

Baptist Banner

LD. H. C. VANDERPOOL
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MAY 72

Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Psalms 60:4

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NUMBER 9

MISSIONARY REPORT FROM ISRAEL

P. O. Box 7305
Jerusalem, Israel
January 6, 1972

Dear Bro. Vanderpool and Friends,

At the beginning of this new year, 1972, we send to all of you our greetings from Jerusalem in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The past year, 1971, wasn't a year of peace in the real sense of the term, but we didn't have an all out war as was expected of many of us. There wasn't any invasion attempt by the Egyptians to cross the Suez Canal, even though such a threat was made many times. They were told by the head of the Defense Forces of the army of Israel that if they tried anything like that, that they would get the surprise of a life time, and I believe they meant just what they said. So they haven't tried such a foolish thing yet. Even though an all out war hasn't come, the terror campaign continues in the land. The terrorist have resorted now to sending explosives through the mail to government officials in Israel. This week several such packages were found at the post office and were removed before exploding.

As regarding our welfare in this land,

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BOOKS

I've received many requests in recent years for my book, "What True Baptists Believe," written in 1958. The Lord willing, I plan to have the book reprinted for distribution in the future and will make the announcement so those wanting the book may order them.

I've received several orders for, "Twentieth Century Baptists," by Vanderpool and Russell. I do not have any copies for sale, but you can order them from Elder W. T. Russell, 1125 Magnolia, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101, at \$5.00 per copy. He has a few copies left and you should order them now if you want one.

I also get orders for the reprint of "The Welsh Baptists," by J. Davis. I have also sold all of these. If anyone who has copies for sale will let me know, I'll be happy to forward the orders on to you. - Editor



Street scene Damascus, Syria.

EDITOR REPORTS ON SECOND TOUR OF BIBLE LANDS

(I was privileged to make my second tour of Bible Lands Nov. 29-Dec. 8, 1971. My wife and I, some members of our church and other brothers and sisters from several states-tour group 182-toured in Cyprus, Turkey, Lebanon, Syria and Israel. Reports and pictures are being published in the BANNER. This is the second article in a series. Last month I reported on the first three days of the tour including Cyprus and Turkey. This report begins with the fourth day of travels.-Editor).

Thursday, Dec. 2, 1971-On the above date we arrived at the port of Beirut, Lebanon after sailing all night on the M. T. S. Orpheus, a Greek ship, down the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea. We had left Iskenderun, Turkey late the afternoon before. Arriving early in the morning at Beirut we ate breakfast on the ship before disembarking.

We boarded our tour busses and drove through the beautiful city of Beirut, a city of 1,200,000 people. George Bacchus was our Lebanese guide. His lectures were very informative and interesting. Traveling east from the Mediterranean Sea we soon climbed to an elevation of 5,000 ft. This brought us through the

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A Dad Loses His Only Son But Regains His Faith

By GORDON HANSON

Pain was Billy's ever-present companion.

It delayed his falling asleep at night. It was with him through the long dark hours, and it was his first waking awareness every morning.

For the last two of Billy's 11 years the pain had shadowed him. He grew thinner. His cheeks were drawn and his eyes haunted.

Billy's pain was the terrible aftermath of a tobogganing accident. He had been flipped from the rear of one toboggan and, as he was sitting in the snow, another toboggan came from behind and struck him in the back. A tumor developed on his spine, and it became cancerous.

Desperately Billy's parents sought a cure. Billy was their only child. There could be no more.

They took the boy from doctor to doctor, hoping one would say, "I think I can help him." But never was there any encouragement.

The search didn't end until the day an aging doctor in a small town far from Billy's home examined the boy.

"Billy will soon be free of pain," he said. "Soon he'll know it no longer."

Billy's mother knew what the doctor meant. She knew that soon Billy would die.

But his father refused that interpretation. In his grief he accepted only that Billy would live. He needed that belief, that faith, to keep going. He couldn't let the boy down. The lad needed his strength, and he needed his son's.

The week before Christmas Billy's fever rose. His pain worsened and only constant medication brought token relief

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REPORT ON TOUR

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mountain pass.

There are two mountain ranges in this country, the Lebanon Mountains and the Anti-Lebanon Mountains. The land bordered on the east by the mountain range, on the south by Galilee and on the west by the Mediterranean Sea was formerly known as Phoenicia, and here of course lived the Phoenicians but today are Lebanese. The cities of Tyre and Sidon were Phoenician and were on the coastal area of the Mediterranean. The material that went into the building of King Solomon's temple came from Lebanon (I Kings 5:1-18). One type of tree that was used for building material was the Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani* Loud) see (Ezek. 31:3-5; Ps. 92:12). This tree was known to grow to a height of 120 ft. and 40 ft. in girth. Only 650 of these Cedars remain in the country of Lebanon today.

As we traveled eastward we could look to the southeast and see Mt. Hermon with the snow covered peaks. Two of these rise above 9,000 ft. Mt. Hermon can be seen from Lebanon, Syria and Israel. It is almost certain that this is the mountain of transfiguration as Jesus and his disciples were in Caesarea Philippi a few days before (Matt. 16:13; 17:1-2).

We passed through Marijat into the Bekaa Valley. Soon we reached a small village where we had a rest stop. We spent some time here in the shops and then headed for Baalbek, Lebanon, a city of many ruins. The exact date of the foundation of this city remains lost between legend and vague history. Its traditional fame may be traced back to



Some of tour group among ruins at Baalbek, Lebanon.

the Semite Canaanites who tenaciously clung to Baal and refused to be swayed by the Hebrew doctrine of Jehovah.

It was the Canaanites and later the Phoenicians who perpetuated the cult of Baal through ancient history by regarding Baalbakka (present day Baalbek) as the Mecca of his cult and worship. Baalbek was to them what Lhassa is to the Buddhists, Mecca to the Moslems and Jerusalem to the Christians, a sacred or pilgrimage city.

Since Baal was considered a sun god, Baalbek was invariably called the City of the Sun, and Baalbek's temple was referred to as the Temple of the Sun. In all, there were three temples erected to idols in Baalbek, they were the Temple of Venus, the Temple of Jupiter and the Temple of Bacchus. The erection of these began in the first century A. D. and 1,160,000 slaves worked during a period of over 200 years in completing them.

The Bible makes no specific mention of Baalbek although there are many references to the cult of Baal. None of the Biblical sites such as Baalgad in the

Valley of Lebanon or the vineyard at Baal-Hamon could be identified with Baalbek.

After touring the ruins of the temples and enjoying many lectures by our guide of the history related to them and understanding the contrast of these to the temples which had been built in Jerusalem where the true and living God was worshipped, we left Baalbek and returned to the village where we had stopped on our way that morning and there ate our lunches.

In the afternoon we traveled eastward on our way to Syria. We passed through the towns of Mayslum and Dimas. We crossed the border between Lebanon and Syria and had to go through two check-points. We were now on our way to Damascus. As we came near the city we rode close by the two rivers that Naaman wanted to dip in instead of the Jordan. "Now Naaman, captian of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because of him the Lord had given deliverance unto

ENHANCE MY VISION, OH LORD

By Dean Driver

Enhance my vision, Oh Lord
 Not of my eyes, but my mind
 Fill me with fire from your Word
 And give me strength for some lost
 soul to find
 Rapture my heart till love's stream I
 cannot ford
 So others may see and say, "Not my
 will, Oh Lord, but thine"
 May my life overflow with love's sweet
 chord
 That my light ever brightly shine
 For thou who gavest thine only
 begotton 'Word'
 Hast knowledge of our soul's sweet
 find
 Help us Lord to forsake fortune by
 sword
 But give us sweet peace and rest for
 the mind
 Our lives and gains we tend to hoard
 When our hearts should say, "What's
 mine is thine"
 Greedy and selfish and blind as we are,
 Oh Lord
 Help us to see that we are the branches
 and thou art the vine
 When we separate ourselves from
 love's strong chord
 We wither and die like severed
 branches from the vine
 Give us a vision of our straying, Oh
 Lord
 For without it our souls shall weep
 and pine.

LOSES SON, BUT REGAINS FAITH

(Continued from page 1)

Billy's mother had prepared herself. Deep in despair, she knew the time was soon.

But the father raged in his anguish. He ranted about the futility of it all . . . the cruelty of God and the pointlessness of taking a life so young. He had been misled in his religious teachings, he cried. Everything was a lie.

Dad Knows No Solace

The mother could minister only to the needs of the boy. She couldn't help her husband and he knew no solace.

Then came Christmas Eve. The father was awakened by the sounds of Billy tossing fitfully in his bed.

Walking into the darkened living room, the father looked at the presents under the tree.

There were so many unopened gifts there for Billy. They represented the plans so carefully made for the boy. What grand things the father had in mind and how proud of Billy he wanted to be.

The football was for the athlete Billy was to become. The books were to improve his mind, the chemistry set to challenge him, the toy train for pleasure.

The father slumped into a chair. He put his hands to his face and he wept.

Then, when grief could no longer come, he sat still for long minutes. The clock on the mantle ticked softly and the house was quiet as he thought.

He searched into himself, painfully, and with determination. And he remembered.

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REPORT ON TOUR

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Syria: he was also a mighty man in valor, but he was a leper." (II Kings 5:1). Naaman had this to say, "Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage." (II Kings 5:12). These two rivers were near the highway just before we entered Damascus.

Arriving in Damascus we had to transfer to Syrian busses, and have a Syrian bus driver and guide. The guide's name was Abdul. Syria has a population of 6,000,000 and 1,000,000 of these live in Damascus.

As we toured this city we came to a cross street and saw a large group of soldiers marching and knew that there was some military activity. We soon learned that the Vice president of Egypt was there and in the parade and was meeting with Syrian officials near where we were visiting a Moslem mosque.

We went down "the street called Straight" and also the place of "the house of Ananias" (Acts 9:10-17). I had many thoughts concerning the Apostle Paul and the journey he made here from Jerusalem and the preaching he did here at Damascus (Acts 9:27). We visited some shops here before returning to the place for our reboarding our Lebanese busses. After changing busses—it is now night—we travel westward across Syria, through the check-points and back into Lebanon. We drive back to Beirut and go back onto our ship.

After supper the ship sails southward on the Mediterranean. The next morning we were to be in the port of Haifa, Israel.

(To be continued)

BIBLE LANDS TOUR

OCTOBER 16-25, 1972

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\$649

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For brochure and full information write to:

H. C. Vanderpool, Host
 1527 Glenrock Rd., Louisville, Ky. 40216

From The Bible

"Come thou with us and we will do thee good." Numbers 10:29.

"Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." Matt. 7:12.

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." Isa. 40:31.

"The Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him." Hab. 2:20.

"Be sure your sin will find you out." Numbers 32:23.

"Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you." James 4:8.

LOSES SON, BUT REGAINS FAITH

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Slowly, awkwardly, he got down on his knees. Claspng his hands until the knuckles whitened, he raised his head.

"God," he said in an anguished whisper, "something has happened. I ask that You hear me out.

"As I sat here, I remembered what a personal success I've been, and how You've responded when I've asked You to give me a hand.

"But I know now that these were selfish prayers, for my own personal gain. And when I asked You to save Billy, that was personal, too.

"I couldn't stand to lose him. I had such great plans for him, and I wanted someday for him to carry on for me.

"I wanted everybody to know what a fine boy I had raised.

"You know what I remember now? I remember Your Son and Your great love when You gave Him to the world. What sadness You must have known when He died. And so God, if You would do this great thing for all of us, then I must be comforted by Your sacrifice.

"It's long past the time, oh God, when I must put my trust in You. So I pray that You will welcome little Billy when he comes. I know he'll be in good hands. I know that it is Thy will be done."

Time for Billy's Pill

The father got to his feet and went into Billy's bedroom. It was time for a pill.

The boy was still. It almost seemed he wasn't breathing. On his cheek was a dried tear brought by the pain of only minutes before.

Tenderly, carefully, he took Billy's limp head. He looked upon the boy he loved.

Suddenly the little hand tightened. Billy opened his eyes.

"Dad," he said simply, "I won't be needing that pill tonight."

Desperately, the father closed his eyes. Then he took a deep breath and asked the question he knew he must.

"Why not, Billy?"

"I've been dreaming, Dad. I've been dreaming about Jesus. He seemed very close. It might sound funny, but it's almost like He's here in the room with us right now."

Billy's fingers loosened in his father's grasp. The breath of life, so silent it could barely be heard, escaped his lips in a gentle sigh. And his eyes closed.

The father bent over little Billy, and he took the tiny hands and folded them.

Straightening, he quietly spoke his final words to his son.

"That wasn't a dream, Billy. And what you said about it probably sounding silly—it didn't.

"He's here and He's watching over you . . . and me. He's watching over both of us.

"Goodbye, son."

(Reprinted from The Louisville Courier-Journal by permission.)

Country Parson



"We could save time at meetings if those who are going to eventually agree would do it right away."

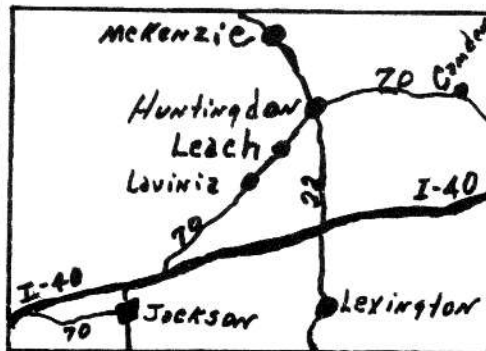
RELIGIOUS DEBATE FEBRUARY 28— MARCH 2, 1972

A four-night public debate is to be held in West Tennessee on the nights of February 28—March 2, 1972. The discussion will be held at The Christian Chapel Church of Christ at Leach, Tenn. (Location shown in sketch below).

The subject to be discussed will be The Plan of Salvation. Elder F. L. Ray will be the affirmative speaker the first two nights, and Mr. W. N. Jackson will be the affirmative speaker the two last nights.

From Nashville, you may drive I-40 about 120 miles to the Huntingdon exit which is Highway 22, drive to Huntingdon and turn left on Highway 70 and drive about 7 miles to Leach, then about one and one-half mile to a sign, "Christian Chapel Church of Christ." Or you may stay on I-40 to the 70 exit and come north through Lavinia to Leach.

Services are to begin each night at 7:00 P. M. and the public is invited to attend.



REPORT FROM ISRAEL

(continued from page 1)

physically, both of us have had some kind of virus, of which Jerusalem is full of, but we seem to be about over it. The Lord blesses with many Spiritual blessings; He comforts, He gives His peace, and gives wonderful light when everything looks dark. "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?" Psalm 27:1. "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12.

Maurice and Ann Rubin, the young Jewish couple of which I have written before, who lives in Karmiel in Galilee, have been visiting with us for several days now. He is serving in the army for forty days, as all young men have to do, off and on. So Ann and the baby stay here with us day and night, and Maurice comes in and out each time he gets a few hours off. He is stationed in the Jordan Valley near Jericho, which is not so far away. We have good Christian fellowship while we are together.

Brother W. E. Massey, who suffered a heart attack while here on a tour has recovered to the extent that he and his wife could return home to Lafayette. He spent three weeks and two days in a hospital here close to us. We were very glad that we could be near him and could be of some assistance to him and his wife, that was the least that we could do for them. He was quite a sick man for the first few days of his attack, but many people were praying for him, and the doctor and the nurses did all they could, so he began to make rapid progress toward recovery. We miss them very much since they left, but we are so thankful that he could return home to his children and to his church where he is pastor at Lafayette, Tennessee, Lafayette Missionary Baptist Church. Thank the Lord for all His benefits toward all of us.

May this be a prosperous year for the Lord's churches in our homeland, and over the world. Thank you for your prayers, gifts, and for all the lovely Christmas cards which we received during the Holidays. May the dear Lord richly bless you all.

Yours in His Love,
Henry and Annie Laura Smith

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