MANTHANO CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
ISRAEL PILGRIMAGE TRIP WITH DR. JOHN A. MCLEAN

February 16-25. The cost is $3,045.00 which includes airfare, breakfasts and dinners, hotels, bus, all entrance fees, licensed guide and tips. The only additional cost is lunches and souvenirs. There is a $250.00 deposit for the trip and airfare. The balance is due Nov. 2012.

Dr. John McLean has led tours to Israel for more than 25 years. John and Diana lived in Jerusalem in 1988 and their third child, Joanna was born in Jerusalem. The tours are designed as a pilgrimage of faith. The focus is on the Bible, history and archaeology. Dr. McLean is a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary in Greek (Th.M.), and the University of Michigan in Ancient Near Eastern Studies (M.A., Ph.D.). John has studied the Bible, history, archaeology and ancient languages for more than 35 years. This background provides the foundation for a great trip. John is president of Manthano Christian College in Westland, MI (www.manthanochristian.org). MCC students can earn 3 credits hours for the trip.

Feb 16    Day 1: Departure from home about 12:30 P.M. to New York to Tel Aviv.
Today we embark on our pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Prepare yourself for a life-changing experience. Get some rest on the flight. Tomorrow you will be walking where Jesus walked!

Feb 17    Day 2: Arrive in Israel about 9:10 A.M.
We arrive at Ben Gurion Airport where we will be met by our Israeli guide who will accompany us during our entire stay in Israel. We travel northward to our hotel on the Sea of Galilee. We will visit sites on our way to the hotel. The time is right for a personal devotion with the sunset over the “Great Sea.” Enjoy a time of prayer of thanks for safety and the blessings ahead, a prayer for the people of this land, and a good night’s rest.

Feb 18    Day 3: Caesarea, Megiddo & Nazareth
After breakfast, we travel by private motor coach along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea to Caesarea, where Gentiles first heard the Good News from Peter and were baptized. We will walk in the footsteps of Paul as we traverse Caesarea Maritime. We’ll see the Roman Amphitheatre and aqueduct, and then journey on to Mt. Carmel, where Elijah challenged King Ahab and the prophets of Baal. Next we travel through the Jezreel Valley to Megiddo, the Armageddon battlefield, where archaeologists have unearthed 20 levels of civilization. We drive through the area of Cana and Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus, where we visit Nazareth. We will have dinner and lodging near the Sea of Galilee.

Feb 19    Day 4: Capernaum, Dan, Caesarea Philippi & Mt. of Beatitudes
Following breakfast, our morning travels take us to two northern sites emphasizing the loss of God's blessing on Israel. Tel Dan is where the children of Israel fell to the depths of pagan worship. Caesarea Philippi is the site of Peter’s Confession. In Capernaum, we will visit the ruins of an ancient synagogue and Peter’s home. Then we travel on to the site of the multiplication of loaves and fishes and the Mount of the Beatitudes overlooking the Sea. After viewing the ancient Fisherman Boat at an operating Kibbutz, we enjoy a relaxing cruise on the Sea of Galilee. A brief scripture reading and devotional on board brings to life the experiences of Jesus.

Feb 20    Day 5: Jordan River Baptism Site, Beth Shean
We begin our day with a visit to the Jordan River Baptismal site. Next we travel southward to Beit-Shean/Scythopolis, the most magnificent archeological site in Israel, located at the strategic juncture of the Jezreel and Jordan valleys. After defeating Saul and his sons on Mt. Gilboa, the Philistines hung their bodies on the walls of Beit-Shean. Archaeologists have uncovered a huge number of ruins of the Roman/Byzantine Scythopolis. During the time of Jesus, Scythopolis was one of the chief cities of the Decapolis - a league of ten cities sharing Greek culture and government. Following the fertile Jordan Valley southward, your guide will point out the agricultural restoration of the “Land of Milk and Honey,” the Kibbutz system and Israel's intricate irrigation development. We pass ancient Jericho,
view this city famed as the oldest in the world before travelling up to Jerusalem to stay for the rest of our trip.

**Feb 21** Day 6: Masada, Engedi, Dead Sea Scrolls

Our day begins with a cable car ride to the fortress of Masada. Here our guide will treat us to the history of the famous zealot stand. Afterwards we proceed to Ein Gedi, "Spring of the Goat," an oasis on the western shore of the Dead Sea. Because of its warm climate and abundant supply of water, the site developed a reputation for its fragrant plants and date palm groves. This is where King David hid from Saul, and where God defeated the enemies of the Israelites by praise and worship led by King Jehoshaphat. Next, we visit Qumran Caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. We return to Jerusalem.

**Feb 22** Day 7: Around Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Bible Times

On our way into the city we will visit the Wailing Wall and the Rabbinical Tunnels leading us through the Second Temple era. The tunnel and exhibit give a clear understanding of the amazing construction of the Temple Mount, giant stones, water supply and Roman streets where our Lord was led to judgment. Before exiting the tunnel, we see the immense cornerstone rejected by the builders. We move on to the Judgment Hall of Pilate, hear of those who conspired against Him and are reminded of His brutal beating and humiliation. We will visit the Pool of Bethesda, Stephen’s Gate and St. Ann’s Church. This afternoon we visit the Southern Wall Excavations. This southern side of the Temple was the main entrance for the common folk, whereas the Priests and Levites had their own entrance from the higher eastern side. Giant stairs which led to the Temple Mount from the courtyard have been unearthed along with the purification pools. Jesus entered the Temple Mount and drove out the vendors and money exchangers who were exploiting the people. This may have been the place that Peter stood and preached to thousands were saved and baptized on the Day of Pentecost. We will visit Bethlehem which is the birth of Christ.

**Feb 23** Day 8: Jesus’ Steps, Last Days, Way of Suffering, Garden Tomb

We walk where Jesus walked; beginning the day with a panoramic view of the city, Mount Moriah and the Dome of the Rock from atop the Mount of Olives and then the Garden of Gethsemane. How many have wished to be whisked back in time to get a glimpse of our Lord or hear His voice if only for a moment? To walk between the ancient olive trees, read the scriptures of Jesus’ prayer and take time for personal reflection is important. Passing by the Protestant Cemetery, we visit the "Upper Room" just outside the Zion Gate where the disciple whom Jesus loved laid his head on His breast and where later Thomas cried, "my Lord & my God." While walking along the Via Dolorosa, we are reminded of His way of suffering along with a visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The climax of the day is the area of Golgotha (place of the skull) and the Garden Tomb, where we celebrate the resurrection with communion and a time of praise.

**Feb 24** Day 9: Round about Jerusalem, City of David, Pool of Siloam.

We will spend our last day going round about Jerusalem. There are so many archaeological sites around Jerusalem that we will spend our day examining the history of Jerusalem from the time of David to the present day. We will have dinner at the hotel and then depart in the late evening for our flight home.

**Feb 25** Day 10: Depart Israel and arrive Home with Memories of a Life Time.

A very late night departure from Tel Aviv Airport for our flight homeward will allow for arrival home by early afternoon. We depart from Israel at 12:05 A.M. We will sleep on the way home. We will arrive in New Your about 5:00 A.M. and then get connecting flights to our homes.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. McLean at DRJOHNMCLEAN@GMAIL.COM or call 734.417.6375. All friends and family are welcome to join us on this trip. $250 deposit is needed.

Blessings in Christ,
Dr. John A. McLean
President, Manthano Christian College