

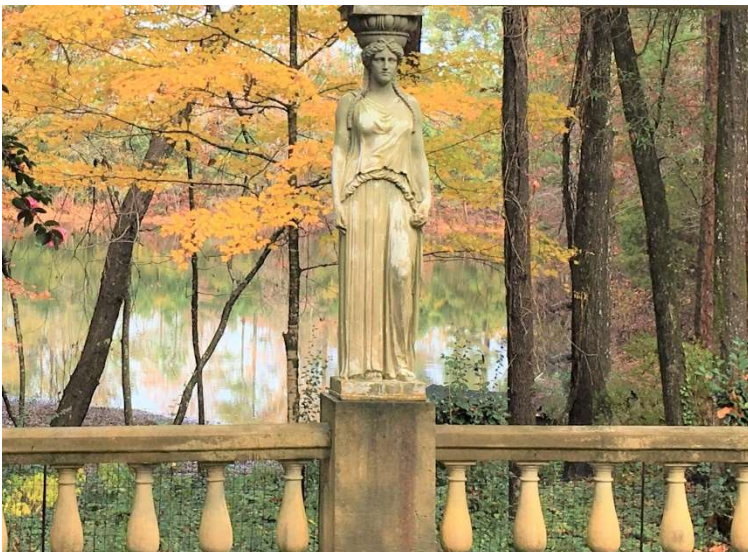
Encounters In Archaeology

Jim Fleming & Hannaniah Pinto present an all-new antiquity center in LaGrange, GA

The Lord has helped us find a perfect forested lake property which makes an idyllic natural setting for our programs and outdoor activities.



In the 48-year ministry of Biblical Resources and the non-profit organizations that it has founded, we have depended upon supporters offering their prayers and gifts. We moved from Israel to the United States in 2004 to build a biblical archaeological museum. The board of that museum began to act inconsistently with our understanding of biblical scholarship as it relates to archaeology and our respect for Judaism and ties to Israel. As founder, I stepped away, with my colleague Hannaniah Pinto, to concentrate on a new and exciting center which will develop many new exhibits and learning experiences.



We have found a beautiful 19-acre property with a 4-acre lake. The property included many Greek and Roman style statues, such as this Caryatid woman, which we have been able to incorporate into our exhibits. As you step through the front gates you will find four large courtyards illustrating the environments around the ancient biblical seas. We are grateful to have a supportive board of directors for our new non-profit organization, *Encounters In Archaeology*. Turn the page and see the progress we have made so far.

Four Courtyards with Walkable Maps and Exhibits

Mediterranean Sea, Dead Sea, Red Sea, and the Sea of Galilee



Recent archaeological expeditions are located on our **Mediterranean Sea Courtyard** map. The walkable map extends from Egypt north to Turkey and from Israel west to Rome. Visiting groups can follow a guide around the courtyard map which has additional wall maps and cabinets of artifacts. One can also see sculptures appropriately positioned so that when walking in Greece one can view the statue of a resting Greek athlete; and moving on to Italy (top) see two Roman statues bringing in grapes from a vineyard.

Two lions flank the entrance to the **Dead Sea courtyard**. This exhibit area features the 3 primary ancient mining industries associated with this unusual body of water 1,200 feet below sea level. The exhibit shows a 4,000 year old copper furnace with artifacts; a salt mining operation with a block of Dead Sea salt; ancient uses of tar, with examples of caulking ships, waterproofing baskets and preserving mummies.



The **Red Sea courtyard** features reconstructions of four iconic structures of ancient Egypt: a stone pyramid, an obelisk with hieroglyphs, a pharaoh in royal regalia, and a sphinx with a lion body and human face. The courtyard also includes the path of the Nile River flowing from Upper Egypt through the Red Sea (ancient *Reed Sea*) to its delta. The Reed Sea features water with growing reeds and grasses. A cabinet exhibit highlights ancient Egyptian gods.

The center of the **Sea of Galilee courtyard** contains a circular fish pond. Behind it is a raised wooden pier built to show the three kinds of fishing nets mentioned in ancient sources. They will help many of these stories come to life. There are agricultural terraces featuring farming vegetables and common Galilee plants (cedar, cypress trees and a vineyard). An exhibit cabinet shows fishing artifacts, an ancient boat model and a relief map of the Sea of Galilee area.



Sea of Galilee Relief Model

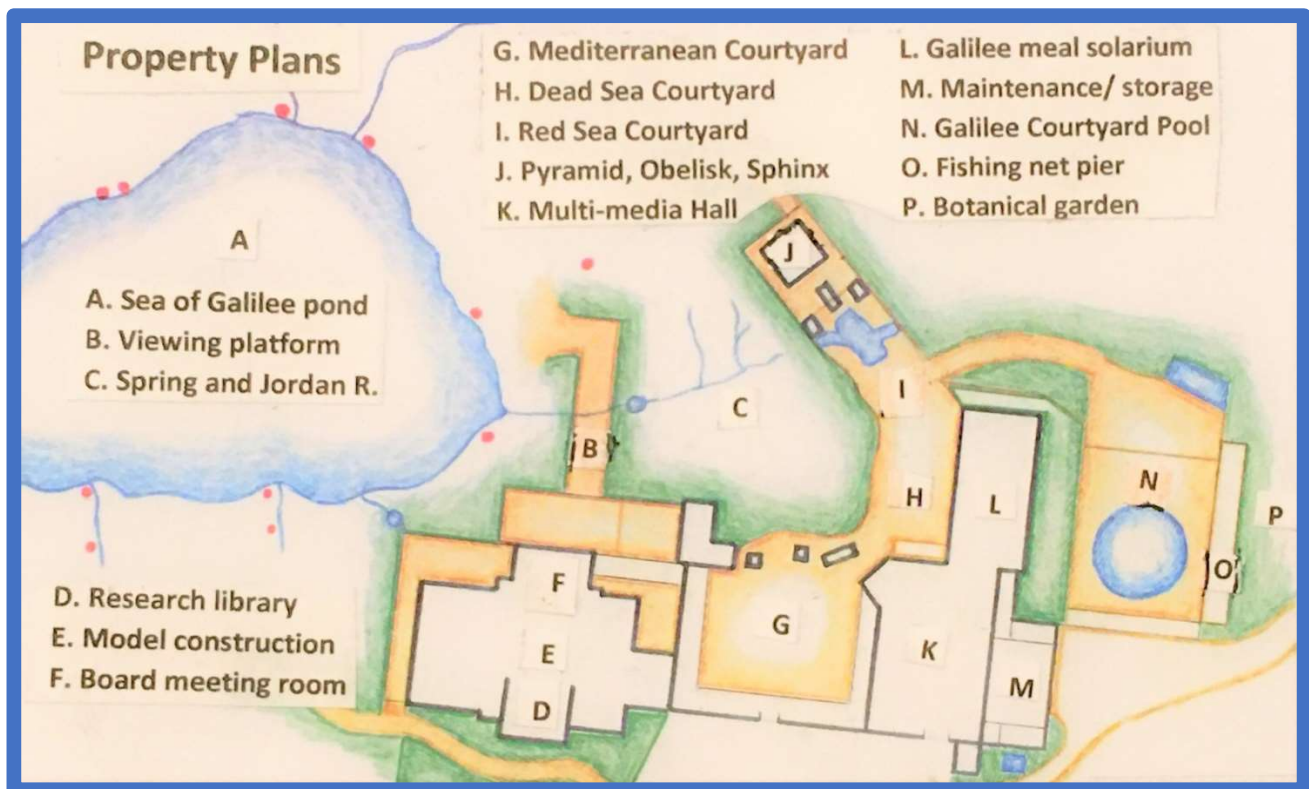


We are creating a 3-dimensional sculpted pond, modeling the Sea of Galilee's main geographical features and city locations. This elevated observation platform will give a bird's eye view. Groups will be guided on a walk around the entire pond or in our pontoon boat as needed. Here you can see our property's springs feed our model of the Jordan River which flows into the sea (seen here in preliminary development). **Might you become a feeding spring to help develop this new learning center?**

Lecture Hall with Four Seas Library & Exhibit Wall



Our lecture hall includes this exhibit wall showing pictures and maps of the land and seas as well as a library to help provide context for the historical texts set at each location. We will use this hall for introductions to our courtyard walks, lectures and conferences, and seasonal sound and light shows. These programs will feature portions within the multi-media auditorium, which will then be followed by illustrative walks to view the outdoor exhibits.



Help Us with Our Development Challenges



We endeavor to bring to life the historical-geographical settings and stories from ancient biblical times, so people can experience the context of history by replicating where it happened. As a result, they may apply new insights within their lives. Like many educational institutions, we have been in a survival mode due to the pandemic. Historically, our broader work has consisted of overseas group travel as well as conferences around the country. Normally we are happy to donate from our personal income to the non-profit funds, but we have had no travel or conference revenue in 2020 and for early 2021. We are grateful for those who have begun contributing to our non-profit center, but it has not yet been enough to maintain our most basic operating costs and development of even the smaller museum exhibits. Could you be a part of helping our efforts so we can be ready to receive visitors to participate in activities that will enlighten their understanding? Whatever your gift, you can be sure we will use it with good scholarship and for meaningful activities.

Sincerely, Jim Fleming and Hannaniah Pinto



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