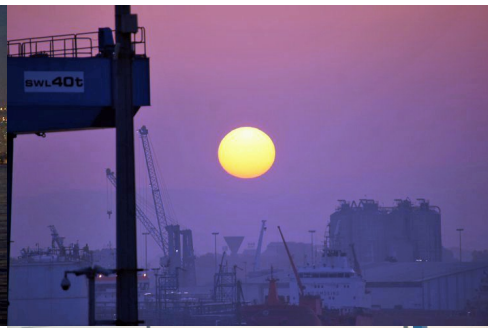
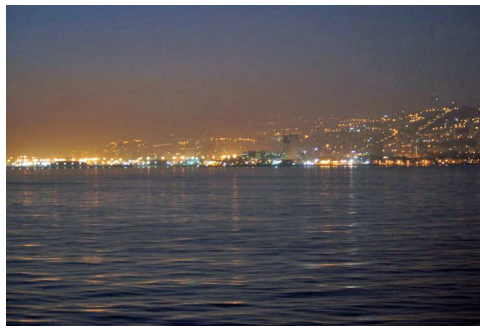


Galilee - 30 October 2016

For the first of three days in Israel we explored parts of Galilee, the hill country in the northern part of the country. This is where Jesus and most of his main disciples lived. Gail and I had been there in March 1970, but the population and development have increased since then. We arrived at the port of Haifa just before dawn. The photo shows the city lights and the slopes of Mount Carmel. We had to park the ship at the industrial area of the port. Numerous busses transported us to the normal passenger terminal area to find our assigned tour busses.



Once out of the city we were in the rich agricultural plains of Jezreel. Many different crops are grown there, with much exported to Europe and other countries. The flat area has served as battlegrounds for much of history.



Eventually we turned north and climbed into the hills to pass through the city of Nazareth. This is where Jesus grew up. The city is on top of the hills and is now greatly enlarged compared to our 1970 visit. We had a view of Mount Tabor from there. We drove up that mountain in 1970 to visit one of the candidate peaks on which Jesus changed his appearance to being bright light while being visited by two famous leaders from prior centuries.



Part of Nazareth lines the hill top.

Mount Tabor in rear.

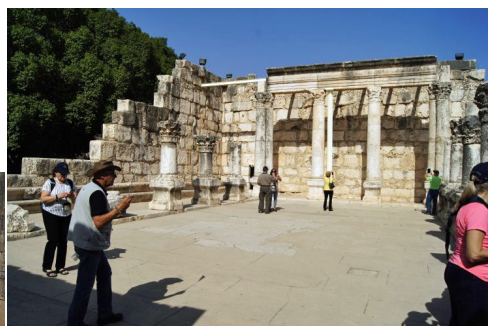


In many agricultural areas the fields are under canopies. For bananas the purpose was to create uniform ripening times. For other crops it was to conserve water. We saw examples of drip irrigation systems, perfected by the Israelis.

Banana crop under canopies.

Our first major stop was at Capernaum, the village where Jesus based his adult ministry. There has been much excavation and renovation of this site since 1970, and we could show comparison photos. The main structure is a synagogue from after the time of Jesus, built of white marble rock. It sits on a foundation of dark basalt rock which represents the remains of the synagogue mentioned for the

time of Jesus. Foundations of many old buildings have now been excavated, much more than we saw in the past.





Church exterior over ancient foundations

The other major structure is a modern church building suspended above foundations newly exposed. Some recovered writings gave reference to Peter and Jesus, so this is thought to be the location of the house of Peter.



Church interior

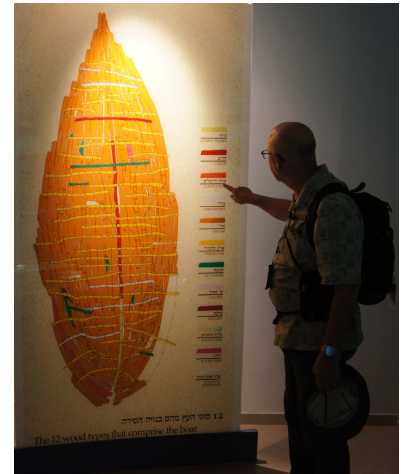


Capernaum is on the northwestern shore of the lake. Boats still cross it, mostly with tourists

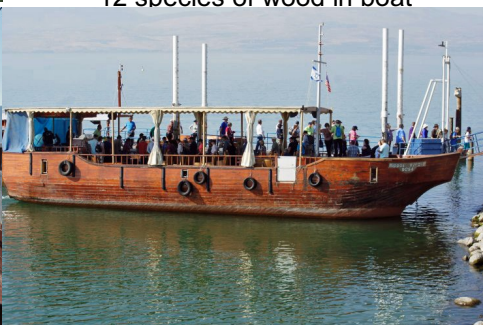


like us. The fresh water of this lake has been over used, and so the shoreline has receded as the water level has dropped. That has exposed things previously under water.

We moved to Gennesaret near where Jesus miraculously changed a few loaves of bread and some fish into a dinner feeding about twenty thousand people. Several years ago some pieces of an old boat were exposed as the water level in the lake dropped. The boat was carefully excavated, covered with polyurethane foam, and floated to a safe location for analysis and preservation. A museum was built to house the boat for public viewing. It was dated to about two thousand years ago and is now the oldest fresh water boat ever discovered. A diagram indicates the 12 different wood species of every piece in the boat.



12 species of wood in boat



We had our own boat ride to the middle of the lake. There we paused for singing and a lecture. Then we continued to the east side of the lake and docked at En-GeV. Our lunch included Tilapia fish, the type found in this lake.



This lake has several names: Sea of Galilee, Lake Tiberias, Kinneret. The Bible says that several followers of Jesus were fishermen there. Jesus calmed a storm on this lake. He also walked on water, inviting Peter to join him. We obviously had excellent calm weather conditions.

Our next stop was at the south end of the lake, where the Jordan River resumes its flow. Many in our group wanted to be re-baptized in the Jordan River. Followers of Jesus should be baptized if possible, but doing it only once is sufficient. This second time is just nice for the memories, doing it near where John the Baptist was doing it for people who wanted to demonstrate a change in their lives for the better.

That took the rest of the afternoon. It soon got dark and we drove back to the ship in Haifa and an overnight movement to the south, to the port at Ashdod and our two days in Jerusalem.



Date palm trees.

Fallen dates.



Gray Heron



White-throated Kingfisher



Great Cormorant



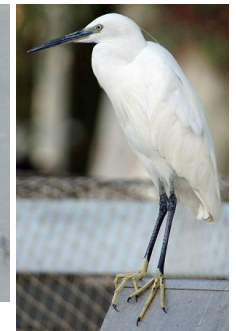
Garganey (duck)



Laughing Dove



Spur-winged Lapwing



Little Egret



Rose-ringed Parakeet



European Goldfinch



Eurasian Jay



Little Egret

Dr. Ed Holroyd
5 November 2016
written at harbor for Rome, Italy