

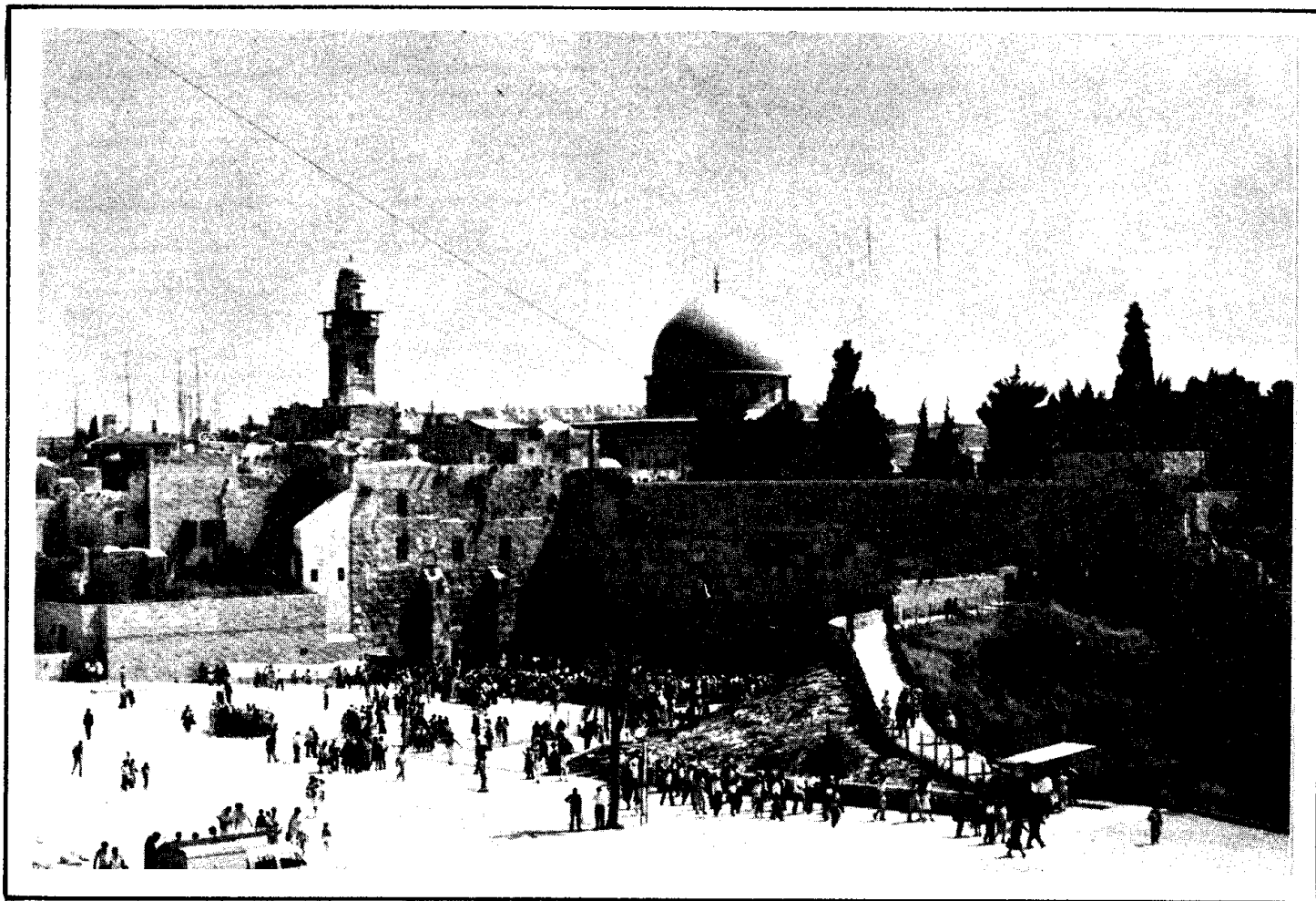
# The Sword AND Staff

*"Preach the Word." (II Timothy 4:2)*

•

*"Feed the Flock." (I Peter 5:2)*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LATEST BIBLE LANDS TOUR



The so-called Wailing Wall (wall that supported the temple mount) with the Dome of the Rock Mosque behind it

• By **JAMES E. GIBBONS**—POST OFFICE BOX 147  
MOUNT AIRY, N. C. 27030 U. S. A.

THE TWENTY-SEVEN PEOPLE who went on the 12-day (June, 1983) Bible lands tour now have many rich experiences and memories to look back upon (and increased knowledge to draw upon in studying the Bible). As a tour host, being personally involved with the tour, this writer was able to go on his fourth such trip. It was very rewarding, and each tour seems to get better. Donald Hunt did a

good job, being the main leader of our group (which came from different sections of the United States).

### A Little Extra

For those not going on the European extension at the end of the tour, a little extra was theirs anyway in the trip over. A whole day sight-seeing in Holland proved very delightful. The Dutch truly have a clean and beautiful lit-

(Continued on Page 3)

## THE SWORD AND STAFF

Post Office Box 147  
Mount Airy, N. C. 27030 U. S. A.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

• Introductory—\$1.50 for the first year; • Regular—\$2.00 for renewals;

NOTE: The subscription is regarded as the minimum offering needed to help with the expense of printing and mailing this paper; the "payments" for booklets, tracts, and other material is regarded as offerings. Subsidizing gifts are also needed above this. Make your check out to CHURCH IN MOUNT AIRY.

This paper is supposed to be published bi-monthly, but the frequency is determined by financial backing. James E. Gibbons is editor.

RENEW your subscription when it is due—no notice will be sent.

NOTE: This paper is sponsored by church of Christ, meeting now on U.S. 601 across from Northwestern Bank, Mt. Airy, N.C.

## Proverbially SPEAKING...

*TOO MANY preachers today are more concerned about fleecing the sheep than they are feeding the flock.*

*"Ask as to things, not merely, Is there no harm, but is there any good, and which is the best?"*

*Sound preaching must have more than "sound" to it, and abrasive preaching is not necessarily strong preaching.*

*"ULCERS—the result of too much mountain climbing over molehills."*

*A man can no more be a Christian and not be a member of the church than a fish can live outside of water.*

*"Don't think you are necessarily on the right road because it is a well beaten path."*

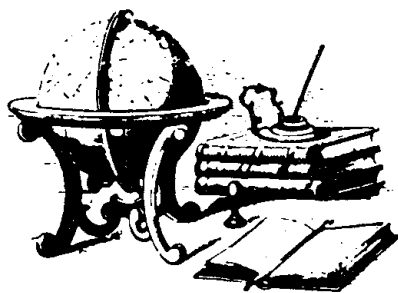
*The young person who is always preoccupied with being "cool" is in danger of ending up where it's HOT.*

*"If your absence doesn't make any difference, your presence won't either."*

*"Keep your face to the sunshine and you will never see the shadows."*

*"We usually tell the faults of others because it takes less time than to tell our own."*

*"When Christ cast the demons out of the undressed man in the cemetery, he was then CLOTHED and in his right mind."*



## EDITORIAL

## COMMENTS...

### IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE PROVERBS

IN THE LANGUAGE of the Proverbs, "There are three things which are too wonderful for me, yes, four which I do not understand." In a modern approach, let us apply this to the smoking of tobacco, the playing of "rock and roll" music, the watching of television, and indecency of dress. In all of these things we can see man's lack of courtesy and selfish inconsideration of others.

(1) The unthinking and inconsiderate will smoke their cigarettes, fill the room with their pollution, and even blow it into another's face without a second thought. This I cannot understand. It seems to never enter their minds that there are those who do not smoke, and this is obnoxious to them (as well as being a health hazard). What lack of consideration.

(2) It is hard to escape the erratic and voluminous sound (noise) of "rock and roll" music (and its kind—and other kinds!) in our enlightened society. It blasts one's ears, engulfing and smothering you, as background music (?) in stores, from open cars racing down the streets as radios are turned wide open, and likely as not from wherever teenagers are gathered. It is hard for some to believe that such noise is not irritating and head-ache producing to others. (At a large religious gathering some older people were seen literally cringing from the "religious" music, but who cared?). How inconsiderate!

(3) Television is almost omnipresent in our society (except for a stubborn few who utterly refuse to have their thoughts so completely controlled by others; especially by humanists who "dish out" so much mental garbage). Many times when visiting people they are oblivious to your presence, and, needless to say, conversation has become a dead art. Many times one is hardly greeted when entering such a house. O for the days of yore!

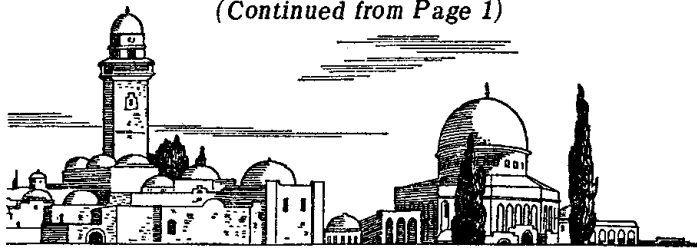
(4) Nudity and indecency of dress are the vogue of the day. Many undress, not merely to be cool, but because they think they are "cool." (I am afraid that many who are preoccupied with being "cool" are going to end up where it is hot). Although one may prefer not to look upon such unseemly sights, there they are (even many professing Christians disregarding what the Bible has to say about this). But few care what others think except to be in line with the latest worldly trend or fashion.

These things are "too wonderful for me;" yea, with the writer of Proverbs, "I do not understand." How can people be so inconsiderate of others (especially professing Christians)? As Christians let us be courteous and always do that which is right. Consideration of others comes before self (after we have made the basic consideration of whether a thing is right or wrong to start with). □

A SINCERE "THANK YOU" to those who help from time to time financially. Getting out this paper becomes increasingly difficult and all such help is deeply appreciated. Our resolve is still there to publish God's truths! Pray for us.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LATEST BIBLE LANDS TOUR

(Continued from Page 1)



the country. Then flying over Europe, Vienna, Austria furnished us sleeping accommodations for the second night out. The next morning we ate breakfast to the spirited sound of classical music. (This writer, having never been to Vienna, had previously formed misconceptions of this place. Let us say, it is not a quaint medieval city nestled between snow-capped Alps, but a large modern metropolis situated in the open and surrounded by wooded foothills).

### First Day in Israel

Landing at the airport near Lod (Lydda) outside of the modern city of Tel Aviv (literally, hill of the springs). The Bible lands part of our tour got under way "for real" with the visit of the traditional site of the house of Simon the tanner in Joppa (where also from here in the Old Testament Jonah took a ship for Tarshish rather than go preach to Nineveh). Traveling along the Mediterranean through the edge of Tel Aviv itself, we headed farther north to the ruins of the Roman city of Caesarea (also crusader ruins are to be seen here). Caesarea had been built by Herod the Great for the Romans, and from here they ruled Judaea. The city is mentioned several times in the New Testament (especially do we think of it in connection with the gospel first being preached to the Gentile Cornelius). Here we saw the ruins of the Roman theater facing the sea, the great aqueduct (which brought the city's water supply from springs at the foot of mount Carmel twelve miles away), and the area of the man-made harbor around which the city was built.

From here, going up the coast and farther inland, we stopped for a few moments at the home of our Israeli guide, Zvi, then proceeded on to the summits of mount Carmel (where Elijah decisively confronted the false prophets of Baal). Here we were confronted by very vicious dogs (fortunately restrained behind fenced walls) guarding the monastery located on this historic site, which overlooks both sides of mount Carmel (the slopes to the southwest and the side toward the Jezreel Valley to the northeast, which is more steep). From here, traveling atop of the range of Carmel, we made our way toward Haifa. However, we take our descent on a very narrow, steep, and serpentine road to the bay area before reaching Haifa proper. We passed Acre (Akko) on to the Kibbutz where we spent the night.

### Touring Upper Galilee

The next day saw us first visiting the Crusader city of Acre (also called Ptolemais in the New Testament). Then we crossed the mountains into Upper Galilee, stopping to see one of many ancient synagogues in Safed. Safed is really high up in the mountains above the Mediterranean and the Sea of Galilee. It is thought to have been in the mind of Jesus when he spoke of "a city that is set on an hill" that cannot be hid. We descended the

mountains into the upper Jordan valley, passing the tel of Old Testament Hazor, and continued north to the site of Caesarea Philippi at the foot of mount Hermon. This is one of the head-waters of the Jordan river, and it is where Peter made the great confession (and Jesus made his declaration to build his church). This writer was pleased that he was privileged to read the Scripture about this (Matthew 16) to our group at the very site. A pleasant surprise awaited us as we traveled on up the slopes of mount Hermon to the Syrian border. Most of the snow was melted off of mount Hermon, which sometimes stays on the mountain most of the year (but our guide said that it all melted in April last year). Reaching the Syrian border, we turned south, going along the top of the Golan Heights until we turned aside to go into the Jordan valley again. We crossed the Jordan river where it empties into the Sea of Galilee in the north (site of Bethsaida-Julius in New Testament times). After making some stops along the Sea of Galilee, we went to where the waters pour out of the Sea into the Jordan river again going south (what has not been drained out for irrigation as the whole land is irrigated from the Sea of Galilee). Here a group was having a baptizing. From here we went to our hotel in the upper part of the city of Tiberias (city of the Herod who had John beheaded), overlooking the Sea of Galilee. Sleep was welcomed.

### The Sea of Galilee, Galilee, Samaria

In June in Israel sunrise comes a little after 4 o'clock in the morning. This writer was up about 3:30, and with his camera, walked the empty streets of Tiberias. It was a long walk all the way to the bottom of the mountain, so it was deemed wise to return before reaching the ruins of the ancient city walls.

Our touring for the day began by crossing the Sea of Galilee (which is actually a big lake about 13 miles long and 7 wide), going from Tiberias to the ruins of the New Testament city of Capernaum (north). Capernaum was the "headquarters" and home of Jesus after he left Nazareth. Along the northwestern shores of the Sea of Galilee most of his ministry took place. The excavated ruins of the ancient synagogue in Capernaum can be seen with the possible site of Peter's house not far away (and many other things of interest). After visiting the "mount of the Beatitudes," etc., we traveled south over the level strip known as the plain of Gennesaret from which we ascended the mountains near the Horns of Hattin (scene of a great crusader battle) Perhaps normally we would have gone on to Nazareth (passing through Cana), but the decision was to include mount Tabor in our plans. This really proved an experience (the first time to visit here by this writer), and we can see why this dome-shaped mountain standing by itself proved important in military operations. The valley of Jezreel is in full panoramic view and with the proper signals battles could be directed from this lofty lookout. Going back up the mountains on which Cana and Nazareth are situated, we were able to include these in our itinerary. From here we traveled across the Jezreel valley to Megiddo where we were able to visit the museum and see the excavations of the tel. Throughout ancient times Megiddo had proved very important as a fortified outpost in guarding the valley and many important battles were fought here. In fact, the last great battle in Revelation called "Arma-

(Continued on Page 5)

## A RADICAL CHRISTIAN

THERE IS more than a pinch of truth in the assertion that "when you call a Christian a fanatic, you really mean that he loves Jesus more than you do!" Yes, of course the radical Christian is a fanatic—in the way that Jesus was, and Paul. And—if one may be so bold—in the way that all too many professing Christians (?) are not, but ought to be. He is not a special Christian. He simply qualifies for New Testament normality.—Wallis □

\*\*\*\*\*

## A LESSON FROM A CORK

IF YOU HAVE FALLEN away from the Lord into sin, why not turn back while you can?

A cork placed on top of the water will float on the surface. If it is pressed down ten, fifty, or even a hundred feet, it will rise again. But, if it is pressed down to two hundred feet below the surface, it cannot rise again because the pressure is too great.

In like manner, if you have not gone too deep into the mire of sin, you can rise again; but beware of the day that you go so deep in the practice of sin and neglect that you cannot rise from its depths. The lower one sinks into the mire of sin, the less is the possibility of one's being able to rise again. The longer one goes in rebellion to God and the Savior, how much greater the difficulty to rise to repentance.

My brother or sister, it is later than you think! If you are away from the church, make all haste to come to God before the pressure of sin pushes you beyond the hope of repentance. Those of us with experience in the church have seen so many go down into the depths of neglect that they are now without hope. Don't lose your soul. Don't drown in the depths of sin and rebellion to God and the church for which Christ died. Rise again while yet you can!—Selected □

\*\*\*\*\*

## JOSHUA'S MESSAGE STILL NEEDS TO BE HEARD

TWENTIETH CENTURY CHRISTIANS can learn a great deal from the history of the Israelite Nation. From the time God called the people from Egyptian Bondage, they complained, criticized, and rebelled against their Heavenly Father. Although, time after time they witnessed God's mighty power, they failed to place their trust in Him. Today God's people still fail to believe in His power. We find ourselves complaining about the life God has called us to live. Even sadder, few Christians ever yield themselves to Christ, and let him direct their very lives.

Early in his life, Joshua demonstrated his faith in God. In Numbers chapters 13 and 14 we read of Joshua's faith. He and Caleb were the only spies, out of twelve, who said the Israelites could conquer the promised land. Throughout his life, Joshua stood in the minority as one who trusted God. Even after preaching to his people, during the forty years in the wilderness, they failed to trust the God who delivered them from Egypt. In Joshua 24, Joshua is making his final address to the people. He is 110 years old. In the 15th verse, he makes his famous statement "as for me and my family we'll serve the Lord."

Today the church has many members who are uncommitted to the cause of Christ. Too many times it is impossible to separate Christians from the world. In Luke 9:62 Jesus said if anyone puts his hand to the plow, and looks back he is not fit for God's kingdom. Church members need to carefully consider Jesus' words, and realize that they have made a life time commitment to Christ. Once this commitment is made we cannot turn our backs on God. We have been "set apart" to do God's Will. Now is the time for God's people to be determined to do His will. The Church has never faced the problem with faithlessness as it faces today. Has church become just another social event in your life? If it has, you are in danger of losing your salvation. Hebrews 10:26 clearly teaches that no more sacrifice remains for those Christians who turn their backs on God.

However, God forbid that anyone accept Christ only for "fire insurance." Paul in Romans 12:1 urges Christians to become living sacrifices for Jesus. He said that was our reasonable service, since Christ has given his life for us. This simply means that we give Jesus the control of our lives. Only when we give our all to Christ can we expect to please him, and to accomplish his will.

As Joshua stood before his people for God, realize that he stood in the minority. However, don't let small numbers discourage you. Christian, remember Jesus' promise in Matthew 18:20. Christ is among the two or three gathered in his name. Therefore, let us as Joshua stand firm in complete obedience to our Lord.—Douglas A. Gibbs □

## "Raised"

*"Raised to walk in newness of life..."*

*'Tis true, I once was dead;  
Lost in sin's unmarked grave  
...Had not my Savior bled.*

*By His grace and of my faith,  
I, too, have shared His death;  
Dying to sin and buried with Him,  
Revived by the Spirit's breath.*

*Salvation's song—I've been raised!  
By the power of Christ's resurrection.  
Sing glory, His Name be praised;  
Pray, share His undying affection.*

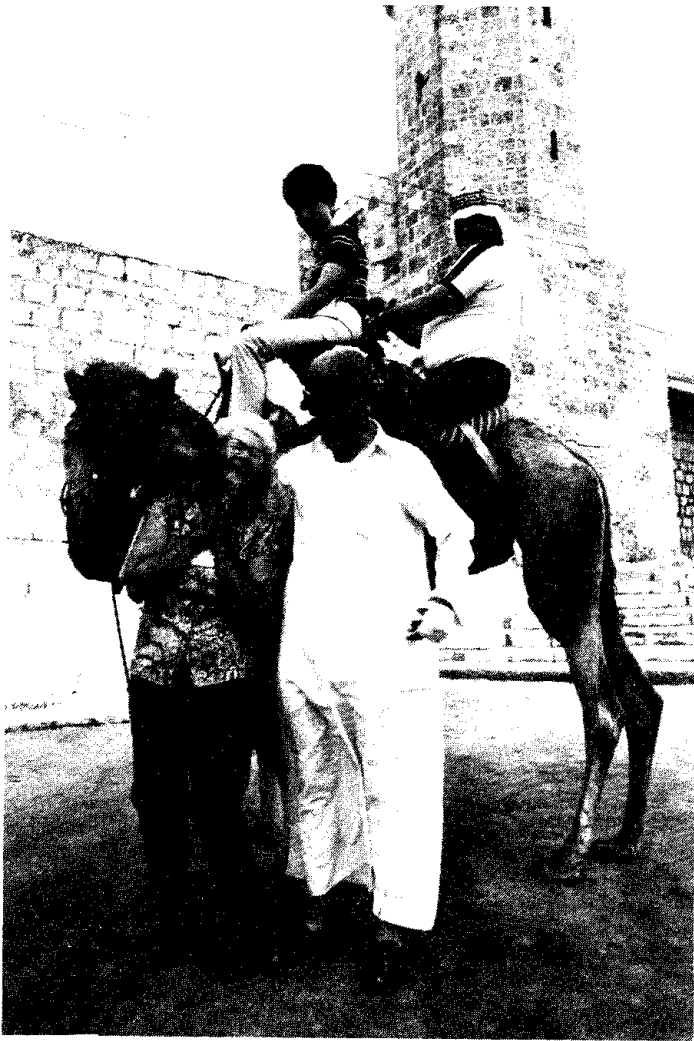
*The depths of Hell and my sin  
Were not too far from Jesus' hand.  
You, too, are still within His reach;  
Grab hold!  
Be raised to Heaven's higher land.*

*He bids us obey baptism's grave,  
Believing, repenting, confessing;  
'Tis by His Word our souls are raised;  
Yea, resurrection's promise and blessing.*

By Bob Wickline  
5204 U.S. 50  
Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LATEST BIBLE LANDS TOUR

(Continued from Page 3)



A surprise kiss by a camel for Marjorie Sturgeon (Monterey, La.) as Vivien and Jerry Harris (St. Louis, Mo.), mounted on the camel look on—on the mount of Olives outside Jerusalem.

geddon" has the name of this place in the word.

We were pleased with our trip from Megiddo to Samaria (and then on to Jerusalem). The trip to Samaria was a route this writer had not been over before. In New Testament times Samaria was a region in the central part of Palestine, as well as being a city. We visited some of the ruins of this mountain top city, and then went on to Jacob's well located at the foot of mount Gerizim. Here we drank water from this ancient well (which had to be drawn with a bucket). As we pressed on toward Jerusalem, places of consequence were seen along the way. Terraced and ribbed mountains, long ago robbed of their topsoil, crudely juttred into the afterglow of the golden sunset in their own majestic way. At last the lights of Jerusalem, our hotel, and a comfortable bed!

### Environs of Jerusalem

The apex of visiting Bible lands is Jerusalem (the city of the great King, the temple, the crucifixion and the resurrection of Christ). The original plans for our tour called for us to be in Jerusalem for four nights, but because of

problems in scheduling our flight out of New York we left a day early to go on the tour. Consequently a whole extra (and free) day was given to us, and it was to be spent in Jerusalem how ever we wanted to spend it. Thus, we were five nights in that great city of the Bible. We will not begin to tell everything, nor in order, what we saw and what we did there. We will simply address the highlights.

About the first thing we did was visit the model city of Jerusalem at the Holy Lands Hotel. Based on Archaeological information, Josephus, etc., this is a miniature replica of the Jerusalem of the New Testament. For those who could take a mental picture, this would serve as a continual point of reference (and helpful backdrop) as we toured the present city built on the ruins of bygone days.

One of the next things we did was to drive along the heights of mount Scopus on to the mount of Olives where the city of Jerusalem (with the temple mount) can be marvelously viewed. A first for this writer was walking all the way down the mount of Olives to the garden of Gethsemane at the foot of it. This was truly enjoyed. Tombs are all over the mount of Olives, even up to the walls of the city of Jerusalem in the other direction. A local tradition says that people buried on the mount of Olives will get an "edge" on the resurrection (they will be among the first to come forth from the grave).

Our walking tour of Jerusalem, which began in the Jewish quarter, was really great. The wailing wall is impressive, the large Herodian stones still being visible. This is not the remains of the city wall, but the back side (west) of the temple mount which was built to buttress the fill-in (which made the mount level on which to build). This is the most sacred place to the Jews today. It is symbolic of bygone glories, and they believe the Spirit of God hovers over this wall. Prayers are made as people woefully (sometimes mechanically) bump their heads into the wall. Note—prayers are left for God sticking between the cracks of the wall.

On the flat temple mount above the wall are two Moslem mosques, the most famous being the Dome of the Rock mosque (or, mosque of Omar). This mosque is supposedly located where the Herodian temple stood. Taking our shoes off (Moses did before the burning bush, remember?), and leaving our cameras behind, we were allowed to enter this beautiful structure. This place is also supposed to be the summit of mount Moriah where Abraham went to offer his son Issac at God's command. Making our exit from here, and retrieving what we had left behind, we walked over to the city wall facing the mount of Olives. Here we observed the inside of the Golden Gate which is now sealed. (And while we were standing there a funeral procession on foot went by. Some young men were leading with huge palm branches. An open green box, except for a loose cloth over it, carried the dead. Older men walked behind. For some reason the very nature of the circumstance brought to this writer's mind the poor widow of Nain and her dead son as Jesus happened upon the funeral procession).

The slopes south of the temple mount have been identified as the site of the city of David (the original city of Jerusalem that David took from the Jebusites and made

(Continued on Next Page)

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LATEST BIBLE LANDS TOUR

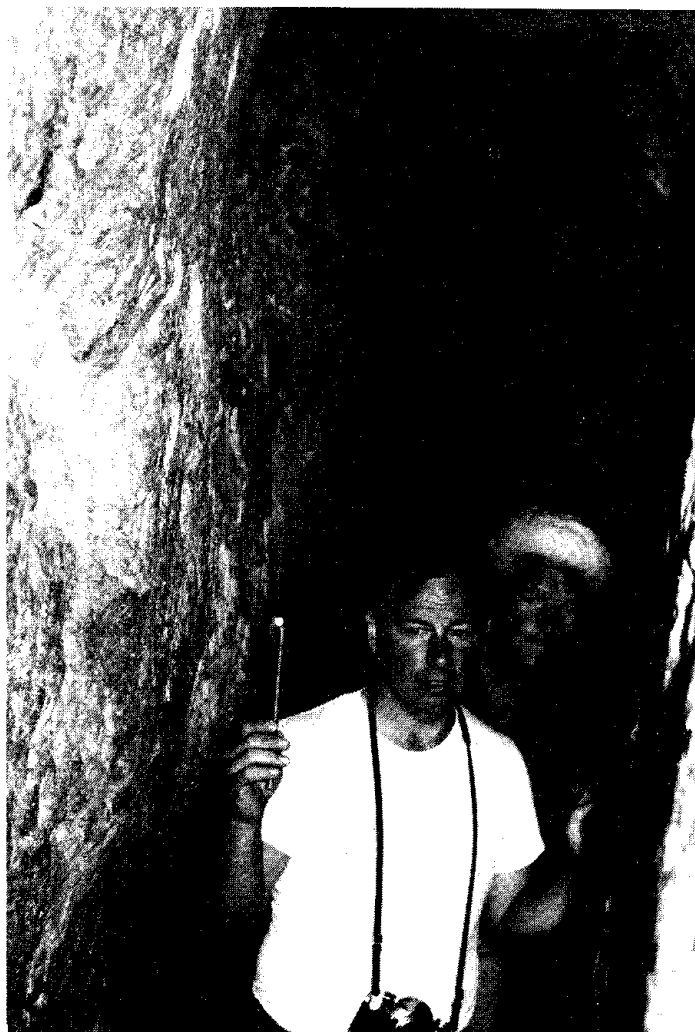
*(Continued from Last Page)*

his capital). Outside the present city walls in that direction can be seen the evidence of extensive excavations, and this area is now officially labeled as an Archaeological Park. The uncovered steps which led up to Solomon's temple area can be seen. On over the slopes toward the Kidron valley, even beyond the Gihon Springs, can be seen the honey-combed evidence of royal tombs of antiquity (only kings were buried within the walls of the city).

A visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre does not impress the unbiased as being the place where Jesus was crucified and buried (although this musty old building and motley piece of real estate dragged kings and men from all over Europe into the nasty wars of the Crusades only to lose in the end). In fact, Jesus was crucified outside the walls of the city and buried there. It is unthinkable that the walls would have been in farther toward the heart of the city, making the city so narrow that it could hardly be defended. The attitude of the attendants at the Garden Tomb is more reasonable. They do not speak with dogma that Jesus was crucified and buried there, but that the place is a possibility (fitting the descriptions in the Bible, if it is not the actual place). A city that has been leveled to the ground several times since the days of Jesus, and a city wherein Jews and Christians were not allowed to live for years even after it was rebuilt, would be one wherein it would be hard to positively identify sites at a later date. Nonetheless, this writer cannot go into the area of the Garden Tomb (and "Golgotha") without being deeply moved and touched. If not here, somewhere close by the very Son of God died that awful death for our sins. The tears always come. You can't hold them back. And the empty tomb with the stone rolled away, and the individual burial compartment with the seal of the mortared slab torn away, always makes ones heart beat a little faster. Praise God, the resurrection is a reality!

On our free day in Jerusalem we did whatever we wanted to do. After shopping the little open front markets lining the narrow streets of old Jerusalem earlier in the day, a few of us resolved to go through Hezekiah's tunnel. Such an opportunity had alluded this writer on previous tours of Bible lands. At other times of the year too much water had been in the tunnel, but now it was only knee deep. Everything was "go," so we caught the free shuttle bus to the western walls of old Jerusalem, explored our way around the northern part of the city until we came to the eastern side. Here it was a whole new adventure walking down the Kidron valley along the foot of the mount of Olives. Some palm trees framed our view as we entered the valley. As we walked down the Kidron valley toward the Gihon Springs where we would be entering Hezekiah's tunnel, we passed Absalom's pillar and Zachariah's tomb at touching distance on our left (with the eastern walls of Jerusalem towering to our right). Up close one can see the enormous size of these tombs. Looking up to our right, we left the corner pinnacle of the city wall by the temple mount behind us as we went on down the valley. Long shadows were spreading across the valley as the sun was going down, and we would soon be lost in the darkness of the tunnel.

You can read about Hezekiah's tunnel in II Kings 20:20. Hezekiah's workmen, coming from opposite directions, hacked out a tunnel through the solid rock from the Gihon Springs to the Pool of Siloam, meeting somewhere in between these places. The tunnel is over 1700 feet long. It is very narrow, but its height ranges from 5 to 18 feet. The purpose of the tunnel was to carry the water supply inside the walls of the city where they would be assured of it when the gates of the city would have to be closed against the enemy (Assyrians and eventually Babylonians). The Gihon source was covered and concealed so the invading army would not see it (nor did they). Holding our candles (and flashlights) to guide us through the dark, it took us about 45 minutes to walk through the tunnel. We emerged through the Pool of Siloam. It was well worth the time and effort, even with wet pants and cold feet.



Over 2600 years later Arnold Snow (Cheyenne, Wyo.) and Henry Straub (Boring, Ore.) retrace the course of Hezekiah's workmen through "Hezekiah's tunnel" to the Pool of Siloam.

### Judaea Beyond Jerusalem

All of the time that we spent staying the nights at the Jerusalem hotel was not limited to touring that city during the day. We used this as our "base of operation" in the south. Bethany and the tomb of Lazarus were visited. Then descending the mountains from Jerusalem, we went



about 24 miles to Jericho (passing the Good Samaritan Inn on the right). Jericho is a fragrant and productive oasis in the Judean wilderness, and correctly called the "city of the palm trees." The tel of Jericho (of one of the oldest cities in the world) was inspected up close. A few miles farther south on the northwest banks of the Dead Sea (the lowest place on earth) we walked through the ruins of the Essenes' settlement, Qumran, home of the sect that copied the famous Dead Sea Scrolls. A stone's throw away, the caves could be seen wherein these scrolls were found (we had earlier gone through the Shrine of the Book museum in Jerusalem which houses paraphernalia from here). Beyond Engedi we stopped for a close-up of the Dead Sea. This was a resort place where people covered their bodies with black pitch-like substance (for purposes of health and beauty, we were told), baked in the sun, and bathed in the water. The dates from the date palms of Engedi no doubt are the best in the world (an opinion).

Then on down the western side of the Dead Sea, Masada was next on our list. This was a first for this writer, having been incapacitated on my first tour and hindered from taking this in (then on another tour hurried off a day early to Greece so there would be more room for the planes of the presidential party from the United States at the airport). But, let us say, Masada is unforgettable (what an understatement!). We were able to go almost all of the way to the top of this canyon fortress by means of a giant cable car, from which we precariously proceeded the rest of the way by foot on steps attached flush to the side of the canyon wall (yes, there were guard rails...but, for some reason, the walls of Jerusalem do not seem high anymore). Masada is most remembered because of the mass suicide that took place here when about 1,000 Jews preferred this to surrender to the Roman army following the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Masada constitutes about 23 acres on the top of this barren canyon (which is practically inaccessible) overlooking the Dead Sea to the east and the open desert to the west (in fact, the top of the Herodion could clearly be seen northwest toward Bethlehem). Herod the Great (who trusted no one) embellished this impeccable "acropolis" for a fortress hideaway fit for a king in case he ever needed it. With ample storage of food and water, they were almost beyond the reach of any approachers with hostile intentions. A small number of men could hold off an army. Herod never had to use it (except by choice on leisurely visits). However, years later with the destruction of Jerusalem, the zealots retreated to here. But with the passing of time their fate was sealed when the Romans built a fill-in ramp up the back and were with their besieging machines able to penetrate and scale the heights. Their victory seemed hollow, no doubt, when they found the mass suicides.

Our ascent from this great depression which forms the Jordan valley and the Dead Sea (going all the way into the Red Sea) brought us up to the edge of the Negeb where we found ourselves somewhere between Beersheba and Hebron. From here we made a right turn to go to Hebron. Hebron stands out as the burial site of some of the old patriarchs, beginning with Abraham (his wife Sarah being buried here first) in the cave of Machpelah. This holy place is covered by a Moslem mosque, originally built for the Jews by Herod

the Great (the huge Herodian stones are self-evident). A first on this trip was to go inside this mosque, where different sections were pointed out as the resting place of various patriarchs.

We had previously been to Bethlehem on this tour (this is where the guide takes you to help you get rid of your money...but they *will* take it other places too), had visited the Church of the Nativity, the field of Boaz, etc., but we ended up here late in the day that Sunday. Here at the Shepherd's cave we had our Lord's day worship, including the Lord's supper. The darkness was closing in and the air getting a bit cool, but we found it to be inspirational.

#### To Jordan and Jerash

Palestine is not all under Jewish control. The immediate area east of the Jordan river and Dead Sea is the modern Arab nation of Jordan (in Bible times part of it was identified with the land of Moab and Edom). Therefore, when it came time for us to tour that part of Palestine it was necessary for us to leave one country and go into another. Although Israel and Jordan are not on a friendly basis in their relationship, this was no hassle. Leaving the Ramada Shalom Hotel that morning (where we had been staying in Jerusalem), our bus again made that steep descent down into the Jordan valley near Jericho, where, after a short wait, we boarded our Jordanian bus. We crossed the Jordan river (close to where Israel came into the promised land) on the famous Allenby bridge, ascending the mountains toward Amman then turned left to go north for about an hour and a half. Our destination was Jerash (a first time visit for this writer). Along the way we crossed the Jabbok (a small stream associated with Jacob wrestling with an angel whereby his name was changed to Israel).

Finally we reached Jerash. Jerash is not mentioned in the New Testament by name except for the possibility of the wording in some manuscripts in such references as Mark 5:1. The "country of the Gadarenes" would be translated the "country of the Gerasenes" if that manuscript evidence were followed. "Gerasenes" of course comes from Gerasa, the ancient name for Jerash. It seems to have been the most outstanding of the political coalition of cities in the time of Christ known as the Decapolis (ten cities). There are many ancient ruins to be seen here. Walking down the colonnaded streets and seeing the majestic ruins of various temples and buildings, one cannot help but be very impressed. We were told these were some of the best preserved ruins in the Roman world (reminiscent of what we had seen at Ephesus on another tour).

#### Amman to Petra

We stayed two nights at a very modern hotel in Amman (the capital) while touring Jordan. Amman is to be identified with the Biblical city of Rabbath Ammon (the city where king David had Uriah, husband of Bathsheba, sent to the front lines where he would be killed in battle). Our touring involved going south toward the Red Sea, as we were privileged to travel over the new desert highway. Along the way from where Moses viewed the promised land, mount Nebo, we also looked into the hazy distance. We could see a green blotch representing Jericho and the Dead

(Continued on Next Page)

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LATEST BIBLE LANDS TOUR**  
(Continued from Last Page)

Sea. Conceivably if the atmosphere were clear (as it was probably providentially arranged for Moses), Jerusalem, the Mediterranean Sea, and even mount Hermon could be seen in the north. Near mount Nebo was Medeba, mentioned in the Old Testament and pointed out today because of the mosaic map of Palestine inlaid in the floor of this old Byzantine church here (perhaps the oldest map of Palestine around today). Our trip to Petra took us along some of the "king's highway" of the Old Testament.

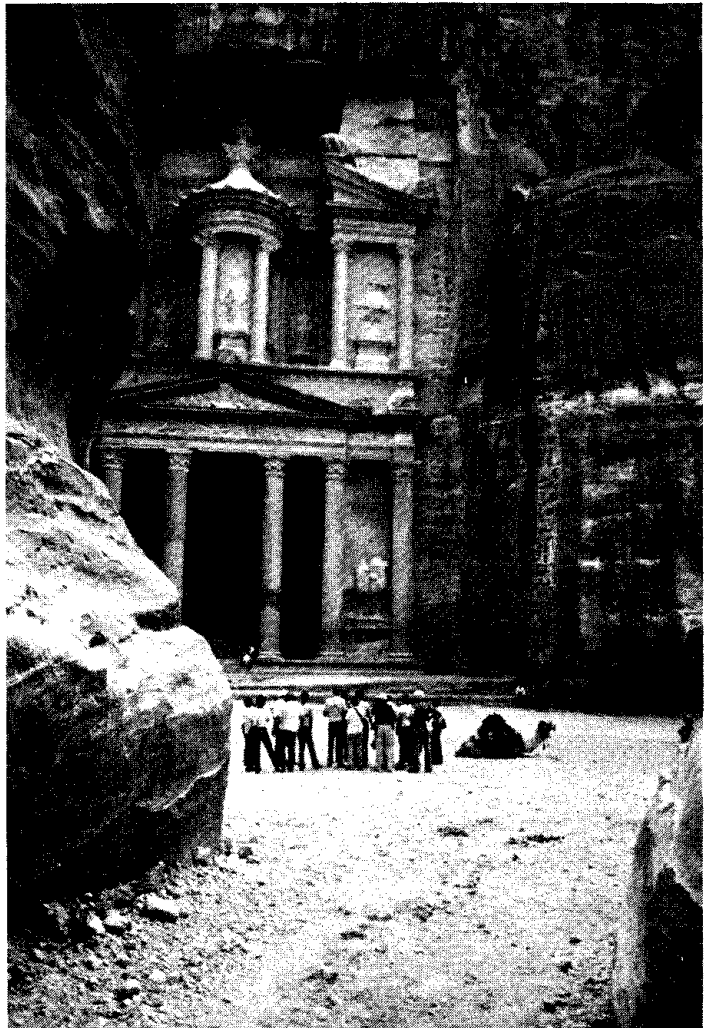
Petra is a never-to-be-forgotten experience. Leaving the welcomed and refreshing waters of the spring of Moses behind us, we were ready for the horse-back ride into the deepening gorge and razor-thin passage to Petra. Petra is the mount Seir of the Old Testament. The word itself means rock. (Petra is a good illustration of the word "petra" as used by Jesus when he said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." Although Peter's name, *petros*, means rock, it is not rock in the sense Jesus used here—namely, *petra*. Peter, *petros*, simply means a stone, a detached rock; whereas, *petra* means massive bedrock...in this case, the bedrock of the great confession would be the rock upon which Jesus built His church. The beautiful columns and buildings of ancient Petra were fashioned right out of the massive, rose-tinted sandstone—the bedrock, the living rock. It was not built from loose, detached stone or rocks). In New Testament times Petra served as the capital of the Nabataeans and was an important stopping place in the trade routes through the desert. It was to here that Herod Antipas' wife fled to her father when Herod brought his brother Philip's wife (Herodias) home to live with him. Today, except for a few Bedouins who live in the caves here, the only value of Petra is as a tourist attraction. And, if you have never been here before, it is almost a breathtaking experience to ride through the narrow desert pass to be ushered suddenly into the presence of the beautiful rose-tinted columns structured right into (out of) the very side of the mountain. You won't forget it.

After returning to our hotel in Amman, and a very short night of sleep, we boarded our KLM flight out of Amman's new and modern international airport for Amsterdam. From here we would go our separate ways, some to be in Europe four more days, and the rest of us to New York. We were very, very tired when we got home (it was a long day flying with the sun). But there was a deep feeling of satisfaction in having made the tour. Our study of the Bible would have greater depth and dimension. We had walked where Jesus walked.

Donald Hunt has made the statement that he intends to be involved only in one more Bible lands tour (four years from now). This writer has worked with him as a tour host in getting people together for the tour, etc., and this very likely will be our last tour also. This tour is planned for all of those who have expressed a desire to go but have been unable to go before now. So, this should be a big one (and a great one). This will give you enough time to work toward it, financially speaking and otherwise. It is hard to be dogmatic about the itinerary this far in advance, but it is hoped that the trip will not only include Israel, but Asia Minor, and Rome. As well as visiting those cities where

Paul planted churches (Ephesus, etc.), it would be very appropriate to visit Istanbul (since this city is to the Byzantine world what Rome was to the old Roman Empire, and Byzantine ruins are in evidence everywhere in the eastern Mediterranean world).

We would like to get a rough idea about who would be interested in this tour. On page 15 of this paper is a fill-in blank you can send to us expressing your interest in this last planned (no more planned) tour. This is not obligating you to go, but putting your name and address in our files so that we can keep you posted on plans and developments. Send your name and address on to us and begin planning and working toward making the 1987 tour a reality. □



Petra: First sight to behold after horse-back ride down narrow pass (notice size of structure in relation to person standing at foot of column—part of our tour group in foreground)

\*\*\*\*\*

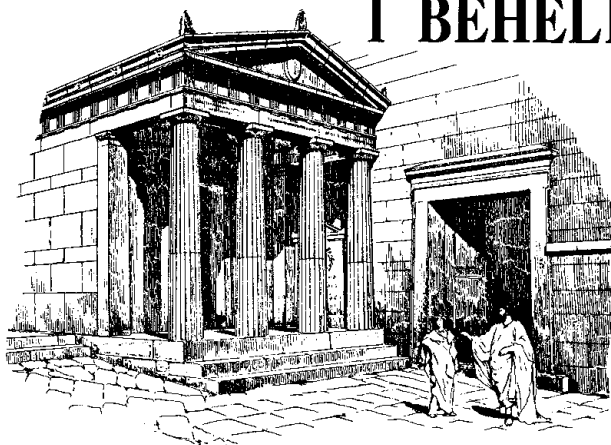
**A SIGN AND SUCCESS**

THIS SIGN is said to hang at the entrance of a large manufacturing plant: *If you are like a wheelbarrow, going no farther than you are pushed, you need not apply for work here.*

Success in any endeavor—business, marriage or friendship—comes to the person who goes "the second mile" cheerfully. People who are content to be merely pushed wonder why others pass them by.—Selected □



# "AS I PASSED BY, I BEHELD



## YOUR DEVOTIONS..."

• By Jim Hill—Box 210—Vansant, Virginia 24656

PAUL MADE this statement in his sermon to the intellectuals at Athens (Acts 17:26-28). He was not merely fascinated by their great number of idols, but he was provoked over the spiritual poverty he observed. He was dismayed and perplexed. It was a painful experience.

He beheld quite a lot just "passing by" (temples, altars, statutes, and images). Much money, time, and talent had been spent on these, thus they were called *devotions*. The satirist Petronius said, "It was easier to find a god in Athens than a man." What can one man do in a city wholly given to idolatry? Well, he could view the stately edifices and make a few slides so he could lecture about his trip when he got back home! Not Paul. He preached the One God and the One Hope.

These high falutin' philosophers looked down on Paul from their elevated perches and saw a "babbling"—a little bird that picks up crumbs from the abundant loaf; in Paul's case, one who had gathered a few crumbs of knowledge (opinions of others) and was spouting them as though they were his. The babbling was "the refuse and offscouring of society; talkative, opinionated, a retailer of scraps of information" (Barnes). This reminds us of the evolutionists who equate creationists with "The Flat Earth Society," but they rarely deal with the issues.

They also saw an opportunity to feed their curiosities (v. 21). We behold their gross ignorance in v. 18. They mistook "Jesus" and "resurrection" for the names of divinities! Anyway, to begin talking about their "devotions" was a good way to get their attention (the same is true today). But oh, his subject matter! To these intellectuals Paul chose the subject of ignorance. Was this an appropriate topic for such dignified men of learning? Very. A person can accumulate a lot of ignorance during the course of a lifetime. Before speaking to such a refined collection of individuals do you suppose Paul was biting his nails and wringing his hands (Philippians 4:3)?

After proclaiming the One God "who gives life, breath, and all things" and "in whom we live, move, and have our being," some mocked. Others gave the old excuse, "We'd like to hear it again when it's convenient." The sermon

was almost totally rejected. There is no record of a congregation ever being established there nor of Paul or any apostle ever returning. Every man ought to have the right to hear the gospel once before anybody has the right to hear it twice.

If one "passed by and beheld your devotions," what would he observe? (1) "AS I PASSED BY AND BEHELD YOUR DEVOTIONS," I OBSERVED YOUR LITERATURE, MUSIC, AND LANGUAGE. There were cheap paperbacks and magazines which extol worldly pleasure (all of which cost more than religious periodicals published by brethren). There was no room or money left for wholesome books, edifying magazines, and gospel papers which are far more profitable—even if they have controversies in them! There was an expensive television and tapes and records which glorify adultery, play on the emotions, and "justify" sinful relationships. Pornography of the air waves could be heard throughout the house. Nowadays, whatever is not worth saying is sung. One sage said, "Let me write a nation's music and I care not who writes its laws." I also heard coarse language. There were very few spiritual conversations, especially on the dance floor.

(2) "AS I PASSED BY AND BEHELD YOUR DEVOTIONS," I OBSERVED THAT YOU WERE DEVOTED TO MATERIALISM. You had to have the most modern of everything (from furniture and cars to the latest fashions in sexy clothing). For many, the idea of poverty is a black and white television set. I also observed that you chose to work overtime when you didn't have to and you missed worship services because of the doubletime pay. No amount of riches can atone for poverty of character. New Testament Christians were characterized by poverty and power; today's Christians are paralyzed by wealth and weakness.

(3) "AS I PASSED BY AND BEHELD YOUR DEVOTIONS," I OBSERVED THAT YOU HAD BECOME A SPORT FANATIC. It was no exaggeration, you had spent a fortune on sports. There were times when you had even missed services to attend a sport event. You could quote all the latest statistics, knew everybody's jersey number, and knew who was on the injured list. But when it came to learning Scriptures, you had a "bad memory." It was no wonder you couldn't carry on a spiritual conversation for very long.

What does the world see when they behold our devotions? Is Christianity attractive or are they unable to see any difference between us and them by our entertainment, how we dress, talk, what we spend on possessions, and what subjects "turn us on"? Peter told some Christians that the world "would think it strange that ye run not with them into the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you" (I Peter 4:4). "Because the unconverted people of that period were utterly unrestrained in their conduct and did not regard the acts enumerated in the foregoing verses as objectionable, they looked with astonishment on the refusal of Christians to participate with them, considering them anti-social, unfriendly, and bigoted..." (Guy N. Woods, *Gospel Advocate Commentary*). Does the world think you are strange or do they regard you as "one of them"? Do they "speak evil of you" because you won't participate?

(Continued on Next Page)

**“AS I PASSED BY, I BEHELD YOUR DEVOTIONS”**

*(Continued from Last Page)*

Can it be said concerning your house that “it is easier to find a god than a man?”

You can “pass by” and observe a liquor store on every corner, theaters with no “G” movies, magazine stands with porno literature, and nightspots with “famous name” entertainment that is mostly indecent. You can see church buildings where the emphasis is on impressing men. There are the stately edifices, church sponsored entertainment where money is lavishly wasted in competition with each other to see who can offer the most. There are worship services that differ little from entertainment programs (bands and sports figures to draw a crowd, with a little religious flavor thrown in) as the people continue to practice “Slapstick Religion.” There is emphasis on numbers (quantity), not spirit and truth (quality). The people overlook that worship is a “giving” experience, not a “getting” experience. God gives to us every day of the week. Worship services are designed for us to give.

Will the time come in America when the gospel preacher will be regarded as “a setter forth of strange gods”? No, that time is already here and, like Paul, it is a painful experience. By God’s grace, may we have the boldness to proclaim the Unknown God versus the materialism (gods many, I Corinthians 8:5,6) of our day. □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**SAFETY IN A STORM**

DURING A FRIGHTFUL STORM in the Georgian Bay of Canada years ago, a ship was wrecked. The mate, with six strong men and one timid girl, escaped in a boat but the waves were high and the craft turned over and over until, one by one, the strong men lost their hold and disappeared beneath the angry billows. The mate, however, lashed the girl to the prow of the boat, and thus she drifted to the shore, where she was found by an Indian. The timid little girl did not escape by her own skill or wisdom but because she was fastened firmly to that which could not sink. When the stalwart men went down with shrieks of despair, she was saved through the fast thinking of the mate who lashed her to the lifeboat. As long foretold by our Lord, a storm is gathering over the world and the church. Multitudes are being swept away in sin and apostasy to go down forever in darkness and death. There is hope today only for those who are lashed to the sure promises of God’s Word *which liveth and abideth forever*. —**SELECTED** □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**WE ARE NOT HOME YET**

SOME YEARS AGO I read a story of a man who had spent almost all of his life preaching Christ in foreign fields. The day came when he was no longer able to carry on his work and so plans were made for him to return to his homeland. The ship that brought him home also had a very famous world leader on board.

When the ship arrived at the harbor a great delegation was on hand to greet the famous world diplomat. Everywhere there seemed to be a celebration and festivity honoring this great man. But there was not even one person

to greet the old preacher.

The evangelist was a bit disappointed. He said, “I thought after all of my years of preaching in foreign lands that since I had come home surely somebody would be here to greet me.” Then his wife leaned over and whispered, “Remember, you are not home yet.”

At times we become discouraged when we feel that our labors are not appreciated. Preachers sometimes give large segments of their lives to building up a congregation; then when they move on to other fields they are never invited back to view some of the results of their labor. Elders often are never praised for the effort they exert in overseeing the flock. Christians are seldom thanked for acts of service they perform. There is then a tendency to become discouraged and feel unappreciated. When this occurs, we, too, need to remember that we are not home yet.

—Adapted

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**THE WAY TO HURT HIM**

SEEKING COUNSEL from Dr. George W. Crane, the psychologist, a woman confided that she hated her husband and intended to divorce him. “I want to hurt him all I can,” she said.

“In that case,” said Dr. Crane, “I advise you to start showering him with compliments. When you have become indispensable to him—when he thinks you love him devotedly—then start the divorce action. That’s the way to hurt him.”

Some months later the wife returned to report that she had followed the suggested course. “Good,” said Crane. “Now’s the time to file for divorce.”

“Divorce!” exclaimed the woman indignantly. “Never! I’ve fallen in love with him.” —**Keys to Happiness** □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**“HIM...HIM...HIM”**

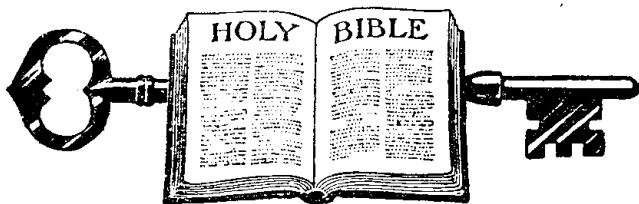
AN OLD CHRISTIAN WOMAN whose age began to tell on her had once known much of the Bible by heart. Eventually only one precious bit stayed with her, “*I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.*” By and by part of that slipped its hold, and she would quietly repeat, “That which I have committed unto Him.” At last as she hovered on the borderline between this and the next world, her loved ones noticed her lips moving. They bent down to see if she needed anything. She was repeating over and over again to herself the one word of the text, “*Him ..Him...Him.*” She had lost the whole Bible but one word. But she had the whole Bible in that one word. —**Selected** □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**HOW TO BE HAPPY:**

KEEP YOUR heart free from hate, your mind from worry, live simply, expect little, give much, sing often, pray always, fill your life with love, scatter sunshine, forget self, think of others and their feelings. Do to others what you would want them to do for you. These are tried links in the golden chain of contentment. —**Selected** □

# The Three Keys of Memory and Studying the Bible



• By JAMES E. GIBBONS

THERE ARE THREE keys to memory. They are (1) impression, (2) repetition, and (3) association. In other words, these are three basic factors that determine whether we remember anything or not. And, if we wish to remember God's Word when we study it, a consideration of these things will be most helpful.

### Impression

Those things that make a profound impression upon us we never forget. If a total stranger came up and punched you in the nose with his fist, needless to say, you would never forget it. And any new thing that is suddenly ushered into the chambers of our mind under the impact of stress and emotion is hard to forget. It will stay there. This writer went through the personal trauma of changing religions years ago when he left denominationalism. The Bible was studied with much heart-searching. Great stress and emotion were experienced, and new truths learned under those circumstances were permanently branded on the conscious and subconscious mind. A practice was made of eagerly underlining each new impressive verse that we were exposed to. This proved to be very much like indelibly underlining it in one's mind. Those Scriptures and truths learned will never be forgotten.

So, get all excited about studying the Bible. After all, it IS God's Word! Leaf through it's holy pages with fear and trembling. Search out the Scriptures with much anticipation, prayer, and emotion. Get excited about each new and precious truth that you are exposed to. It will make it a lot easier for you to remember.

### Repetition

Repetition has long been recognized as a key to memory. This is the method that is commonly used in memorizing poetry. One says the words over and over until they supposedly stick in the mind and become a part of him. Many things that have been learned and became fixed habits were things that came about by repetition. Purposeful, conscious repetition produces good habits. Chances are that bad habits came about by thoughtless repetition of useless activities. The reading of the old, old story of the gospel time and time again results in steadfast memory. Repetition by itself can be a sterile activity, but couple it with emotion and memory becomes assured and meaningful. Emotion has an etching effect upon the brain. The Scrip-

tures that this writer read and underlined long ago stand out as the chapters are read from time to time. The fact that they are underlined makes them an emotional experience all over again. If you really wish to remember God's Word, read it over and over. Memory is best accomplished when this is done naturally (not as a forced, artificial activity).

### Association

Association is a must in remembering. In association we tie new thoughts in with old ideas. (A teacher that is wise will be conscious of this). The learning process that is solid must have a foundation under it—that is, the familiar. The new has enough of the old mixed with it that it makes remembering the new easy. If you were going to build a house, you simply wouldn't put a "two-by-four" up in the air and it stay there. It must be attached to a part of the building which has been previously constructed. The same is true with learning and memory. From a child most of us know certain things about the Bible. We have built from that to what we know now. The Bible is of such a nature that this can be done easily (i. e., the milk and the meat of the Word). By mentally associating one verse of Scripture with another, and one truth with another, we build our storehouse of Scriptural knowledge. It gets to the place when we think about one well-known verse of Scripture, our mental computer goes into operation, and out comes this information with all these other verses on the same subject.

Back to the underlined verses again: that which has been underlined with emotion, and repeatedly engrafted into one's brain by reading time after time, can be used very effectively as a tool for association. You definitely know that verse of Scripture (you can't forget it), so you tie in with it new things you wish to remember. You may increase your New Testament Greek vocabulary this way. Write the word in the margin of your Bible beside the familiar verse (and its English representation). There it is, and you will subconsciously associate it and remember it. And this can be done with other truths besides words.

All of us are cursed with a faulty memory at times. More than once we are commanded to remember God and His teachings. To forget God and His Word is to fall away from God. Inasmuch as remembrance is tied in with faithfulness, it behoves us to have a good memory. Eternity is in the balance. Impression, repetition, and association play a most vital part. □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### WHAT A POWER THE CHURCH WOULD BE...

IF ALL the sleeping folk would wake up,  
And all the lukewarm folk would fire up,  
And all the dishonest folk would confess up,  
And all the disgruntled folk would sweeten up,  
And all the discouraged folk would cheer up,  
And all the estranged folk would make up,  
And all the gossipers would shut up,  
And all the dry bones would shake up,  
And all the true soldiers would stand up—  
What a power the church would be in the world!

—SELECTED

GROWING UP MEANS:

- DOING WHAT you have to do first, and then doing what you like to do. (Fortunate are those who find these tasks to be the same.)
- Knowing where you want to go before you start out to go there. (With a willingness to change destinations if need be.)
- Learning to get the most out of the least, like kids who build their own toys, and not the least out of the most, like kids who are handed everything without effort.
- Accepting the wise old saying that “the first step is half the distance.”
- Proportioning the means to the end, so that you don’t fire off a cannon to kill a caterpillar, or wave a rod to repel a wild bull.
- Adjusting your goals to fit your talents and your limitations, so that reduced goals do not make you frustrated, angry or bitter.
- Discriminating between pleasure, which is a state of having, and joy, which is a state of being. (Pleasure palls, joy refreshes.)
- Giving up blaming others, and then giving up blaming yourself. (Blame is the most unproductive reaction of all.)
- Discovering the similarity between things that seem different, and the difference between things that seem similar. (Otherwise, one’s judgment remains childish.)
- Recognizing that others can see you more truly than you can see yourself, and learning more from your critics than from your friends.
- Knowing when common sense must be applied, and when it should be flouted in particular cases, in favor of uncommon sense.
- Accepting the fact that if you do not know how to take orders, you are not competent to give them. (They are opposite sides of the same coin.)
- Retaining a part of each past age as you pass into another; not forgetting what it was like to be a little child, an adolescent, or a young adult, and thereby condemning what you have repressed or rejected within yourself.
- Being serious without being solemn, and funny without being foolish, and wise enough never to utter the fatal words, “When I was your age...”
- Finally, finding more satisfaction in what you have given than in what you have got for it. —S. HARRIS

THE MAN IN THE WELL

AS THE STORY GOES, not too far from where you live a man was walking down a country lane. By chance, he came upon an empty well. He was a curious fellow by nature, so he stopped and stooped to look down the shaft. His feet slipped and down he went!

Before long (fortunately — ?) a group of preachers came down the same road. “Help!” cried the man in the well! “Help!” The first preacher spoke, “Sorry, old fellow. There’s nothing we can do about this. Before you were born you were chosen to be in or out of that well. Apparently, in your case, it was in! Sorry, but there’s nothing anyone can do to help you now.” And he sat down by the side of the road to eat a candy bar.

“No, no!” exclaimed the second preacher, I.M. Evangelical. “That’s not the case at all! You CAN do something. Just believe that I will get you out.” “Then throw

me a rope!” pleaded the man in the well. “That would never do,” his advisor said. “We cannot let you work for it. Just sit tight and keep believing.” And he sat down beside the first preacher who was still eating his candy bar (but it was almost gone).

“Pardon me,” interrupted the third man in the group. “Obviously I cannot save you by myself, but perhaps I can be of help.” With this he took out a fine looking rope and tossed it down the well. “Now, you must have complete confidence,” he called, but do your part. “Fasten yourself to the rope.” So the man in the well did, and before he knew it, he was out again.

“Thanks a million!” said the rescued man. “Say, what is your name?” “Oh, my name is Christian,” responded the helper. “N.T. Christian. But don’t credit me so much. The sturdy rope saved you. I only threw it. And don’t you get a big head either! What did you do but trust yourself to the rope?”

It’s a silly story, isn’t it? Or is it?—Selected

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A MILLION FROGS

A FARMER CAME into town and asked the owner of a restaurant if he could use a million frog legs. Naturally, being rather shocked, he asked the farmer where he could get so many. The farmer replied, “There is a pond near my house that is full of frogs. They croak night and day, and are about to drive me crazy.” Finally an agreement was made for the farmer to bring several hundred frog legs in the following week.

A week later the farmer returned, looking rather sheepishly, with two scrawny little frogs. He told the proprietor, “I was mistaken. There were only these two frogs in that whole pond. But they sure were making a lot of noise.”

LESSON: The next time you hear someone criticizing the elders, the preacher, some member or members, or the church in general, remember this story. It is probably no more than a couple of chronic grouches who have nothing more to do than croak.—Selected

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

POINTS TO THE POINT

A GIRL walking beside a man she had just met found he had put his arm around her waist.

“Sir,” she said as she removed his arm, “it seems that we both have made quite a mistake.”

“And how is that?” he asked.

“Why,” she explained, “you thought I was not a lady, and I am, and I thought you were a gentleman, and you are not.”—Selected

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

IF YOU WANT TO START A NEW RELIGION

DURING the French Revolution a skeptic named Le Peaux decided to start a better religion than Christianity, so he wrote to the apostate bishop Tallyrand to ask his advice. Tallyrand replied, “You might begin by being crucified and rising again the third day.”—Selected

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

# HOW CAN I STOP Smoking?



BEFORE US is a very informative and practical brochure (or extended leaflet) printed in the Netherlands on "Five Smokers' Questions." The questions are: (1) Why do I smoke? (2) Who smokes? (3) Why should I stop? (4) Will it do any good if I stop smoking now? and (5) How can I stop smoking? You probably are well aware of why people start smoking (and then continue this dirty habit), so we will not notice that. And in reference to "who smokes?", it is interesting to note that fewer people are smoking today, especially in the Netherlands. In 1958, 90% of the men smoked, but now only 41% do. It is pointed out that people with higher educations smoke less than those with lower educations, and that people in health professions smoke less than others.

The questions, "Why should I stop?" and, "How can I stop smoking?" let us notice in more detail.

## WHY SHOULD I STOP?

All smokers recognize that there are undesirable effects of smoking? Such threats to the habit are usually handled with the hope that "the bad things won't happen to me", or the belief that the pleasures of smoking are greater than the risks of cigarettes and the hassle of giving it up. Both views suggest that the smoker doesn't know (or doesn't accept) all the consequences of smoking cigarettes.

### Money up in smoke

A pack-a-day smoker burns about \$450 (Df 1200,—) in tobacco a year. The costs of additional medical care needed by the average smoker has been estimated at roughly \$100 each year.

### Smoking stinks

The smell of cigarettes—in the smoker's breath, hair,

clothes, and home—is one of the contributions a smoker gives to others. Smokers and their houses often smell stale and musty. Kissing a smoker, according to non smokers, is like nuzzling an ashtray.

Many sensitive smokers are embarrassed about these impositions on others, and self-conscious about their cigarette habit.

There is increasing evidence that smoke is not merely offensive to others, but is dangerous to them. Children and people with respiratory problems are especially vulnerable to the effects of someone else's cigarette.

### Dulled sense of taste and smell

It doesn't take many cigarettes before the tar and other chemicals in smoke have reduced the smoker's enjoyment of food, flowers, perfumes, etc., but the smoker usually doesn't recognize the loss.

The main reason to stop smoking is that cigarettes are unhealthy

### • The early effects

It doesn't take long for smoking to start eroding health:

—"Smokers' cough" a result of the lung's inability to clean themselves out normally, forces the smoker to involuntary blast them clean with a hacking cough.

—Breathless panting during physical activity occurs because the lungs can't absorb enough oxygen.

—Occasional sore throat, disturbed digestion, headache, hoarseness, and greater chance of catching colds: cigarettes increase them!

### • The long term effects

The worst effects of smoking do not appear for many years. There are three main diseases related to smoking:

—*Lung cancer*, rare among non-smokers, is related directly to the number of cigarettes smoked.

—*Heart attacks and strokes* are the most frequent death causes among cigarette smokers, but not for non-smokers.

—*Emphysema and chronic bronchitis*, smokers' specialties, are lingering diseases that affect breathing.

Other cancers—of the mouth, throat and windpipe—are increased by smoking, as are stomach ulcers.

(The fourth question, "Will it do any good if I stop smoking?" is answered in the affirmative. Now let us notice more in detail the answer to the fifth question, "How can I stop smoking?").

## HOW CAN I STOP SMOKING?

It's not going to be easy to stop smoking, as you know if you've tried before (most smokers have tried at least once to kick the habit). You'll have some temporary discomfort as your body adjusts to the absence of nicotine, and as your lifestyle adjusts to the absence of a convenient cigarette to light, to hold, to suck, to stamp out. You'll probably be nervous, hungry, grumpy for the first few days, and maybe even lightheaded. Thoughts and conversations may be dominated by the idea of smoking.

(Continued on Next Page)

HOW CAN I STOP SMOKING?

(Continued from Last Page)

There is no magic way to avoid the unpleasantness of the first few days without a cigarette, but there are several techniques to make it easier to endure and to fight the temptation. Since each smoker is different, each strategy for stopping has to be different. Some find it best to do it "cold turkey" (all at once). Others otherwise.

(Editor: a Christian will want to get rid of things that are wrong as fast as he can).

Here are a dozen tips that have helped "cold turkey" stoppers.

- 1. List several reasons to give up smoking that have special meaning for you. Also try to understand why you smoke, and write down the reasons. When is a cigarette most satisfying? When is it the least important?
- 2. Find someone else who wants to stop smoking, and plan to do it together. Better yet, form a little group of "future ex-smokers." Meet often to compare the hardships of stopping, and help each other over the rough periods.
- 3. Pick an hour and a day to quit and so it!
- 4. Tell your friends and family that you're quitting. A public commitment strengthens will-power.
- 5. Hide all evidence of cigarettes, ashtrays, matches...
- 6. Keep a supply of cigarette substitutes handy: Mint; gum, carrot and celery sticks, ginger root, lolly-pops, cough drops, etc.
- 7. Spend time during the first few weeks with non-smoking friends who will support your decision and understand what you are going through.
- 8. Do something for your body—get back into shape. Exercise is great for relaxation, and reduces the craving for a smoke. (Besides, it's difficult to keep a cigarette in your mouth while you're jogging or swimming!)
- 9. Many people want to eat more while they try to stop smoking. Do it—consider it your reward! You won't get too fat in a few weeks, especially if you nibble low-calorie snack foods and do a little exercise to burn off the extra calories.
- 10. Keep reminding yourself of the dangerous and disagreeable effect of smoking; read the anti-smoking literature again. (You'll probably find it more interesting now!)
- 11. Take one day at a time—and tomorrow try another day, and tomorrow, and tomorrow.
- 12. Save all the money you would have spent on cigarettes during your first month as an ex-smoker and buy yourself something. You deserve it!

THIS IS part of the printed material from our Dutch source on "Five Smokers' Questions." We thought we would share it with you. It sounds practical. New Christians, if they have not already gotten rid of the weed, need to do this immediately.

\*\*\*\*\*

WHO IS YOUR REAL FRIEND?

- WOULD A DOCTOR be your friend if he knew of a deadly disease within your body and did not tell you?
- Would your banker be your friend if he allowed you to invest in a failing enterprise and did not warn you?
- Would a lawyer be your friend if he knew a flaw in a title

but permitted you to buy the property?

Would a preacher be your friend if he knew of an error in your life or religion and did not bring it to your attention?

He is your friend who warns you concerning bodily ills, poor investments and faulty titles. He is also your friend who tells you of religious errors, and how to correct them!

Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins (James 5:20).--Selected □

\*\*\*\*\*

GOSPEL OR GIMMICK?

JOHN THE BAPTIST did not offer a free camel ride to whoever brought the most people to hear him preach, nor did he give an autographed copy of Isaiah to the oldest grandmother present. He was his own publicity and needed no press agent.

Today we reward, coax, picnic, persuade, tantalize, trying to get church members to come to church. We have tried banners, seals, diplomas, badges, buttons, pot-luck suppers, oyster stews trying to induce people to do what they ought to do anyway because they love the Lord. People go where they want to go. Where their hearts are, their heels will follow.

The Bible says, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is" (Hebrews 10:25). The two main reasons for coming to church are: (1) We are supposed to; (2) We should want to.—L.G. Jackson □

\*\*\*\*\*

A CHRISTIAN CAN GO ANYWHERE?

"I THINK a Christian can go anywhere," said a young woman who was defending her continued attendance at a very doubtful place of amusement.

"Certainly she can," rejoined her friend, "but I am reminded of a little incident that happened last summer when I went with a group of friends to explore a coal mine. One of the young ladies appeared dressed in a dainty white gown.

"Can't I wear a white dress down into the mine?" She asked.

"Yes'm," replied the old miner who was to lead the party. "There's nothin' to keep you from wearin' a white frock down into the mine, but there'll be considerable to keep your from wearin' one back."—Selected □

\*\*\*\*\*

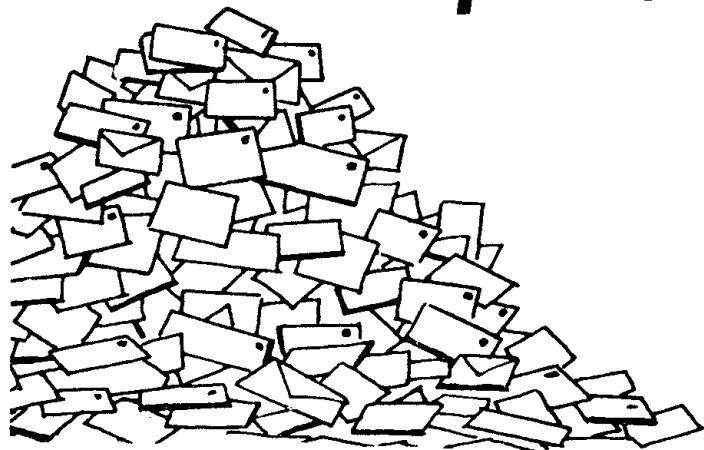
THAT WHICH IS NOT FOOD

A PARTY OF ENGINEERS became lost in a forest in Africa. Their supply of food was exhausted. They found some berries which seemed to perfectly satisfy the appetite. They ate them several days, but became weaker and weaker, and one after another died, until, when help came, there was only one left to tell the sad story. They still had eaten some of the berries, but when they were analyzed they were found to be absolutely worthless as a food. While their appetites were satisfied they were actually starving to death. Many people are like that—perfectly satisfied to starve on "food" which is of no value, while they might feast on the "true bread from heaven"—J.R. Miller □



# READERS'

## ... Response



**WE PRINT THESE LETTERS** not to “pat ourselves on the back,” but to show the favorable response of many. We have our unkind critics.

**THE SWORD AND STAFF** printing project is largely the effort of one man, not to detract from those faithful volunteers who help put it together (who are very much appreciated), and therefore time is a problem. Consequently at times we get behind on our correspondence, and letters have even been lost. We wish to publicly apologize if this has been the case involving anyone reading this. Please bear with us.—**Editor.**

**ALASKA:**

■ “Please cancel our subscription. We do not care to receive your publication any longer.”

**CALIFORNIA:**

■ “I wish to pay for my subscription to your good paper. Keep up the fight to get America to return to basic Bible religion.”

■ “I print a small paper once a month . . . I would greatly appreciate the privilege of using some of the material in **THE SWORD AND STAFF**. May I have your permission to do so?”

(**EDITOR’S NOTE:** You are welcome to reprint any material found in **THE SWORD AND STAFF** on a non-commercial basis if it is used in a context to glorify God and truth. Any of our readers have this same “O.K.” and do not have to ask permission).

**MISSOURI:**

■ “I really enjoy the paper and am thrilled with the Scriptural soundness of the publication. May God bless the efforts.”

■ “Thanks again and again for your work and **THE SWORD AND STAFF**. I have preached many of the messages and find all of them preachable and according to Scripture. For this I praise our God. Keep up the good work, and may God continue to bless you.”

**INDIANA:**

■ “A fellow minister gave me part of a copy of the **SWORD AND STAFF** with his recommendation. . . It is an impressive little paper, and I am amazed you can put it out by yourself! We don’t all have the same talents or calling. Please enter my subscription to it. Also please send me samples of your tracts and charts.

“I am coming to the conclusion that we need a tract that will shock the apathetic dead-wood on our church rosters. We have been begging and pleading for regular attendance and faithfulness to Christ and regular assembly without seeing much results. We need something that literally screams at them to wake up, now is the time to establish a record of faithfulness, after the Lord returns it will be too late to jump on the bandwagon then.”

**MICHIGAN:**

■ “Enclosed find my order for the specified tracts and bound volume. . . These tracts have proved very useful to me in the past and the bound volumes are great study aids and encouragement. Our prayers support you as we hope this small offering can help too. . .”

**OHIO:**

■ “I really enjoy and am still learning (at the age of 67) from God’s Word and some of the things you print in **THE SWORD AND STAFF** paper—makes a lot of things I’ve wondered about seem so clear. It’s the most informative paper I get, and I do get several from churches and colleges (my husband and son were preachers). . . Thanking you for much good Christian reading. . .”

■ “We so enjoy as well as learn and are built up in the Faith of our Lord when we read your articles. Please stay strong in the Lord. He will bless your faith.”

**VIRGINIA:**

■ “The other day I came across a copy of your paper (Vol. 20, No. 3). I think it is the finest work done on the church of Christ by man. I am starting a newsletter for our church and wish for information on a subscription to your paper. I would like to use some of your articles if it is all right. . .”

■ “Would you please send 1975-76, 1977-78-79 and 1980-81-82 bound volumes of **THE SWORD AND STAFF**. . . I have volumes clear back to 1957 which will be inherited by my family.”

**FINAL BIBLE LANDS TOUR—1987—PLANS**

**TO:** The Sword & Staff, Box 147, Mt. Airy, N. C. 27030

**GENTLEMEN:**

Understanding this does not obligate me, I would like my name and address put in your files as one who is interested in being a part of the final Bible lands tour now planned. I understand that you will keep me informed as to the developments and plans more in detail, especially as the time draws near.

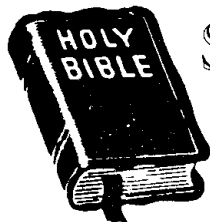
NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

Telephone.....

(Clip and Mail)



SOLID  
BIBLE-RELATED  
MATERIAL:

BELOW IS a listing of booklets, tracts, and materials published by and currently available from **THE SWORD and STAFF**. If something is not listed, that means it is now out of print. This literature has been widely used. We believe that you will be pleased with the Scriptural soundness of each item. Place an order today. And while you are at it, order the bound volumes of **THE SWORD and STAFF**. You have this timeless material of the back issues in more of a permanent form that way. More and more people are seeing the value and wisdom of doing this. (All money received from materials is regarded as an offering to help us keep publishing this religious paper).

- ☐ *The Subject of the Holy Spirit Made Simple*—1 copy, 35¢; 1 to 99 copies, 25¢ each; 100 & above, 20¢ each.
- ☐ *Obedying the Gospel Chart*—small size, 3¢ each; 11 by 17 size, 8¢ each.
- ☐ *Are Visions, Dreams, and Religious Experiences Proof of Salvation?*—7¢ each.
- ☐ *Our Great and Glorious God*—25¢ each.
- ☐ *Once in Grace, Always in Grace?*—4¢ each.
- ☐ *Are You Sanctified?*—3¢ each.
- ☐ *Objections to the Necessity of Baptism Answered*—8¢.
- ☐ *Origin of Religious Misunderstanding and False Teaching*—5¢ each.
- ☐ *The Meaning of Suffering in the Life of the Christian*—10¢ each.
- ☐ *Is it Wrong for a Christian to Use Tobacco?*—3¢ each.
- ☐ *Lessons in Happiness from the Garden of Eden*—3¢.
- ☐ *A Question About the Sabbath?*—2¢ each.
- ☐ *His Church is Marching On* (song to tune of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" on sheet with glue on back to stick in the back of hymnbooks)—6¢ each.
- ☐ Variety of free material available—leaflets, etc.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- ☐ 1980-81-82 bound vol. of *The Sword and Staff*—\$4.75

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

• SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER •

Gentlemen:

I wish to take advantage of your special introductory subscription offer of only \$1.50 for the first year.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Zip.....

BOUND VOLUMES OF THE SWORD AND STAFF  
(Check for bound volumes order)

- ☐ 1971-72 bound vol. of *The Sword and Staff*—\$4.25
- ☐ 1973-74 bound vol. of *The Sword and Staff*—\$4.00
- ☐ 1975-76 bound vol. of *The Sword and Staff*—\$4.25
- ☐ 77-78-79 bound vol. of *The Sword and Staff*—\$4.50

# Treasure

MANY who love the Word of God have discovered Treasure much to their liking when they bought the bound volumes of back issues of *The Sword and Staff*. Therein is to be found the much variegated treasure of sound gospel sermons, Bible expositions, Bible questions, poetry, and just good spiritual reading. If you like this issue of *The Sword and Staff*, you will likewise be thrilled with the volumes in book form. Notice those available and place your order for good reading. Make them a part of your library and your life. ☐



**THE 1980-81-82 ISSUES OF THE SWORD & STAFF BEING BOUND IN ONE BOOK—YOU MAY ORDER!**

ALL OF THE ISSUES of *THE SWORD AND STAFF* for the last three years (1980-81-82) are in the process of being bound in book form for your handy reference and use. This timely and timeless material is in more of a permanent form. Each year is indexed. Many have been waiting for this. You may order now at \$4.75 per book. (Also, notice other back volumes available). ☐



THE SWORD AND STAFF  
Post Office Box 147  
Mt. Airy, N. C. 27030-0147  
U. S. A.  
Telephone: 1 (919) 789-1044

