

Israel Pastor

~~Draft # 3~~

~~Date: April 27, 2004~~

**Rabbinic Cabinet-Israel Mission
May 6-10, 2004**

Day One: Thursday, May 6, 2004

3:55 pm

Arrival on LY 352 Berlin

5:00 pm

Proceed to Tel Aviv

6:30 pm

Check-in hotel

Mincha/Ma'ariv

7:30 pm

JDC-Israel has a commitment to enhance the social fabric of society focusing on the development of solutions in addressing the needs of Israel's disadvantaged populations.

Lilith is more than an enjoyable and satisfying restaurant. It is also an innovative and unique initiative in Israel. The core of the initiative is a vocational training program, funded with the help of the JDC, for high school drop-outs operated in the framework of the restaurant. There the youngsters can engage in a wide range of catering and restaurant related trades such as culinary arts, confection, baking and serving.

Overnight: Sheraton Moriah Hotel, Tel Aviv

Day Two: Friday, May 7, 2004

Shacharit

8:00 am
Breakfast

8:30 a
Proceed to the USA embassy

9:00 am
Meet with the American ambassador to Israel, the **Hon. Daniel Kurtzer** at the Embassy.

10:00 am
Walking Tour of Sderot Rothschild, Nachalat Binyamin, Palmach Museum

12:00 pm
Falafel lunch in Ariel.

12:30 am
Meet with Ron Nachman, Mayor of Ariel

1:30 pm
Proceed to Jerusalem

3:00 pm
Arrive in Jerusalem and check –in the hotel.

6:44 pm
Candle lighting

Dinner at the hotel

Overnight: Sheraton Plaza Hotel, Jerusalem

Day Three: Saturday, May 8, 2004

Shabbat at leisure. Lunch on own. Please make arrangements on your own to eat at the hotel, if you wish.

Mincha

I suggest that at 6:00/6:30 pm we have a "Seudah Shlishit" in the chair or Eric's room

7:30 pm

Walk to the Old City.

8:03 pm

Maariv at Kotel

8:30 pm

Meeting at the Latin Patriarchate with **Msgr. Michel Sabbah**, the highest ranking prelate of the Roman Catholic Church in Israel. Accompanying us will be **Dr. Daniel Rossing**, Director of the Center for Jewish-Christian Relations.

10:00 pm

With **Avraham Zvi Shav Aretz**, expert on Haredi life, we will tour some of the more spectacular Lag B'omer bonfires.

Overnight: Sheraton Plaza Hotel, Jerusalem

Day Four: Sunday, May 9, 2004

Shacharit

7:15 am

Breakfast

8:00 am

Briefing from **MK Avraham Burg**. (nc)
(I was told that I would get an answer today from Burg.)
perhaps Torah study with a scholar

9:00 am

What is the connection between water, land and security in this region? Our local scholar and expert is **Yankel Shavit**, Director-General Mitzpe Ramon Economic Development Company.

We begin at the Beit Kama Junction, traveling by jeeps or 4x4 vehicles through eerily beautiful lands dissected by water erosion and covered in loess soil. This area around Kibbutz Ruchama is primarily agricultural territory and is used for experimental crops. Here we will learn how Jewish settlement of the Negev in the 40's played a part in the security struggle against the British during the Mandate period. Passing by Havat HaShikim, Ariel Sharon's ranch, we will go into Nahal Shikma to see the effects of flooding on the region.

When we reach an observation point to see the border between Gaza and Israel, we continue our discussion of water, land and security. If his duties permit, we will meet with a senior member of the IDF to hear his views on the current security situation on the Gaza border.

Our next stop is at the "Museum of Water and Negev Security", the site of the first water drilling in the Negev. This successful attempt to find water in a supposedly arid land was the reason that the UNESCO Partition Plan was modified to include the Negev in the future Jewish state. During the War of Independence the Egyptians constantly bombarded the site but it remained active despite the enemy's attempts to halt it. As a unique treat, we will meet with a very energetic 88 year member of the 1943 water drilling teams, **Nissan Tzuri**.

1:00 pm

Lunch in the field where we will be joined by young new immigrants of Argentina participating in JAFI programs and living in the region. The subject over lunch is dedicated to learning about Argentinean Aliya and Klita: Difficult Choices in Difficult Times. From these young people we will learn first hand of the downfall of the Argentinean economy and how it has affected the Jewish community at large. An estimated 20% of the Jewish population has joined the "new poor". Jewish education is diminishing and crime as well as anti-Semitism is on the rise. (nc)
There will probably also be Ethiopians and Russians.

Return to Jerusalem

Leisure time in Jerusalem.

7:30 pm

Farewell dinner at Vaqueiro with...

9:00 pm

Proceed to Ben Gurion International Airport

Day Five:

Return to the USA