

the Joan Times

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Hey, Everybody - I'm Now *Live!*

at

www.firstcenturylive.com

It is a reality! My very own website. Please come pay me a visit as soon as possible. (I realize that quite possibly you've already done that to read or download this edition of the Joan Times.)

Allow time for your visit as there are many pages. The home page, of course, introduces *First Century Live!* presentations, which get most of my energy these days.

The Forum Page (Web Conversation) is for YOU. Use it to comment on the presentations (especially if you've seen one,) on my book (especially if you've read one,) on my web site, to ask questions, or to send a personal message. Though a few suggested subjects are listed, you can type anything on the subject line.

I expect and want this to be a very active page with messages flying all over the place. So join in the fun!

In just a few weeks, you'll be able to read a chapter from my book here. If you've already read *Embracing the Yes!* ; *A Life Recycled*, you're invited to post comments.

Not only is this newsletter (the Joan Times #37) posted, but also #33 to #36, if you missed them. In addition, we've included archival storage where you can read some of the early newsletters dating back to 1984! Eventually they will all be posted, as many folks have told me through the years, "You could make a book, Joan, of just your newsletters."

Get details about Biblical Resources Holy Land Tours hosted and nurtured by me. If scheduled dates don't work, let me know as additional dates are under consideration.

If the design of my web site impresses you, and if someone you know needs web page design, contact my designer: Andy Huguenard at Direct Design. Email address: directdesign@mindspring.com.

It Was Indeed a Fabulous Holy Land Tour!

We were a small group - only ten besides me and our awesome tour guide Hannaniah Pinto - eager students, awestruck observers, intrepid hikers, and playful, caring companions on our journey of a lifetime. We came from five different States, from England, and even Singapore!

A few of the sites visited that particularly moved me:

1. The Egyptian slave camp at Timna in the south of

Israel. Before the time of Exodus, the Egyptians mined copper here using Hebrews as their slave workers. Twentieth century archaeologists found a bellows, whose loops were fastened to the toes of a slave so that by pumping his legs he kept the fires going to smelt the copper ore!

With our ever present water bottles in hand, we speculated that no one brought water to those slaves, that they probably didn't last long and were simply replaced by more Jews/Hebrews, who were regarded as less than human.

When archaeologists found the site, including the remains of an Egyptian temple, they knew a further treasure awaited their discovery. After some time, a woman (!) did indeed find what most of our group climbed to the high point to see for ourselves. On a wall, remaining these thousands of years, is depicted the then-current pharaoh, Ramesis, bringing his offering to the cow-goddess, Hator.

2. The Red Sea. For the first time ever, I donned fins and snorkel to go into the Sea to view the colorful fishes. Later we entered the underwater observatory where, as Hannaniah so delightfully puts it, "We the visitors are in the aquarium and the gorgeous fish come look at us!"

3. The Bedouin Museum. Such fascinating revelations about ancient nomadic customs, a few of which I quickly incorporated into my dramatizations.

4. The Sea of Galilee. It thrills me to report that I now have been there enough that it's like a homecoming to return to this special lake, the setting for many New Testament events. From our individual cottages we strolled to the lake for a dip or just to sit in seaside chairs to enjoy the serenity and beauty of that hallowed water.

5. Jerusalem, with its innumerable Scriptural settings. Again, a "homecoming." A major highlight for me was the opportunity to once again teach in the Scripture Garden and at the authentic first century Passover supper.

The Travelers

The most experienced of my travelers was May. Some might say a person must give up such strenuous travel by the time they are 89 years old, but how wrong they would be! May and Method (an 80-year-old youngster) almost set the pace for the rest of us!

Method's son Tom surprised and delighted us all by taking advantage of the diamond enterprise of Israel; he purchased an engagement ring! It was heart warming after that as his fiance-to-be, Loretta, though

absent, was oftentimes brought to community prayer by other tour participants.

Lyn and Ray's love for the land spread joy on all of us as each revisited Israel for the umpteenth time, while Lyn's husband Warren, with his cameras and large frame, quietly took up a position of oversight, to help keep our group assembled in the occasional crowded places.

Elaine and Barbara each greatly enhanced the tour from their career backgrounds. Elaine, a Catholic nun and now in her "retirement," official promoter of ongoing spiritual life in her Dominican order, was a valuable presence, while Barbara added so much from her expertise as staff member of a Methodist congregation.

Like all the others, Tess and Ruth brought beautiful enthusiasm and openness. Their enlightened questions and reflections contributed marvelously to our understanding.

For this tour leader, the compatibility of the entire group, the caring about each others' needs, the relationships that developed among this group of "strangers" were more than I could have hoped for and utter inspiration to continue to lead future tours.

Returning to Our Homelands

May and I encountered some delays - hers much more lengthy and exciting than mine! It was on the runway in Tel Aviv that her plane experienced some kind of explosion underneath, with fire! Scarey, huh? But we are talking about a spunky May! When she told me about it all, she sounded as cool as that proverbial cucumber. Buses carried all the passengers back to the terminal where they waited eleven hours for their next flight.

My own long journey went okay until I arrived in Newark. I wasn't much concerned that my water bottle was nearly empty when I boarded a plane for Washington because it's a brief flight. However, as there was bad weather in D.C., we sat on the tarmac for hours waiting for clearance into Washington while I got more and more dehydrated along the wait.

I love the way Hannaniah described my next challenge. As I emailed him about the saga of waiting for my suitcases to leave Amsterdam and catch up with me, he responded: "Don't give up! The bags will come, they just decided to have a longer vacation...." (Both eventually found me.)

Untypically, it took me nearly three days to recover from the journey, but recover I did. After a few days in D.C. I journeyed to Connecticut, spent some days with old friends and then found myself at a lovely spot in Massachusetts having a private directed retreat with a Dominican friend of Elaine's - though she's not the one who sent me there. In fact it turns out that because a program Elaine had planned to attend was cancelled, the house I stayed in was unexpectedly available. Very nice. Sorry, Elaine.

Storytellers' Workshop Extraordinaire

Susan Klein is a world renowned Storyteller who was raised and still lives on Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts. It was an extraordinary privilege to participate in an intensive workshop with this gifted woman. Along with Ruth, Pam, Barbara, and Carmel, I experienced the intensity, drama, and reward of finding one's voice and authentically speaking the truth through that voice. It was powerful! And my dramatizations have even more validity and appeal because of it. Wow! Exciting stuff!

It was my first visit to the Cape Cod area, and we were in quaint Victorian Oak Bluffs. Luxury and hard work wrapped up deliciously in one memorable package.

Establishing a Permanent Address

After two and a half years of total nomadism, the time has come to establish a permanent address - on wheels! I hope to find a reliable motorhome for less than \$10,000. Know of one? I could fly anywhere to pick it up. Condition of interior unimportant; son Charlie will remodel interior to suit my needs anyway. Low mileage *much more* important.

Be in Touch - Please and Thank You

Now! you can do any of the following through my website. But if that's not something you know how to do or are just not interested, all of the following still applies:

To **Get on or off my mailing list** for the Joan Times,
To **Book** a Presentation of "**First Century Women,**"
To get info or sign up for my **Tour 2001**, Oct.-Nov., 2001
To **Order** "**Embracing the Yes!**" my personal inspirational odyssey that focuses on learning to recognize God's nudges and invitations (\$20. + \$5. for S & H; in CA +1.45 tax)
To **Send** me an update of **YOUR activities,**

Or to **Just say hello, use any of the following methods:**

Mail to Joan Huguenard
P.O. Box 405
El Verano CA 95433

Visit www.firstcenturylive.com

New! email address: joan@firstcenturylive.com

Do Not Hesitate to Call me Toll-Free!

I pay mere pennies - truly - for calls into my toll-free number and I am thrilled to find messages there. You may call 24 hours a day, leave a message as long or as short as you like, and I'll get back to you.

It is EASY to remember the number; just count by threes backwards and forward and each time you come to six, double it: 9-6-3-6-9 becomes 9-66-3-66-9.

Call toll-free: 1-888-966-3669

Or if you prefer to pay for the call, phone: 828-859-6658.