



"The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence."—2 Sam. 22:3.

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."—Matt. 16:27.

In the Shadow of the Cross

Scripture teaches and experience bears out the fact that affliction and suffering brings us of the Faith into closer relation and accord with the God of love. In the shadow of the cross, we consider all who are in distress as kindred; our burdened heart finds comfort in raising charity's fervent appeal for all who are in need of healing and consolation in Christ. Protracted affliction deprives us of the privilege of attending worship; likewise restricts our activities and usefulness. Others of necessity fill our place. Though we say, "Thy will be done," in such circumstances faith is put to a severe test but in every trial we find encouragement in the promise, "As thy days so shall thy strength be."

Though Heaven is not reached by a single bound. Prayerful striving to possess our souls in patience, raises us round by round above the temporal, nearer the divine, near the Savior and the suffering of the cross; then by grace it is but a step to the presence of the Father, where we find strength to believe that as He shapes our destinies so it is best. God makes no mistakes. By leaning on his promises and walking daily in the beautiful avenues of the gospels we find strength to carry on.

Even entertaining a conviction that fervent intercession of the afflicted is made, is at times the invisible force by which ministers are deeply

(Continued on page 3)

Why We Should Try To Live Nearer To Christ

By Rev. Joe W. Klopfenstein

We have many reasons why we should live nearer to Christ and His teachings, because we have all to gain and nothing to lose. Let me call to the reader's attention that all mankind are born natural sinners, which none of us can account for. But the time will come that we all must give an account of how we passed our sojourn here on earth, and no one will

flesh, and fulfilled our desires to the lusts of the flesh and mind, when we lived in sin serving the Prince of this world.

But in spite of all, God saw no form of beauty or good within us, He wanted us to see this within our ourselves (which we did, thank God)! We were a wretched man—a poor sinner living in a world without God and hope for our poor soul, unless we turned to the Lord and converted ourselves from this hopeless and lost and wretched condition through true repentance. In due time we found grace in the sight of God to make this most important step in our life — to save our soul—and we believe every human being, more or less, has a desire to do this. After receiving remission of our sins and crucifying the old Adam of sinful life, peace, joy and happiness entered our heart, which gave us new reasons to be thankful and grateful that God did not deal with us according to our deeds and tender mercy. There is nothing else in our life that should suffice us than this: to live more near to Jesus Christ, our Saviour, for we must always experience ever and anew that God is rich in mercy and love toward mankind.

Paul writes that, "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace

TREASURED VERSES

And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

—Acts 1:10, 11; Matt. 24:27.

be exempted. So how fortunate is any soul who hath been quickened or vivified, who was once dead in trespasses and sin. "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." (Eph. 2:2) Yes, we had our conversation in the lusts of the

are ye saved)." (Eph. 2:4, 5.) That is why he reminded the believing Ephesians that they, as well as we, who experienced dying unto sin and being baptized into Jesus' death and arising to a new life, that they and we are afforded at times to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, which is only a foretaste of greater joys. This again gives us many reasons why we should live nearer to the Lord, so when our time and hour will come to depart this life, that we will not miss entering into those heavenly mansions, after we finish our work here below.

God did not inspire the Apostle Paul to write in vain that, "by grace are ye saved through faith and not of ourselves!" He says it is a gift of God. Not even of our work, for no man should boast. What a privilege! When we define the word GRACE, scarcely can we realize the unmerited favor and love of God toward us through Christ Jesus. For myself, when I think of what I should have to boast of, it is rather of my many short-comings, errors, or mistakes that I make.

After attaining this precious faith in Jesus Christ—Paul tells us it is a substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen, and by it many men of old obtained a good report, which we all hope to obtain—a good report and a good end—by this faith. If the true believers of God's children will recall to memory that they were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in this world, this again should renew them in their love toward God. We should seek to live and become more obedient and nearer to Christ. Even though at one time we were afar off, we are now made nigh by Jesus' blood. For Jesus alone, abolished through His flesh the enmity between God and man. For it is through Jesus Christ that we have access by the spirit unto the Father. After becoming His saints, and fellow citizens of the household of God, believing that we are building on the foundation (on which the apostles and prophets believed) that Jesus Christ is the chief corner stone, again

we make mention that this should encourage us to live nearer to Christ.

In summary, we are not worthy of God's love toward us. May we as the redeemed in Christ become more as His likeness and pay our vows as we vowed. To be true and faithful until death so we can be partakers of the glories above that await such also of the inheritance, which is incorruptible and undefiled, which is reserved in heaven for you. We trust that some day, sooner or later, we can go to that place where:

"There's a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we can see it afar;
For the Father waits over the way,
To prepare us a dwelling place there."

I CAN'T, HE CAN

I can not go, my boy, with you.
I must leave you in God's hand.
I can not go, my boy, with you,
I can't — He can.

I can not shield you, son of mine,
From war that's planned by man.
I can not shield you, precious one,
I can't — He can.

I can not hold your hands in mine
In air, on sea, and land.
I can not hold your hand, my son,
I can't — He can.

I can not dry the tear that falls,
That's shed by bravest man.
I can not dry the tear, my boy,
I can't — He can.

I can not fill that aching void,
Caused by the war we did not plan,
I can not fill the lonely hours,
I can't — He can.

I can not lift you, son of mine,
With strong and mighty hand,
I can not lift above it all,
I can't — He can.

I can not give you courage, dear,
To do your duty grand,
I can not give you courage, son,
I can't — He can.

I can not go, I can but stay, I can but
give,
I can but pray. So trusting Him I
stand,

I can't go, my boy, with you,
I can't — He can.

Submitted by Mrs. George Yergler.

Dear Soldier Boy

Dear soldier boy—
Are you alone, discouraged? Feeling
blue?
Has everyone forgotten? Have friends
forsaken you?
Have days been bitter, troublesome,
and difficult to bear?
And do you find yourself today be-
neath a load of care?

Dear soldier boy—
Don't faint today beneath your heavy
load;
But try to keep your courage upon
the narrow road.
We know you have a greater task to
undertake today
Than you have ever had before—so
don't forget to pray.

Dear soldier boy—
God knows you're there (wherever
you may be);
And He will never turn away, but al-
ways answer thee.
He knows your troubles (great and
small)—to Him they're all the
same.
Remember God, dear soldier boy, and
praise His holy name!
By Elna Feller, Cissna Park, Illinois.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"Dear Ones: . . . You will notice by my address that I was transferred. I have been here at Keopham Green (England) since June 5th. I have been very fortunate to remain in England instead of going to Germany or any of the other war torn countries . . . I had the privilege to attend our little assemblies (in London) every month since January. . . . Brother John Schrock . . . and I were only 16 miles apart so I often cycled over on my bicycle on Sunday afternoons. . . . By the way, Brother Schrock always shared his copy of The Silver Lining with me. . . . In closing I wish you all the best of health and above all the blessings of our Heavenly Father. May He bless you for your kind efforts to keep us supplied with spiritual food . . . A least one in Faith,
Wilbert R. Funk."

Two marks of a Christian—giving and forgiving.

IN THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS*(Continued from page 1)*

moved; many in darkness are aided in finding the light and the believing are heavenly blest. Withal we realize it is beautiful to walk with the Lord in the sunshine, but it is sacred to walk with Him in the shadows.

Jesus, the man of sorrow, walked often in the shadows fully aware of His grave responsibilities and the great sacrifice He must make. So often we dwell on the angels acclaiming His birth and the final triumphant rising as victor over death and the grave. This momentous achievement came into being only because He despised not the cross and the shame but for the salvation of men, He became willing to bear it all so that still today all who repent, truly believing in the soul restoring power of His atoning blood, shall have life and shall have it more abundantly. Therefore God has given Him a name that is above every name.

In high esteem we mention here the name of the Virgin Mary who visioned that humiliation of misunderstanding would overshadow her life, but in a strong faith she said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it to me according to thy words." Her beautiful faith was vindicated when the angel appeared to Joseph; again when the angel heralds acclaimed the newborn King. The coming of the three wise men gave reassurance that she had truly yielded herself to God's purpose.

Sorrow and suffering came to her in later years because men refused to believe in this Son of God. Even His own brethren believed not in Him whom Mary loved so dearly. Seemingly none of them were present at the crucifixion; none claimed His body; mute evidence bears witness that they disowned both Him and His devoted mother, who drank the dregs of a bitter cup with Him. When Jesus therefore saw His mother and the disciple standing by, whom He loved, He saith to His mother, "Woman, behold thy son." Then saith He to the disciple, "Behold thy mother" and from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home." Mary's de-

voted self-sacrificing life proves that true faith surmounts every obstacle, to stand approved before God. It is irrefutable that the priceless gift, salvation to men, was established in grievous individuals and mutual suffering of both the Savior and His mother.

If we be of the body of Christ we will suffer with Him, bearing our cross with fortitude. Sorrow and suspense have exacted their toll from us in this world conflict, yet we count it as gain, knowing that suffering levels us, refines us and teaches us the value and power of prayer. The prayer of faith is the great force under heaven. Daily we raise fervent appeals to God for our loved ones and for all men who seek for higher things. He alone can sustain us by His grace. In such a time as this the futility of temporal agencies and affiliations are apparent. Mal. 4:1, 2. "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and

all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch."

Never in Biblical or world history, has such a devastating fire swept over the earth, as in this war. Even in this sad catastrophe we have the assurance, "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings." Thus the Scriptures verify, "For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." The concluding verses of this chapter speak of the evening of time—before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. The heart of the fathers shall be turned to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers; thus a curse shall be averted. Surely the blight of war has brought the conviction to both fathers and children, that salvation of souls is the imperative objective to which we should consecrate our lives. Calm will follow in the wake of war's terrible storms—a time to glean. No doubt many friends of the truth, at home and abroad, entertain a desire to become children of the heavenly King.

Assuredly many Jews would welcome a Savior now. The Gospels invite all men to enter the kingdom as children. Thus it is evident there are multitudes of children in the valley of decision; on their decision hinges death or eternal life. Here is a potential harvest for the Lord and we are reminded of the Savior's words, "Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest, behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." God will reveal to the fathers how to use their sacred office of grace, to aid and persuade multitudes of children to make their decision for salvation, in the soul restoring blood of Calvary. By such humbly consecrated service, we will hasten the day when the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. Scripture reiterates the words to both fathers and children. Brother, the master is calling for thee.

Otto Rauhaus,
Kansas City, Missouri.

Hymn for the Month**HEARTACHES**

When your heart is aching, turn to
Jesus,
He's the dearest Friend that you can
know;
You will find Him standing close be-
side you,
Waiting peace and comfort to bestow.

There is joy for ev'ry blighting sor-
row,
Sweet relief for ev'ry bitter pain,
Jesus Christ is still the great Phys-
ician,
No one ever sought His help in vain.

Jesus understands, whate'er the trou-
ble,
And He waits to heal your wounded
soul,
Will you trust His love so strong and
tender,
He alone can make your spirit whole.

Chorus:
Heartaches, take them all to Jesus,
Go to Him today, do it now without
delay;
Heartaches, take them all to Jesus,
He will take your heartaches all
away.

NEWS

Mrs. Mildred Schlatter was hospitalized July sixth and underwent an operation July eleventh. We are glad to report she is home and getting along nicely.

Rev. and Mrs. Henry Souder of Bremen visited relatives at Grabill the week end of July seventh and eighth. Rev. Souder was guest minister at the Leo Apostolic Christian Church, Sunday.

Miss Marie Beery of Rittman, Ohio, is spending her vacation with Miss Dortha Conrad.

We are glad to see Colleen Schlatter gaining strength and having such a rich brown color that only the sun can give.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Getz, daughters, Edna and Virginia, Misses Marjorie Getz and Mary Ann Leman of Morton, Peoria, and Eureka, Ill., visited relatives and friends at Grabill over the national holiday.

Ensign Edward G. Souder was home for a short leave visiting his parents and friends. We want to congratulate Edward on the successful completion of training for ensignship. Ensign Souder has returned to Harvard University for a period of advanced training.

Rev. and Mrs. Jacob Frautschi and daughters, Mary and Emily, Mrs. Homer Reineck and daughter, and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Frautschi and daughter visited relatives and friends at Grabill the week end of July first.

Miss Edith Beer spent a few days visiting Miss MarCeil Klopfenstein the week of July fifteenth.

M-Sgt. Donald Bollier and Sgt. John J. Bollier spent a short leave at home, and we were glad to see them in Sunday School, Sunday, July fifteenth.

We are glad to see T-Sgt. LaMar Michaels home for a furlough from the combat zone. LaMar is resting for reassignment.

Miss Dorothy Winzeler of Chicago is visiting her brother, Raymond, during her vacation.

Raymond Pulfer enjoyed a 30-day

furlough with his wife and family. He returned to camp July 26th.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Klopfenstein entertained friends with a buffet lunch Saturday evening, July 21st. The guests were: Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gerber, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Levy, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Gerber, Miss Betty Grover, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Kipfer, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Clauss, Mr. Robert Gerber, and some local friends.

Mrs. Ada Russell visited her sister, Mrs. Henry Schwartz, at Grabill, July 18th and 19th. Mrs. Russell left Friday, July 20th, for California.

BLUFFTON

Sgt. Leonard Frauhiger, who has been in the army nearly three years and overseas 21 months, arrived Thursday to spend a 30-day furlough at Craigville and vicinity with his wife, formerly Miss Mary Ringger, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Frauhiger. He is recovering from wounds to one of his legs.

Mrs. Violet Ringger and Mrs. Sam Aeschliman left for Camp Atterbury to meet Cpl. Walter Aeschliman, who was given an honorable discharge. Cpl. Aeschliman left for army service in August, 1942, and received his training at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Seattle, Wash., and Prince Rupert, Canada. He is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Sam Aeschliman.

Mr. and Mrs. George Ringger, east of Bluffton, have received word that two of their sons, Reuben and Sylvan met the first of this month at Marseilles, France. They are encamped 35 miles from each other and plan other meetings.

Pvt. Kenneth Moser, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Moser, arrived home, Tuesday from Camp Robinson, Ark. At the end of his 10-day furlough he will report to Fort Riley, Kans., for further training.

Sgt. Walter W. Steffen and Cpl. Harold O. Steffen, sons of Mr. and Mrs. John Steffen, east of Bluffton, met in Germany near Gera, June 13, and visited several hours. It was their first meeting in over a year.

BREMEN

Mr. and Mrs. Al Fisher and children and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Knecht and son, Jimmie, of Chicago were in Bremen, Sunday. In the evening, Mr. Fisher spoke at our monthly Sunday School program. The program was well attended and enjoyed by everyone, particularly the vocal duet by Mr. and Mrs. Fisher's small son and daughter. The next Sunday School program will be on August 12th.

Miss Mary Klopfenstein, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Klopfenstein, has gone to Denver, Colo., and expects to remain there several months.

On July 14th, Miss Velma Leman and Pvt. Walter Beer of Milford, were married at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Leman of Bremen. Pvt. Beer returned to the States on June 19th after being overseas 37 months. Twenty-seven months of this time he spent in a German prison camp and was released by the Americans on the 2nd of May.

CROGHAN

Elder and Mrs. Philip Beyer, Rev. and Mrs. William Virkler, and Miss Ella Embeck were in Rockville, Connecticut for Sunday, June 24. They attended the funeral of Gottlieb Zalner, Jr. In the evening Elder John Bahler was assisted by Elder Philip Beyer in holding Communion service.

On Sunday, July 8, Elder and Mrs. Philip Beyer and daughter, Evelyn, were at the Croghan Church. They had dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Alvin B. Farney.

Mrs. Mary Yousey spent the winter with her daughter at Clark Mills. She attended a service at Croghan, July 8, and intends to spend the summer in Lowville, New York.

C-N Jeannette Farney who is in training at the Good Sheppard, Syracuse, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Farney, Beaver Falls, New York.

Lt. Paul Mertz was spending a 15-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Mertz, Castorland. He left July 19, for Miami, Florida.

FRANCESVILLE

Lieutenant Esther Gutwein, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gutwein, was married to Sgt. Joseph E. Gray on July 7th.

Ben Anlicker fractured both wrists while making hay, July 4th.

Pvt. Richard Gudeman is now receiving his mail in care of the Postmaster at San Francisco, California.

Katherine Anlicker of Elgin, Illinois, is spending a few weeks here with relatives and friends.

Rev. and Mrs. Otto Norr and granddaughter, Roberta Norr, visited a couple days with the H. C. Wuethrich family and other friends.

MORTON

Pfc. Kenneth Stevig arrived in Morton after spending a year in Europe. During his active service he was wounded, and after having recovered, he went back into the service again; he returned home July 11th. He has a 30-day furlough after which he will receive a new assignment.

A special program was held Sunday, July 22nd; this being the last day of Sunday School before vacation starts. The new term will open September 9th.

Henry Grimm, after having served many years in the Sunday School, has been elected the new minister at Morton.

PEORIA

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Witzig have been notified that their son, Clarence George Witzig S 2-c, is missing in action.

TAYLOR

Mrs. Ruby Hoerr, Jr., had as a guest Mrs. Bertha Heiniger of Valparaiso, Indiana, July 24th and 25th.

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Yackley and daughters spent July 25th and 26th with Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Tanner of Goodfield, Illinois, and other relatives.

Miss Pauline Hall, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Hall, and Mr. Joe Wiegand, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wiegand were married July 14th.

TOLEDO

Eugene Fetter, who has been stationed in Berlin, recently traveled 400 miles to visit his brother, Paul. They spent three days together somewhere near Paris. This visit was enjoyed very much by both of them. This is the first time Eugene has seen any member of his family since he has been in the army and he has been overseas ever since the African Campaign.

Rev. and Mrs. Godfrey Schlatter, Misses Mary Frautschi, Lydia Meister, and Evelena Schrenck, visited the West Virginia Church on July 15.

Rev. and Mrs. Godfrey Schlatter attended the funeral service of Enoch Steffen in Bluffton, Ind., on July 22.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Frautschi and daughter, Janice, and Mrs. Sorg, visited friends and relatives in Illinois the week of July 16.

Soldier Letter

The following letter was written by Robert Fagner, nineteen years of age, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fagner, to his brother Richard. The young soldier was killed in action on October 4, 1944. He went to school at Francesville; lived between Francesville and Winamac.

Italy
February 13, 1944

Dear Richard:

Just received forty letters of back mail, but old or new I still enjoy them. But best of all I received Christ as my Saviour about five weeks ago. This is how it happened.

You see, I knew we were making a landing somewhere, but it didn't worry me much till we got aboard the ships and were on our way. Then I began to fear what would happen to me if I were to be killed, and of the awful place where I would have to spend my life after death. I knew I was on the road to Hell and that if I didn't trust Him then and there it might be too late. You know that the Gospel had been preached to me many times. That fact bothered me a great deal too. As we came within three miles of this Anzio beach head I finally gave in and trusted and be-

lieved in Christ. He saved me, and I was baptized later in the Tyrrhenian sea. I know I'm saved for John 3:16, John 5:24 and many other scriptures tell me so.

I don't know what I would do without Him here. Only wonder why I did not accept the Lord long ago for He certainly is a wonderful Saviour to me.

Before I was saved I often wondered how the rest of you that were Christians at home could keep away from all the evil things of the world and yet be so happy, but I can see it plainly now. Didn't think I could ever be like that, and I wouldn't be had the Lord not saved me.

For the last four years I've been smoking and drinking some, but the Lord has made me forget and I no longer want that kind of life. In fact, I left a carton of cigarettes lying in the boat and took the packages out of my pocket and threw them overboard. God has proven to me over and over again of His wonderful power. Many times already I've been protected by His Mighty Hand, have felt Him guiding my very feet away from physical danger. Wonderful to know my Heavenly Father has His eye on me.

The Bible is a constant comfort and means of courage and strength in this awful war. I wish the Christians back home would pray that this war cease. It will end when the Christians have had enough. God is able to put to naught the wisdom of men and bring this slaughter to a close. Trust Him to do so.

Please send me tracts—that I may better understand and lead others to Christ. Many of the boys are reading their Bibles, but do not know Him, Whom to know is life eternal. Pray that I may lead them to a saving knowledge of the Lord. So many are lost and life is so uncertain here.

Pray that I may come through these battles in safety so that I can come home, and be a witness for Him there. If that is not His will, I'll see you in Heaven some day.

Love in Christ,

Robert.

Submitted by H. C. Wuethrich.

Diary of a Trip to Palestine

By Walter J. Graf

(Fifth Installment)

Had an opportunity to explore Tel Aviv in these two days. My first impressions of the town were sustained on closer inspection. The town is cleaner than most of ours back home. The shops look modernistic and have attractive displays. The streets are wide and lined with trees and bushes, even in the downtown areas. People are predominantly Jewish, but of the higher class of that race. They dress well, are polite and most friendly. The restaurants are expensive but serve meals that you don't have to be afraid of eating. The local bus system was better than I have even seen it in Akron, and I even noticed double deckers. Downtown Tel Aviv is bustling and crowded during the later afternoon hours.

Shopping was the most interesting of all. Those people are the best salesmen I have ever run across. They would drag me into a store, against my will, and before I could get away the store was practically mine. In fact, they could make me feel guilty to walk out of the store without a purchase under my arm. The stores are stocked with everything imaginable, and lots of other items that I know are almost unobtainable back in the States. Books are plentiful, and they have lots of recent editions. Don't know how they can get them from America, with transportation as scarce as it is, but they do.

On Saturday morning we began our first trip to Jerusalem. Lt. Greene, the PGC officer stationed in Tel Aviv, gave a short talk outlining the things we were going to see. We left camp and arrived at the YMCA in Jerusalem at about 9:30 in the morning. There we picked up our Arab guide and began our tour through the city. Jerusalem is divided into two parts, the Old City as it existed in olden days, surrounded completely by a wall about 25 or 30 feet high. Around the Old City are the suburbs and the shopping districts of the New City, most of which has been built in recent times. We entered through St Stephen's Gate, one of the seven gates of entrance to the Old City. The first place we visited was the Church of St. Anne, the mother of Mary. Under the church are preserved the walls of the home, divided into two parts, one a kitchen and the other part a sort of living room.

From there we went a few yards to the Pool of Bethesda. Here is the spot where the Lord cured the man who had been infirm for 38 years, we went down to a flight of stairs. The pool was a little too high that day and the leading G. I. was up to his ankles before he knew what was happening. Outside, in the entrance, they have the excerpt from St. John 5 in 38 different languages, telling the story of

the healing. And of course, a souvenir stand next to it.

We next walked over to the Mosque of Omar, more correctly known as the Dome of the Rock. It is built on Mt. Moriah, which is first mentioned in the book of Genesis. The Dome is built over the exact spot where Abraham was going to sacrifice Isaac. The rock itself, enclosed by the dome, is supposed to be the actual stone on which the sacrifice was to be made. Later, on this mount, David purchased the threshing floor from Ornan. His repentance and sacrifice saved the people of Jerusalem from the destruction intended for it, and the temple he promised to build was later built by Solomon on the same spot. It was destroyed in 586 B. C. After that there were many temples built on the same spot, the first by the Chaldeans, then later the one by Herod—this last temple being the one the Lord was often connected with in Bible stories. Right near here is the place where the devil tempted the Lord to cast Himself down.

We went inside and saw the rock. The Moslems own this building, as it is also holy to them. From this rock Mohammed ascended into heaven, according to their faith. The Moslems claim that as he was going up into heaven the rock was attracted to his body and tried to follow him up, but the angel Gabriel reached up and stopped it. On one side there are five evenly spaced holes, and they pointed them out as the hand print of Gabriel.

This brought up an interesting point, one of which I never before was aware—that is, that the Moslems also consider Jesus (whom they called "Esau") as one of their great prophets, second only to Mohammed. We encountered this fact on many occasions in Jerusalem, where the Moslems own or control spots holy also to the Christian peoples. They do not, however, believe in our version of the crucifixion, but rather that the Lord ascended into heaven and stayed there, and that the actual crucifixion was of Judas, whose soul passed into the body of Jesus before the event took place. They really cannot believe in the Lord's crucifixion and subsequent rising, for if they did it would make Him more holy than their Mohammed.

The mosque is a huge affair, built in the 16th century by the Turks. Before we could go in we had to put a pair of cloth slippers over our shoes, so as not to desecrate the holiness of the place. Much of the work on the inside is of solid gold. The story goes that it took 25 years to build, and 10,000 workmen were in on the job. The payment for their toil was 200,000 Palestinian pounds, in gold. But the workmen refused compensation for the work, so they decided to use it for beautifying the interior. Under the rock there is a grotto where the prophets prayed.

Abraham, David, Solomon, Elias, and Mohammed are all said to have prayed in this cave. It happened that Mohammed struck his head on entering the grotto and the rock took the impression of his turban.

We then went on over to the Tomb of the Chain. Legend has it that in olden days a heavenly chain was attached to the roof of this circular building, but just what significance it held nobody knows. It was built right over the spot where Solomon judged between the two women who were arguing over the baby. From there we had an excellent view of the Garden of Gethsemane and the Mount of Olives. Next to this small tomb was another Moslem shrine, the Mosque of Al Aqsa. It is built over the spot where Jesus as a young child talked with the old people, and became separated from His parents.

From there we traveled on to the Wailing Wall. This is one of the most holy of Jewish shrines. It formed a part of the western wall of the second temple, built before Christ's time. Here the Jews come, especially on their holidays, to pray for their lost glory and for the restoration of their greatness. There were about 25 of them there the day we visited, and they were chanting their prayers in Hebrew. There are many stories about this wall. One of them is that the wall was for many years covered with debris, and was discovered through an accident. A Turkish sultan passing through dropped several sacks of coins in the debris, and the poor people, digging for the coins, cleared it away enabling the discovery of the ancient wall. Knowing the peculiarities of the race, I can well believe that story.

We then traveled up King David Street to an ancient inn. A wall surrounded the inn, and before we entered it we saw two large wooden doors in the entrance. The guide explained the Needle's Eye. This is a small door built into the large door. As he told it, all such inns were completely enclosed to protect the travelers from marauders. At sundown the doors were closed, and any late comers had to enter through the small door cut into the huge door. It is about two feet high and one foot wide, barely large enough for a man to squeeze through. But at least the man could come inside and be safe for the night, even if his animal could not. This small door, known as the "Needle's Eye," is possibly the meaning of the Lord's saying "it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Because it would most certainly have been impossible for a camel to go through this small door.

We went from there to the Tower of David built on Mt. Zion, where David was said to have had his palace. We walked around the ruins. They have been excavated quite a bit and have found evidences of

three different periods of civilization. A museum is maintained in the ruins of the walls, but we had no time to go through it.

After lunch we came back into the Old City by a different gate and were taken over the Via Dolorosa. This route, known also as "The Way of the Cross," or the "Way of Pain," is that road over which the Lord travelled on His way to Calvary. Apparently the Catholic religion uses this to a great extent, for in every church of Catholic denomination that we entered in Palestine there were pictures of the various stops. Also, every cross I saw had marked on it the stations. Due to the fact that there are so many Catholic visitors, this is one of the main features of the tour. Along the route there are 14 stations. Some are mentioned in the Gospels, and others have been recounted through the ages by legend and have been accepted by the Catholics as fact. Before we started on the road we visited the Chapel of the Crowning of the Thorns, where the Lord was sitting when they mocked Him.

The first station is located on the site of Pontius Pilate's hall, where He was questioned and was turned over to the Jews. The second station is outside the judgment hall, where they made Him shoulder the cross and begin the trip. The third station is at the spot of Jesus' first fall. I don't think that the Bible ever mentions any falls, but tradition seems to have preserved the memory, and the fact that Simon had to help Him carry the cross later on is used as a proof that He was very exhausted and probably did fall. The fourth station is at the place where His mother was standing as He passed on the way. The fifth station is at the spot where Simon of Cyrene was forced to assist the Lord with the cross. This is mentioned in all of the Gospels. The sixth station is where legend has it that a woman named Veronica made her way through the crowd to wipe the face of Jesus with a towel. According to tradition she was repaid in a peculiar manner, for when she withdrew the towel the imprint of Christ's face was left on it. This towel is now safely laid away in the Vatican City, and according to the guide actually does have the print of a face on it. The Greeks have built a little chapel at this station, and life size models depicting the scene. The figures are those of Jesus, Simon the Cyrene, Veronica, and a Roman centurion holding a rope tied around Jesus' neck. The seventh station commemorates the second fall of Christ. The eighth is at the spot where He turned and spoke to the daughters of Jerusalem who were weeping over Him. This is mentioned in St. Luke. The ninth station is at the place where He was said to have fallen the third and last time. From there we skirted around several buildings which have been built over the

Way of the Cross, and entered the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The tenth station is inside at the place where Jesus was disrobed. The eleventh is at the spot where He was nailed to the cross. The twelfth is just a few yards away at the place where the cross was raised, and where He expired. The thirteenth was at the place where Mary received the lifeless body in her arms, and the fourteenth, and last, is the tomb over the place of the holy sepulchre.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, understandably, is considered by many people to be built over the most sacred spot on earth. But here again, as in many other instances, there is a serious debate over the exact location of Calvary. The Catholic religions, as well as various other denominations, firmly believe in this site, and that too is understandable when you stop and consider the large outlay of money for the construction and upkeep of the church. However, the Church of England has chosen another spot outside the walls of the Old City which they believe to be the correct location. This is the Garden Tomb which I visited later.

We entered the church and passed a large red polished stone which is said to cover the stone on which Christ was laid by Joseph and Nicodemus so they could anoint and embalm the body before binding it and placing it in the tomb. This is called the Stone of Unction. We went directly from that place to the spot over Calvary. There are two altars built here. The one on the right is built over the spot where Jesus was disrobed and where He was nailed to the cross. This altar belongs to the Latins. The altar on the left is built over the place where the cross was erected and where the Lord expired. In fact, directly beneath the altar is the actual rock on which the cross is said to have stood. They have a silver plate with a hole in the center through which the curious may put their hands to touch the rock—I touched it. On the right of the altar is a grille through which the rock can be better observed, and through which you can see the mighty rent caused by the quaking of the earth (Matthew 27: 51). There is also a small altar in the center belonging exclusively to the Franciscans, and on it is a small statue of Mary. This statue is covered with jewels, gold, silver, and countless valuable gifts. All were given by important people during the past years. The gifts on the statue are valued at \$3,000,000 and they told us that it is but a small part of the wealth accumulated in such gifts, the remainder of which are kept safely locked away elsewhere in the church.

Just below the altars is a grotto and a chapel which bears the name of the Chapel of Adam. Somehow or other legend has it that Adam is buried here, and under the rock in the chapel is said to be the skull

of the common father of mankind. They claim that on the day of the crucifixion the Lord's blood fell, through the ground, on the head of the first man guilty of sin.

From there we went on to the tomb from which the church received its name. It is located in the main part of the church. The cupola of the church is about 150 feet high, and directly under the center of it is the small building which houses the sepulchre. This small building which covers the sepulchre is about 20 feet high, 25 feet long and 20 feet wide. The building is really beautiful, covered with many gold and silver lamps, pictures and ornaments. Upon entering the door you come into a small vestibule about 10 feet square which is called the Chapel of the Angel, because it was here where the Angel of the Lord was seated on the stone and where the Angel announced that "He has risen." There is a small pedestal in the center of this vestibule where they have inserted a fragment of the stone which was rolled back from the door. Directly ahead of this vestibule we entered through a small door, about four feet high, into the Holy Sepulchre. It is only about seven feet long and five feet wide, and not more than five or six people can squeeze in at one time. To the right of the door, about two feet off the ground, is a marble slab about six feet long which covers the rock on which the Lord was laid from Friday until Sunday morning. Any of the Catholic fellows in the bunch who had purchased rosary beads were invited to place them on this marble slab to bless them, and many did. I could not quite understand how this marble slab had any holiness attached to it, but I guess the fact that it was directly over the more important stone lent to it some amount of significance. Hanging over the marble slab are 43 lamps. The Greeks, Armenians and Latins are allowed 13 each, and the Copts are allowed only four. The three former sects hold religious services in this small chamber each afternoon.

The various sects have had so much difficulty settling the question of who opens the church, or who has the controlling interest, that eventually they had to settle the matter by allowing a non-partisan agency to take care of it. So every morning the church is opened by an Arab, who is reimbursed each morning, in turn by the Latins, the Greeks and the Armenians. A rather sorry state of affairs, to my way of thinking, when strife and distrust shows up in this manner among people who consider the spot to be most holy.

From there we went to the Chapel of St. Helen which is down a flight of steps into sort of a cave. The Empress Helen (mother of the famous Emperor Constantine) was responsible for choosing the sites for most of these historic places in Jerusalem, in the 4th century. The empress was

a staunch Christian, and spent much of her life and wealth in discovering historic spots and building shrines over them. The chapel which bears her name is built around the cisterns where she uncovered the crosses used for the triple crucifixion. According to legend, they determined which cross the Lord was nailed to by the instantaneous recovery of a dying woman who touched it. They also have here an altar dedicated to St. Dismas, the good thief, whose deathbed repentance earned him the promise of everlasting life.

We then went into the Chapel of the Franciscans where some of the fellows had their rosary beads officially blessed by a Franciscan Friar. In this chapel they have a continuous 24-hour prayer. The Franciscans live inside the church in small rooms just barely large enough to move around in, and with only a small opening in the door for light and ventilation—in true monk style. Near this chapel is a rock on a pedestal, marking the spot considered to be the center of Christianity. Just why they chose that particular spot I could not say.

This finished our tour for the day, and after being conducted to yet another souvenir shop we went back to the YMCA for refreshments and to catch our trucks for camp.

The next morning we went back again to Jerusalem and once again met our guide at the Y. Our first stop was at the Royal Caves, or Solomon's Quarries, from which stone has been taken for construction in Jerusalem since King Solomon's time, and from which stone for Solomon's temple is believed to have been taken. This is an important shrine to the Masons, and they hold meetings each year in the cave. It was rediscovered only 55 years ago when the dog owned by an Englishman living there suddenly disappeared and inadvertently led his owner to the caves. They run under the old city of Jerusalem, and we walked through almost a mile of the paths on two different levels. The tradition has it that Jeremiah retired into this grotto during his sorrow over the overthrow of Jerusalem by the Chaldeans, and here wrote the *Lamentations*. Our guide further stated that some people believe these underground caves run clear to Jericho, some 25 miles away. This is probably derived from the fact that Jeremiah hid from the Chaldeans in these caves and next turned up in Jericho. But it seems unlikely that they run so far. Nobody has been able to fully explore them as yet. The cave has been known to exist but nobody could say exactly where until led to it by a dog.

(To be continued)

ADDRESSES OF OUR BOYS IN THE SERVICE

Killed in Action: Eugene F. Bahr.

Pfc. Joseph Bahr
A.S.N. 35540894
T. G. 73 D. 99
A.P.O. 551 c/o P.M.
New York City, N. Y.

Theodore W. Bahr S. 1/c
U. S. S. Wolverine
c/o Fleet Post Office
Naval Armory
Chicago, Ill.

T-5 David Bertsch No. 35894267
Med. Det. S.C.U. 1915
Madison Gen. Hosp. Sec. 5
Tacoma, Washington

Lt. Arthur J. Blume
Hq. Co. 3rd Bn 329th Inf
APO 83 c/o P.M.
New York, N. Y.

M./Sgt. Donald R. Bollier 15059597
55th Aircraft Engineering Sq.
5th Ferrying Group, Love Field
Dallas 9, Texas

Sgt. John J. Bollier 15374503
611th A. A. F. Base Unit
Sqdn. "B" (Fighter Dept.).
Eglin Field, Fla.

Robert W. Bollier S 1/c
U. S. S. Chester T. O'Brien
D. E. 421 c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

Sgt. Ted J. Bollier No. 35160227
5th Inf. Hq. Co. 2nd Bn.
A. P. O. 360 c/o P. M.
New York, N. Y.

Cpl. Louis F. Getz 35764521
421 Quarter Master Platoon
10 Air Depot Group,
A.P.O. 149 c/o Postmaster
New York, New York.

Pvt. Arthur Hassig
A.S.N. 15345299
3502 A.A.F. Base Unit Section A
Chanute Field, Ill.

Cpl. Louis Kaminer
900th Base Unit (A.A.F. School)
Orlando, Fla.

Pvt. Ephriam Kipfer 35909913
Co. C. 55th Armd. Inf. Bn.
A.P.O. 261 c/o P.M.
New York, N. Y.

Sgt. Henry O. Kipfer No 35166105
119th General Hospital
A. P. O. 519 A c/o Postmaster
New York, N. Y.

Pvt. Richard Klopfenstein, No. 15328084
Co. F. 264 Inf. A.P.O. 454 c/o P.M.
New York City, N. Y.

Cpl. Wm. Klopfenstein No. 35161661
Hqs., Co. 93rd Signal Bn.
A. P. O. 312 c/o Postmaster
New York, N. Y.

Lt. Richard W. Lantz O-2070664
A.P.O. 19486-BV-29 c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

Lt. O. W. Maxfield, No. 0-8-39122,
F. L. T. A. T. R. J.
Dale Mabry Field, Florida.

Pfc. Richard H. Murphy,
Hq. Co. 3rd Bn 24 Marines
4th Marine Div. c/o F.P.O.
San Francisco, Calif.

Sgt. Albert P. Norr 35151339
Battery A. 521st CA Bn.
Ft. Mac Arthur
San Pedro, Calif.

Pfc. Raymond Pulfer 35325674
No Address at Present

Pvt. Phillip Rizzo 35555551
G. F. R. C. Pool
A. P. O. 129 c/o Postmaster
New York, N. Y.

Ens. Arthur W. Schwartz
USS.-L.C.I. (G558) c/o F.P.O.
San Francisco, Calif.

Lt. Harry R. Schwartz 0554459
Ser. Btry. 804 F.A. Bn.
A. P. O. 14208 c/o PM
San Francisco, Calif.

Pfc. Lester D. Smith,
A. S. N. 36421390 A-T Co.
414th Infantry
A. P. O. 104 c/o Postmaster
New York, N. Y.

Ens. Edward G. Souder
Chase Hall, C-36
Navy Supply Corps School
Harvard University
Soldiers Field,
Boston, Mass.

Sgt. Russel R. Stieglitz
Prov. M. P. Co. Bldg T-1572
Station Complement
Camp Lee, Va.

Lt. Gaylord H. Widner 0-2074891
7th T.C. Sqdn. 62nd T.C. Group
A.P.O. 650 c/o P.M.
New York, N. Y.

Notice soldier and sailors and their families: Let *The Silver Lining* know immediately if you have a change in address. It would help us get the paper to you. May we have your help?—**Editor's Note.**

**THE
SILVER LINING**
Published by
Apostolic Christian Sunday School
Grabill, Indiana