

Monday, March 14

Just wanted to pass along my own words to the congregation tonight after a very emotional day. We are having a wonderful time learning and sharing with our sisters and brothers from Temple Habonim. I am afraid we were a little over ambitious in our planning and have had to be a bit realistic and cut a few things out of the original agenda...and we are still getting on the bus at 6:30 am tomorrow! But it has been a very powerful time.

Just today...we began at the "hometown" of Jesus on the Galilee called Capernaum where we sat together in the ruins of the synagogue where Jesus taught and reflected on the Jewishness of Jesus and the disciples. We then went up to the mountain where he gave his "Sermon on the Mount" and experienced Steve Fodor reading the "Beatitudes" to our whole group. (Not a lot of dry eyes!)

We then spent several hours at an Arab/Jewish Dialogue Center (not the exact name) where we listened to a young Jewish and young Arab Muslim women explain what it was like to live in neighboring villages as Israeli people. It was quite emotional and our group heartily entered the dialogue with many questions.

We have just returned from the Jordan River where most of the Christians experienced a rededication of their baptism (including 2 in our group who opted for full immersion!) while the others supported us by holding our clothes, taking pictures and cheering us on. For all 23 it was a very special thing to share together.

We are heading out to dinner across the lake soon for "Peter Fish."

What a very special time. We are grateful for all the prayers from home. We keep in our prayers the people of Japan...and we pray for peace as a Jewish family in a settlement was murdered the other day.

We are thinking of all of you,

Jeff