

**Juan Talamas, Orfelinda Charur- 26 Jan 2009**

- Juan is a dentist- almost 90 years old born in September 1919. His father came from Palestine in 1887. His brother was also born there (the only sibling who was born in Bethlehem.)
- His father became a seller. Then sold shoes.
- Everyone arrived to Tampico and then people chose where they wanted to go. People suffered on the boats. A lot of people passed through France.
- Talk about Easter traditions when Kathy went to Jerusalem.
- Many people would change their names once arriving to South America to Spanish translations. This is so that people would not know that they are foreign.
- Also talk about wedding traditions- talk about the groom giving gifts to the bride and her family. Talk about the fact that there was no 'dating' period for couples in that day. Marriage was very quick.
- Juan talks about his parents and their experience in Bethlehem- They had a shop of religious items. There were no jobs, which is why people left. They talk about speaking Arabic at home but Spanish outside of the home- to maintain identity. Juan says he's interested in returning for religious reasons, however he has no relatives there.
- Talk about the current fear in Gaza and distance from Jerusalem. They also talk about the ruined buildings they hear about.
- Go through different family names and discuss whether they are from Bethlehem or not- most are Christian.