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Summer 2010 DigSight Newsletter

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KHIRBET QEYAF A 2010 SEASON REPORT

For a second consecutive season, Southern Adventist University's Institute of Archaeology, in partnership with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, organized an archaeological expedition to the biblical site of Khirbet Qeiyafa in Israel.

Khirbet Qeiyafa is located in the area of the Valley of Elah, the setting of the famous battle between David and Goliath. The site made headlines in 2008 when the oldest Hebrew inscription was discovered there. That same year excavators uncovered the remains of a massive casemate wall, a four-chamber gate, and two small buildings. Pottery analysis and radiocarbon testing dated these structures to the time of King David (early tenth century B.C.). In 2009 the discovery of a second city gate solidified the identification of the site as biblical Sha'arayim ("two gates"), a city associated with David's reign in Judah.

This summer a team of 62 staff and students from Southern excavated the ruins of the ancient city-fortress. Michael G Hasel,

director of the Institute of Archaeology, served as associate director of the project, supervising the excavation of Area D, while directors Yosef Garfinkel and Saar Ganor of the Hebrew University worked in Area C. "A project like this is a collaborative effort among a number of different experts who provide their time and resources in the interpretive process. We could not have

Scot Anderson and Michael Dant supervised and maintained the excavation's database system. Each square supervisor had a netbook computer and could record field data as it was gathered. Survey work was a collaborative effort headed by Daniel Perez, a Northern Arizona University graduate student. With the aid of ArcGIS software, Perez georeferenced photographs with data

points taken in the field, while Dean Scott, School of Visual Art and Design professor, took those images and worked them in Adobe Illustrator to produce daily top plans. "The result was publishable quality plans by the end of every day," said Justo Morales, Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum's coordinator and a square supervisor who used those plans to measure progress in his squares.

The registrar and illustrations team was headed by School of Visual Art and Design professor, Giselle Hasel. Hasel and her two assistants, Southern graduates Ariel Turner and Krista Turner, were responsible for processing

pottery and objects and drawing the most important artifacts for publication. "These are very technical illustrations that need to be drawn to scale and with great precision," commented Ariel Turner, a designer for



Southern's excavation staff for the 2010 season. *Front row (left to right):* Marcella Morales, Giselle Hasel, Michael Hasel, Dean Scott. *Middle row:* Clay Perez, Florian Hasel, Annalee Beagle, Krista Turner, Ariel Turner, Heather Holloway. *Back row:* Justo Morales, Michael Dant, Joel Willis, Donn Leatherman, Josh McGraw, Ben Van Allen, Kenny Phillips.

done it without them," explained Hasel.

An important part of the team was the information technology and survey crew, responsible for surveying and database support. School of Computing professors

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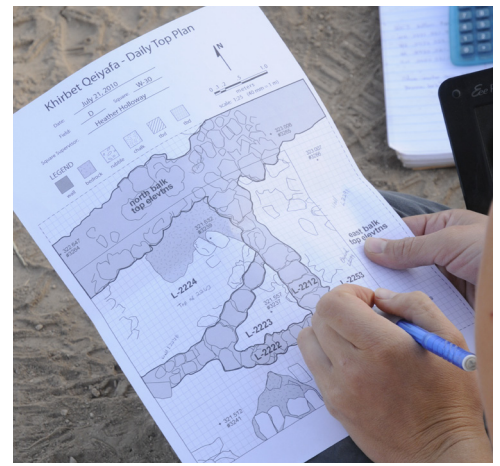
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Josh McGraw (left) records survey data collected by Daniel Perez (right)

was constructed running parallel to the city wall, a massive casemate wall whose foundations were laid in the tenth century B.C. The Hellenistic inhabitants later rebuilt the wall. Some of the most interesting finds from the Hellenistic period include a Yehud owl coin, a Ptolemy I silver tetradrachm, bronze ornaments, iron tools, stone vessels, glass sherds, ballistae, a large storage jar, and several clay ovens (tabuns).

Because of the extensive Hellenistic occupation, the chambers inside the casemate wall and some areas near bedrock contained the only undisturbed Iron Age material found in Area D. Area D, south of the western gate, was either an open courtyard during the Iron Age or was



Digitally prepared daily top plan.

couldn't be an empty hole. Why go through all that trouble if you're not going to put something important there?"

After weeks of arduous dirt removal, an opening began to appear along the east wall of the pit. "We didn't know it was an opening at first," recalls business major and archaeology student Matt Wetmore. "It wasn't until we had dug down a considerable ways that we noticed that the bedrock had been carved into an arched doorway." A stone doorpost standing on one side of the doorway seemed to confirm their assessment. Excited about the prospect of hidden treasures, Juliana McGraw, a mass



Michael Hasel inside one of the rooms of the Hellenistic building.

3ABN who was given time off to join the project. Over 18,000 pottery sherds were excavated, washed, read, processed, and recorded in the database. In addition, reconstructions were drawn of what the gate and fortifications might have looked like in ancient times.

In the field, the excavation team also kept busy. Eight different excavation teams (four to six persons each) worked in a 500-meter-square area to unearth the remains of a large building dated to the early Hellenistic period (late fourth century B.C.), the time of Alexander the Great. The structure was exceptionally well preserved, standing more than two meters tall in some places. The building

destroyed the Hellenistic inhabitants when they moved in. Some interesting Iron Age finds include a few restorable vessels, iron blades, sling stones, and dozens of finger-impressed jar handles, a unique pottery type from Khirbet Qeiyafa.

The most fascinating find of the season in Area D was the discovery of a manmade cave located underneath the Hellenistic building. The excavation team that uncovered the cave had to dig out a three-meter deep pit that descended well below the level of bedrock. Normally, excavation stops once bedrock appears, but the unusually deep depression kept turning up pottery. "The pit just kept going and going," recalls archaeology major and square supervisor AnnaLee Beagle, who was determined to get to the bottom of this, literally. "I just knew it

communications major, was one of the first ones to enter the cave. "I couldn't wait to dive in. I had no idea what we would find,



Joel Willis holding part of a stone vessel.



Students Ruth Urdenata (left) and Sarah Bowers (right) uncovering a 2400 year old jar.

but I was hoping for something epic, like a gold chariot!”

Although no chariots or gold were found, the cave produced beautiful examples of Roman, Byzantine, and Islamic pottery. Bronze jewelry, coins, and several animal bones were also among the finds the team uncovered in the last few days of the season when the cave was found. Because of lack of time, only the entrance area was fully excavated to bedrock. However, the team was able to confirm that the cave continues to the north and the east, and several large chambers remain to be uncovered.

For those who may be interested in joining the project, the 2011 season is scheduled to take place from June 8 to July 22. Please check <www.southern.edu/archaeology> for more information and updates. On Thursday, October 7, Hasel will be giving an illustrated report of the 2010 season as part of the Museum Lecture Series (see Upcoming Events page). The lecture will be held in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel at 7 p.m. on the campus of Southern Adventist University. ✍



Students Matt Wetmore (left) and Juliana McGraw (right) clearing the rubble-filled opening of DCAVE.

STUDENTS EXPLORE THE LANDS OF THE BIBLE

“I’m standing by the water in the town of Tiberius dressed in my swimsuit. Quickly I descend the steps and place my feet in the Sea of Galilee, the same sea that Jesus calmed. As I take my first steps into the water, I imagine what it would have felt like to be Peter and not sink in the water,” recalls Alex Voigt, senior theology major. This is one of the many faith-building and educational experiences that participants of the 2010 Middle East Study Tour were able to receive.

Students found touring on the weekends the most refreshing and enjoyable aspect of the trip. Participants visited many biblical sites such as Capernaum, the hometown of Jesus, and were able to stand in the very synagogue in which Jesus probably taught. They visited ancient cities like Dan, Lachish, Socoh, Azekah, Gezer, Hazor, Scythopolis, and Caesarea Philippi. Mackenzie Mahan, a junior archaeology major, relates, “It was fantastic to tour these ancient sites and

stand where many Biblical characters would have stood!” In addition to “feeling” the Bible, it also gave students an experiential education. Allana Westermeyer, a senior nursing major, reflects, “It is really amazing to see the context of the Bible stories; it makes them so much more impactful.”

Although the tour focused primarily on sites in Israel, students were also able to visit the country of Jordan. After driving along the King’s Highway and overnighting in Jordan, participants spent the day visiting the temples and caves of Petra. These large facades, carved straight out of the rock, astonished many and left them with an understanding that history is so much more real than they had ever encountered.

Mixed in with all the learning

experiences were times of sheer enjoyment. For two days students were able to snorkel and scuba dive in the Red Sea. Josh McGraw, a senior archaeology major, describes his experience: “After snorkeling for one day, a couple of friends and I went a mile down the shore to see something new. With the Egyptian border about a third of a mile from us, we found a beautiful tunnel that we could swim through and see colorful coral.” And for those who were not too fond of the sea, time was spent riding camels, eating authentic Middle-Eastern foods, shopping in and exploring Jerusalem, singing in a cathedral, or just soaking up the culture of the Jewish and Arab peoples.

The spiritual impact was one of the most memorable parts of the trip. Ruth Urdaneta, a senior elementary education major, said, “Something that I really liked was the fact that reading the Word of God at different sites strengthened my faith.” Whether it was listening to a sermon on the Mount of Olives while overlooking the city of Jerusalem or sharing in a communion service in the Garden Tomb, many students gained a new spiritual experience and, like I, will never view the Bible the same way again! ✍



Students Alex Mayes (left) and Brianna Brockmann (right) visiting Islam’s third most holy place, the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.

MUSEUM ATTRACTS GENERAL CONFERENCE VISITORS

While the archaeological excavations and study tour were underway in Israel, the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum experienced a flurry of activity this summer. The 59th General Conference Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church took place in Atlanta, Georgia, a mere two-hour bus ride away from the campus of Southern Adventist University. Hundreds of General Conference attendees visited Southern and toured the museum.

According to Manuela Asaftei, a writer for the Marketing and University Relations Office, Southern's exhibit at the General Conference was one of the first booths to greet visitors entering the exhibit hall in the Georgia World Congress Center. A favorite highlight of the exhibit showcased items from the Lynn H. Wood Archaeology Museum. However, experiencing Southern didn't have to end at the General Conference booth. Visitors interested in taking a look at the campus signed up for a free bus trip to Collegedale. "This option was so popular that even with additional buses, all the trips for the week were filled

up by Monday afternoon," reported Asaftei. Between June 25 and July 3, these buses brought to Southern's campus and the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum over 900 guests who would have otherwise not had an opportunity to experience what we offer. Many came from all across the United States and Canada, as well as Central and South America, the Philippines, South Africa, Russia, and Europe. Never has there

been such wide exposure for the museum.

Thanks to the commitment of the museum's volunteer docents, the museum was open during the General Conference session. "I was proud to be a part of the museum's awesome display of God's works in our human history," said Susan Brown, the museum's docent coordinator. "Rarely will the museum experience so much activity in such a short amount of time." 🍷



Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum's display at Southern's General Conference booth.

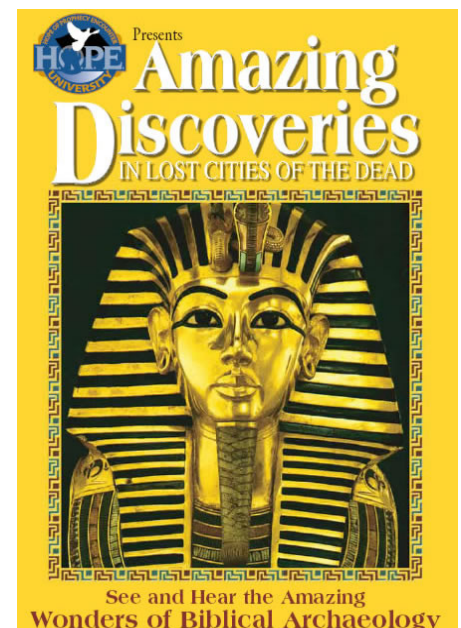
EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS HELD IN WASHINGTON DC



Ron Clouzet

From August 19-21, the "Amazing Discoveries" meetings were conducted in the Washington, DC metro area by Dr. Michael G. Hasel, director of the Institute of Archaeology, and Dr. Ron Clouzet, director of NADEI and professor of Evangelism at Andrews University. The meetings

were held at the Southern Asian SDA Church next to the General Conference world headquarters. Over 600 people attended five sessions covering topics which spanned the countries of Egypt, Babylonia, ancient Israel, and Turkey. The meetings were simultaneously transmitted to seven other locations in Maryland, Virginia, and DC. One person drove all the way from Philadelphia to attend with her husband. Another came because of her Egyptian background and her interest to know more about the history of her country. "The information and insights shared created a deepening desire in those who attended to understand the Bible better," said Clouzet, who began a five-week series in September focusing on biblical history and prophecy. 🍷



EXCAVATING WITH THE “QUEEN OF THE PHILISTINES”



It was on a sunny Shabbat afternoon in Jerusalem this summer as my family and I made our way through the streets of Jerusalem to the home of a friend we had not visited for several years.

The last time my wife, Giselle, and I were in her home, we had enjoyed an evening meal with Moshe and Trude Dothan—two world-renowned Israeli archaeologists. Later we reciprocated by inviting them to our apartment at the Albright Institute in Jerusalem for haystacks—a Tex-Mex delicacy that needed some explaining and demonstration. Now nearly 20 years later, we are making our way back with our children this time. She still lives in the same house, and as we visited that afternoon, the memories came flooding back.

In the early 1990s Professor Trude Dothan of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem was co-director of excavations at the famous Philistine site of Ekron. It was a time when new excavations were taking place at several major Philistine cities, Ashdod and Ashkelon included. I was a young doctoral student when I joined Professor Dothan at Ekron;

I worked first as a square supervisor and later as an associate field director. We were uncovering the ancient temples and dwellings of the first Philistine settlers who had migrated from the Aegean world to Canaan. Most people think of the Philistines, the enemies of Israel, as unsophisticated country folks, grotesque warriors who antagonized the Israelites. But the discoveries of these excavations changed our understanding of this ancient people. We uncovered some of the most intriguing pottery known as Mycenaean and Philistine Bichrome, with elaborate painted decorations of birds and fish. Professor Dothan had shown that these painted motifs originated in the Aegean world. Although the pottery was locally made, the forms and decoration were definitely not local. This pointed to the Greek islands as the place of origin, a notion already hinted at in the Bible, where Philistines are said to come from Caphtor (ancient Crete; see Jer 47:4; Amos 9:7). Egyptian records also attest to this point of origin in the famous reliefs of Ramses III at his mortuary temple in Thebes. In these carvings, groups coming “from across the sea” are shown being repelled by Egyptian warships. One of these groups is called the *peleset*, or “Philistines.”

Our excavations at Ekron uncovered a large area which included

a temple, houses, and a small sanctuary with a large hearth or fire pit. It was one of the clearest links to the Greek world because Megaron temples had been uncovered at Mycenae, Pylos, and Tiryns which also contained these large hearths. I still remember excavating the hearth at Ekron with professor Dothan and one of her doctoral students, Yosef Garfinkel. We carefully sectioned the hearth and began removing the ash—it had been a moment we had awaited for five years. Would it be a hearth or something else? There was considerable ash going down for half a meter or so. The hearth was ringed by upright mud bricks. Two sunken storage jars were found on the sides. But as we continued excavating, the hearth continued to descend. Finally, I left to begin a new field as Yosi stayed behind to finish. After going down nearly two and a half meters, he reached the bottom of what had initially been used as a grain silo and was later converted into a hearth with a building constructed around it. It was a moment of unexpected discovery! The hearth had become a silo and then, in ancient times, had been converted into a hearth sanctuary.

Those were good years at Ekron as hundreds of volunteers and staff came together for many seasons of work. They reshaped our understanding of this ancient people. The Philistines turned out to be something different from what many of us had imagined. Their culture was the most sophisticated and technologically advanced in Canaan at that time. Their architecture, pottery, and other cultic

items spoke of an egalitarian urban society. It was no wonder that Samson was drawn to “go down” to the Philistines. It was the Israelites that were the agriculturally based farmers possessing few of the luxuries exhibited among the cities of their coastal neighbors.

Last week I received the latest issue of *Biblical Archaeology Review* which contained a feature entitled “The Queen of the Philistines: An Interview with Trude Dothan,” and I reflected on my visit in her home a few weeks ago. As we sat and remembered, our daughters drew pictures with Professor Dothan, which they all later co-signed. She shared her experiences growing up, and I thought back to our experiences as young students on her excavation site at Ekron.

Even though we have migrated from the Philistines to the early Israelites at Khirbet Qeiyafa, that legacy continues. Who would have known nearly 20 years ago that Yossi Garfinkel, Dothan’s student, would be offered her position at the Hebrew University when she retired and that later in life, we would be co-directing a new excavation in Israel together! Time passes but history is formed through relationships and people continue to have a profound impact for years to come. Today we know exponentially more about the Philistines, thanks to the work of Moshe and Trude Dothan. Tomorrow we will forge new directions and build new bases of knowledge as we continue to work in the shadows of these great visionaries, men and women who gave us so much. ✍️

“THE PHILISTINES TURNED OUT TO BE SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM WHAT MANY OF US HAD IMAGINED. THEIR CULTURE WAS THE MOST SOPHISTICATED AND TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED IN CANAAN AT THAT TIME.”

INSTITUTE RECEIVES FUNDING FROM ASI



For a third consecutive year, the Institute

of Archaeology has received funding from Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI), a group of dedicated business people who support worthy projects around the world. The announcement was made during its annual meeting, August 4-7, 2010 in Orlando, Florida. Over 2,000 people from all over the world gathered to hear reports of the many projects sponsored in the past and the 38 projects that were sponsored this year by ASI.

Michael G. Hasel, director of the Institute of Archaeology was interviewed by Danny Houghton concerning Southern's excavation project. Houghton was a participant in the summer's excavation project and he shared what a

difference it was not only to be in the places of the Bible but to literally touch pieces of ancient history. A two-minute video was shown depicting Southern students in the field with various artifacts that were found. "We are grateful for the support that ASI has given to this project," said Gordon Bietz, president of the university.

ASI's funding of \$10,000 leaves a remaining \$60,000 to be raised by next summer to continue the work at Khirbet Qeiyafa in the 2011 season. Such an enterprise is only possible thanks to the generous support of individuals who believe in the cutting-edge work that is being done in the field every year. ✎



Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum's display at Southern's ASI booth.

FUTURE EXCAVATION GOALS

Next summer marks the Institute of Archaeology's third season of involvement with the Khirbet Qeiyafa Archaeological Project. The completion of this milestone is but the first stage of an ambitious, decades-long enterprise of archaeological fieldwork and publication. While the work in Khirbet Qeiyafa will go on without us, Southern Adventist University's partnership with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem will continue in the form of a new archaeological venture organized by the Institute of Archaeology. Under the umbrella of the Elah Valley Regional Project, Southern hopes to direct its own excavation project in a neighboring,

previously unexcavated site. Even now preparations are underway that will allow the Institute to begin work in the next few years.

The resources needed for such a long-term endeavor are significant. Our agreement with the Hebrew University states that before such a project can begin, we must raise at least \$350,000. Our fundraising goals, however, must exceed this amount so that we can support the excavation and publication work over the next decade and a half. While the task may seem daunting, we believe that we must continue to move forward, making a lasting contribution to the integration of archaeology and biblical history. Thank you for your continuing support! ✎

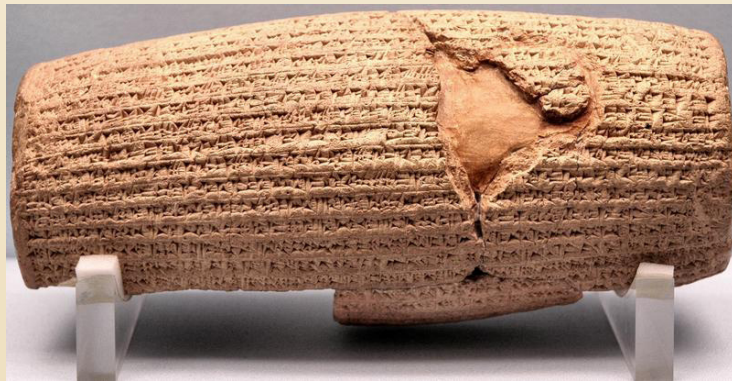


RECENT SIGHTINGS

KING TUT'S FAMILY SECRETS *(National Geographic)*

“ . . . By carrying out CT scans of King Tutankhamun’s mummy, we were able in 2005 to show that he did not die from a blow to the head, as many people believed. Our analysis revealed that a hole in the back of his skull had been made during the mummification process. The study also showed that Tutankhamun died when he was only 19—perhaps soon after he suffered a fracture to his left leg. But there are mysteries surrounding Tutankhamun that even a CT scanner cannot reveal. Now we have probed even deeper into his mummy and returned with extraordinary revelations about his life, his birth, and his death.”

[Click here to read more](#)



CUNEIFORM TABLET FOUND AT HAZOR *(IsraelNationalNews.com)*

“For the first time in Israel, a document has been uncovered containing a law code that parallels portions of the famous Code of Hammurabi. The code is written on fragments of a cuneiform tablet, dating from the 18th-17th centuries B.C.E in the Middle Bronze Age, that were found in Hebrew University of Jerusalem archaeological excavations this summer at Hazor, south of Kiryat Shmonah, in northern Israel.”

[Click here to read more](#)

THE ONGOING SAGA OF THE CYRUS CYLINDER *(BiblicalArchaeology.org)*

“The Cyrus Cylinder is one of the most important discoveries in biblical archaeology . . . Although broken and incomplete, there were some 36 lines of text still preserved on the Old Lady. She proved to be a foundation text commemorating Cyrus the Great’s capture of Babylon and his subsequent restoration of the city.”

[Click here to read more](#)



TEMPLE FOUND IN PHILISTINE HOME OF GOLIATH *(The Jerusalem Post)*

“Archeologists have uncovered a Philistine temple and evidence of a major earthquake in biblical times, during digs carried out at the Tel Tzafit National Park near Kiryat Gat. The site is home to the Philistine city of Gath, the home of the ancient warrior Goliath.”

[Click here to read more](#)





UPCOMING EVENTS

LYNN H. WOOD ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES

October 7, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Khirbet Qeiyafa 2010: Excavating in the Shadow of Alexander the Great, by **Michael G. Hasel** (Southern Adventist University)

October 28, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Uncovering the Past: 50 Years of Biblical Archaeology, by **William G. Dever** (University of Arizona, emeritus)

November 16, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Ancient Coins of Khirbet Qeiyafa: A Stronghold on the Road to Jerusalem, by **Yoav Farhi** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

March 16, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

In Search for Joshua's Ai, by **Bryant Wood** (Associates for Biblical Research)

The museum lecture series is free and open to the public. All lectures are held in the Lynn Wood Hall building on the campus of Southern Adventist University. For driving directions and parking information, visit our website at www.southern.edu/archaeology

AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH ANNUAL MEETING

November 17-20. A session entitled, "Khirbet Qeiyafa: A Fortified City in Judah from the Time of King David," will be dedicated to the Khirbet Qeiyafa excavations. Session lectures include:

Khirbet Qeiyafa after Four Seasons of Excavations, by **Yosef Garfinkel** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Finger-Imprinted Jar Handles Found at Khirbet Qeiyafa: A Symbol of Administration in the Early 10th century B.C.E., by **Hoo-Goo Kang** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Numismatic and Other Small Finds from Khirbet Qeiyafa: A Glimpse into the Late Persian-Early Hellenistic Period," by **Yoav Farhi** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Area D: Excavations South of the Western Gate, by **Michael G. Hasel** (Southern Adventist University)

The ASOR annual meetings will be held at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel in Atlanta. Visit <http://www.bu.edu/asor/am> for more information.

SPEAKING SCHEDULE

September 30-October 2, 2010

ASI Portugal, Porto, Portugal

October 14-16, 2010

Southern Union Medical and Dental Retreat, Gatlingburg, Tennessee

December 29, 2010-January 1, 2011

Generation of Youth for Christ, Baltimore

February 27, 2011

American Jewish University, Los Angeles

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK AND MIDDLE EAST STUDY TOUR

June 8-July 22, 2011, Israel

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday

CLOSED

Tuesday to Thursday

9 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-5 p.m.

Friday

9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday

2-5 p.m.

DIG SIGHT

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