

# FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



July 2009



## ISRAEL UPDATE

PASTOR TROY



**Group Overlooking Sea of Galilee**

Friends, I want to thank you for your prayers during my trip to Israel the past two and a half weeks. It was a wonderful trip that enabled me to see in person many of the places mentioned in the Bible – both the Old and the New Testaments. It opened my eyes to numerous biblical passages in ways that visual experience of the geography enables. Most importantly, though, it was a blessing to spend this extended time with friends and colleagues (some of whom I've known for many years) as we discussed ministry and life and faith. It was a blessing to spend this year's study leave in the Holy Land – thank you for the experience. And please, I ask for your continued prayers as I work out the newly acquired debt I owe to my wife in various forms of required servitude.

I intend to assemble a slide-show, or, to be more "current," a power-point presentation or an enhanced DVD or whatever else a computer might spit out, of the spots on our trip and related biblical passages. I'll show this at an evening educational event to be announced at a later date. This evening will not be an event much like some family reunion events, where an annoying family member who's always snapping pictures forces everyone to sit down and watch a boring slide-show. It rather will be a teaching evening, showing pictures of present-

day Israel and occupied Palestinian territories in connection with biblical passages – to give you a visual tour through significant biblical passages. Spoiler alert: there are no pictures of me riding on a camel, sorry.

During the rest of the summer we will be walking through the book of 1 John – a short book at the end of the New Testament. Read ahead through this book and begin reflecting upon what God is saying through his Word. 1 John is a loving book written by a teacher/pastor who implores his friends to live out their faith in Jesus Christ in light of the love of God and uncompromising adherence to the truth found in Him.