



Sea of Galilee

GARDENS

PROJECT PURPOSE

As an outdoor Biblical museum, the Sea of Galilee Gardens will bring to life the pages of the *Bible*. Visitors will walk in the sandals of Jesus' followers, and their faith will be strengthened when they experience Bible stories firsthand.

PROJECT HISTORY

The idea to create the Sea of Galilee Garden started in the early 1990's during Pastor Paul Clines' two-week visit to Israel. While visiting Biblical sites that he had long studied since childhood and preached about during his 14-year career as a pastor, Pastor Clines envisioned a venue that could transform one-dimensional stories about ancient *Bible* lands into three-dimensional experiences.

PROJECT SCOPE

The Sea of Galilee Gardens will encompass Biblically accurate sites, scenarios and landscapes that meld to form a unique, only-of-its-kind outdoor museum experience enhanced by guided and self-guided tours, kiosks and landmarks. The outdoor museum will be constructed on Parkway United Methodist Church's 15-acre campus, where Paul Clines serves as Pastor, in Sugar Land, Texas on the outskirts of Houston. The Gardens will be open to the public, with points of interest for visitors of all ages and levels of Biblical knowledge.

The Biblical museum is being developed in consultation with K.G.A. DeForest Landscape for architectural design and acclaimed Biblical scholar Jim Fleming for accuracy and design details to offer visitors the opportunity to experience the *Bible* in a historical, educational and inspirational hands-on setting as they witness the "Holy Land" in meaningful settings, including:

- Sea of Galilee
- Jordan River
- Landmark Cities
- Amphitheatre
- Prayer Trail
- Teaching Area
- Topography, Landscapes and Vegetation

PROJECT FUNDING

Total cost is estimated at approximately \$200,000, of which \$100,000 is already committed. The project is well on its way and pending the successful completion of capital-raising endeavors, construction is slated to commence in April 2005 and be completed by September 2005.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Sea of Galilee Gardens represents a compelling and memorable teaching tool in which children, youth and adults can experience the land of the *Bible* as it comes to life.
- The first-of-its-kind outdoor museum is a beautiful, peaceful and unique place to experience a recreation of the Holy Land and walk where Jesus walked.
- This living Biblical museum presents the *Bible* in an educational, historical and inspirational hands-on setting.
- The setting lends itself to a range of special outdoor events unique to the greater Houston metropolitan area.
- The gardens are a permanent, enduring memorial to Jesus and his followers, past and present.

HOW TO DONATE

Tax-deductible donations can be made to Sea of Galilee Gardens, care of Parkway United Methodist Church, 5801 New Territory Blvd., Sugar Land, Texas 77479. For more information, visit www.seaofgalileegardens.com or contact Karen Rankin at Parkway United Methodist Church at (281) 494-5050.

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE GARDENS

Sea of Galilee. An historic landmark of multifaceted proportions for both Christians and historians, many significant events—The Sermon on the Mount, the feeding of 5,000, the calming of the storm, Peter walking on the water, and Jesus’ recruitment of several disciples along its shores, among others — occurred here during New Testament times. Similar to the freshwater lake located in northern Israel, the replicated Sea of Galilee will feature the geographic topography representative of that area, including hills and cliffs, valleys and plains, and a fish-stocked body of fresh water.



Jordan River. Among the famous Biblical landmarks, the Jordan River flows out of the Sea of Galilee and takes a winding course more than twice its direct distance. The Sea of Galilee Gardens will remind visitors on the significant role the Jordan River played in numerous events, including the baptizing of Jesus, the parting of Abraham and Lot, the renaming of Jacob to Israel, the ministering of John the Baptist, and the entering into the Promised Land by the Israelites through a miraculously divided Jordan River, similar to the parting of the Red Sea. Importantly, a baptismal will be developed for baptisms in the outdoor museum’s Jordan River.



Landmark Cities.

Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Capernaum, Tiberias and Bethsaida, which set the backdrop for well-known *Bible* stories, will be identified at the Sea of Galilee Gardens and allow the visitors to personally experience the land of the *Bible*.



Nazareth marks the traditional site where the angel announced the approaching birth of Jesus to the virgin Mary. The Sea of Galilee Gardens will closely recreate the topography so that visitors can hike its hills, perhaps as Jesus did as a young boy in his hometown Nazareth. Significant to Nazareth is an event that,

based on interpretation, is yet to unfold: the final battle between good and evil in the Valley of Armageddon.



Bethlehem was the “o little town” south of Jerusalem in which the prophecy surrounding the birth of God’s son was fulfilled. As sung in traditional carols, angels announced Christ’s birth to the shepherds of Bethlehem as they watched their flocks by night. Near Nazareth was also where Ruth and Boaz met in the shepherd fields, and their union resulted in the Bethlehem birth of Jesse, father of David.



Jerusalem, a city of great importance to Christians, Jews and Muslims, is known by many names: Zion, City of

God, the Holy City and the City of David. Of eternal significance, Jerusalem was the place of Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection.



Capernaum was a prosperous fishing community during Roman times and became Jesus’ home when he began his earthly ministry of teaching, healing and performing miracles.



Tiberias, economically rooted in fishing and agriculture, was an important city in the theological development of Judaism but seems to have never been dwelt in by Christ. Following the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem, Tiberias eventually became the center of the highest religious court and

many Jewish scholars resided in the city.



Bethsaida, the birthplace of Apostles Peter, Andrew and Philip, was a fertile plain and fishing village north of the Sea of Galilee near the inflow of the Jordan River, where the feeding of the 5,000 likely took place.



Topography, Landscapes and Vegetation.

The south Texas climate lends itself to the topography, landscapes and vegetation that played important roles in *Bible* settings. Among the vegetation will be grape vines, wheat, Sycamore trees, lilies, palm trees and fig trees.



Amphitheater. To provide a unique setting for special services, weddings and outdoor events, a 200-seat amphitheater will be built, wired for sound and lighting.



Prayer Trail. Landmarks and “cities” will be connected by a prayer trail that identifies points of reference.



Teaching Area.

Heightening the hands-on experience, the teaching area will feature recreations of a typical home, synagogue and other common structures, as well as period clothing, food, animals and occupations.

