2008 Christian Character Tour Information

We are delighted to provide you with information about Reformed Theological Seminary's Christian Character Tours, led by Dr. Harry Reeder, for the year 2008.

These tours are open to men, women and children—ages 13 and up—if accompanied by a parent. These trips are great opportunities for husband/wife, father/son, mother/daughter, brothers, good friends and pastor/church leaders to spend time together in an environment that encourages fellowship while participating in a great learning experience.

Two tours are planned for 2008—one in June and one in September. Detailed information about each tour is shown below. A Registration Form is located at the end of this material.

Gettysburg Tour: (June 24-27, 2008)
Cost: Share a double room: are $500 each; single room: $650

Early Tuesday morning, we begin our tour headed up I-77 and I-81 to Gettysburg. We stop at Winchester to see Jackson’s Winter Headquarters where he planned most of the Valley campaign of 1862; visit Sharpsburg and study the bloodiest one-day battle in American History. At this Antietam Creek battle, we walk the same land, trudge the “sunken road” and cross the famous Burnside Bridge that marks lessons of courage for us to learn today.

We continue to Gettysburg and study each day of the three-day battle. We arrive on the Chambersburg Pike—the same road that Lee’s troops used as they approached Gettysburg on June 30, 1863. We conclude the first day with Harry Reeder leading us in a study of Biblical leadership. On Wednesday, we see the key spots marking the battle’s first day—the Lutheran Seminary, McPherson’s Ridge, Oak Hill—and visit the critical topography of the second day—Devil’s Den, Little Round Top and the Peach Orchard. Free time is provided to visit the many bookstores, pictures, and antique stores that are a part of the small town of Gettysburg. We complete Wednesday with a visit to the National Cemetery where Lincoln, in November of 1863, gave his “Gettysburg Address.” On Thursday, we study the third day of the battle focusing on “Pickett’s Charge.” We walk across the actual route of Picket’s Division and see and feel what the men faced as the marched across the mile-long open field. This three-day battle had the most casualties of any single engagement in our history.

Leaving Gettysburg along the same route as Lee’s troops departed in 1863, we travel to Lexington on Thursday afternoon and see several points of interest pertaining to both Lee and Jackson. On Friday, we visit the graves of Lee and Jackson, the Lee Chapel at Washington and Lee and the Jackson Museum and Chapel on the campus of VMI. Friday afternoon, we travel to Appomattox Court House and visit the site of the surrender, the McLean House and the Surrender Triangle. We learn something about the character of both Lee and Chamberlain as their character was revealed at Appomattox.

This is a four-day, three night tour which will bring both history alive and highlight the basis of the Christian leadership revealed in the lives of Generals Chamberlain, Jackson and Lee. The price of this tour covers first-class bus transportation, three hotel breakfasts, six additional meals, tickets to all tour stops, two nights at a Quality Inn in Gettysburg and one night at the beautiful Hampton Inn in Lexington. If you desire to share a room, the price per person is $500. The tour with a single room is $650.

Fredericksburg Tour: (September 16-19, 2008)
Cost: Share a double room $465 each; single room $595

Leaving early Tuesday morning, our bus travels up I-85/I-95, where we make our first stop in Richmond. We go to the historic State Capitol where Lee assumed command of the Virginia troops, and visit St. Paul's Church where he worshiped. We visit the outstanding Museum of the Confederacy and the Confederate White House. We view Lee’s post-war Franklin Street home and learn some wonderful anecdotes, which demonstrate Lee’s Christian character. If we have time, we see the church where Patrick Henry gave his “give me liberty” speech.

Traveling on to Fredericksburg, where we spend three nights at the Wingate Inn, we have some Bible study after supper and get rested before beginning our visit to the Washington, DC area Wednesday morning. Our first battlefield site is First Manassas or Bull Run, where General Bee said, “There stands Jackson like a stone wall.” While in the area, we
visit the Second Battle of Manassas battlefield and highlight Jackson’s leadership and courage. We drive to Arlington National Cemetery, which was the home of Robert E. Lee’s home at the beginning of the War.

At Arlington, we take time to see where the Lee’s were married, the schoolroom where his wife and daughters taught the slaves and also get a great view of Washington, DC. Most participants take the time to view the impressive “Changing of the Guard” before we travel to nearby Alexandria to visit Christ Church. Both George Washington and Robert E. Lee worshiped at this historic church.

Thursday morning, we visit Chatham House located just across the river from Fredericksburg. Serving as a Union headquarters during the battle, it also became a hospital, with both Clara Barton and Walt Whitman serving as nurses. At Fredericksburg, we stand behind the “stone wall” against which wave after wave of Union troops marched up an incline—never reaching the wall. We have lunch on the grounds of Salem Baptist Church and see the shell marks from the battle which took place on the grounds. We bus to the nearby Battle of Chancellorsville and learn about the relationship between Lee and Jackson. We stop at the location of the last meeting between the two. We study the tactics used by Jackson and travel the road his men marched to surprise the Northern troops. The tactics are still studied by military tacticians as they learn from past history. We visit the spot where Jackson was mortally wounded and stop at Ellwood Plantation where we see the farm where Jackson’s shattered arm is buried. We complete the day by visiting the ruins of the Chancellor House, which was used by General Joseph Hooker as Union headquarters during the Battle of Chancellorsville.

On Friday, we retrace our steps over some of the same land as we look at the Battle of the Wilderness. The tour follows the steps of General Gregg’s out-numbered Texans as they charged across open land to dislodge thousands of Northern troops. We move the to the 1864 Battle of Spotsylvania Court House and review, in detail, where the fiercest hand-to-hand combat of the war occurred at the “Bloody Angle.” Our bus takes us along the same route that a wagon took the wounded Jackson back to Guiney Station, where he died a few days later. After lunch, we bus to Petersburg, where we see the remnants of the fortifications of the ten-month siege of the town in 1864-1865. Before visiting the battlefield, we stop at Blandford Church. Inside, we view the beautiful Tiffany stained glass windows given by states of the former Confederacy to honor their soldiers. We conclude our tour with a visit to Fort Stedman and the “battle of the crater” before returning to Charlotte about 10PM.

This four-day, three night tour focuses on the study of quite of number of critical battles and a demonstration of Christian character by the Generals Lee, Jackson and Chamberlain. The cost of the tour covers deluxe bus transportation from Charlotte, three hotel breakfasts, all lunches, all entry fees, and three nights at the Fredericksburg Wingate Inn. If you want to share a double room, the cost is $465 per person and a single room is $595. We limit the number to forty four participants.

After registering, each participant will receive a reading list and materials relating to most of the stops. Our tours are enhanced by the knowledge of our superb tour guide, Dr. Harry Reeder, and are supplemented with videos seen as we travel on the bus.

While providing you with wonderful history and a better understanding of how battles were fought, what sets these tours in a class by themselves is the emphasis on the demonstrated Christian character and leadership of Generals Lee, Chamberlain and Jackson and the teaching of Harry Reeder. We learn the source of that character and how we can us some of these same influences and experiences in our being molded into the person that Christ wants us to be.

If you have questions, send an e-mail to cct@rts.edu or call Luther Bigby at 704 688-4234 (leave voice mail)

“I can only say that I am nothing but a poor sinner, trusting in Christ alone for salvation.”
Robert E. Lee

Read on for Registration Form and additional information:
RTS 2008 Christian Character Tour

1. Fill out the Registration Form and circle the tour

2. Make check for the FULL amount and payable to “RTS Christian Character Tours.”

3. Mail the Registration form and check to:
   RTS Christian Character Tour
   2101 Carmel Road
   Charlotte, NC 28226

You will receive confirmation of your registration via e-mail or first class mail.

Because of a very tight budget, no refunds will be made. Substitutions will be allowed.

------------------------------------Registration Form (clip and mail)------------------------------------

Name: ________________________________________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________________________

City: _____________________________________ State: __________ ZIP: ________________________________

E-mail address: _________________________________________________________________________________

Home Telephone: __________________________ Work Telephone: ______________________________________

Roommate Choice: ______________________________________________________________________________

CIRCLE TOUR SELECTION FROM CHOICES SHOWN BELOW

**Tour #1** Gettysburg, Antietam, Winchester, Lexington, Appomattox
Tuesday, June 24 thru Friday, June 27, 2008
Share a double room ($500) Single Room ($650)

**Tour #2** Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, 1st and 2nd Manassas, Arlington
Alexandria, Salem Church, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Guiney Station
Richmond, Petersburg, Blandford Church
Tuesday, September 16 thru Friday, September 19, 2008
Share a double room ($465) Single Room ($595)

Mail to: RTS Christian Character Tour
        2101 Carmel Road
        Charlotte, NC 28226