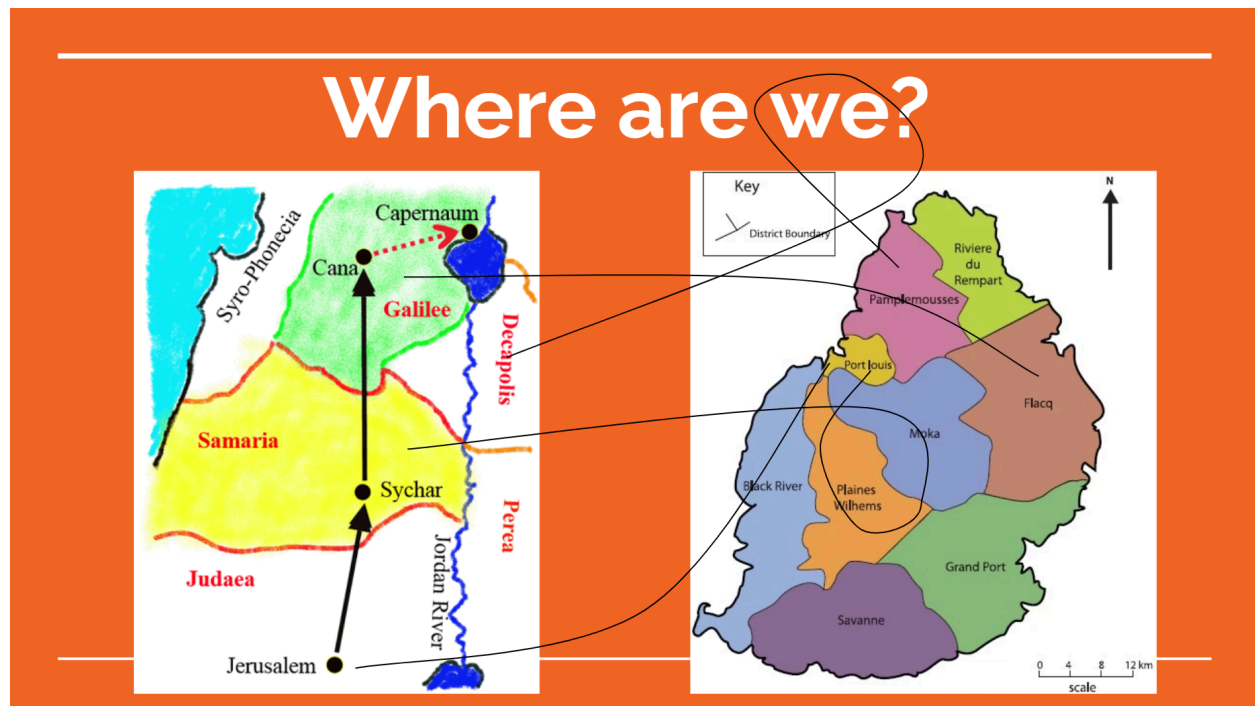


Something To Say

July 12, 2025



Side By Side: Israel / Palestine in Jesus' Day and Mauritius (L'Île Maurice) In Our Day

The Sophisticated, The Hillbillies, And The Outsiders

Racial profiling is all over the place in the bible, in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, and especially in the gospels. Connecting our modern day ethnic and geographical landscape with the lay of the land back in the day, also encompassing the prejudice of the Jews, may be a useful exercise. Jerusalem used to be where it's at, so in Mauritius, that corresponds to Port Louis. In Flacq, the eastern district of Mauritius, we have a place called Quatres Cocos, which means Four Coconuts, and that could be our modern day Nazareth. It might as well be nowhere.

Samaritans were illegitimate heirs of the Jewish patriarch Jacob, so for us today, Muslims are illegitimate heirs of the ultimate patriarch of our faith, Abraham. There is a Muslim quarter in Port Louis. Finally, where the demon whose name is legion lives, in the Decapolis, that would correspond to the villages all around Mauritius where the pantheistic Hindus dwell, symbolized in the Mauritius map by Pamplemousses, which means Grapefruits. This also borders on nowhere, but on the other hand, it might as well be everywhere.

We live in Black River (Flic En Flac) which is where we have our house. And our church where we serve, Redeemer Church, is also in Black River, a little further down the coast. Our geographical (and climatological) situation is ideal, comparable to San Diego on the coast of southern California in America.

- [Redeemer Church, Black River, Mauritius](#)
- [Redeemer Church YouTube Channel](#)
- [Oasis Program \(Spiritual Internship\)](#)

Above are links to the Redeemer Church website, and then the Redeemer Church YouTube channel, which I currently curate. The third link is even more amazing than the other two links.

Oasis has arrived. Many of you may be familiar with CEM (Chrétien En Mission), a year long discipleship program offered by Chapelle De Fuveau in Marseille, France. Isabelle and I took part in this program back in 2010-2011, when our daughters Julia and Chloe were small.

Many of you may also be familiar with the St. Louis Spiritual Internship, which offered both a year long program as well as a summer program, also focused on discipleship. Other programs like this have been implemented (or also dreamed about) at many other churches in many other locations as well. In South Africa, these programs are known as gap year programs. Oasis is a new four-month discipleship program being offered by Redeemer Church in 2025.



Redeemer Church's New Discipleship Program Launching in 2025

Well, we certainly didn't see this coming. When the Oasis program was being formulated at Redeemer Church, I was privy to the process, which included some very practical concerns, like what was the schedule going to be like for these students, and who would be teaching them.

Back in CEM, we had a rather rigorous schedule of bible classes taught by multiple teachers every morning, four days per week, with ministry and activities in the afternoons. For Oasis, I put my hand up and asked if I could be one of the teachers. With the slightly different vision for Oasis, including other more practical educational components, such as entrepreneurship and farming God's way, only one morning per week was envisioned for bible study. I have been given responsibility for the instruction during that morning, as the Oasis Bible Study Instructor. Here are the subjects.

- **Jean-Luc:** a slow simultaneous walk through the gospels of John and Luke
 - Max Dauner's **Purpose of God:** zooming out to examine God's plan for man
 - **Psalms:** in the tradition of CEM, devotional time from the heart of scripture
 - Max Dauner's **Revelation:** a historical, "signs and wonders" examination of this book
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So Far, So Good: Our Kids Made It To Marseille, And Colonie Harmonie

This year, Chloe is 17 and Joseph is 13. So that means it's Chloe's last year to participate in Colonie Harmonie, in the Ardeche Mountains of France. It's also Joseph's first year to be a part of the older camp, which is from ages 13-17. Julia is 19 and helping out as a traveling chaperone and member of the technical team at camp.

Full Circle!

Many of you may also know our evangelist partners from our prior role as part of the Riche Terre/Cascavelle/Notre Dame Church of Christ, Candan and Stephanie Subarayadu. Candan and Stephanie also participated in CEM back in 2003-2005.

The big news from the Subarayadu family is that their oldest son, Eli, has signed up to take part in CEM this coming year, from 2025-2026! We rejoice with them that Eli is following in their footsteps and gaining this invaluable experience in discipleship, maturity and ministry.

So, that was big news, but now, here comes the really big news. CEM is a great opportunity and incredible experience, if you speak French. But if you only speak English, you're going to miss that boat.

However, the Oasis program, here at Redeemer Church in Black River, Mauritius, is in English. And Oasis is a four-month program, which permits most countries of the world access with only a tourist visa in order to participate. Oasis Lite is even shorter. And one additional benefit of Oasis is that French language lessons will be included.

So, if you happen to know anyone who would benefit from such an opportunity, unique in God's Kingdom, please let me know, and I would be happy to provide additional information, answer any questions, and even possibly pay a visit. I will be visiting stateside in October, 2025.

Thank you for reading! Please pray for us!



Burkholder Family

27 Avenue Des Capitaines, Morcellement Anna, Flic En Flac, 90507, Mauritius