

## Footsteps of Paul Christian Tour including a Privately Chartered Small Luxury Ship Cruise October 30 – November 8, 2012

This cruise and tour accommodates a maximum of 42 people. Prior to joining our privately chartered ship we will visit

the Biblical study areas of Philippi, Thessalonika, Corinth and Athens before we sail into the Aegean Sea visiting the Greek Islands, (including John's Island of Patmos), Ephesus, the Venetian island of Syros and ending at Turkey to view the significant Seven Churches Sites. This trip highlights not only the Biblical sites, but takes in some incredibly lovely tourist stops including Syros, Samos and Pumakkale. You will have a choice of 4 cabin types aboard the cruise ranging from outside with port holes to a suite with a picture window. You can also depart the US on October 27 early for a pre-tour of Rome that is focused on the early church and Paul's ministry to the Romans. The main tour at \$3,999 includes all meals, all tours, intra-Europe and intra-Asia airfare and all gratuities. Upgraded cabins and business class airfare is available.

**Oct 30** Each of us will depart from our home city this morning, meeting the group in New York or a place more convenient. The pre-trip to Rome departs the US on October 28 (described later in this itinerary). If you take this pre-tour you will arrive in Thessalonika with the group on October 31.

**Oct 31** Arrive in Thessalonika, Greece, today. On our way to our hotel we will walk the ramparts of the Old City of the Thessalonian church. We will visit the Galerius Arch over the Via Egnatia. We will visit the Roman Agora where Paul preached during the winters of 49-50AD. Tonight we have a welcome dinner with our new study friends. **BLD**

**Nov 1** Today, we travel to the lovely port town of Kavala on the Mediterranean. This is ancient Neapolis where Paul, Silas and Timothy landed. It is also here that Lydia became the first European convert to Christianity. You will be able to see the cistern of Philippi where Paul was imprisoned, and we will enjoy a lively study together at the site of the prison itself. We return to our hotel in Thessalonika tonight. **BLD**

**Nov 2** Depart this morning for Corinth and then Athens. After arrival at the Athens airport, we visit the engineering wonder – the Corinth Canal. Then, visit the towering Acropolis of Corinth, the city where Paul preached and founded the Gentile church in 50 AD. To them he wrote at least four of his letters (two of which have been lost.) We will see the remains of the first century church where Paul spent time with Priscilla and Aquila and where he was on trial at the Bema.

MAP



After lunch, we drive into the city of Athens for a momentous teaching at Mars Hill and the Acropolis where Paul preached the truth to the Gentiles. We also have a tour of the city of Athens and of its lovely Plaka or Old City. You will see the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the first Olympic stadium. Enjoy a lovely dinner with a view of the commanding Acropolis. Join our private ship this evening. We set sail out into the Mediterranean. We join together tonight on deck for praise and worship. **BLD**



When the Jews of Corinth brought Paul before the tribunal, the proconsul (Gallo) stood on this platform (bema) and declared Paul innocent of any crime.

**Nov 3** This morning we can relax and enjoy the ship and sleeping in while we are at sea. After



Sleek, elegant, and all ours.  
*The Harmony G*

lunch we make a picturesque stop at the Venetian island of Syros. You can enjoy the beach, a walk past the numerous lovely mansions or a stop at the museum – home of famous artwork, including that of El Greco. Syros is also home to the church dedicated to the 4<sup>th</sup> century saint – St. Nicholas or Santa Claus (unique Christmas gift shopping!). Late this afternoon we begin our teachings on the importance of Greece in spreading the Gospel and their own Alexander the Great. Evening at sea. Praise and worship together on our private deck. **BLD**

**Nov 4** Arrive on the Island of Patmos this morning. It is here where the Apostle John was sent to be imprisoned. You will visit the cave where he lived and where he received the Book of Revelation. We will sit together in the small amphitheatre above the harbor with the same view that John had for many years and study: *"I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus and unto Smyrna and unto Pergamum, and unto Thyatira and unto Sardis and unto Philadelphia and unto Laodicea."* Revelation 1:9-11. What a perfect send off for our visit to Turkey tomorrow!



A teaching at Ephesus can open the heart and mind to the realities of the history of our faith.

We return back aboard ship this afternoon. We will enjoy a brief stop tonight on the island of Samos in Asia Minor. Samos is a World Heritage site, has great beaches and a quaint harbor and is known as one of the sunniest places in all of Europe. **BLD**

**Nov 5** Today, we say goodbye to our ship as we arrive at the most impressive of all seven church sites this morning – Ephesus! Today you will see the impressive streets, the Agora, the Temple of Artemis and sit in the

actual amphitheatre where Paul addressed the Ephesians. It was here at Ephesus that Paul went through many trials and tribulations. After lunch we travel on to Laodicea where the church, in Revelation 3:14-22, were chastised for not being warm nor hot and for incorporating pagan beliefs. We will spend the night at Pamukkale – known for its cascading limestone pools. It is here where Philip lived and is said to be buried. **BLD**

**Nov 6** Today we visit the churches at Philadelphia. Revelation reveals that Christ told those who overcame that he would write upon them “*the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, which is the New Jerusalem.*” We will continue to Sardis, the church community of which Revelation says Christ told them that “*I know thy works, that thou hast a name, that thou livest and art dead.*” Here we will see the impressive Temple of Artemis. This afternoon continue on to Thytira – which tolerated the prophetess compared to Jezebel and then to Pergamon. We will visit the Red Basilica, walk thru the medical Asclepion and visit the site of the Great Theatre-the steepest in the world. Here at Pergamon, we will see the Acropolis and the site of Satan’s seat, a reference to the altar of Zeus currently in the Pergamon Museum in Berlin. We will enjoy a lively teaching in the impressive theatre that has commanding views of what once was a harbor. We overnight nearby. **BLD**

**Nov 7** This morning we visit the site of Smyrna, the last stronghold of Christianity in Asia Minor. It was also home to the Bishop Polycarp. We then fly to the city of Istanbul. On arrival, we see the impressive Hagia Sofia, the Christian Chora Museum and the Basilica Cistern. We will overnight in the old city area of Sultan Ahmet. Istanbul is a bustling trendy city that is perhaps one of the prettiest sights in all of Europe. Enjoy a walk around the shops and then we will have a unique dinner together this evening to celebrate our fellowship and learning. **BLD**



One of the stunning mosaics at Istanbul's Hagia Sofia

**Nov 8** Morning at leisure and depart for the airport together. Return to New York or your home airports this evening. **B**

## Footsteps of Paul Optional Pre-trip to Rome, Oct. 27 – Oct. 31, 2012

**Oct 28** Arrive in Rome this morning. On your way to the city we’ll take a brief walking tour to see Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps, the Pantheon (originally built by Augustus Caesar in 31AD) and the lovely Piazza Navona. You have a little time to rest at the hotel before meeting at a lively pizzeria for dinner. **D**



Pieces of preserved fresco in the catacombs of St. Domitilla, the oldest known of Rome's catacombs and burial place of many early Christians.

**Oct 29** After breakfast we'll visit an ancient area of Rome known for the earliest church paintings and sketches of Jesus Christ and his disciples, located underground. It is here that we will visit the Mamertime, where Peter and Paul were imprisoned. We will walk around Capitoline Hill and see the Arch of Titus (from 82AD) – significant because it is adorned with depictions of the pillage of Jerusalem. We will enter the famous Coliseum to see the prison cells and lion cages, and then walk the Circus Maximus where many Christians were martyred. You'll have time to grab a casual lunch (or shop) before we proceed to the oldest Christian catacombs of Rome, "the Domitilla." We walk a bit of the Appian Way to get a feel for how Paul, Peter, Priscilla and Aquila felt as they entered the pagan city. Even today, you can see the remains of this ancient walkway and the overhead aqueduct lined with its shattered statues and busts. Afterward, we visit the site where the Apostle Paul was beheaded and then buried. Tonight is a free evening to rest. **B**

**Oct 30** Early today, we'll visit the Vatican, Vatican City and its museums, ending with the spectacular painting of the "Last Judgment" on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. On our return to the Old City of Rome we view Scala Sancta – the stairs said to be the originals that Jesus walked prior to his condemnation by Pontius Pilate. The stairs are adjacent to one of the most famous Basilicas of Rome, San Giovanni Laterano, formerly a pagan temple. We'll learn the history that incorporates Mussolini's Fascist era buildings, and Mussolini's effect on Christianity in Italy. Finally we'll visit some of the striking piazzas that dot Rome's corners. Today enjoy a free afternoon to shop the fashionable streets of Via Del Corso and the Condotti. We'll dine tonight in the oldest part of Rome: Trastevere. The meandering, narrow cobbled streets are alive with late-night diners. **BD**

**Oct 31**

Have breakfast at your leisure. We depart Rome at 11:00AM to meet our friends in Thessalonika. **BLD**

Rome, the Eternal City, speaks to us from every street corner of the history of our Christian faith.



This optional Rome pre-tour includes 3 nights accommodations, the flight from Rome to Thessalonika, tips, taxes, all tours, airport transfers, breakfast daily and two dinners.



105 N First St Suite 200  
 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
 800.771.8717 FAX: 208.664.5107  
 info@livingpassages.org www.livingpassages.org