

A great family photo waiting in line with my nephew at the Denver Zoo for him to ask Santa for, "Some Trains". (Pictured Top Left: Taylor, Katie Campbell (my girlfriend) Robyn (my youngest sister), Tommy Cowan (my brother in law), Bonne (my mom), David (my dad). Bottom Row Left: Marrisa Roldan (great family friend/sister), Santa, Tommy "LT" Cowan the VI (my nephew), and Alysen Cowan (my middle sister).

I-5: Injuries, Intellect, Instruction, "I am" & Israel





collapses again, his knee gave out! Sean helped by his teammates to foul territory was emotionally and spiritually frustrated and empty. His efforts did not give him the results he wanted and once again was sidelined. Sean's teammates went over and prayed and wept with him as this injury would not leave him. Jesus was doing an incredible work in his life and thankfully Sean chose to stay with the team and continue to grow spiritually. Every year we have guys with injuries and some stay and some leave. I am amazed by the character built in the guys who stay on the team even though they cannot play. The vivacity Sean brought to the team was incredible. He contributed to the first Xenia Scouts regular season Championship. Sean grew leaps and bounds because of this injury as a man of God and a man of character.

INJURIES to Influence: Sean Kennedy

played baseball for me last summer with the Xenia Scouts. Well, played is an overstatement. Sean one of the most positive guys on the team labeled "the giver of energy" from the dugout struggled with a nagging leg injury that seemed to not go away. Sean had few at bats, went to rehab for his knee every day after about a month of not playing, gets on the field during batting practice and after going through a series of tests from our trainers is rounding second hard as the team is cheering for him and he

Metro State University in Denver: Sean is an outfielder here in Denver and we have gotten together several times. Once for a Bible study with some of MSU athletes and recently at the beginning of December to empower him to reach his Athletic Department for Jesus. Sean is friendly to all and a gatherer of people. Pray for Sean to worship Jesus as he plays hopefully injury free and pray for him and a team of other's to help see **"Christ-Followers on Every Team, in Every Sport, At Metro State University in Denver, Colorado!"**

INTELLECT

Alliance Theological Seminary! I finished this semester with a 3.93 GPA with one A-. Highlights academically included: diving into the social history of Israel and the surrounding nations culture that they interacted with throughout the Old Testament and their impact on understanding scripture. I dove deeply into 2 Kings 5 with Naaman and Elisha as well as really understanding Ezra and Nehemiah's cultural, religious and ethnic clashes on his return to rebuild the walls in Jerusalem.

I also took two classes on spiritual transformation and character development. These classes required spiritual disciplines and silent retreats which were healing and refreshing to my soul. One of the reasons I chose Alliance Theological Seminary was some of my most influential mentors Ron and Wanda Walborn (from my Nyack College undergrad) are highly connected there. The Holy Spirit really transformed how I love and minister to people by using them in my life. In one of the classes I wrote an updated grief journal and went to five counseling sessions to process it and other issues (required by the class). The heart behind ATS is they know we are all jacked up and they want us to deal with our issues so we can become more like Jesus and help others do the same.

I am 30 Credits into a 93 credit Masters of Divinity. I will be taking 3 to 4 classes next semester and am loving it! Thank you AIA/Cru for this opportunity and thank you ministry partners for continuing to invest in me as I grow as a man of God and minister of the Gospel, making disciples.





INSTRUCTION

Some of you results oriented people might be thinking, "Why Am I still supporting this guy, he is going back to school, I want to see the gospel advanced!" Well, I hear you and just because I am going to school doesn't mean I am not putting in work for Jesus. I have preached twice at the Denver Rescue mission and gone to Lookout Mountain Prison thanks to my man Abe Rodriguez!

I have preached at Aurora Alliance Church, University of Northern Colorado's Athletes in Action and done a Bible Study with Metro State Athletes. Also I am mentoring Sean Kennedy at MSU and Jeremy



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at Biola University. There are also random opportunities to serve around the state that Jesus has opened.



I AM

I have been led by several books to contemplate the great "I AM", Jesus Christ as a risk taker. His vulnerability to leave the throne of the universe to take the form of a baby was such a risk! I see myself as a risk taker and yet when compared to Jesus I fall so short. I am in awe of his risking take with the world, daily with me and with you. He is so good! He is a great risk taking "I AM" who motivates me to continue to take risks for him, through and by him.



Israel


I have been wanting to go for many years. I even looked at going to a Seminary out there with Christian Arabs and Jews! In moving back to Denver, I was excited just to get some classes to learn more about Israel. Well, one of the classes goes to Israel! Dr. Widbin has been around the land for 30 years and will be taking myself and about 30 others around for two weeks. I have included our schedule


on the next page so you can follow along and look in the Bible at where some of the events happened that we will be attending. I am so grateful for this opportunity. Some people wait their whole life to go. I thought instead of waiting my whole life how about now! What kind preacher and teacher doesn't know the land and how it effects the observations, interpretations and applications of the text?!

I am going Jan 1st-15th!



INTERCESSION (I-6)

 I invite you to journey with me by following the schedule, praying for myself, for Jews, Christians and Arabs in the land. For God to bring many people to himself. Pray for Jesus to do a supernatural work in me and those I am around. Pray for God to awaken the passages for you as you follow along. You can look up the names of the places in a Bible search engine like biblegateway.com or use the back of your Bible.

 Currently Katie and I are looking for a home church to get involved with. I really liked [Addis Kadan a CMA Ethiopian Church](#) that Jesus reconnected me with. Please be in prayer for Katie and I as we look to get plugged into a solid church community out here.



Please be in prayer for Katie as she serves with many non-prophet organizations involving empowering women and being a voice for the wounded and voiceless. Pray for our future too.



Please pray for financial provision, wisdom & generosity on my behalf.



Pray for two AIA [Lenses Institutes](#) I will be part of serving this semester in Phoenix, AZ Feb 28 - Mar 4 & Atlanta, GA Mar 28 - Apr 1



Jesus please be the supplier of mercy and goodness to all who read this or touch this newsletter electronically or snail-mail. Empower them with your risk taking love today! In Jesus Name amen.



Nicholas Taylor Hargrove

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About the trip...

- *All presentations on site
- *Swims and hike options throughout
- *Boat ride on Sea of Galilee
- *Evening Reflection Times
- *Discussions with Israelis and Arabs
- *Bible Teaching in historical and cultural context
- *Study materials available
- *And Much, MUCH more...

Alliance Theological Seminary Biennial Study Trip

January 2-15, 2017

Director/Guide: Dr. Bryan Widin

Jan 2 (M) Leave New York/JFK for Tel Aviv

Jan 3 (T) Arrive Tel Aviv, Transfer to Seasons Hotel, Netanya

Jan 4 (W) Orientation in the Land of Honey, Caesarea.

Muinaga, Megiddo, Nazareth, Nain. Our trip begins with a visit to the capital of Roman Palestine in the 1st century, Caesarea Maritima. Here Christianity begins with the conversion of Cornelius! Then we ascend the heights of Mt. Carmel, where Elijah engaged the prophets of Baal and Asherah. Then we descend to Megiddo, Solomon's store city, for a look at Canaanite temples, stables and a water system from the days of Ahab. The valley around Megiddo (Armageddon) furnishes the setting for the world's final battle. Finally, on our way to the Sea of Galilee we stop at Nazareth, the boyhood home of our Lord, and at the lower Galilean town of Nain where Jesus raised a widow's son from the dead. Then we cut through the rolling hills to the Sea and our stopping place for the next several nights. Overnight Kibbutz Nof Ginosar, Sea floor.

Jan 5 (Th) Border Sites and A Time of Exiting: Hazor, Dan, Banyas, Damascus Road, Kursi. First, we head north for a quick stop at the major Old Testament city of Hazor. Here, caravans entering and leaving Canaan on the international trade route forded the Jordan River. Then we head further north to the city of Dan on the northern border of the kingdom of Israel, where Jeroboam positioned one of his golden calves. Before lunch then we'll visit Caesarea Philippi and consider Peter's confession of Christ against this background. Then it is on to lunch in a Druze village on the Syrian border and a look at the Damascus Road where Paul's life was forever altered. Finally, we stop at Kursi/Gezera, the site of the so-called swine miracles where Jesus cast out the demons into the swine herd. Before returning to our hotel, we'll stop briefly at the Jordan River where it enters the Sea of Galilee from the north. Overnight Nof Ginosar.

Jan 6 (F) Jesus and Days of Boyhood, Commencement and Distinction, Chorazin, Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum, Boat Ride. Our day begins with our considering the context of Jesus' rearing as we look at the years of his public ministry around the sea, beginning at Chorazin. Then we walk a short distance to the plateau area above the sea where Jesus preached to the multitudes at his "sermon on the mount." We'll walk with the crowds from this high ground then down to the remains of Jesus' "own city," Capernaum. After lunch beside the sea then, we'll board a boat for the rest of the afternoon on the Sea of Galilee. We'll tell sea stories, sing and pray together, and dance Israeli folk dances all the way to the seaside town of Tiberias. Overnight Kibbutz Nof Ginosar, Sea of Galilee

Jan 7 (Sa) Transition to the Land of Milk. Jordan River south, Beth Shean, Ma'ayan Harod, Qumran, Dead Sea Swim, Jericho. This morning we finish in Galilee with a stop at the capital of Ptolemais, just down the road from Jesus' boyhood home. And then it is on to the small spring in the Harod Valley where Gideon parted down his army at the command of the Lord. We'll lunch in Jericho (where Jesus often did!) and then consider the attack of the Israelites under Joshua at the very site where it happened. A final visit finds us at Qumran and the settlement that produced the Dead Sea scrolls. After a dip (or float) in the Dead Sea at 1300 ft. below sea level, a short ride at the end of the day brings us to an oasis along the shore of the Dead Sea for a lovely night's rest. Overnight Intercontinental Hotel, Jericho.

Jan 8 (Su) Intrigue in the Region of the Dead Sea. Ein Gedi Hike, Masada, Sodom and Gomorrah, Arad. We rise very early this morning for hike up the canyon where David hid from Saul. Then it's on to the infamous Masada, where fanatical Zealots stood to the last against the regular and mercenary troops of Rome. After lunch we take a dip in the Dead Sea (over 30% salt!) for a unique experience here and end our day on a height above the Dead Sea for an overlook of the area commanded by Sodom and Gomorrah. Then to conclude, we visit the ancient, 5000 year old city ruin of Arad and its sister fort installed by Solomon 2000 years later to protect the exposed southern flank of his kingdom from the Edomites. Overnight Inbar Hotel, Arad

Jan 9 (M) The Exodus and Wilderness Wanderings: Ein Avdat Hike, Camel Trek at Han Hashivaron, Avdat, Mahlatzi Ramon. After a hearty breakfast at this southern Israeli town, we head deep into the desert of Zin, where the Israelites wandered for forty years. We'll start first by hiking with them up a canyon known well to early Israel. Here we'll set the scene for the 23rd Psalm and its "valley of the shadow of death." Then always a highlight of our trips, we'll trek by camel back to the Nabatean fortress of Avdat, a way station on the spice route between Petra and Gaza. Finally, we stop near Kadesh Barnea at the "grand canyon of Israel" to survey the Zin and Paran deserts, home to the invading Israelites for a 40-year shepherding hiatus. A time of worship and reflection together is most appropriate in the quiet of this majestic place! Now we'll surely be ready for a night's rest in the desert mining town of Mizpeh Ramon. Overnight Ramon Inn, Mizpeh Ramon.

Jan 10 (T) Patriarchs, Judges and Philistine Wars: Beersheva, Lachish, Valley of Elia and Socoh, Bethlehem. We begin our day by heading north again for the Negev and a visit to Beersheva, the southernmost city in Judah and city of Abraham. Just before lunch we'll visit the star city of the Judean defense system, Lachish, where Judean troops stood to the last against Sennacherib's royal Assyrian regulars. After lunch, we keep our northern track for the lowlands for an afternoon with David, Goliath, Samson and other heroes of Israel. We stop in the valley of Eliah (I Samuel 17:1-2), at Socoh, the setting for David's slaying of Goliath. We might find a stone or two (or five!) from the creek where David chose his. And on our way to Jerusalem we stop at Bethlehem for a brief visit and shopping opportunity. Overnight Ambassador Hotel, Jerusalem

Jan 11 (W) Jerusalem: City of David, Pool of Siloam, Southern Wall Excavations, the Jewish Quarter, the Citadel/David's Tower. After an overview of Jerusalem, we'll explore the development of Jerusalem throughout the biblical period. We begin at the hill conquered by David from the Jebusites and then from the pool of Siloam, where Jesus sent the blind man to wash his eyes clean (John 9), we trek up the drainage channel of the Second Temple to the level of the Herodian street of Jesus' day. We'll visit the western retaining wall of Herod's temple, fully laying out the temple square delineated by Solomon. This

visit includes a time on the southern staircase of the temple mount where Jesus preached and taught during his last week (Matthew 24). After lunch in the upper city, we'll visit with an orthodox Jew to get a better feel for his faith and for the importance of Jerusalem to Judaism. Our final stop examines Herod's fortified palatial estate at the Citadel overlooking the valley of Hinnom, where Herod entertained the magi on their way to Bethlehem to visit the Christ child. Overnight Ambassador Hotel, Jerusalem.

Jan 12 (Th) The Birth of Jesus and the Jerusalem of Jesus' Day: Israel Museum, Wohl Archaeological Museum, Bethlehem, Herodium. Our day begins with a visit to the Israel Museum where we see a model of Jerusalem from the days of Jesus. This stop also includes a visit to the Shrine of the Book where many of the dead sea scrolls are stored. Then we motor to the Old City where we visit the dwellings of the Sadducees 10 feet below the present day level of the city. This experience is important for tomorrow's consideration of the Last Supper occasions and the Jewish trials of Passion Week. Before lunch it's on to Bethlehem and a discussion of the events of Jesus' birth from the area of the town where Jesus was born. And then a final stop of the day at Herodium, Herod the Great's favorite palatial citadel just south, and a look at his tomb. Overnight Ritz Hotel, Jerusalem.

Jan 13 (F) FREE DAY. Here is a day to catch up on your notes, get some well earned rest, or explore some more! We'll give you some options. But be sure to join us at the close of the day at the Western Wall for the breaking in of Shabbat. Overnight Ambassador Hotel, Jerusalem.

Jan 14 (Sa) Passion Week and Jesus Finishes His Ministry on Earth: Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, Upper Room, St. Peter in Gallicantu, the Citadel, Holy Sepulchre. We start the day with a panorama of the eastern side of the city from the Mount of Olives. We'll set here the events in chronology of the last seven days in the life of Christ after he left the town of Ephraim where he had wintered (John 11:54). As we walk down of the Mount of Olives then to Gethsemane we stop to remember Jesus weeping over this city chosen by God as his habitation. We drive to the upper city then to visit the Cenacle (Upper Room) where Jesus celebrated his last supper with the disciples and then a most memorable visit to the house of Caiaphas just a short distance away. Here we discuss the Jewish and Roman trials of Jesus. After lunch we visit the site of the Roman trials with Pontius Pilate at the Citadel and then walk with Jesus to the place of his crucifixion. There we consider the meaning of the resurrection for early Christians and ourselves. A final evening of reflection and sharing of personal impressions with communion together in the service of our Lord. Overnight Ambassador Hotel, Jerusalem.

Jan 15 (Su) Depart Tel Aviv for New York/JFK.

