

# Doctor for Peace in Holy land



**A**s-salamu alaykum. My name is **Donald Zelazny** and I am a general dentist in Franklin, near (Telegraph and 14 mile roads).

I recently had the privilege of visiting the Holy Land and was able to volunteer my services at a children's dental clinic in Jerusalem. The clinic is called the Trudi Birger Dental Clinic. The clinic has served the needy children of Jerusalem since the doors opened in 1980.

The clinic serves children of ANY faith and is staffed by volunteer dentists from countries around the world as well as Israeli and Palestinian dentists.

This was my fourth dental volunteer trip outside the US and I have found each one very rewarding.

A common feeling shared by many of the volunteers is that the volunteer actually gets more out of the experience than the patients receiving the free treatment. I certainly share that sentiment.

After my week in Jerusalem I was able to tour extensively in the country including a fair amount of time in the West Bank.

The Mosque of Nabi Musa is fascinating and seemed to appear out of nowhere in the Judean Desert.

I also the laid-back town of Jericho and had one of my best meals at a restaurant there.

The market in Bethlehem was a wonderful mix of

sights, sounds and smells! I learned to love strong Arabic coffee and houmous.

I have not stepped on the scale yet for fear of how much weight I must have gained on the trip!

In Israel I was able to visit and even enter the El-Jazzar Mosque.

This beautiful mosque is located on the coast in the city of Akko. It is considered one of the finest mosques in all of Israel.

After two weeks I left the Holy Land with a love of the land, the people, the different cultures (and the food) as well as a yearning to learn more about the area's history, and I pray that peace can be reached in this wonderful but very complex land.

**Donald Zelazny is the owner of Z Dental in the Village of Franklin**

