine making it appear as if it is located in the countryside. The Meiji Jingu Shrine is dedicated to Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shoken.

Akasaka Palace

The Akasaka Palace is a former imperial residence that functions as the "State Guesthouse". The palace is a National Treasure of Japan designated by the government as the official accommodation for visiting dignitaries. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has been a guest at the palace.

National Diet Building

The National Diet Building like the United States Capital in Washington DC is the place in which both the houses of the Diet of Japan (House of Representatives and the House of Councilors) are held.

Tokyo River Cruise

We cruised the Sumida River, which is said to be the original passage for trade and commerce in Japan. Several

of the sites we saw on the cruise included the famous Tsukiji Fish Market, one of the largest fish markets in the world, the Tokyo Grand Sumo Tournament Arena, and the Asahi Beer Headquarters, recognizable by the golden flame on its roof!

Kappabashi Street Kappabashi Street is a shopping street lined with dozens of stores selling restaurant supplies. The street is famous for stores which sell plastic and wax food samples used by many Japanese restaurants in their show windows to show customers how their dishes will be served.

Lake Ashi-Hakone Lake Ashi is a scenic crater lake known for its views of

Mt. Fuji and its numerous hot springs. We took a cruise on Lake Ashi aboard a large sightseeing boat traversing the lake providing us with scenic views only available from the boat. Mount Komagatake Aerial Cableway Several members of the group rode an aerial cable car up and down Mount Komagatake for a sweeping view of Hakone National Park and the surrounding area. Kodama Shinkansen-Bullet Train From Hakone, we returned to Tokyo by the Kodama Shinkansen or bullet train. It took us four hours to get to Mt. Fuji and 30 minutes to return to Tokyo aboard the train. Nikko Toshiogu Shrine Nikko is a city about two and

a half hours north of Tokyo by bus. Nikko is very famous for being the center of Shinto and Buddhist worship for many centuries. In Japan, many people embrace both religions. Upon arrival, we visited the World Heritage site, the Toshiogu Shrine, the Mausoleum of the first Tokugawa Shogun, the Five Story Pagoda, and the Tomb of Lemitsu (grandson). We also viewed the famous three monkeys (hear no evil, speak no evil, and see no evil) relief carving in the Toshiogu Shrine. In addition, the group viewed the Futarasan Shrine/Bridge and the Sanbutsudo Shrine where 3 large statues of Buddha are housed. Lake Chuzenji (Continued on Page 7)

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The Memory of a Century

By Lee Ann Song

I titled this piece "The Memory of a Century" because of the two events that impacted me the most on this trip. One happy and one sad. But both events that no one has dreamed of happening in a 100 years.

The first is the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. Who would have thought that in just seven short years, China could blossom into such a beautiful country, fit to host the Olympic games? I feel the pride, the compassion, and the eagerness of the Chinese people. And it makes me feel proud too.

That year I volunteered at Qinhuangdao for the torch relay. Being swept up in the spirit, sweating with the others, preparing the world for the greatest experience it has seen. Why, that was my honor and a memory I will always cherish.

The second event happened in the midst of this happy Olympic preparation—the Szechuan earthquake. Such a horrific and tragic event. Imagine innocent children sitting in classrooms when suddenly the

entire building collapses on them and they are buried there, dead, forever. Imagine homes destroyed, lives ruined, people displaced in just one instant. Yet their lives will never be the same.

These are the times when the strength of the Chinese people becomes evident. Together the civilians, military, and president worked to fix the damage. They provided quick relief and allowed the Olympic games to continue. And it still amazes me...the power of nature and the power of people.

Upon arriving in Qinhuangdao, my first goal was to hold a charity concert for the earthquake victims in Szechuan. Since the government recently prohibited large gatherings due to Olympic safety concerns, my recital was held in secret. The people managing the music school went out of their way to have me perform. And when I played, I felt all the music rush to me, it felt so good to capture the hearts of all those piano students sitting in the audience.

I was happy to share the

music with them. Watching the awe and inspiration on their faces was enough. They had a chance to ask me questions and get my autograph and honestly, I admired them more than they could ever admire me. I hope that I gave them the courage to pursue their musical dreams too. I ended the recital by donating 1000 yuan to the earthquake victims and dedicating Bach's somber Suite No. 2 to those who died in the quake.

My first experience with the Olympics began as a volunteer in Qinhuangdao, China. Being under the age of 18, it was hard to find me a suitable position. Though I did not have a pass to the stadiums, I was assigned to the conference room where I watched all the officials meet every day, each one so dedicated to make the Olympics a success. The biggest concern for the torch relay in Qinhuangdao was the safety and comfort of the torch bearers.

I think everywhere I go, the thing that strikes me the most, are the people I meet. The Chinese especially, are



Author (right) and friend at Olympic games in 2008

the warmest, most hospitable people I have ever met. Their intentions are true and their selflessness is astonishing. Though all the other volunteers were in college, they were all eager to learn more about me and my life in America. My English gave me at times, opportunities to act as a translator. Almost immediately, I was adopted fondly as their "American little sister".

Working with them gave me more confidence and they made each moment of the experience interesting. We did whatever work came into the headquarters, sometimes just standing outside in the heat counting up flags and shirts for the spectators or sponsor companies. The work may have been tedious at times but the time flew because I was surrounded by all my new friends. And when I look back, I am so proud to have been a part of an event so great. I walked away with a tinge of regret, wishing I could have done just a little bit more to help them through this incredible journey.

This is something I will remember for the rest of my life—the devoted organizers, the hard-working volunteers, and all of their smiling faces in my memories, for we were all proud to be a part of something so monumental.

Watching the Olympics was a whole other experience. I stared at disbelief at the power unity among the Chinese people. Beginning with the Opening Ceremony, I felt a surge of excitement, awe, and wonder of awaited us. The dazzling performance was beyond anything I could imagine. I can't pinpoint exactly what I was feeling as I watched the performances, but it felt something like pride. I have never felt more connected to my culture, my roots in this way. China's four great creations were all displayed cleverly, beautifully, and harmoniously through each performance and it brought joy

to my heart even as I watched from home.

I had seen China just a few years ago. The pollution, the chaos, the utter lack of order and class were a shock to my young eyes. Their customs were so much different than ours. The sanitation and construction then made China seem messy and undeveloped to me.

I have been to the poorest villages of my great-grandfather's home town, where he lived essentially under a straw roof, with sheets of stone as his floor. There he lived, without air conditioning or a refrigerator until he was 93. That to me, was an astonishing feat!

Now my great aunt lives there; the house has been remodeled, cleaned, and you can hardly tell what it once was. I went to Shanghai this year to visit my cousins, and there, the buildings grow like grass. Skyscrapers taller than those in New York tower over the city.

Cars crowd the streets and people swarm the streets. Even Shanghai had changed so much from the way I used to remember it. In both these places and places all over China, I see this rapid development unfold before my eyes. The people have a new story to tell now. A brighter one. They are living in better conditions, they are adopting more Western customs, and I think that on the day of the Olympics, China spread its wings and soared high in the sky, for the world to admire.

Watching the women's soccer quarterfinals in Qinhuangdao was my first time inside the mysterious soccer stadium. At first I was blinded by the bright lights and as my eyes adjusted, I looked around, hardly able to believe that so many people could crowd the stands to watch. The roar of the crowd was deafening. The game was between China and Argentina, both teams playing

their very hardest. Watching the game live brought a whole different atmosphere. The atmosphere was tense, but in the end, China prevailed winning with a 2-0 lead. I felt a surge of joy as I heard the Chinese national anthem and watched thousands of Chinese people sing with undeniable pride.

In the next two days, I got a call from a friend in Beijing who offered me tickets to the experience of a lifetime. I got the opportunity to go inside the Water Cube and the Bird's Nest!

The Olympic park was beautiful and filled with museums to visit and sites to see. Of course, the Water Cube's bubbly exterior made it irresistibly tempting to touch. It was indeed a soft, squishy texture, like there was air between the two walls. Inside, the large lap pool and tall diving towers were the first to capture my attention. I watched the women's diving preliminaries in awe as each diver cut through the water with such clean precision. It was touching to watch the Chinese people cheer wholeheartedly for each diver, regardless of their country or race.

For me, it didn't matter, I cheered when China did well and I cheered when the USA did well. It just wasn't that important anymore. Watching each person do a dive they practiced for years, all for this moment, I wished they could all win. That's when it really occurred to me, how much the Olympic Games do indeed bring people all over the world together. For once, we're not arguing or fighting for a place in this world, we're simply watching some sports games and it doesn't matter where we are from anymore.

I'm not sure what I expected the inside of the Bird's Nest to look like. Judging from its outer appearance, with stray metal rods jutting out at odd angles, I suppose I expected the inside to be just as disorganized. But inside, the ceiling panels were smooth, the circle of spectators was gigantic, and the atmosphere was once again filled with excitement.

Track and field was held in the Bird's Nest and so after climbing up five flights of stairs, I was finally seated inside that breath-taking structure, ready to watch the magnificent games unravel before my eyes. Men's hammer throw, men's high jump, women's triple jump, women's 100m and 4x400m, 400m with hurdles, and men's 1000m races were all held in the Bird's Nest, sometimes two events were held simultaneously.

(Continued on Page 7)

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China: A Visit to Shenzhen and Beijing

By Norman Bell



We departed Toledo for Detroit Metro Airport on the morning of May 18, 2011. However, our flight from Detroit to Hong Kong China didn't depart until 3:30pm. We arrived in Hong Kong 16 hours later. China is 12 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time. Sixteen hours in an aircraft requires you to get out of your seat and walk the aisle for your blood to circulate in attempt to prevent a blood clot... at this point we have no problem.

Upon our arrival in Hong Kong we were presented with two large floral bouquet of roses from Yuan Xiaohong who has adopted us "mama/papa" (her parents). We were not in Hong Kong for a long period of time, but taken al-

most immediately to a tram that would transport all of us to a ferry boat that would deliver us to Shenzhen, China.

When we arrived in Shenzhen, we were welcomed by a very warm and cheerful host gathering. After the welcome by our hosts we were invited to attend a birthday party that was being given by Yuan who is one of the investors in and chairman of the board of the Dashing Pacific group.

We were shown our rooms, with an opportunity to freshen up and return to the lobby for the party. Once we were all accounted for, we were directed to the location of the birthday party. During the party there were toasts being offered by Toledo

Mayor Mike Bell and his delegation as well as our hosts.

The beverages and food were delicious and plentiful, the food was served family style, on a glass turntable. Different types of food were placed on the table as other food was taken off, but giving you enough time to consume the dishes that you enjoyed.

In almost every encounter as we begin to converse about China, the question that always surfaces: how did you like the food? What was it like?

Ora enjoyed the spinach primarily among the vegetables and some of the meat. I usually enjoy most things. I like experiencing new differ-

ent foods of the culture I am exposed to. Ora and I agreed that the food was beautifully presented, fresh, colorful, with a variety of different tastes and textures (mostly steamed).

The day following the birthday party, about noon, Ora and I were taken for our tour of the city of Shenzhen, Guangdong Province. Mayer Bell and his delegation met with officials of Shenzhen High Tech Industry Park and visited with management agencies and enterprises.

We had the opportunity to visit the ethnic cultural village of Splendid China. This was enjoyable and exciting afternoon. We were informed by our guide (the daughter of Yuan) that the old zone development of Shenzhen included modules of each zone, housing, people and living conditions. Our tour was concluded with a theater performance, which was colorful and breathtaking included real birds and other animals on stage.

We returned to the hotel and prepared for the wedding. Let us explain... during our

first meeting with the Dashing Pacific investors, we were extended an invitation to attend the wedding of Jimmy, the son of Wu King Hung, one of the investors. We did accept the invitation and made the commitment to attend. We were delighted to honor our pledge. The wedding was very different from ours, in style and order of service. We were surprised that our mayor was asked to perform the ceremony. He did well, considering it was a surprise to him also.

Far too soon it was time to depart Shenzhen and head to Beijing, by air. The amount of travel time was three hours. Upon our arrival to Beijing, we traveled in a modern and very comfortable bus to visit The Great Wall Of China. Our bus host introduced herself as Nancy Huxi.

The bus was soon parked and we were on our way to the Great Wall Of China. We were approached by many vendors who were available to sell their merchandise. Once we arrived at the top of the wall it was joy to behold. Everyone marveled at the

beauty and artistic construction.

Upon leaving the wall we boarded our bus and traveled to the Yuyang hotel to check in, and prepare for dinner. The next day we observed the place where Palace Museum (purple forbidden city) and had lunch in Tiananmen Square and did some shopping. Later we enjoyed our final dinner and met many officials from other areas of Beijing who came with gifts and other forms of recognition for our mayor and his delegation and we also received some special items.

On Tuesday May 24, we departed from Beijing for the USA. Of course we enjoyed the journey. The beauty, warmth of the people, and the culture we will long remember. Yes!

But we will admit that we're unable to master the use of the chopsticks...

Norman and Ora Bell, retired after many years of service to the Toledo community, are the parents of a local elected official

Tokyo, Japan

(Continued from Page 5)

Lake Chuzenji is a scenic lake in the mountains above the town of Nikko where we stopped for pictures of the breathtaking views. It is located at the foot of Mount Nantai, Nikko's sacred volcano. **Kegonnotaki Falls** The approximately 100 meter tall Kegonnotaki (Kegon) Waterfall is the most famous of Japan's three beautiful waterfalls. The Kegon Waterfall is the only exit for the

waters of **Lake Chuzenji**. It can be seen from an observation platform. The site of the Kegon Waterfall also houses a pottery shop. Several members of the group purchased pottery by the famous Japanese artist, Miyake, Yoji. The pottery studio is a must stop after you have seen the waterfall. In the Narita Airport on our way to Bali, Indonesia, we caught a glimpse of the MacDonald Arches and

decided to eat breakfast there; it was a little taste of home. From all accounts, this was a trip of a lifetime. You would not regret a trip to Japan. So, Go See Japan! Don't put it off. *Ardenia Jones Terry, Ph.D., is retired from The University of Toledo and is president of Jones Terry & Associates, LLC and a travel agent registered with the American Travel Bureau*

The Memory of a Century

(Continued from Page 6)

Every moment was exciting and I could hardly stand to blink, for one could miss a lot in the blink of an eye. Once again, I saw people from all over the world, together, in the same nest, the same home, cheering for the same thing. There was peace above the din. I watched those men and women run the fastest they've ever run, breaking records along the way, jump as high and as far as they could to reach the stars and their dreams.

The determination and desire are evident in their expressions and the smiles of

victories are so heart wrenchingly beautiful. The Olympics is the greatest thing that has happened in China for a long time and such a successful one too! From here, China, the world, and everyone in it can only move forward with these memories always close to their hearts. The athletes, spectators, and friends are the greatest part of the Olympics.

The camaraderie between people of all nations, regardless of race, religion, or governmental systems, makes the world feel just a little smaller. They've inspired me to run

faster toward my goals, to take those great leaps of faith, and to jump as high as them, so that I too, can live my dreams.

Lee Ann Song (The Truth June 8, 2011), cellist with the Toledo Youth Orchestra, has traveled around the world with that group. She recently graduated from Southview High School and will be attending Harvard College in the fall.

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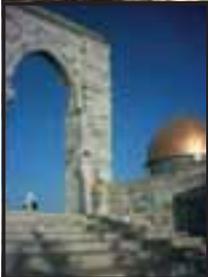
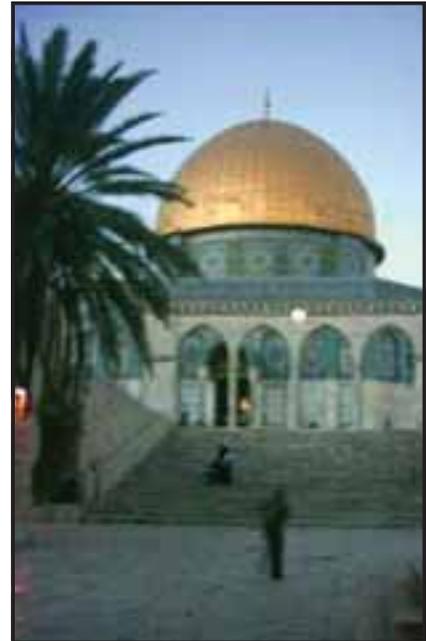
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Tour Summary

Locations Visited
Beijing - Great Wall - Xian - Shanghai

Dining Highlights

- 7 buffet breakfasts
- 4 lunches
- 3 dinners
- Chinese home-hosted Highlight Lunch with a local family in Beijing
- Traditional Dan Zhai Highlight Lunch in Shanghai
- 3 Highlight Dinners in Beijing and Xian

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- Qualified local English-speaking guides throughout the tour.
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- All transportation and airport transfers on Day 2 and Day 8

Sightseeing Highlights

- **Beijing** Visit Tiananmen Square, Tour the Forbidden City, Explore the Summer Palace, China's best example of imperial garden design. Travel the Sacred Way, home to the remains of the Ming Tombs. See the 2008 Olympic sites, including the "Bird's Nest." Experience an evening of kung fu, dance and acrobatics at the Peking Theater. Explore the hutongs by rickshaw. Glimpse into local life during a visit to a family's home.
- **Great Wall** Walk into wonder of the ancient world.
- **Xian** Explore the excavations of the Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses, Visit the famous City Wall

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(See itinerary) 27 Jun 2011 Page 9 of 9

Bread, Wine, and Faith Tour: A Modern Day Pilgrimage to The Holy Land

By Pariss Coleman

On April 27, 2011, a diverse group of 31 people departed Toledo headed for the Holy Land: Israel. We anxiously boarded the two-hour flight from Detroit to New York and then an 11-hour flight from New York to Tel Aviv. The group, principally comprised of Toledoans, was a product of Hedva Romanoff of King David Tours' efforts to assemble a group to visit Israel, her homeland. Although many of us knew others on the tour, none of us knew everyone. In addition to the anticipation of getting to Israel, taking the trip with new people would lead to an interesting and rewarding two weeks, new friendships and lifelong memories.

Unique among our group was the fact that it was comprised of Jews and gentiles. Included in the group were a rabbi, Alan Sokobin, and Christian minister, along with two people born and raised in Israel.



After boarding the flight from New York to Tel Aviv and failing to fall asleep, I thought through my limited working knowledge of Israel and contrasted it against the Bible. What is Jerusalem like today? I knew that it was a modern city, serving as the capital of Israel, but it is best known as the Holy Land. I could not get past my image of Jesus and his disciples walking dirt roads and saving souls, bereft of modern conveniences. How wrong I was.

Romanoff and Rabbi Sokobin coined this tour, "Bread, Wine, and Faith Tour." Bread for the meals and social substance we shared, wine as the beverage of choice to accompany our meals, and faith – for we all shared in faith. As a Catholic, the bread and wine had additional significance as the body and blood of Jesus Christ. The rabbi, although humble and deferential, served as our tour wise man. In addition to being a rabbi, he is an attorney, professor,

historian, knowledgeable in Christianity and World War II veteran. He immeasurably enriched our tour with his life experiences and knowledge.

Upon arriving in Tel Aviv, we assembled on a bus and headed to Jerusalem for our first meal. The food was excellent, as was the conversation. Both foreshadowed things to come. Noteworthy, our first meal was at a Muslim restaurant. I learned very quickly that in Israel, people are not identified by race; rather, they are identified by religion. People commonly describe each other as Jews, Christians and Muslims. I also learned that Jews, Christians and Muslims live peacefully together in many areas of Jerusalem.

After dinner, we stopped for a night view of Jerusalem. The sparkling lights spoke of a city far more modern than my Biblical images permitted. Although Jerusalem is an ancient city, ancient dirt roads and torch light have given way to pavement, electricity and all other modern conveniences.

Atop the mountain, we shared our first of many prayers, Psalm 122, in both Hebrew and English. Exhausted, we departed for the David Citadel Hotel which would serve as our base for the next five days. Although virtually every stop on the tour was significant religiously and historically, or otherwise just interesting, space does not allow for a daily tour log. So I will offer five highlights: (1) walking where Jesus walked; (2) The Garden of Gethsemane; (3) Golgotha & the Garden Tomb; (4) the Western Wall; and (5) the Holocaust Museum.

I walked where Jesus walked!

The bus stopped at the site of Solomon's Temple. Although the Temple no longer remains, the walls surrounding it are intact and comprise significant landmarks in Jerusalem. Through many versions of the Bible, there is only one place in Jerusalem that is universally believed to be the place where Jesus walked. That place is the southern steps leading to the Temple gates. Although 2000 years have passed since this Temple and walls were built, despite decay, the steps remain intact.

When Jesus was a child, Mary brought Him to the Temple to worship. As a commoner, without known religious significance, He en-

tered the Temple with the general public through the southern steps, spanning 220 feet in length and leading up to the two twin gates of the Temple. The gates, long since filled in, remain in the form of archways. Instead of traversing the steps, many seemed to observe the quiet peace and reverence of being there, right there where Jesus walked.

I was excited to walk where Jesus walked, but my excitement was tempered with the realization that I could not fill His shoes and had no business trying to walk there. We quietly and humbly left the steps and toured other areas surrounding the Temple.

The Garden of Gethsemane

The Garden of Gethsemane is located on the Mount of Olives. The Garden's significance is that it is believed to be where Jesus prayed the night before he was betrayed. It was obvious that the olive trees in the Garden were hundreds, possibly thousands, of years old. After winding around the Garden, we entered the dimly lit Church of All Nations, known to some as the Church of Agony. The church, we were told, was built around the actual rock that Jesus prayed on the night before he was betrayed. It did not appear that the rock, consuming 75 percent of the altar, had been moved.

As I approached the rock, I saw several people touching and praying over it in tongues unfamiliar to me. Some wept. Although the tongues were different, we all spoke the universal language of faith and prayed accordingly. I was standing at the rock upon which Jesus touched and prayed the night before his betrayal. Humbly, I knelt and prayed, too. Again, unworthy.

Golgotha & The Garden Tomb

Golgotha, meaning skull, is mentioned in the Gospels as the place where Jesus was crucified. Although some believe that another location holds the same significance, this place felt like the place where Jesus was crucified. Contrary to the Hollywood presentation of Jesus and the thieves being crucified high upon a hill, Roman custom was to crucify people next to passageways or roads. Romans wanted passersby to be close to those being crucified and to fear for the lives being lost on the cross as

well as their own. This was a Roman way of intimidating and controlling citizens. And, as the Bible recounts, passersby heard Jesus speak to the robbers, one of many reasons supporting this as the place for Jesus' crucifixion.

Golgotha is a rock hill in Jerusalem that ominously looks like a skull. You can see why it would bear that name. Our guide explained that although no one can identify precisely where Jesus was crucified, it would have been within close proximity to Golgotha. Being where Jesus was crucified was absolutely chilling.

In a testament to our group's diversity, the Christian minister led a prayer service and communion in the lush garden between Golgotha and the Garden Tomb. Although we all attended the service, Christians received communion and Rabbi offered a blessing. Some, we suspect, would have concerns about our blended service. God, I trust, will not.

After our religious service, we walked through the garden, just over a modest hill and saw the Garden Tomb, set back in a rock wall. Although no one in Israel will tell you that this tomb is the tomb, there are Biblical passages that support this as Jesus' burial site.

The tomb is very different from what I imagined. It was dug into a hill, just 100 yards or so from Golgotha, with a doorway approximately five feet high and with two rooms in the interior. This tomb, different from traditional Roman tombs, had the two rooms adjacent to each other instead of one in front of the other. The first room is where Jews purified the body before burial. The second room, directly to its right, had carved-rock resting places and pillows at opposite ends of the room. The tomb, minus lighting, iron gates that separated the two rooms and a locking door, appeared to be the same as it was at the time of Jesus' resurrection.

One of the most interesting parts of the tomb was the boulder that closed it. As it has been told many times and frequently read in the Bible, there is common reference to a boulder closing the tomb. More significantly, when Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James, went to visit the tomb, the boulder had been removed and gave way to Jesus' resurrection.

(Continued on Page 11)

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Palestine – As Complex as It Is Amazing

By Linda Mansour

The birthplace of my parents and ancestors, Palestine—also the birthplace of Jesus Christ—is as complex as it is amazing. The voyage to Palestine is one I have taken dozens of times in my life and each time it is like going home.

In the Holy Land, where Judaism, Christianity and Islam took form you will discover Palestine's cultural richness, compelling history and legendary hospitality, which have over centuries attracted millions of tourists to this beautiful land, each one of them greeted with, "ahlan wa sahlan"—welcome, you are

family.

The Bible, Torah and Qur'an all recite tales of this historic geographic region, located on the southeastern coast of the Mediterranean. It has been shaped over the centuries by war, trade, religion and revelation and shared by a myriad of ethnicities. The name Palestine actually dates back to the biblical reference to the Philistines who lived on the coast of what is now Israel.

Today the term "Palestinian territories" refers to the Occupied West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

Still, large pockets of Palestinians remain in parts of what was once Palestine, such as Haifa, Lid and Acre. While Gaza is not recommended for travel in light of the Israeli-imposed siege, you definitely want to include the West Bank in your travels to the Holy Land. If not, you will miss out on a potentially life-changing experience. It should be noted that the West Bank, which includes the areas of Ramallah, Bethlehem, Nablus, Jenin and Tulkarem is safe, notwithstanding what you may otherwise hear.

Tourism in Palestine pro-

vides visitors with a particularly enriching experience. Not only will the tourist discover the beauty, spirituality and hospitality of the people, but she will also learn an incredible amount simply by interacting with Palestinians and uncovering the reality of their daily lives.

As one criss-crosses Palestine's cities, towns and villages, its people's faces are a clear reminder of the rich history and the centuries of cross-cultural and religious influence which permeates daily life today. Be sure to seek out a Palestinian tour company for this portion of your trip. Only in this way will you avoid the perfunctory tour bus driven visit to the Nativity church in Bethlehem (with a souvenir shop on the way). A tour of Palestine will include visiting important archaeological and religious sites both ancient and contemporary, as well as places of natural beauty.

JERUSALEM

Start by visiting the ancient walled city of Jerusalem. You can easily spend an entire day here. You will be

surprised by the inseparable, united displays of different faiths, infused throughout the city. In East Jerusalem, which lies at the heart of Palestinian cultural and economic life, you will find the *Al-Aqsa Mosque*, the third holiest site in Islam along with one of the most widely recognizable Islamic monuments, the *Dome of the Rock*.

Close by you'll run into the Western Wall, the most sacred of Jewish religious sites and the *Church of the Holy Sepulchre* a place of reverence for Christians. Also in the Old City is *Via Dolorosa*, "Way of Sorrow," the route of Jesus' last walk where Christians believe he was sentenced, bore the cross and was forced to his crucifixion. If you happen to be there on a Friday afternoon, Franciscan Fathers, dressed in brown robes and white sashes, lead a procession along this route, stopping at each of 14 stations. Be sure to visit the *Mount of Olives* where you will overlook a panoramic view of Jerusalem at the ground level of the world's epicentre of

faiths.

All your senses will awaken at the sounds, atmosphere and scents in and about the walls of old Jerusalem. But you have not truly experienced Palestine without taking in the scene at Damascus Gate (*Bab al-Amud*, or Gate of the Column in Arabic) one of seven open gates surrounding the Old City. It is a microcosm of Palestinian society.

The steps leading down to the gate and the narrow alleys within the gate are a riot of motion, colors and cries with families picnicking on the steps, sous (licorice drink) vendors carrying huge ornate ice-filled copper urns clanking away at their cymbals, merchants taunting the crowds, locals buying and selling produce, spices, meats and their staples and elderly women dressed in intricately hand embroidered long dresses selling herbs. While tourists may be enticed to eat at places around Jaffa Gate, the holes-in-the-wall crowding the narrow alley ways within the

(Continued on Page 12)

Pilgrimage

(Continued from Page 10)

Given the climate of the time and the way that people and leaders feared Jesus, I always imagined an enormous boulder, maybe the size of a couple of large vans, that would have taken a team of horses and several men to move into place and, likewise, remove. However, that is not what would have been used to close Jesus' tomb.

When tombs were constructed they included a track outside of the doorway. That track, resembling a groove 12-18 inches wide, spanned 20 or so feet in front of the tomb. The boulder used to close the tomb fit in the track. It reminded me of a stone wheel, carved from an enormous rock. The wheel would have been seven or eight feet in diameter, 12-18 inches wide, and would have weighed several tons; however, it would have been more maneuverable than I imagined and probably would not have required a team of horses to move it. Regardless, the boulder was not something any mortal man would have been able to move on his own.

The proximity of the tomb to Golgotha makes perfect sense for Jesus' burial. Likewise, because Golgotha and the Garden Tomb were outside the walls of Jerusalem, it would have been consistent with burial customs of the time.

Golgotha and the Garden Tomb seemed to place me in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, almost as a witness.

The Western Wall.

The Western Wall, sometimes identified as the "Wailing Wall," is a gathering place for Jewish people throughout the world. Jewish teaching is that King Solomon built the Western Wall. The Wall is actually the western wall

surrounding Solomon's Temple. For centuries, people have gone there to pray, believing that their prayers, written on paper and stuffed in wall cracks, went directly to God. Virtually every world leader, including presidents of the United States, who visits Israel for the first time stops at the Western Wall to pray. The Western Wall requires all men cover their heads in concert with Jewish tradition.

This is one of the few places we visited where we had to pass through metal detectors and security before approaching.

Holocaust Museum

On this day, touring gave way to a heavy heart. We left the hotel upbeat and curious. However, the mood quickly changed as we approached the Holocaust museum in the early afternoon. The museum depicts the horrid story of German genocide of the Jews. The word "holocaust" means "all burning," which describes how many Jews were killed. As fate and good luck would have it, I had the opportunity to tour the museum with Rabbi. As a Jewish WWII veteran, he has an interesting perspective on the war. Although we only had a brief time to tour the museum, it was more than enough to gain painful insight into the Holocaust and the inhumanity that people exact on other people.

The museum included advertisements, film excerpts, pictures, clothes, and human hair, among other things taken from Jewish people who soon met their fate at the hands of the Germans. Everything in the museum, including its intentionally-plain exterior was designed to tell the dreadful story.

As we departed the museum, we transitioned to a

point that was a memorial to the 1.5 million Jewish children killed during the Holocaust. As we entered the hall candles lit our path. Over a loudspeaker, a woman, speaking mechanically in Hebrew, English, and ironically, German, spoke the name of each child who was killed, his or her age, and country. Hearing of a three-year-old child's death as the result of war is incomprehensible. The Holocaust Museum eclipsed that day's travels.

Closing

The Bible comes alive in Israel! One thing that I never recognized from my Bible reading is that perspective is lost. I did not have an appreciation for how long Jesus walked from Jerusalem to the Sea of Galilee or the distance between the Garden of Gethsemane and Golgotha. And I could not appreciate the significance of being a fisherman and why so much of the Bible related to fishing. Israel, and particularly Jerusalem, filled in the details that may otherwise be lost on the reader.

In addition to its rich history and religious significance, Israel is a wonderful modern country. Tel Aviv is like Miami Beach and Jerusalem is as modern as Rome, Paris and Cairo. But more than that, Israel has wonderful culture and people. Although border challenges and territory issues persist, contrary to what we hear on TV and read in the media, Jews, Christians and Muslims live peacefully together in Jerusalem and many parts of Israel.

Pariss Coleman is an attorney with the firm of Cooper & Walinski. Dr. Traci Watkins, MD, is with the Westgate Medical Group.

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Palestine

(Continued from Page 11)

Muslim Quarter serve authentic Palestinian food, are less expensive and offer the best food in the city hands down. Street vendors sell fresh, soft sesame ka'ak (bread rings sprinkled with sesame seeds) throughout the souq; ask for za'tar (blend of herbs and sesame) to go with it and dip away.

BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem is located about six miles southwest of Jerusalem on the way to Hebron. Just like Jerusalem, it is also sacred to the three monotheistic religions. While small in size, Bethlehem has lots to offer. Christians around

the world celebrate Bethlehem as the birthplace of Jesus Christ. With a population of almost 50,000, Bethlehem is also home to one of the largest Christian communities in the Middle East.

At the center of town lies the Church of the Nativity, above the Holy Crypt, where Christians believe Jesus was born. Inside the church is the Grotto of the Nativity marking the spot of Christ's birth. The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem ranks amongst the most important Christian holy sites in the world; millions of Christians around the

globe relate to this place, and it's not to be missed!

HEBRON

With a history dating back to ancient times, Hebron—19 miles from Jerusalem—is one of the oldest cities in the Middle East and one of the oldest still inhabited. Today's population is over 160,000. Hebron is in the southern part of the West Bank and known for its fresh produce like grapes and figs as well as its limestone, fine pottery and glassblowing workshops. Popular tourist destinations are found along its winding streets and ancient bazaars. Among the most visited sites are Abraham's Well, and the Cave of the Patriarchs, which is believed to be the burial place of the patriarch.

Absolutely do not miss visiting the Hebron Glass & Ceramics Factory and the Hebron archaeological museum. Hebron glass dates back to Roman times. As a matter of fact, the stained glass windows found in the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem were produced in Hebron. At one time 14 glass making factories, some dating back to the 16th Century created an entire social network, and served as major employers and contributors to the economy. Today, Hebron glass is facing extinction due to current export problems, the decrease in the number of tourists, and restrictions on the movement of Palestinians. Anytime I go to Jerusalem or Hebron I do my small part to contribute to its survival and carry the glass home to my shelves or pass the pieces on as gifts.

JERICHO

I last visited Jericho - the oldest city on Earth - in February of 2010, several months before it celebrated its 10,000-year anniversary. I had the opportunity to meet with Mayor Hassan Saleh who touted the initiative to develop Jericho so as to attract world-class tourism. Towards that end, the town, widely known as Palestine's winter resort and "City of Palms,"



The author (center) with sisters Rita Mansour and Randa Shousher

reopened the 5-star International Hotel, and the new International Oasis Casino, both 10 minutes from the Dead Sea.

The Mount of Temptation is ever more accessible, as you no longer need to ride a mule or climb up the challenging mountain. Instead, cable cars now provide a scenic ride up and drop you off by the Greek Orthodox Monastery of Temptation. Spread out below you, you will find the breathtaking oasis town with lines of date plantations, citrus fruits, bananas, and vegetables in striking contrast to the distant brown hills of Jordan.

Jericho sits 850 feet below sea level, the lowest altitude city in the world. Tourist highlights in addition to those listed above include the Nabi Musa Mosque, housing the Tomb of the Prophet Moses, revered by Jews, Christians and Muslims, and the remains of Hisham's Palace, built in 724 CE by the Caliph Hisham, one of the last rulers of the Umayyad Dynasty.

NABLUS

Do visit the medieval city of Nablus, a hub of trade and cultural activity, situated in the northern West Bank. Be sure to inspect the ancient olive soap factory there, and steam away your troubles in the nearby Turkish baths. Wander among the friendly locals and be sure to have its

famous pastry, *Kanafeh*, a sweet dessert of shredded dough filled with cheese and topped with syrup. Walk among the city's narrow, winding streets and *sooq*. Stop at one of the many fresh produce stands and watch the street vendors masterfully squeeze pomegranates and for less than a quarter enjoy the rejuvenating juice. Popular sites also include Jacob's Well and Joseph's Tomb which, according to tradition, is the resting place of the biblical patriarch and prophet.

RAMALLAH

The financial and administrative capital of the West Bank, Ramallah's metropolitan area is comprised of the lower city of Ramallah and the city of El-Bireh. A bustling, cosmopolitan center, Ramallah is located six miles north of Jerusalem and is the Palestinian government's seat of power.

Ramallah is historically a Christian town, located on major crossroads in the West Bank and is surrounded with hilltops allowing for panoramic views. It is the area I know best, as I have many friends and relatives there. Ramallah is the most western of the Palestinian towns, as its inhabitants immigrated to the west long before most other Palestinian towns residents did.

It is a relatively modern city, with Jerusalem-style high-rise buildings. It has wonderful restaurants, nightlife and cultural events.

I remember as a child driving in from Jerusalem to my grandmother's home and being reminded by Ramallah's sister city, El-Bireh as we arrived: "El-Bireh-City on the Move", by an overarching sign at the cities entrance. El-Bireh and Ramallah together were known to constitute a tourism and entertainment center.

Popular sites in the area include the remains of a tower built by the Crusaders; the Old City, which contains buildings and ruins from the Byzantine, Ayyubid, Ottoman, and British Mandate periods; and the Hisbeh or fruit and vegetable market.

ACRE

While Acre is not today part of the Palestinian territories, it is inhabited by many Palestinians as are other areas of today's Israel, like Haifa, Lid, and Nazareth. Several years ago, before setting off to law school, my son decided to explore his paternal roots and set off to Shaab, a village outside of Acre. While there is not sufficient space here to do justice to his journey, his account of reconnection with lost family offers a true insight into the Palestinian experience. (<http://cowsandbees.blogspot.com/2008/03/sha3bavi.html>)

Linda Mansour is an attorney and owner of her firm, Linda Mansour-Ismail Co., LPA



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Is It Odd For a Guy to Listen to Female R & B?

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture



I will never forget this. One night back in college, I had been studying on campus until around midnight. It was late and I was tired so all I felt like listening to was slow music. I had one of those custom slow discs playing and it had a few throwback joints on it from Case and Usher and some current songs like Alicia Keys and Kanye "You Don't Know My Name" on there. It also had some older stuff on there that I just never got tired of listening to even though it was a few years old. I pulled into the drive thru at Burger King on the way home and this old Destiny's Child song came on called "Now That She's Gone". I got up to the window to pay and the music is up but not super loud and the girl at the register says "that song is for girls, what you doing listening to that?" I rode off somewhat bewildered. I had never thought about it like that before, what kind

of message I was sending by listening to certain music. I had only thought of it as being about what mood I was in. Now, I could have gone into some deep explanation about me producing music and playing ALL kinds of music because I aim to make all kinds of music and being raised by a musician, etc. etc. But just as much of an impression that I may have made on her, she made one on me as well. I took inventory of just how much female R&B I had and it was an astonishingly slanted bias toward women singers. When it comes to the guys, I rarely would buy an entire Avant or Ginuwine album. I would have all of Carl Thomas' stuff, all 112's stuff, most of Jagged Edge and of course all the old Boyz II Men and Jodeci material. Hell, at that point in the early 00's R. Kelly was releasing so much music that no one had all his albums but I had quite a few. Still, I realized that my male R&B selection paled in comparison to the extensive collection of female R&B I just happened to have on deck. Old stuff from junior high such as Jade and Zhane, all the way to entire catalogs of Faith, Kelly Price, S.W.V. and even what was new at the time like Nivea and an assortment of neo-soul ladies too. I had never thought about how this music was made for women to relate to and male R&B was made for men to relate to or anything even

close. I wonder is that a bad thing, though? If a guy is riding around bumping some Lauryn Hill, should he try not to bring attention to himself? I bet most guys who do listen to a lot of female singers do so because we love their voices, we love the music...but IF a man relates to the lyrics is that a bad thing? Is that taboo? Hell, sometimes women make songs specifically for male audiences (I know y'all remember J.S. right). One song that has never, and I mean never, left rotation in my home is Kut Klose's title cut "Surrender" from way back in high school. The run that Athena Cage hits at the end of that song is sublime and yes, as a man I do enjoy hearing women with lovely voices sing to me about seduction. But even beyond the bedroom, female singers can touch on emotions in men the same way they do women. I remember being at this Beyonce/Alicia Keys concert and when Keys performed "Diary"...every man in my section stood up during the entire song. And why wouldn't we? Think about the chorus of that song. You have a woman telling you she wants you to think of her as pages in a diary, that's a good thing. These days, same story... anyone who comes by or

rides out with me notices that I listen to a lot of female singers. Partly because of just admiring the voices, but even more so because I make music and I literally listen to everything. That girl at Burger King years ago might have heard some No Doubt or some Leanne Rimes if she had seen me earlier that day. I mean, most guys I know are involved in music somehow as well and maybe that's what part of their reason is too. We are listening to the notes, the harmonies, the chord progressions or even in the case of someone like Cassie or Ciara we are listening for the amazing studio work done to make a hit from someone with just an average vocal range. Cassie's album is an amazing album, but not because of

Cassie.. I'm listening to Ryan Leslie (who produced every track on her album). So these days I rock out to Melonie Fiona (who I would love to produce), Corinne Bailey Rae, Marsha Ambrosious, Keri Hilson, Adele, Aaries.. I mean the list goes on and on. Everyday this year I have listened to at least one joint from Rihanna's album LOUD (that joint called "Skin" and "Man Down" are amazing). Katy Perry, Pink, Avril Lavigne and even two...yes.. count em TWO songs by Miley Cyrus all have found a home in my collection. Male Neo Soul is a constant with me..(Dwele, Musiq, Anthony Hamilton, even D'Angelo's old stuff). Of course I got some Jay

Electronica, Lupe, MGK, Rozay and Drake in rotation. Of course I roll with the heavyweights: Weezy, Yeezy and Hov. I mean I listen to it all. Even one out of every five Gucci Mane joints.. lol. Looking at my mp3 player right now, there's Radiohead on here. And one of my favorite bands of all time THE CARDIGANS (Sweden represent!) I have every album! So.. give us a break, ladies. When you see a guy in his mode, don't try to hog all the good music for yourselves. Does it make that big of a difference if the artist you're vibing to is male or female or if you are male or female? Let's just enjoy it. Peace.

There's Still Time to Kick Off a Safe Summer with Red Cross Babysitter's Training!

Special to The Truth

The Greater Toledo Area Chapter of the American Red Cross is encouraging youth 11 to 15 to enroll in the American Red Cross Babysitter's Training Program. The American Red Cross has partnered with Mercy to provide fully sponsored trainings throughout the summer. Red Cross Babysitter's

Training Program can teach you the skills to be a safe babysitter and smart business owner. When you enroll in Babysitter's Training you'll learn how to tell when there is an emergency and when it's a situation you can confidently handle on your own. The class is taught by an authorized Red Cross

Babysitter's Training Instructor who will also teach you other great babysitting skills such as: Supervising children and infants. Performing basic child-care skills such as diapering and feeding. Choosing safe, age-

(Continued on Page 14)

Advertisement for '24 Soul' featuring a collage of faces and the text 'WATCH GAMESAVVY... EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT 8-11 PM'. Includes 'GAMESAVVYONLINE.COM STOP BEING SO SURPRISED'.

Advertisement for 'Experience THE FARGIDE' featuring DJ Reese and the text 'VIDEOS FLIPPED & REMIXED'. Includes 'Produced and Seen Locally' and 'Only On Toledo's my58'.

Advertisement for 'EDUCATION TOWN HALL' on Tuesday, July 19. Features a photo of children and text: 'THE PROGRAM WILL BEGIN AT 5:30 P.M. DINNER AND INFORMAL CONVERSATION AT 7 P.M. RSVP AT www.unitedwaytoledo.org/townhall'.

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Red Cross

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- appropriate games and toys.
- Handling bedtime and discipline issues.
- Identifying safety hazards and preventing injuries.
- Caring for common injuries and emergencies such as choking, burns, cuts and bee stings.
- Communicating effectively with parents.
- Finding and interviewing for babysitting jobs.

With Red Cross Babysitter's Training, you also have the option of becoming trained and receiving a certificate in Infant and Child CPR and First Aid. Parents often prefer babysitters with Red Cross training who recognize the importance of having babysitters with the skills to properly care for their little ones.

Babysitter's Training also gives you excellent tips on how to run your own babysitting business. The program will show you how to create a resume, interview with prospective parents and keep track of your babysitting clients.

The Red Cross trains over 120,000 babysitters each year nationwide and they can teach you how to become a great babysitter often in one day.

Free classes are forming now. For information on how to become a Red Cross-trained babysitter along with times and locations of upcoming Mercy sponsored scholarship classes, contact the Greater Toledo Area Chapter at 419/329-2295 or visit www.redcross Toledo.org.



Manufacturing Value Stream Manager

This position has broad responsibility and leadership for overall operation of a manufacturing value stream. Implements a Lean manufacturing system to ensure a safe work environment, maximize profitable growth, drive quality improvements, provide premier customer service, develop a technically qualified work force, reduce operating costs, inventories and lead times through continuous improvements. Oversee day-to-day manufacturing activities to meet daily, monthly, quarterly and yearly expectations.

The successful candidate will possess a bachelor degree; engineering preferred. Ten or more years of major professional accomplishments, including increasing responsibility and leadership of projects and teams of considerable size, scope and complexity. Sufficient experience and background in manufacturing, inventory control and strategic planning. Demonstrated teamwork and team building skills in producing results by meeting organizational objectives in a non union environment. Capable of assessing and developing individual and team skills and capabilities. Able to create and maintain enthusiasm for new and challenging goals. Serve as a role model by promoting new ideas and positive change. Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Experience involving and leading teams in LEAN process improvements/implementation required. Must be a US Citizen.

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City of Toledo Youth Services

FREE Summer Youth Engagement Program (SYEP) 2011

July 11 – August 19, 2011
at Erie Street Market

Ages 14 - 17

SYEP will meet five days a week, Monday thru Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Registration will begin July 1 – July 8, at the Erie Street Market

Lunches will be provided for participants.

College visits, workshops, discussions, special speakers, incentives and much more...

Youth can look forward to an interactive,
motivating and fun learning experience!

Come and be a part of what's HOT this summer for Toledo's youth!

Space is limited – So register now!

For more information contact

Tracee Ellis, Youth Services Coordinator

City of Toledo

419-936-2051

tracee.ellis@toledo.oh.gov

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Must have strong trouble shooting skills

Must be able to work all shifts and weekends

Ability to dismantle, assemble and maintain standard equipment requiring skilled fitting and alignment
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Capable of reading machine drawings and all instruments that read in the thousands of an inch (micrometers, calipers, depth gauges, etc.)

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Resumes accepted through
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HR Assistant

Lucas County Children Services is seeking candidates for a HR Assistant. Education and experience requirements can be viewed at www.lucaskids.net. Send resume and salary requirements by 6-29-11 to: LCCS, 705 Adams St., Toledo, OH 43604 Fax: 419-327-3291 No Phone Calls Please EOE valuing diversity

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RE: Examinations for Journeyman Wireman

Applications for the Journeyman Inside Wireman test will be accepted July 11-15, 2011 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 8, 807 Lime City Road, Rossford, Ohio between 9:a.m. And 3:00 p.m. The qualifications to be eligible for this examination are:

- Must be 18 years of age or over.
- Must live in the jurisdiction of Local 8 for one year prior to application.
- Must have proof of 4 years employment in the commercial/industrial electrical construction industry.

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Full time position responsible for providing technical assistance to start-up businesses and existing small businesses through one-on-one client counseling. Counselor also assists with the planning and marketing of training seminars for the center's clientele. Qualifications: B.A. in Business Administration and/or five yrs. experience in business ownership/management. Understanding of general business principles, excellent communication skills and ability to develop and provide training. Strong organizational, customer service and computer skills required. Please send resume by July 13, 2011 to TRCC, 300 Madison Ave., Ste. 200, Toledo, OH 43604 ATTN: Executive Vice President. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to hiring a diverse and talented workforce. EOE/M/F/D/V

Coordinator – Minority Business Assistance Center Program

Part-time position responsible for providing assistance to program staff and clients, including coordination of training and client services. Qualifications include: Associates Degree in Business Administration, or 3 years of experience in executive assistant or office coordinator position. Strong organizational skills needed, ability to manage multiple projects, professional demeanor with public, ability to work well with staff, excellent communication skills, ability to coordinate training materials and write reports, computer literate.

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