# **STEVE AND JANET RAY'S BIOGRAPHY**



Steve and Janet Ray in Jerusalem-they have been to the Holy Land over 170 times

#### EARLY YEARS

Stephen K. Ray was born in 1954 to parents who had just become Christians through a Billy Graham Crusade.

He was raised in a Fundamentalist Baptist family and was dedicated to Jesus in the local Baptist Church. At four years old he "asked Jesus into his heart" and was "born again" according to Baptist tradition.

In 1976, Stephen married Janet who came from a long line of Protestants. Her ancestors were pilgrims who came to America on the Mayflower and Moravian Hussite Protestants who joined the Protestant Reformation in the 1600s.

# EXPLORING THEIR PROTESTANT ROOTS

With two small children in tow, Steve and Janet moved to Europe for one year where they traveled extensively researching their reformation roots in Switzerland, Germany, and England. They studied for six months at L'Abri in Switzerland with the noted Evangelical theologian Francis Schaeffer. On subsequent trips to Europe, Steve and Janet visited communist countries and even smuggled Bibles and medicine to Christians behind the Iron Curtain.

## PROFESSIONAL

In 1975, Stephen started his own business with a \$5 investment and homemade business cards. His building services company, Distinctive Maintenance, grew to over 600 employees at its height.

#### **CONVERSION**

Prior to 1994, neither Steve or Janet had ever set foot in a Catholic Church. After studying many books to convince their best friend and recent convert, Al Kresta, that the early church was evangelical, Steve and Janet backed their way right into the Catholic Church.

On Pentecost Sunday, 1994, they entered the Church at Christ the King Parish in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

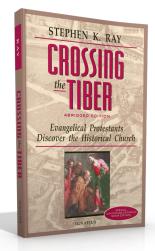
Steve began writing a letter to his father explaining why they became Catholic. This letter soon became the book *Crossing the Tiber: Evangelical Protestants Discover the Historic Church*, published by Ignatius Press.

## CURRENT

Since then, Steve's passion for the depth of truth found within the Catholic tradition has led him to walk away from his business and pursue what he really loves—writing, speaking, producing Catholic films, and leading pilgrimages to biblical lands.

Steve and Janet have been to the Holy Land over 170 times exploring, filming, and leading thousands of pilgrims.

Steve is a regular guest on Catholic radio and TV including Catholic Answers, Ave Maria Radio, Relevant Radio, and EWTN. He also writes Bible studies for Catholic Scripture Study International.



Steve's first book—his conversion story

# PUBLISHED BOOKS

**Crossing the Tiber** *(conversion story)* 

**Upon this Rock:** *Peter and the Primacy of Rome* 

**St. John's Gospel** (a Bible Study)

**The Papacy:** What the Pope Does and Why it Matters

**Faith for Beginners:** *A Study of the Creeds* 

# FOOTPRINTS OF GOD DVD SERIES

Abraham: Father of Faith and Words

Moses: Signs, Sacraments, and Salvation

David and Solomon: Expanding the Kingdom

Elijah and Elisha: Conscience of the Kingdom

Mary: Mother of God

Jesus: The Word Became Flesh

Peter: Keeper of Keys

Paul: Contending for the Faith

Apostolic Fathers: Handing on the Faith