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J200 – Relph
Assignment 2 – very rough draft
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The Palestinian Story

Reflections of one minister's trip to the Middle East

In 2001, Reverend Julia Goodall was scheduled to visit the Holy Land. Due to the state of the region after the September 11th attacks, she wasn't able to go. With Israel now working toward peace with the Palestinians, now seemed the time to go. Julia shared her experience with her congregation at Grace Saint John United Church of Christ on Wednesday June 23.

Michael Spath, a fellow Fort Wayne resident, organized the group of 23 religious leaders and scholars. The journey took the travelers throughout Israel to sites to visit with Palestinian Christians. That's right, there are Christians in Palestine. The Christian minority in Israel has become the silent victim in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"They want us to know that not all Palestinians are terrorists," Goodall said. The main focus of Goodall's presentation was a recollection of the events and a slideshow showing the manifestation of the peace process: the security "fence" around Palestinian lands. From Goodall's pictures, it's clear that some areas of the so-called fence could dwarf the Berlin Wall.

Goodall advocates for US neutrality in Israel and urges divestment of all US companies until the human rights abuses in Israel are eliminated.