

Interview with Richmond Wandera, Moody Bible Institute Seminary student from Uganda and participant of the MBI Israel Study Tour 2010

MBI: Which location in Israel made a significant impact on your faith?

Wandera: All of them. But Mount Carmel especially—it gave me goose bumps. This was the place where Elijah called on the Lord to show Himself by fire to the prophets of Baal. In Africa, I have been in many places where I have had to pray and deal with sorcery and different religions. I was given a lot of rest on Mount Carmel knowing that God will make Himself clear in the way He chooses.

MBI: How do you think having Moody professors and faculty for your guides enhanced the trip?

Wandera: Not only do they connect the latest archaeological findings to Scripture, but they enabled us to pull personal application from each site. Walt McCord and Bill Blocker always taught us the *so what* question—*what does this mean to you?* Having tour guides who can give information from a biblical perspective makes all the difference.

MBI: How has your trip to Israel affected your study of the Bible now?

Wandera: I no longer read the Bible in the same way. The trip made everything more clear and vivid, and now I can actually be in the locations of the chapters I'm reading. One trip to Israel is worth four or five Bible classes put together.

MBI: How did taking the trip for credit enhance your experience in Israel?

Wandera: The class informs students of the different sites ahead of time and so increased my participation. It also helped in many ways to confirm for me that the Bible is true.

MBI: Talk about your group experience.

Wandera: I knew a couple of the people and professors, but everyone became close friends. One of the undergraduate students on the trip asked me to mentor him during our time in Israel. He also asked if he could be part of my ministry in Uganda with the pastors there—this is one of the most meaningful relationships I have.

MBI: What encouragement do you have for students considering the trip?

Wandera: Do not even hesitate. Your life will not remain the same! For anyone going into ministry, the opportunity to go to Israel will increase clarity, assurance, and passion for what you have been called to do. If you are having doubts about your faith, Israel is a place to find answers as well.

MBI: Any advice for future trip participants?

Wandera: Read the material you're given! It's worth it! It enabled me to keep up with the professors and get the most out of the trip.

MBI: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Wandera: A big thank you to Moody Bible Institute! Also to Bill Blocker and Walt McCord for being wonderful guides and for supporting the students who want to go. A big, big thank you!