

## \*Ebenezer natives

(Continued from page 1.) Mount Pilatus. We did this by first traveling to the beautiful city of Lucerne. In this region, both distinguished homes and quaint cottages are built at the base of the mountains and nearly touch the edge of the crystal-clear water of Lake Lucerne. Brilliant flowers add to this picture-perfect image of nature. While in Lucerne, it was especially worthwhile for us all to visit the painted murals of the Chapel Bridge and the famous Lion Monument.

Traveling by rail car to the top of Mount Pilatus is an adventure not to be missed. The temperature dropped, but it was not uncomfortable even though there was still snow on the mountaintop. Standing at the highest point of a mountain above the clouds was awesome. Trees and birds are far below, and a dazzling number of zig-zagged trails attest to many a hiker’s determination. We chose the gondola for our trip down and enjoyed the ride through the Evergreens until we reached the green grass below.

On day three, driving south from Switzerland, we crossed into Italy and soon reached the northern city of Verona, best known as the setting of Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliette.” Their famous balcony is smaller in real life than the role it’s played in history. For some, there is a compelling allure to pose affectionately with a statue of Juliette herself. However, the ancient open-air amphitheater built around 30 A.D. by the Romans is the main attraction in the city center. It is said to have held over 25,000 spectators on 44 tiers of marble seats for entertainment. The remnants of this massive arena made it possible for us to envision armed combat gladiators, animal exhibitions and chariot races.

On the fourth day, traveling to northeastern Italy, we arrived at the city of Venice. Seeming to float on water, Venice is a land mass of 188 small islands separated by canals. The small islands are linked by over 400 bridges. The primary waterway is the “S-shaped” Grand Canal which runs through the city. Although the original inhabitants fled to these lowlands to escape barbarism, many centuries later Venice is an important and prosperous metropolis and one of Italy’s most beautiful cities. Each building is a unique



**Ebenezer natives Sam (at right) and Jaime Sample organize overseas tours every year through EF (Education First) Tours. The two are pictured above at Lake Lucerne in Switzerland. (Photo submitted)**

work of art, but the leading symbol at its very center is St. Mark’s Basilica. To gaze upon the exterior of this exalted shrine is a privilege. To be within the interior marble walls that bear magnificent paintings, sculpture, mosaics and murals all dedicated to the glory of God provided us with a rare opportunity to take a walk through biblical history. St. Mark’s Basilica was the first of several basilicas on this tour. For those of us who had never visited a church of this distinction, we were totally unprepared for its splendor. As we learned from Vinnie, these massive rectangular buildings were initially used for public forums in ancient Rome, but in time they took on a Christian symbolic theme that grew in size and importance. The many basilicas and cathedrals of Italy are home to some of the most impressive art in the world. The magnitude of their grandeur cannot be summed with mere words.

In the course of a few days, we were most fortunate to personally experience the Basilica of St. Anthony’s in Padua, the Square of Miracles Cathedral in Pisa, the Basilica of St. Mary of the Flower in Florence, the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Umbria, and the largest of them all, St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. It was in Rome at St. Peter’s Basilica where we had the privilege of seeing Michelangelo’s Pieta, a marble sculpture depicting the Virgin Mary cradling the dead body of Jesus. Later in life, Michelangelo was commissioned to paint the 65-foot ceiling of the Sis-

tine Chapel, which he did alone. We were in awe of the complexity and beauty of his paintings illustrating the Book of Genesis and the coming of the Messiah. Day after day these famous destinations offered the best in the way of sightseeing, culture and history. We took time to playfully “tilt” the Leaning Tower of Pisa, we stood in awe at Michelangelo’s statue of David in Florence, imagined the fierceness of animals and performers in the Roman Colosseum and revered the Roman Pantheon where rain fell from the sky through a hole in the center of the 142 foot ceiling.

Between stops, we were often captivated by vast fields of golden sunflowers. We had explored so much, and time was passing quickly. Only two days remained on our tour as we drove through Naples in the direction of southern Italy’s Campania region. We arrived in Pompeii and marveled at the excavated ruins of the city that was buried in volcanic ash centuries earlier with the eruption of nearby Mount Vesuvius. In addition

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to its ancient ruins, Italy’s Campania region is known for its dramatic coastline. We followed a narrow road along the cliffs to the community of Meta and stopped for an irresistible photo opportunity on the steep rocks that border the blue sea. Further south, perched atop the cliffs, we arrived at the beautiful coastal city of Sorrento. This popular tourist destination is filled with tiny, often exclusive, shops, restaurants and hotels. The aerial view from Sorrento is breathtaking, as the vertical cliff ledges are a considerable altitude above the sparkling Bay of Naples. For added color, lemon trees are plentifully cultivated and bear an abundance of fruit. Visitors are pleasantly blessed with this large, rough-skinned variety of lemon which is mass produced into the popular Limoncello liquor. It would be difficult to take a stroll through Sorrento without being tempted to taste a bit (or purchase a bottle) of Sorrento’s genuine recipe.

Our last day of the tour was spent in the Campania region on the Isle of Capri located on the south side of the Gulf of Naples. Early morning we climbed down the steep stairs of Sorrento’s Piazza Tasso, boarded a ferry boat and set out to sea. On the

short trip, we explored caves and grottos and cruised between the Faraglioni Rocks, three towering rock formations that are Capri’s most iconic site. Capri, the main town, is a popular resort. The island is home to artists, writers and celebrities. There are as many yachts floating in this part of the Mediterranean as there are villas nestled high aloft in the limestone rocks. The Isle of Capri is both majestic and charming. It is the sort of place you imagine returning to on a honeymoon, anniversary or dream vacation. The azure water is inviting, the food is delicious, and the cobblestone streets are lined with little shops that offer the best of everything. Late in the evening, having toured Capri from land and sea, having shopped, dined and swam in the Mediterranean, some snoozed on the slow route back to Rome. Others talked of how quickly the days had passed and it was already time to return home. Compliments were plentiful and complaints were few. It is true that accommodations were sometimes modest (hotel rooms and showers tend to be small) and meals were sometimes replicated (after all, Italy is known for its pasta), but we all agreed that we had a grand vacation.

The EF journey was one of exploration, discovery and wonder. We were in the capable hands of an experienced EF tour guide, Vinnie, and our own Jamie Sample, who confidently led us through this cultural escapade. It was an adventure that we will remember for a lifetime because we had the time of our life.

Jamie Sample will lead a tour to Portugal and Spain in June, 2019. If you are interested in traveling with her she may be contacted at [jamiesample58@yahoo.com](mailto:jamiesample58@yahoo.com)

## Card of Thanks

It is with deep appreciation that we want to thank friends, family and community for their cards, food, prayers, thoughts or the gift of their presence during our time of loss. Whatever you did to console us, we sincerely thank you.

We would also like to extend a special thanks to Antioch Baptist Church and ladies of the community for the special meal after the burial service.

The Perry Kimbrough family

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Deadline: Friday, 4.p.m.**

**LEXINGTON LIBRARY**  
Tracy Mallett from Families First will present a free children’s program at the library on Thursday, July 19 at 3 p.m.

The library will host “The Slightly Off-Beat Musical Magic Show!” on Thursday, July 26 at 3 p.m. Dorian LaChance, a magician and storyteller, his sidekick Cheddar and a hilarious monkey puppet named Charlie will be present. For more information call 662-834-2571.

All programs are sponsored by Friends of the Lexington Public Library. Weekly programs are geared to children ages 6-12. Children under 9 years of age who attend the programs must be accompanied by a parent/responsible child caregiver and the caregiver must be at least 12 years old or older. For further program information, please call the library at 662-834-2571.

**HOLMES ALUMNI**  
The Holmes Alumni Association is set to host its District Dog Lunch on Wednesday, July 25 at 11 a.m., Gladys’ Restaurant in Lexington. Lunch is dutch treat, there is no charge to attend

and all alumni are welcome including recent graduates. For more information call 662-472-9134.

**ST. JOSEPH C.O.G.I.C.**  
St. Joseph C.O.G.I.C. in West will host the Hill Family and Friends day program on Sunday, July 22 at 1 p.m. with Sunday School at 11:30 a.m.

**BETHLEHEM M.B.C.**  
Bethlehem M.B. Church in Tchula will host its Youth and Young Adult Day Service on Sunday, July 15 at 11:30 a.m.

**ROCKPORT M.B.C.**  
Rockport M.B. Church will hold its Youth Day worship service on Sunday, July 29 at 11 a.m.

**WALDEN CHAPEL**  
Walden Chapel U.M. Church in Goodman will host the Goodman Male Chorus’ 26th Anniversary Musical Celebration on Sunday, July 22 at 3 p.m. All per-

formance groups are invited. 7-19

**PINEY SPRING M.B.C.**  
Piney Spring M.B. Church will host its Annual Summer Revival from Wednesday, August 1 through Friday, August 3 at 7:30 nightly. 7-19,26

**GALILEE-TREADWELL**  
Galilee-Treadwell U.M.C. will hold its annual revival services at 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 29 and at 7 p.m., July 30 and July 31. 7-19,26

**EAST JONES CHAPEL**  
East Jones Chapel will host its Annual Youth Day Program on Sunday, July 22 at 2 p.m. 7-19

**WDJ ELEMENTARY**  
William Dean Jr. Elementary School in Lexington will host registration for school enrollment of the 2018-2019 year July 16 - July 27 at the school, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. 7-19,26

