

Odyssey Global I

Recollections by Sarah Booher November 2020

In 1969 Joe Matthews challenged the North Shore Cadre to take a trip to expose themselves to the reality of the world beyond their own experiences, especially the lives of peoples very different from their own. This was to be an intentional journey, not a tourist trip. This was first to give the suburban families a new perspective on their lives and secondly to create and test a model for local church members to follow in the future to help raise global consciousness within their congregation.

The North Shore Cadre formed the core of a travel study group and recruited other couples from the New Women's Forum to form the first Global Odyssey group. The symbolic plan was for 30 people to circumnavigate the globe in 30 days fitting in as many different countries and diverse peoples as was financially and practically feasible. Through the fall of 1969 and winter of 1970, the Global Odyssey group met weekly to study, create models, and finalize the itinerary. Travel arrangements were made with a travel agency and about \$1500 per person was paid. Everyone started the trip with one suitcase and one carry-on bag, a common notebook of practical travel information, maps and grids and cultural information for each destination as well as daily disciplines, meditations, and daily blank journal pages to record their physical and spiritual journey.

Global Odyssey One looked slightly different from the early plan. It involved 25 people, visited fifteen cities in eight countries on four of the nine continents encompassing four of the five Ur Cultures (**East Asia Yellow man** – Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka(Kitty & Steve Cole) in Japan; Hong Kong in China; Bangkok (Phil Kiser Sarah's Brother) & Ayyudya Temple Ruins in Thailand; **Southeast Asia Brown Man** -Calcutta(Mother Theresa's Home for the Dying), Banaras(Ganges), Agra(Taj Mahal) and New Delhi(Red Fort) in India; **Middle East/North Africa Tan Man** –Layover Beirut, Cairo (Pyramids and Museum) in Egypt; **Western Europe White Man** - Athens Greece (Acropolis), Rome Italy, Paris France).

Participants – North Shore Cadre/New Women's Forum

Sarah & Robert Cawfield

Nicki & Len Dressler

Betty & Sheldon Hill

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George & Georgiana McBurney and child Holley McBurney

Mary Warren & Donald Moffat

Betty & Martin Pesek and youth Kay Pesek

Laverne & Jim Phillips

Priscilla & Rodney Wilson

David & Ann Wood and youth Priscilla Wood

Linda & Rev. Paul Tidemann

Participants – Order Liaisons

Father James Schott

Marshall Jones

After the trip the Global Odyssey group continued to meet to reflect on the trip and its meaning for the lives of the participants. The models and plans were evaluated and recommendations for future Odyssey trips written. Most importantly, several of the technology savvy members of the group including Marshall Jones pulled together the various pictures and recorded sounds from the participants, conducted interviews, and created a portable multimedia presentation with images and impressions from the trip. The Odyssey group wrote a script and Bill Cawfield assembled accompanying music introducing the Spirit Movement to composer Aaron Copeland's impactful "Fanfare for the Common Man" to provide a breathtaking introduction to the program. This program was made widely available to interested local church groups. Odyssey One inspired a number of other Global Odysseys, somewhat less ambitious in scope, but successful in supporting renewal efforts in congregations in the U.S. and overseas.