

Tuesday, March 15

Hope all is well at home. Tonight I write you from Petra where we arrived about an hour ago after a long bus ride. We left the hotel in the Galilee about 7 am and drove to the Jordanian border. Our Israeli guide, driver and bus were not allowed to enter (we knew this ahead of time) and we had to go thru a variety of passport checkpoints, get a special \$58 dollar Jordan pass (which we had not been told about ahead of time), switch buses and finally get on the road.

Jordan is an interesting place - there is a lot of rock and sand! We drove thru many small villages with sights very different from Barrington! There is a lot of rock and sand! We finally reached the "Crossing Place" where the Israelites crossed into the Promised Land and where the Jordanians say Jesus was baptized (we didn't do it again). There is a lot of rock and sand!

The climb up to Mt Nebo was a long twisting ride of 3400 feet (starting at 1400 feet below sea level) and then finally to the top. We had a fabulous view of a lot of rock and sand - across the Jordan River, into the Promised Land as Moses had done. By the way, if there are any typos here it is because it is an Arabic keyboard so I am heavily relying on my high school typing classes. It was a very special time on top of the mountain actually.

After a shawarma sandwich we had a 2 hour bus ride to Petra. Tonight we need a little early to bed time. We are thinking of you all. Oh by the way, I was given an Arab Jordanian headdress to wear for these days and several in our group are insisting I wear it into the pulpit upon return - just wanted you to be warned!

By tomorrow night we will be in Jerusalem and I may wait until the next day to write again. Our group is really making wonderful friendships...this has been terrific.

By the way, POG has been behaving himself...pretty much. His heart collection is growing...but his Hebrew is not!

Love to you all,

Jeff