

# Kochert Kronicles

Christmas 2009

## Trip of a Lifetime for Steven and Jamie - Jordan Amman, Petra, Aquaba, and the River Jordan



### Why Jordan? The Short Story

I wanted to go to Paris for my 50th birthday. For various reasons, the trip got postponed until this year. But, it appeared to me that every time I mentioned Paris, Steven's eyes would glaze over. I quickly realized that sidewalk cafes, museums and churches did not register on Steven's adventure meter. Arriving in the mail one day was a travel brochure from a company that specialized in small group travel. As I glanced through the many options, Jordan caught my eye. Well, I booked the trip. Then, I went out to the garage and told Steven where we were going. His first response was "is it safe?" Suffice it to say, Jordan certainly registered peaked his interest. Turns out, it was everything we expected and nothing

we expected. What I do know is that it sparked a Middle East travel bug in both of us. We LOVED it! The people we traveled with were wonderful. Our guide was great. And, the Jordanian people we encountered were amazingly friendly. We felt safe and most welcome at every stop on the trip. After visiting with some of our travel companions, we know that a trip to Israel and Egypt on in our future. We can't wait!



# Who's Doin' What...



## Ashley

For the first time in a long time, Steven and Jamie are starting to recognize their daughter again. As you can see from the smile on her face, she seems to be finding herself a little more each day. It has been a difficult fall that included some very scary moments. But, she has met those challenges head on and is working to make the best of the situation. She continues to work nights at University Hospital. But, she would like to find something during the day so that she has more time with Mordecai. We are proud and confident that she will find her way. And, we will be right here to support her. She has a new guy in her life, Tommy, and we have come to like him very much. And, we hear Tommy's parents adore Mordecai. Although, Jamie is a little jealous that Mordecai may have another granny in his future..., she'll adjust if he and Ashley are happy!

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## Joseph

For once, it is a good thing that I am so far behind in writing the Kronicles for our Christmas cards. Joseph surprised ALL of us by asking his girlfriend of "several" years - Jenny Hrabik to marry him on the 18th. While we were all pretty sure it would happen someday...we had pretty much given up on making it happen in "our" time. As usual, Joseph waited until he was good and ready. By the way, Jenny said YES. As we have shared in other Kronicles, she is a sweet girl who compliments Joseph very well. While we have already considered her a part of the family, it will be great when it's official. Wedding Date??? - Still too soon to announce, but I'm hearing Fall 2010 or Spring 2011. We'll keep you posted!

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## Mordecai

What can a "DIVA" say about her favorite grandson? He is soooo much fun! And, he is soooo much work! He will soon be four years old and there is no stopping this little boy. He is always on the go. He started two new schools this past fall. Ashley was not particularly happy with his school situation last year, so he has moved to Countryside Preschool on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Then on Wednesday mornings, he attends "church" school at our church with the Mother's Morning Out program. He has adjusted very well to both situations. As you can see from the photo, he loves Spiderman and for some reason really wanted to be "evil" Spiderman for Halloween. When he had the photo taken, Sally and Richelle said it was the easiest picture they ever took of him... didn't have to get him to smile. Mordecai loves to go to the library which we try to do a couple of times a month. And, this past year, he took beginning swimming lessons and started horseback riding lessons. After the winter season moves on, he will be going back to both activities. It is really cute to see this little guy brushing down his pony before and after a ride. His teacher believes that lessons are more than just "giddy up." When he gets a little older - it's mucking out stalls. We'll see how much he really likes horses then. Finally, Mordecai has become a pro at navigating the computer. We found a second-hand computer to put it in his room here at the house as he was dangerous enough to change some of DIVA's files on the office computer. At the present time, he is really into gaming. It's quite the ordeal when we tell him time is up or he has to go home. Can't wait to see what FOUR brings!

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## Sandy

Right before school started this year, Sandy moved back into our house. We are grateful for all of her help with the house and with Mordecai. It certainly makes it easier when we need another pair of hands to have her nearby.

She continues to work as a crossing guard at West Blvd Elementary and enjoys visits from her grandchildren from Indiana. Although, I think she has adopted a few more over at the school.

**As this was truly a once-in-a-lifetime trip, please allow us to share some of our favorite pictures.**



**Floating on the Dead Sea**



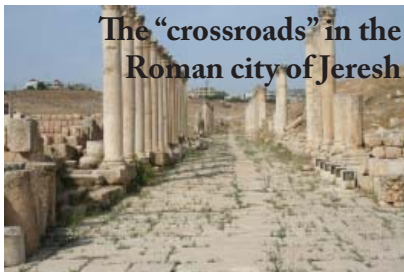
**Amman...the capital of Jordan**



**Market in Old Amman**



**Gate at the Roman City of Jeresh**



**The "crossroads" in the Roman city of Jeresh**



**Here we are at Mt Nebo... at the Memorial of Moses!**



**Memorial to Moses at Mt Nebo**



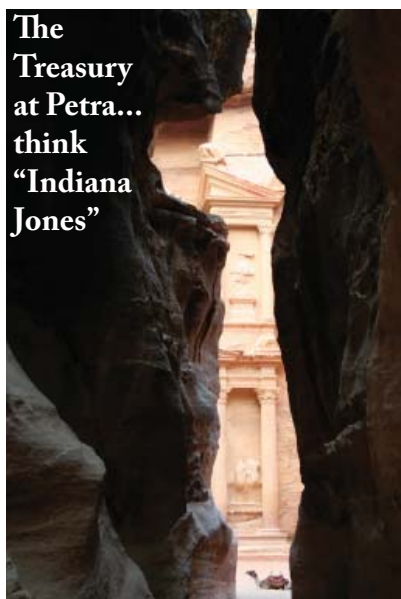
**A "workshop" where tile work is done.**



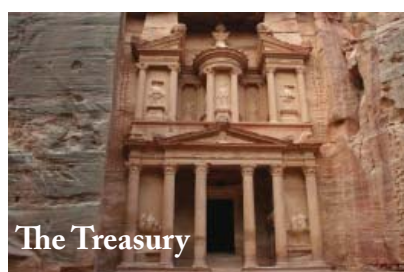
**The name says it all....**



**Inside one of the beautiful churches we visited in Jordan**



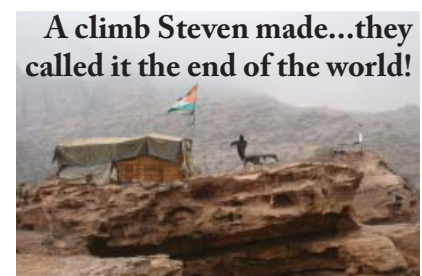
**The Treasury at Petra... think "Indiana Jones"**



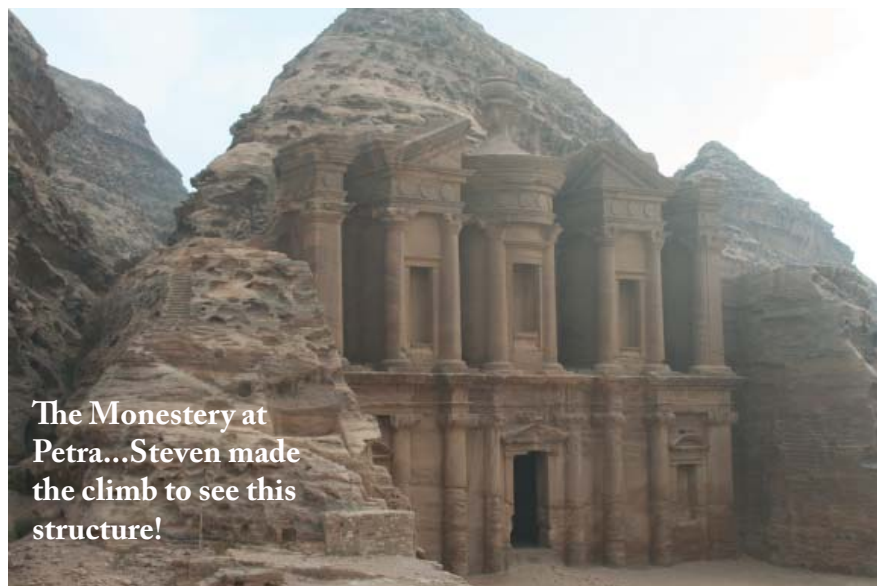
**The Treasury**



**One mode of transportation out of Petra...Ask Steven!**



**A climb Steven made...they called it the end of the world!**



The Monastery at Petra...Steven made the climb to see this structure!



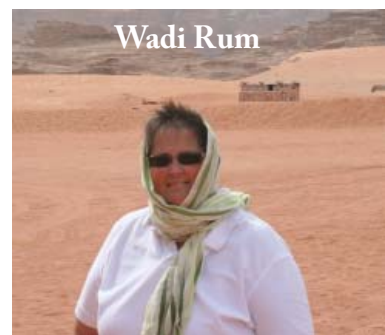
After a jeep ride in the desert, we enjoyed a wonderful lunch here at Wadi Rum



Picking up a little River Jordan for the trip home.



Dipping my toes in the River Jordan!



Wadi Rum



Attempting to part the Red Sea...guess he needed a staff.



Sunset over Egypt as we cruised on the Red Sea