



## Our Visit to the Holy Land

In late January several members of our Tribal Trails staff were privileged to spend 10 days in Israel. So what in the world is a ministry to North American Indigenous people doing in the Holy Land, you may wonder?



The idea to visit Israel and do some recording for Tribal Trails was not a new thought. It was several years ago that one of our program hosts, Rita Anderson, began praying and talking about it. Her vision was to have Indigenous Christians sharing from God's Word, standing in the very places that we read about in the Scriptures. For First Nations people viewing Tribal Trails, this could help the Bible come to life for them in a whole new way – seeing the places where Jesus walked, taught, healed, died, and was resurrected.

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Conrad & Florence Flett were part of the tour group, and were happy that the trip could become a reality. Conrad, our program host, says that he has always noticed special interest in the nation of Israel among his own First Nations people. In fact, he says it's not uncommon to see an Israeli flag on the wall in council chambers where Band leaders hold their meetings. Many First Nations Christians have a desire to learn about Israel's past and present, says Conrad.

Another person involved was David Dunn, who has shared Bible messages as a Tribal Trails TV guest. Unfortunately, health challenges prevented him from being part of our tour team, but his knowledge and experiences visiting the Holy Land were invaluable to help us plan the trip.

With many details to sort through to make this trip a reality, there were many conversations and prayer times with Tribal Trails staff and friends of our ministry. Who would go? Who would talk on camera? Which areas to visit? What video recording equipment to bring? These things were being planned during tumultuous times in Israel, with the possibility of flights in and out of the Holy Land being cancelled at any moment. Plans were made, and then had to be postponed due to various circumstances.

We praise God for His direction over these many details, and for the safe return of our team! Seven of our Tribal Trails missionary >>>



PHOTOS: (front cover) Tribal Trails guest Bible teacher, Randy Jackson, shares a message recorded on location in Israel; (above, clockwise from top left) Part of our Tribal Trails group with our tour guide in the centre; Florence & Conrad Flett; Jason Zacharias recording Randy on a cool windy day; Evangeline Jackson (on left) with Rita Anderson; Bernadette James enjoying conversation and traditional Israeli refreshments.

>>> members were part of the group: Rita Anderson, Conrad & Florence Flett, Bernadette James, Jan Sassmannshausen, and Brent & Wanda Wahlstrom. Additionally, a key member of the team was First Nations evangelist and teacher, Randy Jackson and his wife, Evangeline. Randy recorded short Bible messages on site. Also part of the team was Jason Zacharias, on loan from Action International, who helped with the majority of our video recording.

Those of our staff who were part of the tour tell of the impact it has been to them personally. Bernadette James mentioned how going to Israel was something she'd wanted to do ever since attending Bible school. She says, "As one of God's children, being there felt like being home!"

Jan Sassmannshausen says he is humbled to be part of "something that will help Indigenous people here in Canada to grasp in a deeper way the connection between our Christian faith and the people and culture in Israel." He

adds, "Now when I read the Bible stories, scenes of what I saw come to my mind." Jan also noted, "It was amazing to observe how the people there who are so different from each other – orthodox Jews, secular Jews, Muslims, Christians and others – seem to live and work peacefully together."

With the trip complete, these days our studio team is busy sorting through video recordings, working to prepare a series of 30-minute Tribal Trails episodes. (In the meantime, you can check out "Randy and Rita in Israel" on our Tribal Trails YouTube channel.) Please pray with us that these programs will help our viewers to gain better understanding of Scripture. Pray that Jesus' words spoken there many years ago will penetrate their hearts – and that all of us will have a closer walk with Jesus as we understand more of the culture of the day, the places where Jesus spent time with people and taught, and ultimately sacrificed His life for us. ●

## from our viewers ...



- At a recent funeral wake service, a First Nations lady paid tribute to her friend and longtime mentor. "She was my best friend, sister in Christ, and often like a mom, when I needed it," she told us. "I was there many years ago when Tribal Trails came to record her testimony ... and a few years later I also got to share my testimony on Tribal Trails!" – W.S.
- "Thank you for the materials you sent. I use those gracious gifts to share about your ministry and the Gospel. The First Nations people I give t-shirts to don't believe in the Gospel yet, but many have a profound respect for Tribal Trails. That's a good building block towards them choosing faith in Christ one day. I enjoy sharing my faith with teachers at our schools, and give materials to students. Thank you for generously providing materials free of charge." – J.G.
- "I am blessed by your program. The love of God shines through. My thanks is especially for how I believe it was Tribal Trails that influenced my 64-year-old son to finally say yes to Jesus. He had given up on Christian faith and my church, but your music got through to him. He commented on it, and God's Spirit came through." – M.V.

*\*Viewer responses may have been edited for space and clarity.*

## *We appreciate & need your* **Prayer**

- **Pray** for our STAFF NEEDS, especially PROGRAM PLANNERS & VIDEO EDITORS. We are happy to provide on-the-job technical training for those with fitting aptitude and heart to reach First Nations.
- **Pray** for GENERATION HOPE ([www.GenerationHope.ca](http://www.GenerationHope.ca)), our media outreach to First Nations youth/young adults. Pray for the recording of testimonies that will speak to the hearts of those in need of the hope that Christ offers.
- **Pray** for upcoming INTERVIEWS with Tribal Trails guests, for their spiritual protection, and that God would be glorified through our program content ... testimonies, Bible messages, and songs.
- **Pray** for our online program viewing. At press time we are dealing with a significant TECHNICAL ISSUE.

## *With the Lord*



We are saddened to tell of the passing of **Shirley Jackson** on January 8, in Lac La Biche, Alberta, at age 91. We will miss our visits with Shirley as she regularly accompanied her husband, Bill, when recording his Bible messages and their songs together in our Prince Albert studio.

Our Spring 2025 *News & Views* told of the Jacksons' faithful full-time service for the Lord since the 1960s. With Bill's ministries also including radio, itinerant preaching, teaching, and writing, Shirley faithfully served in partnership with him, while raising their children. She was a faithful prayer warrior for Bill and their sons in ministry.

To purchase a copy of Bill & Shirley's biography *As Long as the Rivers Run*, visit [www.tribaltrailsbooks.com](http://www.tribaltrailsbooks.com) or phone: 306-764-3388 (press "3"). To listen to the Jacksons' life story, search K193 or K194 on [www.TribalTrails.org](http://www.TribalTrails.org)

## FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK



I was very privileged and blessed to be a part of our recording trip to Israel in January. It was educational and inspiring, yes, but there was also a lot of camera set-up and recording chores for us during those days.

As mentioned, our staff are working hard to prepare new programs to be aired in the fall. Additionally, we carry on work with our spiritual help team who respond to letters, emails and phone calls from Tribal Trails viewers. With confidentiality, our prayer team regularly takes these many needs, concerns and burdens of our viewers to the Lord.

On the technical side of things at Tribal Trails, we are currently preparing a new computer "server" for our growing amount of video material. This includes a new data management system to help us catalogue and provide easier access to our recorded video files as we put together our half-hour TV programs and shorter online presentations.

As always, we appreciate your prayer and financial support. If you have questions about our ministry, please don't hesitate to contact us. (Our contact info is on back)

**Brent Wahlstrom**  
*Tribal Trails Administrator*

## OUR STAFF ...

*We've introduced some of our Tribal Trails missionary staff in past issues of News & Views. Here are two more couples who give their time to this ministry:*



When Conrad & Florence Flett graduated from Bible school in 1998, the elders of their home church in Garden Hill, Manitoba, encouraged them to consider serving with NCEM's Tribal Trails

ministry. It wasn't long before the Fletts knew that this is where the Lord wanted them.

Along with ministry with Native Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (Conrad serves as NEFC Board Chair), the Fletts feel fulfilled knowing that through television they're helping to encourage Native believers in many places. They travel extensively, visiting believers and fellowships in Indigenous communities to encourage local church leaders. The Fletts have four grown children, and make their home in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

Beside our Tribal Trails administrator, Brent Wahlstrom, is his wife, Wanda. She has been his support in ministry for many years, and has recently taken on managing our Tribal Trails Bookstore (TrailsBooks.com).



It's more a ministry than a business because many more books are given away than are sold. Thanks to generous donors, we are able to freely mail Bibles, books and tracts to those who have contacted us for spiritual help, and to ministry partners who distribute these resources produced especially for First Nations.

Brent & Wanda also love assisting at NCEM's Pine Ridge Bible Camp. Whether through media, personal connections around home, or at Bible camp, they're happy to be part of this ministry. The Wahlstroms have six adult children, two of them serving with NCEM.

***Each of our Tribal Trails staff is responsible for building their team of financial supporters. If you would like to support one or more of them, please contact us.***

### WAYS TO DONATE ...

Check our website or phone 306-764-3388 for details.



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***Additional resources for First Nations readers are available for purchase at [www.tribaltrailsbooks.com](http://www.tribaltrailsbooks.com)***



**Tribal Trails News & Views** is the newsletter of NCEM-TV, a department of Northern Canada Evangelical Mission (NCEM), issued two or three times a year. Subscriptions are free (donations towards costs are appreciated).

Since the early 1980s NCEM's television ministry has reached across racial, religious, and geographical barriers with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Your involvement through prayer, financial giving, and other personal contributions can make a difference in the lives of First Nations people who Christ loves and for whom He gave His life.

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A financial statement is available upon request. Pre-authorized and online giving is now available. Visit our website or contact us for more information.