

# The Journal of Ron Boehme - 1974

## Hurlach, Germany

Jan. 1, 1974 – New Year's Day 1974

Gen. 1-2, Luke 1

This certainly is a day of new beginnings. Right now, I'm at the Frankfurt airport in Germany awaiting my flight to Munich and the YWAM school there. I'm getting very anxious to get there.

+ Father – may You begin and carry out a “new” and deeper work of Yourself in me this year.

Gen. 1:1 – Our little planet, the Earth, is a very special place. Gen.1:17 – The stars and the sun and moon were created to give light to the earth.

\*Why do I like this verse? Gen. 2:18- “The God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable to him.’”

\*For the second year in a row (I know) I can't help but think of C.

Luke 1:20 – Gabriel says an interesting phrase: “Fulfilled in their proper time.” How many times do we think God goofed, as far as timing and our desires are concerned? God doesn't goof. God's watch keeps perfect time.

Jan. 2, 1974

Gen. 3-5, Luke 2

[Speaker – Ken Wright – Jan. 2-6]

This is my first day at **Castle Hurlach** and the beginning of the SOE. I'm anxious to get going and anxious to make friends. \*Lord, you've brought me here I believe. Help me to feel a part and contribute.

Gen. 3:17 reminds me of Rom. 8:22 about the whole land being affected by the sin of Adam and Eve. Even the ground.

\*The countenance: Sin will distort a person's facial expressions. Without sin, :If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? (Gen. 4:7).

I do wonder how, scientifically, the men and women of old lived to such astronomical ages?

Luke 2:51,52 – This means a lot to me—that Jesus remained in subjection to his parents, well until He began his ministry in his late twenties. However, spiritually and physically, He was preparing Himself all along.

I must continue to obey my parents. I've rebelled a bit. For sure, I must go home and finish college for my dad's sake.

Lord--may I grow up a lot here.

[Following are “My Goals for the SOE – Jan. 2, 1974” found in the notebook that contains all my re-written notes of the lectures.]

1. To deepen my knowledge and love of God for His glory by a life that is consistently disciplined, uncompromising in the world, and loving as revealed in God's Word and by His Spirit.
2. To receive more “light” concerning some needs in my life: a. My immediate and future ministry, b. Trust in God for physical and financial needs, and c. My life-partner.
3. Learn how to share the gospel of Jesus Christ more effectively.

January 3, 1974

Gen. 6-8, Luke 3

Gen. 7 would seem to me to indicate that the flood was universal, and not just over a portion of the earth or the “face of the earth.” Then—where, later, do the giants come from? (AFL)

Gen. 8:21 – “The intent of man's heart was evil from youth.” \*I wish I had real insight into the events of these olden times. I know that there is so much that I am missing.

Luke 3 – Where did Luke get this genealogy? It had to be divine revelation from God! What a neat thing—tracing the ancestry of Jesus all the way back to God Himself. This makes the Old Testament seem so alive.

\*Father—this school is truly wonderful—the blessing from Your Word is going to be so rich. I have a request which I don't believe is a selfish one. Is there any way possible that C. could come here for a time? The past failure of faith of mine haunts me as I write this, but my heart tells me to ask. I'll wait for Your words...

Jan. 4, 1974

Gen. 9-11, Luke 4

Gen. 9:25-27 – The curse of world history. \*It's very wonderful to me to see how our God is the God of history. That means a lot to me.

\*The more I read the O.T., the less and less fairy-tale like it seems to me. Seems very incredibly real. That's probably because it is!

Luke 4:1 – God's Spirit intentionally leads us into difficult situations just like He did Jesus—to make us strong. Luke 4:24 – “No prophet is welcome in his hometown.” \*Does this mean for most Christians. Their ministries will be outside the places they grew up?

Simon Peter's mother had a fever and Jesus REBUKED it just like He did the unclean spirit in the man in the synagogue.

+ Jesus the Healer: These two things strike me today about His healing ministry: 1) He rebuked disease and if a personality, and 2) He laid hands on the people.

Jan. 5, 1974

Gen. 12-14, Luke 5

I just took a wonderful walk with God through the crisp, glistening countryside of Germany. It was wonderful.

\*Abraham – the great man of faith. He went out from Haran toward Canaan according to God's guidance, and promptly went into Egypt and lied to Pharaoh who committed adultery with Sarah!! What a saint! Infallible. \*This is comforting. I still feel hurt about my mistake as far as believing that C. would come with me here to Germany. But I'll never be infallible. I'll make mistakes. God still made Abraham a great nation.

Gen. 14:18 – We run into Melchizedek (Hebrews). He must have been a tremendous man of God and a foreigner yet.

Abraham would not accept money or reward for his battle conquest because he wanted God to have sole credit for his wealth. There's a lesson here for me. Who has gotten the credit for the financial support in my life? It hasn't been God—well, just a little.

+Money—support, is a real question in my mind. Lord Jesus, please enlighten me about this.

Jan. 6, 1974

Gen. 15-17, Luke 6

God told Abraham that He would give him the land of Canaan to be his home, but still Abraham asked for a confirmation on what the Lord had said. \*He was just like us. He wanted to know for sure.

Time—God has all the time in the world. He told Abraham he would have a son. Ten years went by. Abraham doubted. \*I have got to learn to WAIT for God's answers. God's got time.

Ishmael is born. Is he father of part of the Arab world? If he is, his description given sure fits the Arab terrorist tactics of our day (Gen. 16:12). Gen. 17:20 – God said He'd bless Ishmael and make him the father of 12 princes or nations??

+ Jesus knew the importance of going off and being alone – Luke 6:12.

Luke's Beatitudes (6:20) and Woe-Attitudes (6:24-26). Good thot: Luke 6:45 – “for a man speaks from that which fills his heart.”

*Jan. 7, 1974*

*Gen. 18-19, Ps. 3-4, Luke 7*

[Speaker – Don Stephens – Jan. 7)

What a neat encounter Abraham has with God here in Gen. 18. Notice that three men come to him, the sign of the concern of the Triune God.

+God and Abraham talk about Sodom and Gomorrah. I sure long to talk to God like he did.

Gen. 19:1 – The three persons who came to Abraham were the Lord and two angels.

Few thoughts: 1) When we flee from sin in our lives, it is the second look that kills (Gen. 19:26), 2) Lot's daughters seduce their father and have sons—Moab and Ammon. Both these nations are judged and destroyed later--here is why.

Ps. 3 – “my glory and the lifter of my head.” \*A baby needs its heads supported when it is young. Good comparison.

\*Ps. 4:4 – Tremble and do not sin. Meditate in your heart on your bed and be still. Thank you, Lord for this confirmation about my need to do this at night. I've been thinking about it. I want to fellowship with You...Verses 4-5 are really in my mind. I keep thinking of SACRIFICE (v. 5).

*Jan. 8, 1974*

*Gen. 20-22, Luke 9*

[Speaker – Jean Darnall – Jan. 8-11]

King Abimelech shows a longing of God for us: integrity of heart – right motives (Gen. 20:6).

It must be an eternal principle of God that He tests us to strengthen our character and faith and trust in Him. Gen. 22—God tests Abraham. He passes. \*I've had a bitter disappointment lately. Do I pass?

Luke 8:5-15 – The Sower – It is becoming so clear in my mind that a true Christian is a follower—at all costs. He has endurance and patience. He doesn't give up. He isn't a quitter. In Jesus' parable, there are two quitters.

+ The faith of Jesus – the demoniac, the woman with the bleeding, and the dead girl. **This faith seems so unattainable, at least it has been in my life. My failures point that out. But really, I don't believe it was the faith—it was the guidance. How do we KNOW the will of the Lord to claim it by faith?** “Faith works through love” (Gal. 5:6).

This MUST be the key.

*Jan. 9, 1974*

*Gen. 23-24, Luke 9*

Here in Gen. 24 is the story of Abraham's servant meeting Rebekah in finding a wife for Isaac. \*This seems to hit me as a principle of guidance: He wasn't hasty. He watched Rebekah and made sure she was the one. How many times do I just jump right in?

Isaac as for Rebekah and Rebekah was for Isaac—and he loved her. **A divine partnership can be such a wonderful thing.**

\*I have made a promise today: Every time I think of C. I will pray for her that God may bless her.

Luke 9:2 – Jesus sent his disciples out to do TWO things: 1) To proclaim the kingdom of God, and 2) To perform healing.

Ps. 17:6 – “I have called upon You, for You will answer me, O God.” This verse spoke to me this morning. I believe You will give me replies to my questions. You're faithful. I've asked. You'll answer.

*January 10, 1974*

*Gen. 25-26, Ps. 6, Luke 10*

Gen. 25:8 – Abraham died having been “satisfied with life.” When you walk with God, life is satisfying.

Like father, like son. Gen. 26: 7 – Isaac lies about Rebekah being his wife. \*Gen. 26:8 – Isaac was caressing Rebekah. I think God always intended human sexual love to be a wonderful, expressive thing.

\*I must put this down. I felt the power of God go through me last night as it never has before. Wow! It was so neat!!! It was at a meeting with Jean Darnall. Powerful.

David went through great agonizing trials. I will too.

I have gotten a distinct impression from the Holy Spirit that I will be used possibly in a healing ministry in the future. Every verse I see in the N.T. on healing just jumps off the page.

With Jesus there is NO HURRY, NO WORRY. Just rest at His feet (Luke 10:41,42).

January 11, 1974

Gen. 27-28, Ps. 4, Luke 11

This verse stands out to me, but I'm afraid to claim it for anything specific: "And behold I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to the land for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Lord, you have promised me answers about my next step for You and my future wife (Luke 11:1).

\*Not much else here for me today. Maybe this evening is going to be so powerful that d does not want to overwhelm me. The Spirit of the Lord has been mighty here the last couple of nights...so powerful and wonderful.

January 12, 1974

Gen. 29-30, Luke 12

Last night was one of the most blessed nights of my life. At the evening lecture here at the castle, Jean Darnall, a lovely woman minister of God, was really anointed by the Lord—and we had one of the most beautiful services that I've ever been in.

It lasted for about seven hours and the great part of it was the ministry of blessing by the word of knowledge through Jean. It was so lovely.

When she prayed for me, and the ministry of an evangelist came to her mind, and the importance of prayer in it, especially praying in the Spirit. That's confirmation of my leading yesterday. Her actual words: "Praise God for the work of an evangelist. Learn to pray in the Spirit."

I put this before You, Lord. I feel these verses below are fresh to me, and I just want to serve You with all my heart where You would want me.

\*\*2 Tim. 4:2-5 – "Preach the word. Be ready in season and out of season. Reprove, rebuke, exhort with patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine but wanting to have their ears tickled they will accumulate teachers for themselves in accordance with their own desires and will turn their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths."

"But you be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."

Luke 12 \_ God will provide my needs. With my face in the heavenlies, WORRY over things is foolish. (v. 32) – "Your Father has chosen GLADLY to give you the kingdom."

January. 13, 1974

Gen. 31-32, Luke 13

[Speaker – Ken Wright – Jan. 13-18]

Jacob and his kin make a sacrifice and then eat the meat of it. What a picture of our Lord's death and its celebration—the communion!

Jacob was a man of prayer too (Gen. 32:11). Jean Darnall gave me a word of knowledge the other night about the building up of my prayer life, especially praying in the Spirit. I've got to become a man of prayer.

We'll have identities in heaven, I believe, as her in Luke 13 Jesus infers that “when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets of God” (v. 28).

Holy Spirit—open Your book to me that I may just soak in your riches. Teach me the great typical truths of the O.T. and how they foreshadow the lovely Savior of the New.

Things I must do: 1) Letter to C. – vision and apology – x – 1-13, 2) Money for tambourine to Marion [Warrington]– x – 1-14, and 3) Write Julie [Jacobson].

Jan. 14, 1974

Gen. 34-36, Luke 14

Gen. 34 – first detailed account that I can remember of sexual sin—Shechem. This is so important to God. I feel very badly about this abuse in my life. So many senseless things have been done because of lust. Simeon and Levi kill all the Hivite men.

\*I'm searching for “types” and I shouldn't be. The Holy Spirit will give me the light He wants me to have.

Luke 14:33 – “So therefore no one of you can be my disciple who does not give up all his possessions.” This verse always makes me feel uneasy. No verse in Scripture should, but this one does. It challenges my heart—my motives.

+ God – I pray that You will break me down to realize it in experience.

Jan. 15, 1974

Gen. 37-38, Ps. 7, Lk. 15

I so often think of my generation and time being so wicked, but I think the Hebrews, especially Jacob's sons were worse. They were would-be murderers and out-right adulterers. God's grace upon us all is unfathomable.

The story of the prodigal son in Luke 15 is a perfect allegory to what it means to be a Christian. It really stood out to me today.

God is so good. Lord—make Your words of life come alive to me. Open the revelation of Scripture to my heart and mind that I may use them to help others.

January 16, 1974

Gen. 39-41, Luke 16

Our attitude toward sin in our life should be hate because the sin would be “against God.” Joseph knew (Gen. 39:9). When he sinned, he sinned against God.

+ Joseph knew how to “flee” from sin” (1 Tim. 2:22).

**God confirms His will. He repeated the dream to Pharaoh here twice.** (Gen. 41:32).

\*I am impatient so often in launching out into a new ministry. Here, Joseph, rose to greatness in Egypt when he was thirty. He’s a wonderful “type” of Jesus.

I don’t understand this passage in Luke 16 about money, but I do understand verse eleven. \*I need to be more responsible with God’s money—more economical and practical-minded. “If therefore you have not been faithful in the unrighteous Mammon, who will entrust the true riches to you?” (v. 31).

Luke 16:19-31 – The rich man and Lazarus. Signs will not bring people into the kingdom of God. If they will not believe His Word, no sign will change anything (v. 31).

January 17, 1974

Gen.42-43, Ps. 5, Luke 17

No word from You today, Lord Jesus. I know I’m kind of tired too, but I love you.

\*Prov. 2:3-5 – I must SEEK the Lord for His wisdom and ways. I trust You.

January 18, 1974

Gen. 44-46, Luke 18

God surely brings about His plans. How He used Joseph to preserve the Hebrew nation through the famine by raising him up in Egypt. God SENT. God MADE. (Gen. 45:7-9).

Faith or belief has nothing to do with the soul. It is a state of the spirit of man. Notice Israel here in Gen. 45:26,27.

Luke 18:1 – “Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not lose heart. \*The key to the heavenlies is the cry of prayer—in faith. May this be my life.

Ron – You’ve got to let My words become a part of you before you will be able to perceive the deepest of their truths. Be patient and store up My words in your heart.

January 19, 1974

Gen. 47-48, Ps. 10, Luke 19

Praise the Lord. I’m going to Augsburg. Germany is a neat country.



January 20, 1974

Gen. 49-50, Ps. 8, Luke 20

Jacob blesses his twelve sons. Our words are so important. When we bless people, we should really mean what we say (Gen. 49:28) – “blessing appropriate to him.”

Ps. 8 – God has wonderfully provided for us and given us a huge responsibility. He made the earth for us.

For a couple of weeks now my quiet times have been dry--as far as writing things down and receiving exciting illumination. Maybe it's because I'm receiving so much outside of this meeting time. Lord--is there any change in my schedule or practice that You would like for me? Is here something I could do to unlock the Scriptures?

1. Kneeling as I read comes to mind.
2. Also, more emphasis on reading and meditating instead of writing.

January 21, 1974

Ex. 1-2, Ps. 88, Luke 21

[Speakers: Don Stephens, Keith Warrington, Dave Boyd, and Bryan. – Jan. 21-25]

\*Today I'm starting a new program. I'm going to do a lot less writing in here and lot more reading and meditating on my knees. It's God's Word that is important, not the notebook. Lord, bless this time.

The book will now be for special needs, prayers, and guidance.

January 22, 1974

Ex. 3-5, Lk.22

Lord--Your words to me and my thoughts toward You have been summed up in Phil: 3:10-- “that I may know Him.”

Jan. 23, 1974

Ex. 3-5, Luke 22

+ I made an important decision yesterday that I should note here. I've given up my right or desire—I don't know which—to C. and the role that I've wanted her to play in my life. I'll do what You want, Lord Jesus.

Jan. 24, 1974

Ex. 9-11, Luke 24

Jan. 25, 1974

Ex. 12-13, Ps. 1, Acts 1

Jan. 26, 1974

Ex. 14-16, Acts. 2

I'd like to take some time today to look at some verses on healing. I have kind of a “night” cold which clears up during the day and I've rebuked it, but not received health. Lord Holy Spirit—please teach me about this great truth.

Jan. 27, 1974

Ex. 17-20, Acts. 3

My cold is leaving but it didn't vanish. Never did quite take a hold of me, and I believe that's of the Lord.

Jan. 28, 1974

Ex. 21-22, Ps./ 12, Acts 4

[Speaker – Floyd McClung – Jan. 28 to Feb. 1]

Jan. 29, 1974

Ex.23-24, Ps. 14, Acts. 5

Jan. 30, 1974

Ex. 25-27. Acts 6

Jan. 31, 1974

Ex. 28-29, Acts 7

Feb. 1, 1974

Ex. 30-32, Acts 8

Thank you, Lord, for raising me out of a real mood of despair here at the school. I put my faith in You, by choice.

Feb. 2, 1974

Ex. 33-34, Ps. 16, Acts 9

[Speaker – Harry Conn – Feb. 2-10]

Feb. 3, 1974

Ex. 35-36, Acts 10

Feb. 4, 1974

Ex. 37-38, Ps. 19, Acts 11

Feb. 5, 1974

Ex. 39-40, Ps. 15, Acts 12

Feb. 6, 1974

Lev. 1-3, Acts. 13

Harry Conn is teaching us here this week at Hurlach, and I feel I'm on the verge of a major break-through in my life spiritually as far as doctrine is concerned. I'm so excited about the principles of the moral government of God.

Feb. 7, 1974

Lev. 4-6, Acts. 14

Feb. 8, 1974

Lev. 7-9, Acts. 15

Feb. 9, 1974

Lev. 10-12, Acts. 16

Feb. 10, 1974

Lev. 13-14, Acts 17

Feb. 11, 1974

Lev. 15-17, Acts 18

[Speaker – Reona Peterson (Jolie) – Feb. 11-16]

Feb. 12, 1974

Lev. 18-19, Ps. 13, Acts. 19

Feb. 13, 1974 - Valentine's Day

Lev. 23-24, Ps. 24, Acts 21

February 15, 1974

Lev. 25, Ps. 25-26, Acts 22

Reona Peterson has been sharing here at the school on brokenness and sources of pride in our lives, and God has shown me the need to deal with this in my life. I want to be clean and usable. I'm going to seek God until I am.

2 Tim. 2:21 – “Therefore if a man cleanses himself from these things he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.”

This morning as I prayed, as God reminded me of sources of pride, in every case, I'd already taken care of the problem. I repented of the sexual sin in my life and one thing came out—from my bad relationship with my mom for so long I have sought the love of girls and abused that.

I feel, and God be my judge, that I am clean—that I have been dealing with pride in my life all along. God is wonderful. Let Him be my witness. Not all of us have the same experiences.

+ One thing is left unsettled. I believe God will reveal why do I find it hard to cry? Last week I did this for one of the few times in my life in God, but I know there needs to be more. Lord, I'll wait for You.

Now to feed on the Word...

Feb. 16, 1974

Lev. 26-27, Acts 23

Feb. 17, 1974

Num. 1-2, Acts 24

[Speakers – Loren & Darlene Cunningham – Feb. 17 &18]

God has been speaking to me in the way that He does. I've been in rebellion about hearing His voice and the great work of intercession, and I've repented of this.

+Lord--You want me to be your intercessor and I'm available. Teach me what You have for me.

Feb. 18, 1974

Num. 3-4, Acts 25

Feb. 19, 1974

Num. 5-6, Ps. 22, Acts. 26

[Speakers – The “Brothers” from the Sisters of Mary, Darmstadt – Feb. 19-22]

Loren Cunningham spoke last night, and God has again challenged me to clean up my life. I've asked for brokenness and revealing of my heart and it's coming. I cried again today, and God has told me to fast and pray for TWO days concerning my cleansing of pride and sin in

my life. I have some things to confess and do. As I was looking over my journal this morning, I noticed that what I'm going through God has been preparing me for all along.

He has given me these verses: Jer. 17:14 and Ps. 27:13-14.

+ A year ago today God spoke to me about the call to be His witness. This day I'm being broken that I may realize that vision.

February 20, 1974

Num. 7, Ps. 23, Acts. 27

God has really dealt wonderfully with me! As I was praying with Jim Orred yesterday God gave me a real glimpse of my own heart and motives and I just cried. It was such a time of revelation in prayer.

I learned these things:

- God will many times break you in front of another person—not alone. That removes all pride.
- My selfish heart had overlooked the main reason for becoming a Christian—that of wanting to please God and He gave me these Scriptures (Eph. 5:8-10, 2 Cor. 5:9, John 8:29).

The last one was the key. It removes all pressure of attaining in life and just seeks please Jesus. Hallelujah.

I'm continuing my fast today in obedience to the Lord because there's a special reason for it.

February 21, 1974

Num. 8-10, Acts 28

Break-fast!

February 22, 1974

Num. 11-2, Ps. 27, Mk.1

I understood something this morning. As far as my devotional morning is concerned, it should follow the order of my loves—God first. Others second. Me. Last. (Matt. 22:37-39 and Mk. 12:29-31).

+ I should praise and thank God and love Him. Intercede for others. Ask about my own needs. Thank you, Father.

February 23, 1974

Num. 13-14, Ps. 90, Mk.2

This has been both an exciting and revealing week for me. Yesterday morning in our intercession group, God revealed to me some guidance:

- I've been selfishly wanting to go home after the Field Trip, and Jesus wants me to go on the SOS, so I'm going. Lord, would you please confirm it in Your Word and by the Elders.
- I'm beginning to get a glimpse of the future. I love you, Lord Jesus. I love you with my whole heart.
- Morocco has been in my mind as a possibility for the summer.

Feb. 14, 1974

Num. 15-17, Mk. 3

Feb. 25, 1974

Num. 18-19, Ps. 29, Mk. 4

[Speaker – Rev. Brian Kingsmore – Ireland – Feb. 25- March 1]

February 26, 1974

Num. 20-21, Ps. 28, Mk. 5

Sent a soul-opening letter and tape (arriving later) to C. I trust you, Lord. My life and requests in prayer are before You.

\*Need to write this down: My heart is wicked. I keep dreaming of myself “speaking” for Christ and I “see” myself, not Jesus. Lord – break me of this.

\*Lord—You just said to me: “I’ll raise you up to speak when you love Me.”

+ I want so badly to arrange my life motives for God in consistent order. Help me, Lord.

February 27, 1974

Num. 22-24, Mk. 6

+ One piece of guidance to set before You, Lord: I feel the possibility of going home in August and being in Washington, D.C. August 17 for the day of repentance [Leland Paris spoke on the “If My People” rally at the SOE]. I’ll leave it up to You.

February 28, 1974

Num. 25-26, Mk. 7

\*Prayer for Randy (Roland) and Becky (Wulf) at PLU. Should write a letter. Prayed for Don, Loren, and Brother Andrew (his cold).

Mar. 1, 1974

Num. 27-29, Mk. 8

March 2, 1974

Num. 30-31, Mk. 9

[Speaker – Lynn Green – Mar. 2-8]

## Switzerland

It’s 5:30 am and the Castle Choir is leaving for Lausanne, Switzerland for 3 days. We’re going to minister at the SOE there, and in the city. Lord, help us to sing, honoring You.

\*Mark 9:47 – Key verse in understanding the Kingdom of God. This shows that it is clearly not only our future in heaven.

*March 3, 1974*

*Num. 32-33, Mk. 10*

Had a wonderful time of praise and worship at Lausanne last night. Switzerland is also a very beautiful, green country. Our greatest excitement yesterday was having a picnic in a snowstorm in the middle of Switzerland! More ministry today.

Two things to pray about that have been confirmed here: 1) SOS – Another guy here feels a leading to Morocco. I must pray on this one, and 2) Christ for the Nations – met a guy here that went there. Sound very attractive, but Lord, I want to do what You want me to.

*March 4, 1974*

*Num. 34-36, Mk. 11*

Had a wonderful day in Lausanne yesterday. We sang at an Anglican Church downtown and then spent the day at the hotel [Chateau de Gobet – first YWAM base]. Had fun in the snow! **Heard Gordon Olson speak. He's going to be life-changing.**

Going “home” today.

*Mar. 5, 1974*

*Deut. 1-2, Mark 12*

*March 6, 1974*

*Deut. 3-4, Ps. 36, Mk. 13*

**I'm being dealt with about an awful pride and visions of greatness. Lord Jesus, help me to crucify it once and for all.**

Prov. 3:12 – “Whom the Lord love He reproveth, even as a Father, a son in whom he delights.” Deut. 4:36 – “He let you hear His voice to discipline you.”

\*My Father is lovingly disciplining me. Lord, You're so wonderful. Look at this: “Let no the foot of pride come upon me.”

*Mar. 7, 1974*

*Deut. 5-6, Ps. 43, Mk. 14*

*March 8, 1974*

*Deut. 7-9, Mk. 15*

Learned a little lesson today. I've been very careless in small things and in my work, and today it showed, and I had to be humbled. Lord—I want to be faithful and trustworthy in the little things too (Col. 3:23-25).

*March 9, 1974*

*Deut. 10-12, Mk. 16*

Today was quite a day. We began a weekend outreach today traveling north to the East German-Czech. Border. We were all billeted into homes and I and Every Veldhizen (Holland)

are together with a nice German couple who speak no English! Challenging. As a group, we sang in the streets and then had a youth rally for about 200 kids at a town hall. Very good. Also, very frustrating. It's hard to share Christ through a language barrier. \*Lord, I need real patience and love. First time I've ever spoken through translation.

March 10, 1974

*Deut. 13-15, Gal., 1*

[Speakers – Herman ter Velle and Orville Swindell – March 10-16]

The Lord wants me to give of my money to other kids for the Middle East Field Trip (MEFT) and here is confirmation: “You shall generously give to him and your heart shall not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all your undertakings” (Deut. 15:10).

Mar. 11, 1974

*Dt. 16-18, Ps. 38, Gal. 2*

March 12, 1974

*Deut. 19-21, Gal 3.*

Last year I was in New Zealand on my birthday. This year—Germany. Where will I be next year?

Mar. 13, 1974

*Deut. 22-24, Gal. 4*

Mar. 14, 1974

*Deut. 25-27, Gal. 5*

Mar. 15, 1974

*Deut. 28-29, Gal. 6*

March 16, 1974

*Dt. 30-31, Ps. 40, 1 Cor. 1*

Had a wonderful time of outreach today. We drove to a town called Geislengen near Ulm, and after singing and testifying on the street (Sat. morn.) and at the Bahnhof with our German brethren, we had an afternoon of teaching at the church. That evening we fought a real spiritual battle, singing in a communist youth beer hall—real confrontation. Many were speaking with kids and others were on their knees in prayer. Returned very late to the Castle.

Mar. 17, 1974

*Deut. 32-34, 1 Cor. 2*

[Speaker - Gordon Olson – Mar. 17-30]

Mar. 18, 1974

*Josh.1-2, Ps. 69, 1 Cor. 5*

Mar. 19, 1974

*Josh., 3-6, 1 Cor. 4*

March 20, 1974

Josh. 7-8, Ps. 69, 1 Cor. 5

Lord, I am so unworthy of You and Your work. I feel like dirt. I am afraid to look up. My selfish, sinful pride is before me. Lord, forgive me and heal me. I turn to You. I love you for caring for me.

Mar. 21, 1974

Josh. 9-11, 1 Cor. 6

Mar. 22, 1974

Josh. 12-14, 1 Cor. 7

Mar. 23, 1974

Josh. 15-17, 1 Cor. 8

Mar. 24, 1974

Josh. 18-20, Ps. 47, 1 Cor. 10

March 25, 1974

Josh. 21-22, Ps. 47, 1 Cor. 10

+ Keith Warrington gave a very good sermon yesterday about what we do now that SOE is almost over and how we can move out for God. He shared how we must begin by asking God for a vision for a ministry as Nehemiah did.

\*So, I'm going to begin seeking the Lord as to the vision and work He has for my life.

Mar. 26, 1974

Josh. 23-24, Ps. 44, 1 Cor. 11

Mar. 27-28, 1974

Jud. 1-5, Ps. 39,41, 1 Cor. 12-13

March 29, 1974

Jud. 6-7, Ps. 52, 1 Cor. 14

Today is the last day of the School of Evangelism. What a wonderful experience this has been! I keep wondering how God can top my last experience and then He does every time! I've had so many of my questions answered here.

+ This has been the most humbling and uplifting experience of my life.

\*I'm especially thankful for the truth about God's ways from the teaching on Moral Government that I've been given here. Harry Conn and Gordon Olson have changed my life. I know these truths are going to re-define my entire ministry.

Mar. 30, 1974

Jud. 8, Ps. 42, 1 Cor. 15

Mar. 31, 1974

Jud. 9-10, Ps. 49, 1 Cor. 16

April 1, 1974

Jud. 11-12, Ps. 50, 2 Cor. 1

Have had a very nice weekend here in Stuttgart with Nancy. Hitch-hiked up here with Jim Orred from the Castle and have had a relaxing time sharing and seeing the city—very nice.



One highlight: Watched “Fiddler on the Roof” on TV last night in German! Funny. Today we’ll hitch-hike back.

*April 2, 1974*

*Jud. 13-16, 2 Cor. 2*

The Castle is really jumping as we prepare to the Middle East Field Trip. About 150 kids here from all over. Today we work and pack and then leave early tomorrow morning. A lot to do.

+ **This is going to be the greatest experience of my life!!**

## **Middle East Field Trip**

*\*April 3, 1974*

*Jud. 17-18, Ps. 89, 2 Cor. 3*

We’re on our way to Italy! It’s 7 am and the MEFT is underway. What an adventure for God it’s going to be.

This bus [nick-named “Katie”—driven by Tom Jennings] is going to make a great “home” for three months. We’re traveling through Austria. The mountains are beautiful.

We’ve been traveling for 24 hours. Drove through Verona, Bologna and Florence and are now approaching Rome, having not been able to find a camping site we could afford. Was a wild night! Everybody’s beat.

\*We’ve begun our 12,000 km or 7500 miles adventure...

[I kept a written journal during the MEFT—but also wrote an article for the “Christian Times” about our time in Israel upon our return to Germany. I will combine the two accounts here by date.]

## **Rome, Italy**

*April 4, 1974*

Italy is a very pretty country--mountains and castles in the north and green and flat here near Rome. Have tolls on all the roads.

We’ve made it to our first stop in Rome and pitched camp. What a wonderful experience this is going to be. Caught up on sleep and took a nap. I’m sure with a wonderful bunch of brothers and sisters. Had a neat time of worship under the stars before going to bed.

*April 5, 1974*

What a day! It is just pouring down rain and our camp is a quagmire, but it hasn't dampened our spirits! We're finally all together all a group. \*I believe soon God is going to give me a vision for the future. Went into Rome today and saw St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican, St. John's Basilica and the Holy Stairs, and drove past the Coliseum and the Forum. Rained all day. Called it a night early.

*April 6, 1974*

2 Cor. 6:18 – "I will be a father to you."

Went into Rome again today and visited the Sistine Chapel and the galleries first—very beautiful and huge. After that we shopped around the Spanish Stairs area and then went to a park for lunch. In the late afternoon, we visited St. Peter's in Chains Cathedral and then the Catacombs. What a spectacle they were. Weather cleared up—camp is drying out. One more full day here.

*April 7, 1974 - \*\*Palm Sunday in Rome*

We all got up and had a worship service in the outdoor restaurant part of the camping facility. Just a time of singing, different groups, praise and Scripture reading. After this, we went downtown to see the Coliseum, the Forum, and Caesar's Palace. (A part of the Forum is where Paul was imprisoned.) Right now, we're having a free afternoon in the beautiful sunshine and seeing Rome by night later. We leave early for Naples in the morning.

*April 8, 1974*

+ I've asked the Lord for a vision for my life and an understanding of the Gospel. Oh, how I pray He'll show the answers to these requests.

Broke up camp early in the morning and drove from Rome to Naples and then to Pompeii. Pompeii is an unbelievable place! It was a huge city built around 3-4 B.C. and was buried by 19-23 feet of ash in 79 A.D. when Mt. Vesuvius erupted, instantly killing over 20,000 people.

It is so intact. Streets and homes and villages just as they were (excavated now) 1900 years ago.

- Very orderly place, yet a sinful city with many signs of pornography and sexual perversion in inscriptions, house of prostitution etc.\*Easy to see why they were judged.
- Very technologically developed. Very elaborate plumbing and heating systems and other things.
- Plaster-of-Paris casts of people as they died (kept under glass covers).

Had a hectic day of traveling in small, windy Italian villas. Pulled into a camp near midnight on the coast near Surrento, threw up a few tents and hit the rack.

*April 9, 1974*

Took all day today to drive from the west coast of Italy to the east coast. Was a very beautiful drive. Inland here in the south, the country is very pretty with green hillsides dotted with trees, and farming and grazing lands. Arrived after dark and set up camp near the beach, the Adriatic Sea. We're getting good at pitching tents in the dark! Had a great hot meal, sang and prayed and went to bed.

## Greece

*April 10, 1974*

Today we depart for Greece. After breaking camp, we drove to Brindisi—a city that is over 2000 years old. It was a port in Jesus' time day. Had a small accident in the city today. A little car pulled out into the bus and banged the front right bumper and creased his car a bit.

Right now, we're sailing across the Adriatic Sea to Greece. It's an overnight, 17-hour ride with most of us sitting in airplane-type seats. The best part is we've been able to take hot showers here on the boat—first time since leaving Hurlach. Had a roly-poly night trying to sleep.

*April 11, 1974*

The Lord has really been with us today as we've arrived in Greece. Landed at Patras about 11 am and then taking an hour or so getting off the bus and going through customs. We had intercessory prayer this morning for the border crossing, and the Lord really answered. Last year they spent five hours in customs here. This year we spent 15 minutes.

After a big meal, we're now heading to Corinth. We arrived there late in the evening and found a place to camp near the water. Nice area.

## Corinth

*April 12, 1974 - \*\*Good Friday*

Got up early and broke camp and drove to the ancient city of Corinth. It was quite a spectacle—a lot of ruins beneath a huge mountain on top of which sits the ruins of the temple of Aphrodite, the goddess of fertility. Corinth was a very sinful city. Men used to come to this temple and “worship” by going into temple prostitutes there. How ugly. Had lunch in the Corinthian amphitheater. After lunch we drove up the coast through Athens, which is a large city, and along the coast to Sounion—to a dormitory style camp where we will stay. Hallelujah! No tents. It has nice beds and everything.

*April 13, 1974*

Had a beautiful quiet time this morning in one of the gardens of the Bible camp here, just talking to God, meditating on His Word, and enjoying the beauty of the picturesque Greek coast under the sunshine. **Today is a free day and I'm going to write for the Lord.** Had a very relaxing time at the beach just swimming, writing postcards, and playing with friends. Easter tomorrow.

## **Athens**

*April 14, 1974 – Easter Sunday on Mars Hill in Athens*

Got up early and drove into Athens to Mars Hill (The Areopagus), for an early Easter service. Mars Hill is a beautiful location in Athens in the center of the city right beneath the Acropolis. It was a beautiful warm morning with not a cloud in the sky. We had a short service, mostly Scripture reading, looked around to a while and then returned to Sounion.

After lunch we went to the beach and relaxed and swam for the afternoon. At dinner we all dressed up and had a wonderful love feast and sharing time—really was an appropriate way to end a very special Easter Sunday.

Tomorrow morning, we leave early to fly to Israel. Sounds like a dream...I've always wanted to go the land of our Lord. What an experience it will be, walking the paths of biblical history and the "narrow way" of our Lord Jesus. I can hardly wait.

## **Israel – the Holy Land**

*April 15, 1974*

11:30 am – Right now we're flying high over the Mediterranean Sea toward Tel Aviv, Israel. Got up very early to come to the airport. We had to go through a lot of red tape to leave the country and store our vehicles. Security was very tight.

**\*\*We're on our way to the Promised Land – What awaits us here?**

The heat!!! Stepped off the plane into 92-degree F. weather in Tel Aviv (landed near ancient Lod, in the New Testament days called Lydda). It's hot. Our guides met us, and we boarded our three buses and took off. Drove through the rolling hills of the Negev and down to Beersheba where we stopped to eat. It was here that Abraham encountered Abimelech and dug a well ("Swear near the well"). Beersheba is now the fourth largest city.

Israel had one of the wettest winters in many years making the ground especially green and lush, even in desert areas. Even Israel's soil is special. It is sandy, blown in from Egypt from the desert, but when water is added to it, it becomes lush and fruitful. David be Gurion once said,

“Israel’s future is in the desert.” Believers in Jerusalem prayed fervently this year for rain they got it. The future is in prayer.

Then we headed up to the Dead Sea—which is 78 by 18 kilometers. It is slowly drying up and sits at 1300 feet below sea level—the lowest point on the face of the earth. We are now camped out in the open beneath the Masada—under the stars of the Promised Land.

*April 16, 1974*

After a short night out in the open near the Dead Sea, we rose at sunrise and climbed the Masada. Took 45-60 minutes. Quite a climb! It is really a fantastic place and has an amazing history:

- Possibly dates to David’s time as a retreat area.
- Fortress for Herod the Great in Jesus’ time. Lush palace, baths, synagogue etc.
- Synagogue is one of the oldest in the world – 2000 years old.
- Place of the Jewish last stand with the Romans. 970 people held out for three years – A.D. 70-73. Finally killed themselves rather than surrendering and being captured. 970-10-1-0
- Romans conquered the fortress by building a ramp up with Hebrew labor.
- A scroll of Ezekiel was found here, perfect and intact – 37 chapters.
- Masada is very sacred to Israel. Stands for the fight for the nation. “Masada will never fall again” is their motto.

From the Masada we drove north along the Dead Sea, seeing Engedi and the hills of Judea which used to be David’s territory. Then we saw the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in Qumran. Continuing north, we stopped briefly at Jericho, the oldest continually populated city in the world going back 5000 years.

Then we continue north along the Jordan. A security fence, and land mines and patrols run the length of it between Israel and Jordan. Used to be a place where many terrorists could cross over in the country. Not now. Stopped at a place to swim and then drove to our destination—a youth hostel called “Poriya” – “the Lord is my abundance,” overlooking the Sea of Galilee.

## **Sea of Galilee**

*Apr. 17, 1974*

“At this time Jesus went off to a mountain to pray” (Luke 6:12).

That’s what I’ve done. I’ve scaled a small mountain behind the hostel at sunrise and am perched on a rock at the top overlooking the whole Sea of Galilee. It brought tears to my eyes to

think that this might have been the very place that Jesus came to. What a view! This is the land of Jesus' ministry. No wonder He spent so much time here. It's so green and teeming with life—birds singing and animals lowing. The flowers are beautiful. I feel so close to God—like I could touch Him. What a wonderful privilege to come to the land of His “visitation.”

We had a very good but tiring day. After breakfast we began a trip around the entire Sea of Galilee, passing through Tiberias and coming to Capernaum.

- Capernaum was the city of Jesus (Matt. 4:13, 9:1) and also the home of Peter and Andrew.
- Jesus called Himself “the bread of life” here (John 6:24-60).
- He did many miracles here: 1) Walking on the water (Jn. 6:16-21), 2) Calming the sea (Mt. 8:24-27), 3) Finding money in the fish (Mt. 17:23-26), 4) Healing Jairus' daughter (Mt. 5:22-43), 5) Miracles of healing-palsy- (Mk. 2:1012), 6) Cleansing the leper (Mk. 1:40-45), 7) The man in the synagogue with the unclean spirit (Mk. 1:23-28), 8) Healing the withered hand (Mk. 3:1-5), 9) Feeding the 5000 (Mt. 8:5-13), 10) Healing Peter's mother-in-law (Mk. 1:30-32), and healing woman with the hemorrhage (Mk. 5:25-34).

\*\*Most of Jesus' miracles were done in or around Capernaum. Jesus cursed the town for its unbelief (Luke 10:13, 15, Mat. 11:20-24). It is a ruin today.

There are many names for the Sea of Galilee including Lake Gennesaret, Sea of Tiberias and Lake Chinneroth.

Drove around the lake and went swimming in the Sea—and had “Peter's fish” (karp) for lunch. In the afternoon, we headed for Mt. Hermon and the source of the Jordan in the Golan Heights (Bashan). This is the place of the war. We could only go so far.

Saw a lot of military personnel—the situation is very tense here now. Also passed through the town of Qiryat Shemona where the Arab massacre of 18 people took place just a few days ago. I'm very tired. Must get some rest.

*April 18, 1974*

Today we left early and drove by the towns of Cana and Nain and on to Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus. It is still a thriving city of 45,000, most of which are Arab people.

Then we drove across the Plains of Jezreel to Megiddo, ancient city of the area. Was profound to look out on this valley (25 by 15 miles) on which the battle of all time, Armageddon, will take place in the future.

We stopped at Caesarea on the Mediterranean coast for lunch. This city was built by Herod the Great as a seaport headquarters for his empire and was the home of Cornelius whom

Peter visited and on whom the Holy Spirit first fell on the Gentiles, Paul also spent nearly two years here in custody awaiting his final trip to Rome.

Tonight, we're having a time of fellowship and prayer and then leaving early in the morning for JERUSALEM. This is what I've been waiting for...the city of the great King.

## Jerusalem

*April 19, 1974*

We had quite a day today as we began the journey toward our goals—Jerusalem. We left early and saw a lot of neat things on the trip south—the same trip that Jesus would have made. We saw:

- Ezekiel's town
- Spring of Harod where Gideon's army was divided against the Midianites (Jud. 7).
- The town of Dothan in Samaria where Joseph was sold as a slave by his brothers.
- Jacob's well in Shechem (Sichem). It is a two-day journey from here to Galilee and was a main rest-stop for travelers. Jesus met the Samaritan woman here.
- Mizpah, Ramah (towns of Samuel) and Gibeah (Saul's town).

Then we made it to the "city of the Great King"—the city of David. Hallelujah! Had a good lunch at Hebrew University and then saw the Israeli Parliament Building and a large model of old Jerusalem.

It was SABBATH, Friday night, and we went to the Wailing Wall at dusk to pray, intercede and sing—what an experience! I've never been in a situation like this before. Saw many religious Jews, bowing and chanting and praying. Did WE pray! It was wonderful to rejoice in the knowledge of the Living God of Israel.

Had dinner. We're all staying in different places in the old city. What a couple of days this time in Jerusalem is going to be.

*April 20, 1974*

This is our first full day in Jerusalem. I feel kind of a heavy spirit on me this morning, but I sure enjoyed climbing up to the "rooftop" on the school where we're staying and kneeling in prayer toward the Temple site only a few hundred yards away. It used to be the Temple of God, but now I am the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Spent the whole day seeing the city on foot. First visited the site of the Upper Room where the Last Supper and Pentecost took place. Oh--was God there as we sang and prayed! I felt a modern-day Pentecost coming. Other places of interest and reflection:

- David's tomb and the crowns. Jews believe the Messiah is coming soon.
- Dome of the Rock – inside was Mt. Moriah where Abraham went to sacrifice Isaac and the same spot where the altar of burnt offering was in the temple. As we were leaving this site, we paused in the Beautiful Gate facing Gethsemane and the Mt. of Olives, started singing, and got stopped by police.
- Golden Gate – here at the closed gate, Jesus the Messiah will return in glory. See Ez. 44.
- Pool of Siloam and Hezekiah's tomb – Here Jesus sent the blind man to wash and it was very near here many years before that the first prophecy of the Messiah was given to Isaiah (Is. 7).
- Garden of Gethsemane—original olive trees still stand, as olive trees never die.
- Place where Jesus was scourged and the “pit.” Also, the original steps to Caiaphas' palace.

Saw a film on the Yom Kippur War in the evening. The war situation is getting very tense here again. Had the first air battle since the war last night with Syria.

We pray for the peace of Israel, Lord Jesus.

*Apr. 21, 1974*

Our last full day in Israel. I'm really beat, ragged, but more thankful than anything. I've learned so much here—a lot of it about myself. Visited the Mt. of Olive after breakfast (home of the Sisters of Mary) and then we attended a worship service at the Garden Tomb. It was nice.

Then we drove to Bethlehem which is only a short distance away. Bethlehem means “House of Bread.” There, over the grotto where Jesus is believed to have been born is the oldest church in the world—St. Catherine's Greek Orthodox built in 325 A.D. It was wonderful sitting in the grotto-like cave where our Savior was born and singing Is. 9:6: “For unto us a child is born.”

Ate lunch again at Hebrew University. Had the afternoon free and we all browsed and shopped and bargained in the old city. After dinner, we walked to the Garden Tomb and had a fellowship meeting including a fantastic film called the “Temple.” Tomorrow we “disperse” from the Promised Land. I want to end this visit in a special way...

*April 22, 1974*

What a better way than at Calvary. Rose at 3:30 am to walk through the city to Golgotha and spent the early morning hours of my last day in Israel there. I could hardly pray...All I could do was stare at that hill. The pinnacle of history took place right here, 2000 years ago. Really looks like a “Skull”—and untouched in many ways (near the bus station).



I was remembering the words of the Lord when He said, “If any man wishes to come after Me. Let Him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me. “

As tears streamed down my cheeks, I sang and meditated on the words to “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”—and dedicated my life once again to serving the King of kings.

\*\*Lord – I want to FOLLOW You. May I be worthy of Your call.

[My journal records that on April 30, back in Greece, I wrote the following story about my time in Israel for “The Christian Times.”]

*“Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go forth from your country...to the land which I will show you...And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:1-3)/*

*“For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel and the men of Judah his delightful plant” (Isaiah 5:7).*

*“He has remembered His lovingkindness and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.”*

Ever since I had met God in a personal way a couple of years ago, I had wanted to go to Israel. Canaan—the land of God—a land “flowing with milk and honey” (Num. 13:27)—a land at the cross roads of east and west which had certainly been a focal point of history.

Israel. The Promised Land. It had been a dream of mine for some time to visit this amazing country. Here, the God of all creation had chosen a race of people to demonstrate his great love and wonder as a testimony to the world.

Here, our wonderful God had set in motion a plan to draw all people into a fulfilling relationship with Himself, following our stupid rebellion and rejection of His companionship and communion. And it was here that our compassionate God came to earth in earthly form to suffer and die in humiliation as the ultimate act of love—persuading us to turn to Him.

Israel. An amazing place—still holding our keep attention today, just as it has for many others over thousands of years.

For some time, I had wanted to visit this Holy Land, and this year, my dream came true. Traveling with a large group of people from many nations as a part of a study and outreach program of Youth With A Mission, I got to visit the land of Israel last month (April 1974) and walk in the land of our Lord.

From a journal that I kept during this time and from a vivid memory of this wonderful experience that will last for many years to come, may I share this adventure to the land of God with you. It has changed my life. I pray it will inspire yours as well.

I had dozed on and off all night, and now as the sun began to lighten the sky, I knew that it was time to get up. My first full day in the land of Israel. Rubbing my eyes, I sat up and looked—all around me were masses of young people in sleeping bags lying on air mattresses on the rocky ground. Hard to believe we were in the land of Israel!

Just yesterday we had still been in Greece, anxiously awaiting our flight into Tel Aviv. After going through tight security, we boarded our plane in Athens (all 121 of us strong) and had flown across the Mediterranean Sea to the Holy Land. Hot weather (92 degrees F.) greeted us there and boarding three buses (along with some guides who were with us for the week), we began our descent south to our campsite here on the Dead Sea.

We had stopped for a good Israeli dinner in Beersheba (the town of Abraham) where God had said, “Now look to the heavens and count the stars, if you are able to count them...So shall your descendants be” (Gen. 15:5). We piled out late at night and slept out under those very stars.

Now it was sunrise on the Dead Sea. Rising to my feet, I viewed the coastline of this amazing body of water in front of me. Behind me loomed the rocky barren mountains of the Judean wilderness. It was already warm at 5 am. “Short night,” I thought myself as I crawled to my feet. Around me, other kids were beginning to rise, gather their things up and head for the toilets. Rolling up my bag and air mattress, I did the same. We had quite a day ahead of us.

Returning from the “head,” I received my first view of our morning adventure. Directly in front of my vision stood a steep, flat-topped mountain, a very special place in Jewish history. It was called the Masada, and from its unusual history, it had come to be a modern-day symbol of the Jewish people. After grabbing our things together and munching on an orange, our group set out on an hour’s hike up the slope of this imposing mountain. Most everybody went—guys and girls alike. Warily reaching the summit, we sat on the ground to hear the incredible story of the history of this place.

The Masada has been used as a fortress retreat area for many years, possibly dating back to the time of David. In Jesus’ era, it served as the mountaintop refuge of Herod the Great (see Mt. 2:1-8, 12:13-20), a master builder in Palestine who had constructed a magnificent palace here. Remains of the palace with its baths and courtyards and storerooms, having been excavated and somewhat restored, stood around us. They included the remains of the oldest synagogue in the world. Later, we sat in this spot of Jewish worship and sang, “Blessed be the Lord, God of Israel.”

However, the vital importance of this spot came years later after Herod’s death. In AD 70, when Roman persecution broke out in Israel, the Masada became the gathering place of nearly 1000 Jewish people who fled to the mountain fortress for their lives. Over a period of three years, they valiantly fought to hold off the Roman aggression. All of Israel had been overrun and burned to the ground. For three long years, the Jews gamely held off every attempt

of the Roman legion to scale and overrun the fortress. Finally, as our guides told it, the Romans succeeded in building a huge earthen ramp up the side of the mountain.

Finally, in AD 73, they broke into the fortress. Silence greeted them. The camp was still. Before them lay the corpses of 970 people who had calmly executed themselves rather than be taken captive as slaves. Only two women who had hidden themselves greeted the massive Roman legion and told the tale. Ten men had been chosen by the community to kill the rest, then one man had been chosen to kill the nine. Finally, he had taken sword in hand and taken his own life, rather than face the victory of the Romans.

This place and its significance were to lend a real hand in helping us understand the Hebrew people. The story of God's chosen people has been one of terrible oppression and dispersion over thousands of years including the extermination of over 6 million Jews in Nazi Germany during World War II. Yet miraculously, only by the hand of God, they are a nation today. They are still fighting for their lives and fighting for their land.

We eagerly listened to that morning's news. Only two days before entering the country, Prime Minister Golda Meir had resigned. A couple of days before that, eighteen Israelis were cruelly massacred in the village of Qiryat Shemona by Arab terrorists—touching off reports of heavy fighting on the Israeli-Syrian border. Israel was again at war, the land again in tension. Our guide explained to us that this site, the Masada, had become a modern-day symbol of the Jewish fight for survival.

"They have a saying," he said to us in closing, "that each officer in the Jewish army must recite upon this mountaintop before entering the service of his country. It goes like this: The Masada shall never fall again." *Only with the help of God*, I thought to myself.

After we looked around and made our way down from the mountain, we munched on some jam and bread with a cup of tea, then loaded the buses to begin our day of traveling. We had much to see in heading north toward our late evening destination—the Sea of Galilee.

Our three big coaches rambled along. Inside our guides were busily pointing out Bible places and their significance all around us. There was so much to see! Just north of the Masada we traveled along the Judean hills near Engedi where David had spent much time hiding, especially in the caves we could plainly see (1 Sam. 22:1,2, 23:29, 24:22).

In one of those rocky caves of Engedi, David hid in refuge with his men from the pursuit of King Saul. These rocky hills had been the grounds of inspiration for many of the wonderful psalms that we have in the Bible today. Right here, this "man after God's own heart," had cried out to his Savior, "Be to me a rock of habitation to which I may continually come...for You are my rock and my fortress" (Ps. 71:3). Being in the land of divine inspiration was making the words of the Bible come alive.

We stopped for a while in Qumran, the ruins of a Jewish monastic community, where the famous Dead Sea Scrolls were written, hidden in twelve caves for almost 2000 years, and then discovered between 1946-56. God has been so faithful in preserving His words to us! Piling back into our buses, we continued north to the city of Jericho.

Jericho is quite a place—the oldest known perpetually populated place on earth—its history going back 5000 years. It was a very old Canaanite city when Joshua conquered it (Josh. 6) and was the place where Jesus spoke to Zacchaeus who had climbed a sycamore tree to get a look at Him (Luke 19:1-10). Our guide pointed out a sycamore tree to us as we passed by. It was the only one in the area...I wondered if it was the one.

In the afternoon we continued traveling north, moving into the greener area of the Jordan Valley, following the Jordan River north. It was hot—windows down. Our guide continued to point out places of interest and occasionally we would sing, read our Bibles, or nap. Leaving the desert area of the south, the land was becoming greener and lush. Still, it did not “flow with milk and honey” that I could see. You could tell that it was a land that had been raked by history and war. Every once and awhile we would see an abandoned rusty tank from the 1976/77 Six Day War—the blown-up vehicles just sitting, weather-beaten by the road. Out of the right side of the bus, running parallel to the Jordan River was a barbed wire security fence with a surrounding mine field that marked the border into the country of Jordan. Arab terrorists had crossed over into the country from here before. Not now.

After stopping at a place to swim and cool off in the late afternoon (Praise the Lord), we continued to the Sea of Galilee. It was now dark and cooling off fast—and had been a very long day. Still, we were excited to arrive here. The Sea of Galilee! Wow! Here, our wonderful Lord Jesus spent most of His ministry on earth. What a privilege to be coming to this pretty area. In the cool of the night, we anxiously pulled into a youth hostel we were to occupy for three days while being in the area. Very nice. Even beds and hot showers. The hostel very aptly fit its name and the emotions that we felt toward God during this day. Its name – “The Lord our Abundance.” Carrying my stuff upstairs, I found a bed and hit the rack. Easy to sleep tonight.

“At this time Jesus went off to a mountain to pray...” The words out of Luke 6:12 just leaped off the page. Before my eyes, the red ball of the sun was gently rising over the hills behind the glistening blue of the water below. Around me birds chirped the beginning of a new day. What a fantastic view! The place that Jesus is recorded to have gone to pray must have been very much like this.

I sat peacefully overlooking the beautiful view of the Sea of Galilee. It was sunrise, our second full day in Israel. As I sat perched on a rock far above the water, a deep sense of the presence of God came into my being.

I had risen early and decided to scale the small mountain behind our hostel and spend my morning devotion time with God, overlooking the region of His greatest ministry—Galilee. How

often had Jesus Himself gazed out on these same beautiful sights? That thought tingled my mind...

Jesus would often slip away to the wilderness and pray (Luke 5:16). That meant here—on one of these beautiful yet “lonely” green hills surrounding this Sea. Beautiful—yet secluded. What precious times Jesus much have spent here with His Father. In the still quiet of the morning, I prayed and read God’s book. Seemed so real this morning.

Following breakfast at the hostel we loaded up excitedly to begin the day’s adventure. It had been another short night, but our joy at being here was keeping us going. Piling into the buses we began a full day of seeing the region of the ministry of our Lord.

“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great light...” (Is.9:1).

Here in the region of Galilee Jesus had concentrated His ministry during his time on earth. The Scripture says that “Jesus was going about in all Galilee teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom and healing every kind of disease and every kindness of sickness among the people” (Mt. 4:23). And here we were, driving around the body of water that the region had given its name to. I couldn’t believe it. You dream about these things—but here we were. I tried hard to picture what it would have been like in Jesus’ day.

We passed through the town of Tiberias, the only remaining town that was in existence in Jesus’ day. Just a middle-size fishing village. Except for the architecture and technology of modern society, much of this place must have been the same as it was 2000 years ago. We continued around the lake. Our guide was explaining the variety of names this body of water had been given over the centuries—Sea of Galilee, Lake Gennesaret, Sea of Tiberias, and Lake Chinneroth. It was a warm, clear day the water looked inviting.

Within a half hour we reached the site of our main concern this morning—the ruins of the village of Capernaum. This Galilean fishing town had seen the greatest display of the wonders of the Son of God. Jesus had not only made it His home (Mt. 4:13, 9:1), but had performed the vast amount of his miracles here or close by.

Assembling on the site of the old synagogue—very near the water—our main guide, a wonderful Jewish believer, related the significance of this place to us.

Capernaum was the home of Peter and Andrew into which Jesus came from Nazareth following his baptism in the Jordan and forty days of temptation in the wilderness. Right here our Lord Jesus had called Himself “the bread of life” (Jn. 6:24-60). He had performed many wonders here including walking on the water (Jn. 6:16-21), the calming of the sea and feeding the 5000 (Mt. 8:5-18, 24-27), and the raising of Jairus’ daughter from the dead (Mk. 5:22-43). He had healed the man sick with palsy (Mk. 2:1-12), and “moved with compassion,” he had

cleansed the leper (Mk. 1:40-45), cured a withered hand (Mk. 3:1-5), healed Peter's mother-in-law (Mk. 1:30-32) and cast an unclean spirit out of a man in the synagogue—right where he sat (Mk. 1:23-28).

A beautiful silence settled over us as we realized we were “on holy ground.” Jesus had been here. Oh, had He been here! For a couple of years, He had revealed His divine glory to the people of Capernaum. Still, they had not believed, causing Him to prophesy over their impending judgment—the inevitable result of their rejection of “great light” (Mt. 11:23,24). He had told the truth—Capernaum was only a ruin of a place today where God had once “visited His people” (Luke 7:16).

We continued driving around the Sea, stopping at a small resort to go swimming and have fresh fish called “Peter's fish” (karp) for lunch. I was still thinking about the many things we had seen in and around Capernaum.

Our afternoon's tour was quite different. Following the Jordan River, we drove north into the war zone of the Golan Heights (Bashan) heading toward Mt. Hermon. We had quickly left the world of Jesus and entered the world of today. There was no immediate danger, but as we traveled we saw much military equipment on the roads and needed to make a few detours because the army had blocked off certain routes. I'd never been this close to war—a real war for survival. We stopped briefly at the site of Caesarea Philippi—at one of the sources of the Jordan River—and then journeyed back through Qiryat Shemona (site of the recent Arab massacre) and returned to the hostel after dark. I was extremely tired, but it had been a wonderful day.

The following day we continued our travels into the Galilean region, driving by the towns of Cana (where Jesus performed his first miracle of turning water into wine – Jn. 2:1-11), and Nain, where Jesus raised a young boy from the dead (Luke 7:11-16).

Then, we arrive in Nazareth. It is still a city of 45,000, mostly Arab, situated in the hills of Galilee. Jesus grew up here as the son of a carpenter—in complete obscurity. At the age of 33, Jesus entered the Nazareth synagogue and asked for the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and read “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me., because He anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release of captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are down-trodden. To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord” (Luke 4:18,19).

We sat on the very site of that ancient synagogue and listened as their words were read. I can't express the emotions I felt.

We also traveled across the plains of Jezreel to the ancient city of Megiddo. Looking out over this broad fertile valley from the ruins of the city, I went into deep thought. Many historical battles had been fought here on this large plain at the cross roads of east and west. I also knew that this area was destined to see another one, because one day right here, one day soon, God would destroy the final rebellion of mankind in the battle of Armageddon.

We stopped at Caesarea on the Mediterranean coast for lunch. This city had been built by Herod the Great as a seaport headquarters for his empire and had been the home of Cornelius, the God-fearing Roman centurion whom people visited following his vision while in Joppa. In Caesarea, the gift of the Holy Spirit had been graciously bestowed for the first time on non-Jewish people in Cornelius' home (Acts 10)—starting the global proclamation of Good News. Paul had also spent two years here in custody awaiting his final trip to Rome.

Returning to the Sea of Galilee a little earlier than usual, we gathered outside for a time of worship and fellowship. In the distance we could hear the noise of artillery and sporadic shelling going on near Mt. Hermon. Israel—the land of God—was now a land on the brink of war. The distant sounds didn't affect our worship. We were so thankful to our Great God for all He had shown us thus far. Tomorrow we would be setting off on the pinnacle journey of our trip.

We were on our way to Jerusalem, the “city of the Great King.” Another short night. Up at the crack of dawn and on our way. We're starting to look a little ragged and feeling the strain—but we'll keep going. We're on our way to the city of God, following the path of our Lord to His death there. All around us we're passing biblical sites and towns including the home of Ezekiel, the spring of Harod (see Jud. 7), Jacob's well, Ramah, Mizpeh and Gibeah. We, too, have “set our faces” to go to Jerusalem. Shorter trip by bus!

“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go up to the house of the Lord’ Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem that is built as a city compact together, to which the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord” (Ps. 122:1-4).

We reached our destination. What a wonderful site! So much history here and much for us to see.

After having a good lunch at the new Hebrew University in the newer part of the city, we headed for the old city where we would be staying for a few days in different locations. I put my air mattress and sleeping bag down in the hall of a Lutheran School there—provided for us for our use over the weekend.

It was the beginning of the Sabbath (Friday night), and after a good dinner, we made our way to our focal point for the evening. Quite a sight greeted our eyes. We were standing in front of the lone remaining wall of the Temple of God built by Herod the Great (the rest of the walls and temple were destroyed in 70 A.D. by the Romans). This was the famous “Wailing Wall” where hundreds of orthodox Jews gathered to pray and chant and wail over the destruction of the Temple and await the coming of the Messiah. What a sight! The noise itself was quite something. At first I didn't know how to react. These people believed in God, they prayed, and they practiced his laws to some degree. Yet, they had rejected Jesus, their Messiah, who whom I had accepted as my Savior.

We were not there to demonstrate for Jesus. How could we? We were there to pray, to pray to God for them...for us...for the peace of Israel. I'll never forget this night as we stood near the wall with Jewish beanies on our heads, praying to our personal God for an overflow of His power in this land. I kept wondering what God must have felt, looking down on this sight.

Next day, we were up early again ("never catch up on sleep"), but deeply enjoying this once-of-a-lifetime visit to Israel. *Sleep will have to wait*, I thought to myself. I was enjoying another beautiful morning with God, my first one in Jerusalem.

I had wandered off to an unusual spot--the roof-top of the Lutheran school where we were staying—to have my morning devotion. Clear, beautiful morning. Only a couple hundred feet in front of me loomed the Dome of the Rock, the large golden shrine of the Muslim faith that sits directly on the site where God's Temple had stood, Solomon's temple, and later rebuilt by Nehemiah and finally Herod the Great. I thought to myself, "Now my body is His temple (1 Cor. 6:19). I lost myself in that thought.

This was to be a wonderful day of visiting many significant sights and places on foot in and around Jerusalem. One of the first places we visited was the proposed "Upper Room." This is where Jesus and His disciples, broke bread together for the last time before His death.

Our guide pointed out that many people believe this room was also the scene of Pentecost, where the followers of Jesus "had...come together in one place... (Acts 2:1) following the resurrection of Jesus, where the gift of the Holy Spirit was to fall. "Power from on high." 120 people had been filled up with the glory of God and sent out to preach the gospel to the world. We shared a glorious time of prayer and singing in this Upper Room. God's presence was so real, and there were 120 of us.

The Temple site, where the Dome of Rock now stands, was awesome to visit. It stood as a huge Muslim shrine—but in the center of it was Mt. Moriah, the very spot where Abraham has taken his only son Isaac to offer as a sacrifice to God (Gen. 22:1-18). On this spot, a thousand years later, the Temple of God was built, destroyed, then replaced by the Muslim Mosque of Omar (Dome of the Rock). Old Testament prophecy seemed to indicate that the Temple would have to be rebuilt here one day—on this very location. Jewish law didn't allow the destruction of other religious shrines, so the Jews believed that God Himself would have to destroy it before the return of Jesus. It was thrilling to think of God's plans for this place!

Part of the day included visits to the Garden of Gethsemane, Gabbatha (proposed site of Jesus' trial before Pontius Pilate), a Roman prison (possible where Jesus was scourged), the pool of Siloam where Jesus healed a blind man, and the tomb of King David. In most of these places huge churches or religious shrines had been erected, and quite honestly, they seemed to take away a bit of the reality of each place.



It was very hard to really “sense” what Jesus had experienced in deep agony and humiliation here. He had come to die as the final demonstration of God’s compassionate love for the world—the death of a common criminal by crucifixion. All day we tried to get a glimpse of the love of our Savior in these places. Jesus had come to die for your sins and mine in the very city where we walked. He had been rejected by His own people, uttering in great sorrow:

“O Jerusalem, O Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her. How often I wanted to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling... (Matt. 23:37). How could anyone ever reject a love as great as this? I didn’t know. I thanked and praised God that I had not rejected Him.

That evening we saw a film on the recent Yom Kippur War at the Lutheran Church—again returning to the sights of modern Israel. We heard the news that the war was intensifying and committed to “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem” (Psalm 122:6)—as God led us. We prayed.

On Sunday morning in Jerusalem we again rose early and went to the Mt. of Olives where Jesus had spent much time with His disciples. It was just a stone’s throw up the hill from the Garden of Gethsemane—a beautiful little hill looking across the city.

After that, we worshipped at a Christian service near what is believed to be the tomb of our Lord. It was a beautiful morning and I really enjoyed the time of worship at the Garden Tomb. Praise the Lord! Before us stood the tomb—a small opening cut in the rock where Joseph of Arimathea had placed the body of Jesus, with the help of Nicodemus (John 19:38-41). *This is the first tomb I’ve ever enjoyed looking at* I thought to myself. *It’s empty!* Hallelujah! “He is not here but He is risen!” (Luke 24:6). No amount of sleepless nights could stop from enjoying these precious moments.

For the rest of the morning we visited Bethlehem, the city of David, where the Savior had been born into the world. Commemorating the site of Jesus’ birth stands the world’s oldest church, St. Catherine’s Great Orthodox, dating back to 325 A.D. It was neat as a group to sit in the grotto-like cave where Jesus was born and singing the Scripture verse in Isaiah 9:6 that had announced his birth: “For unto us a child is born...” This whole week had been a renewal of our “new birth” in Him.

The afternoon was free and many of us shopped in the Arab market of the old city while others slept or caught up on washing clothes or writing letters.

We spent our last evening in Israel once again at the Garden Tomb, joining a small youth rally that included singing, an excellent film on the “Temple” and a Dutch minister preaching. It was a beautiful evening of fellowship. It was going to be sad, tomorrow, to “disperse” from this special land.

Another beautiful site now greeted my eyes—perhaps the grandest in a long week of beautiful moments among our hectic pace. Once again it was sunrise—this time over the city of Jerusalem, and as it was our last day in Israel, I decided to rise at 3:30 am and begin my last day here at the most precious spot on earth. In the dark of morning, I walked through the still streets of the city, out the Damascus Gate to the place which I now sat beneath—Calvary—Golgotha.

Before me, illumined by the rays of sunlight stood the “place of the Skull” where Jesus shed His innocent blood for me. Tears came to my eyes, Here, right here in this small hill just outside the city gate, the greatest event in history had taken place. (There are various proposed sites for Calvary, with churches over some of them. I chose the outdoor one near the bus station). God Himself died here of a broken heart over the rebellion of His creation.

Right here. Before me, the dirty parking lot of a bus station under the hill muddled the view of the event that had taken place here 2000 years ago. I tried to imagine. It was hard. Jesus died here on a cross for my sin and selfishness. How stupid this selfishness seemed to me now! How could I ever had thought that living a life in personal relationship to God would be anything less than absolute joy?

I just continued to gaze on the hill. Here, Jesus had uttered, “It is finished” and breathed His last—for me and for the entire world. He had given his life for me.

As I stared at the reality of Calvary, all I could think of were the words from the famous hymn, “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” and re-dedicate my life to God’s service:

“When I survey the wondrous Cross, on which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest Gain I count but Loss, and pour Contempt on all my pride.”

“Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the Death of Christ my God.  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his Blood.”

“See from his Head, his Hands, his Feet, sorrow and Love flow mingled down!  
Did ever such Love and Sorrow meet? Or Thorns compose so rich a Crown?”

“Were the whole Realm of Nature mine, that were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.”

Jesus had said, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me” (Luke 9:23).

Just hours later, all these words gain came to my mind as we lifted off the ground on our Olympic Airways flight back to Greece. After my special time at the Cross, I had walked back to the city, packed my bags, we had traveled back to Tel Aviv, and were now on our way back to Greece.

Our week in Israel had come to an end. What a life-changing experience! So short—just seven glorious days—but packed with adventure and deep thought. God had touched all of our lives in many ways.

As I chewed a piece of candy aboard the plane, resting and reflecting on these things, I quickly returned to reality as I bit into the chewy taffy too hard, causing my capped front tooth to break off and fall out. All I could do was sigh and then grin. My only casualty of the week.

God had been so good that it didn't matter now. To the dentist next week then on with His work! I was rejoicing, funny smile and all. God had given me a glimpse of His wonder in the Promised Land.

As I pen these final thoughts, the words of a song come to mind—blessing me. May they bless you as well:

“I love the Lord because He heard my voice. He inclined His ear to me. Therefore, I will call upon Him for as long as I live” (Ps. 116:1,2).

## Greece

*April 23, 1974*

Well, we're back in Greece. Today I'll be doing my best to get my tooth fixed. I'm just very thankful to God that it happened now while we have this week in Athens. If it had happened at any other time while we were traveling, I would have been in trouble.

Spent the morning and early afternoon at a dentist downtown and came back to Sounion just in time to “go back into Athens” for a service. About 15 of us sang and shared at the meeting and arrived back very late.

*April 24, 1974*

Today we enjoyed some teaching time and some free time. Rudy Lack, the director for YWAM in Africa, spoke in the morning. In the afternoon I spent some time in contemplation and prayer alone with God and I believe I'm getting some direction. In the evening, British ministry Barney Coombes spoke to us. Very good. Going to be a healthy week.

*April 25, 1974*

Today we enjoyed a free day, and many of us went into Athens to shop and browse around. I got my new tooth—praise the Lord. Also went up and saw the Acropolis again and dinked around in the Flea Market. In the evening, Barney Coombes again taught us. Marion Warrington also arrived from Hurlach, and so did the mail!

*April 26, 1974*

Had morning and afternoon lectures on a war, sunny Friday. Tonight, we had a free evening and I fellowshiped with others and wrote letters. A Greek missionary from California named Bob Hill spoke on his work in Greece in the morning session.

*April 27, 1974*

Tonight, we shared a big barbeque down by the buses—formed a big circle and had skits and musical entertainment—just a really good time. It was a lot of fun. We have a lot of funny, talented people. **Despite the festivities I still felt very lonely tonight. Very alone. I really need a friend on this trip.**

*April 28, 1974*

Sunday – Had most of the day off **and I worked on my article on Israel (Christian Post).** In the evening, about twenty of us went into Athens to minister at a Greek Pentecostal Church. It was quite an evening—very long.

While we've been in Greece and continuing this week, we are doing a lot of services in churches. A different group has gone almost every night. Our ministry has mainly been encouraging local believers. Soon, we will begin traveling again.

*April 29, 1974*

**Spent nearly all day working on my article on Israel. It's very long. I really hope that God will bless it.** Early tomorrow morning we will leave here.

## **Macedonia**

*April 30, 1974*

After staying up all night, we left early in the morning to drive up the Greek coast. Was about an 8-hour drive to our next destination—the beautiful area of Greece that the Bible refers to as Macedonia where the gospel first went into Europe (Philippi).

We are staying at a beautiful evangelical Bible camp on the Aegean Sea with Mt. Olympus looming in the foreground behind us. Very beautiful! After we arrived last night, a group of us went immediately to a Pentecostal Church to do the evening service. These next three days are going to be filled with ministry in this area, including Thessaloniki (Thessalonica in the NT). What a privilege to be sharing the gospel in the same land that Paul did.

I've never been so tired. Got to go to bed. **Also fasted two meals today and prayed as it was a national day, of prayer and fasting in the United States. God, I pray it was of value.**

*May 1, 1974 – May Day*

Today was a wonderful day. First, the Lord wonderfully healed me of a miserable hay fever condition, then we went as a group to the foot of Mt. Olympus for a picnic lunch with some Greek believers from the largest evangelical church in Greece---a Presbyterian one here in Katerini. It was a wonderful peaceful day. Ate and sang and played volleyball with some Greek kids and relaxed. The pastor's name was Bliartes. **That evening I had the privilege of preaching in that church as we took the service there.** Full service and I wonderfully felt God's anointing. I spoke on what it means to love the Lord Jesus. The Greek evangelical young people need a fresh vision for evangelism.

*May 2, 1974*

Spent most of the day in camp, then we went out again to minister in the evening at two different church services. I went to the small Pentecostal Church in Katerini. The other group held a meeting at the fellowship hall of the evangelical church—and we met afterwards. The Greek Christians have been overwhelmingly hospitable to us. Yesterday they provided a lamb dinner for us and last night gave us two huge boxes of cakes. Really wonderful.

## **Thessalonica**

*May 3, 1974*

Left early from Katerini and drove up the coast to Thessaloniki. The city was named for the sister of Alexander the Great and was an important commercial port and crossroads between east and west in Paul's time. Paul spent three weeks here on his first visit, ministering in the synagogues until he was forced to leave and go inland to Berea.

Today, Thessaloniki is an important port. (The communists are very interested in it.) It's a big city of between 600,000 and 700,000.

+ Some facts about Greece:

- This country is in a terrible spiritual state with very few born again believers and Christian workers.
- The State Church—Greek Orthodox—has much power and control. Evangelicals can be arrested for “proselytizing” outside the State Church. The Orthodox believe they are the only “true church,” and the church of Paul. The Orthodox are showing signs of God's work in small house meetings.
- Greece is under Marshall Law. It's illegal to hold a meeting of over 5 people for any reason, especially religious ones.

- Evangelism cannot be done in mass here. The church is somewhat underground and have to share one-on-one with people.
- Much work and prayer are needed in this country.

In Thessaloniki we spent the morning seeing a Christian hospital that is under construction—exciting faith adventure. The visionary doctor is a wonderful Christian man. The hospital will be called “St. Luke’s.” In the afternoon we listened to a local missionary share his ministry and thoughts concerning the work here, and he gave us a tour as well. Then we headed up the coast, stopping at a beautiful campsite on the beach. Tomorrow will be out last day in Greece.

## Philippi

*May 4, 1974*

Packed up camp and spent the day seeing N.T. cities here in northern Greece. Our first stop was the ruin of the ancient city of Amphipolis (Acts. 17:1), where there as a huge lion which stood at the gate of the city. The city was built around 380 B.C. by Philip of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great.

Then we spent time visiting the ruins of biblical Philippi: (Philippians)

- Philippi was built by Philip of Macedon around 356 B.C. and given his own name. It became a Roman colony in 42 B.C. under Augustus Caesar when the people of the town helped him defeat the army of Mark Anthony near here. Not many Jews lived here and it had no synagogue. But it was the “in” place, especially for retiring Roman officers (see Phil. 3:17-21). Paul compares that kind of selfish, luxuriant living with our call in Christ.
- Paul came here from Turkey around 52 A.D. and preached near the river. A woman named Lydia became his first convert and he stayed in her home. Paul and Silas were beaten and put in jail here, then were miraculously led out, and the jailer and his family came to Christ (Acts. 16). Luke ministered here for about six years. A wonderful church grew here.

We then traveled on to Kavala (N.T. Neapolis) for lunch, and then down the coast to our campsite by the ocean near the Turkish border. We also saw the Ignatian Way—a long Roman Road that Paul was certain to have walked during his travels.

# Turkey

## *The Seven Churches of Revelation*

*May 5, 1974*

Today was a very long, but important day. We rose at the crack of dawn from our beachside campsite and got on our way to enter Asia Minor—the country of TURKEY. After praying much last night about what is usually a very difficult border crossing, God speedily took us through in about an hour. They had never done it in less than two hours before. Our Lord is wonderful.

We then drove down the Dardanelle Straits and boarded a ferry that would take us across into Asia. After the ferry trip, it was a hot, windy five-hour ride to our destination of Bergama, N.T. Pergamum.

This part of Turkey is a beautifully green and hilly, at in the Northwest portion. Arrived to set up camp around sundown—too a hot bath in the hot springs here before crawling into bed. Long day.

*May 6, 1974*

Today was our day to relax and recuperate. Had our first opportunity to visit a Turkish town in the morning when we went to Bergama to do some shopping.

\*What a different world this is. Horse-drawn carts and animals are everywhere. This is the Muslim world—dirty, rather poor, and the men are very aggressive toward Western women. Everywhere the girls go, we must be body-guards to protect them. This is quite a life. We spent the afternoon relaxing and playing volleyball.

## Pergamum

*May 7, 1974*

This morning we visited the ancient ruins of Pergamum—one of the seven churches of Revelation. It was a toweringly high walled city that at one time had a population of 150,000 people. High on a mountain, it looked over this gentle mountain region of Southwest Turkey.

\*See Revelation 2:12-17 – Many people believe that this city was called the “city where Satan dwells” because of the many temples to foreign gods found here. The ruins of the city were impressive. Huge amphitheater. Had a free afternoon and then **Lynn Green challenged us all to get visions for our lives and in relation to the coming Summers of Service.**

**\*\*I need this, Lord. I need direction for my life. Something to shoot for, to aim at. How can I best serve You?**

## Thyatira and Sardis

*May 8, 1974*

Left Pergamum this morning visiting Thyatira and Sardis—two of seven churches of Revelation 2 & 3.

Thyatira is the present-day city of Akhisar, and not many ruins of the ancient city are left. Lydia, Paul's first convert in Philippi, was from here (Acts. 16:14). See Rev. 2:18-29 for the Holy Spirit's message to this N.T. church.

Sardis contains some pretty good ruins including a partially restored gymnasium and synagogue. This was a very old city with along history. A temple to the goddess Artemis (Diana) was found here. John the beloved disciple was the "bishop" of these churches in "Asia" (Asia Minor).

During the evening hours we pulled into our 4<sup>th</sup> prophetic city, now a huge modern seaport, the city of Smyrna—today Izmir. We'll camp here tonight.

## Smyrna

*May 9, 1974*

Spent the day at our camp in Izmir. Some went shopping in town during the morning. But I wasn't feeling well, so I stayed behind to think and pray about a few things.

**\*\*I have a real impression about going to England for my Summer of Service (SOS). I am going to really commit this to prayer. God has promised that He will guide me (Ps. 32:8).**

*May 10, 1974*

Last evening a fellow from Operation Mobilization (O.M.) talked about their work in Turkey, the culture itself, Islam, and problems doing evangelism here. Today, after really setting aside time to intercede for this nation, we left Izmir and drove south to the important N.T. city of Ephesus.



## **Ephesus**

Ephesus is one of the most complete ruins we've visited. Whole streets were intact, and the amphitheater was fantastic (See Acts 19:29). Ephesus was a major commercial center of that area and huge port, like Izmir today. It was the capital of Asia Minor and the mother church of the churches in that area.

Paul planted the church here and spent almost 2-3 years in the city writing letters (Corinthians) as well as having a Bible school which sent out workers all over Asia Minor. The apostle John supposedly spent his last three years here. The city *was* a seaport, but it lies almost seven miles from the sea—the rivers silting up the harbors and turning it into a swamp land.

Had lunch at Ephesus and then drove south to a beautiful MOCAMP right on the beach.

*May 11, 1974*

Have hit our first bit of bad weather. It rained all night and the tents are very wet. We left early to drive inland to the area of Hierapolis, Laodicea, and Colossae. We're camped here near Hierapolis beneath a small mountain. It was again raining as we put up our tents, but we "rebuked it" and God slowed it down and shut off the moisture! After dinner we had a little work-shop, rap-time on discipling and the church. We need more times like this.

*May 12, 1974*

The Lord has really healed me of my hay fever and runny eyes. Thank you, Lord Jesus. I've learned a lot from this problem.

Today was our Sabbath, our free day, and Mother's Day. We shared a worship service in the morning—a very free time of singing, exhortation, gifts of the Spirit, and sharing. In the afternoon, we laid around and talked, played some volleyball, and in the evening, we had a special Mother's Day dinner and fellowship gathering.

## **Hierapolis and Laodicea**

*May 13, 1974*

After a free morning, we left in the afternoon to look around the area. First, we visited the ancient ruins of Hierapolis. (This city is mentioned in the Bible in Colossians 4:12,13.) It was a large city and a health spa resort area because of the hot springs and lime deposits. This town is believed to have been the final hometown and death place of the apostle Philip, who was the pastor/apostle of the church here.

Across the Lychos Valley, which is believed to be one of the earliest regions of civilization that we have visited, we stopped by the ruins of the biblical city of Laodicea—one of the seven churches under John's apostleship. Laodicea was a rich banking city where a church was begun, possibly by Epaphras, a disciple from Paul's Ephesian school (Colossians 4:12,13).

Laodicea received her water supply by pipeline from the hot springs near Hierapolis. When this hot water was pumped across the valley and became mixed with the cold water of the Maeander River, it produces an unusual "lukewarm" quality—hence the spiritual parallel by the Holy Spirit in Revelation 3:15,16 as to the state of the church there.

This was a "rich" city and the Lord rebuked them for drifting into the ease of luxury. Only the grown-over amphitheater (where we sat) remains today... In the evening we played volleyball and had another workshop on church principles.

*May 14, 1974*

Today was quite a day, spiritually-speaking. It was a free day, and in the morning, Stuart Caldwell (NZ), Tom Jennings (US), Danny Gardner (Canada) and I climbed the mountain behind us and had a real time of brokenness and fervent prayer on our knees before God. I really needed this time.

In the afternoon, I had a very neat prayer time and talk with Keith (Warrington). I shared with him my feelings about going to England and the vision of a speaking ministry for God in the future.

\*\*Keith really felt that my guidance was right—that God has a speaking or teaching ministry, possibly like Winkie Pratney's--for me. We also prayed specifically about the summer, and the Lord gave me London and Glasgow, and Keith got No. England and Scotland. Praise God! It was very encouraging. After praying about the next step, I got mixed feelings, and Keith felt that I should go home.

So, it was a real day of guidance. It is wonderful to be under godly leaders like Keith. Makes all the difference. Thank you, Lord.

## Galatia

*May 15, 1974*

Today was a long day of traveling east across central Turkey. We left our campsite in Pamukale early and drove over 12 hours until we reached our destination—the town of Konya—in the N.T. Iconium. Made one visit along the way at the ruins of the city of Pisidian Antioch in Galatia (see Acts 13:14). Quite a large group of Jews lived here. Arrived late after dark in

Konya. It was a good day of fellowship on the bus. We're really beginning to talk about things. That's good.

[And every stop we make, we get off the bus and play head-ball to stretch!]

*May 16, 1974*

After a short night, we rose early and spent the first part of the morning looking around Konya. It's a large city with terrific Muslim influence—kind of a modern Islamic stronghold in Turkey.

Konya (Iconium) is about 3300 feet above sea level and is possibly one of the oldest city sites in the world—even going back to pre-Flood days. Paul was here at least twice. At noon we began driving northeast to our next destination—Goreme—site of the unusual underground Christian cities. We got our first glimpse of the area when we drove in—and it is fantastic. It is a huge valley of caved houses and cities. It was a hot day. Arrived at our campsite about 6 pm, ate, and called it a day.

*May 17, 1974*

After a good time of intercession in the morning, we went into Goreme to explore and caves and underground cities on our own. It was quite an adventure, crawling through tunnels and onto cliffs—entering these cave dwellings dug out of rock by Christians long ago.

Most of the day was spent in different places in the valley, and we got hot, tired, and dirty. We'll spend one more full day here tomorrow. Today is the halfway point on the Middle East Field Trip. In some ways it has seemed so short, and in other ways, so long...

*May 18, 1974*

Spent a full day tour the area, guided by a Turkish school teacher we met in camp. In the morning we visited two underground cities. They were really something—mazes and mazes of tunnels and rooms all underneath the ground. The cities dates back nearly 3500 years to the Hittite peoples and were used over the centuries by many groups including Christians between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D.

Had lunch in an old monastery in a small Turkish town and then visited some caved churches with many frescoes, climbed a rock mountain in the center of town, and watched a potter mold some clay. It was a full day of visiting the Cappadocian Valley (see 1 Peter 1:1). Cappadocia means “land of good names or personalities.”

*May 19, 1974*

Today was our Sabbath and we made it a free day. In the morning I went for a walk with a couple of others. After lunch we had a very good lecture—a discussion on the missionary

methods of Paul. That included the call on his life, his theology, and the way he spoke to people. After this I napped as a storm gathered and just pelted the tents! The cook tent almost crumbled and blew away—we were hanging onto it for dear life. In the evening, as it continued to rain, with gathered with the English SOE in one of our tents for a love feast and time of fellowship. It was a neat time. Was up late doing the dishes. Good day.

*May 20, 1974*

Left Goreme early this morning on a cloudy day and headed toward the capital of Turkey, the city of Ankara. When we arrived in Ankara in the afternoon, it was pouring down rain and we couldn't find a good campsite—so we took off to drive all night to Istanbul. This is bus fellowship! Traveled all night in the rain and fog. Didn't sleep too much.

## Istanbul

*May 21, 1974*

It was a beautiful day in Istanbul, but we were all very tired and just laid around and slept, played some volleyball, and caught up on a few things. We are staying at a beautiful campsite just outside the city which includes a swimming pool. Many English people are staying here. After dinner we shared a bit, and after doing the dishes, I talked and prayed with Jim Orred before going to bed. I am extremely tired.

*May 22, 1974*

We had a free morning, and I went off to fast and pray through lunch about the way I've been feeling. In the afternoon we traveled into downtown Istanbul to shop. What a place! The sellers everywhere are so aggressive and pushy. I really don't like to bargain. Was a relaxing day. In the evening we finished up our discussion on Paul's missionary methods and gave some reports.

*May 23, 1974*

Today was another free day that I spent writing letters, talking with people and playing a bit of volleyball. **Had a meeting in the evening with Keith (Warrington)**. He's been spending a lot of time talking and praying with kids about their SOS's and what comes after that. **I have really grown to love and respect him.**

*May 24, 1974*

Spent most of the day doing things at camp. Today, Marion and Keith returned to the Castle. We're sure going to miss them. I really love them both.

*May 25, 1974*

Last night we learned that a large U.S. aircraft carrier named the USS America arrived in Istanbul and our leadership felt that God would have us to share with some of the guys, and possibly go on board and minister. Well, God opened it all up for us!

In the early morning, a group of us went down to the waterfront to meet some of the guys and share with them. They invited us on board the carrier and we met the chaplain and some of the Christina guys and even held a short service in the afternoon. OTHERS OF US DID PERSONAL WORK. Dan Gardner and I met two guys at the wharf and spent the day walking around town and sharing Christ with them. About 5 pm, they took us on board, showed us all around, we ate dinner on the ship, and then left.

We hitch-hiked and caught a bus back to camp. I really thank the Lord for this opportunity. I think my lack of witnessing has caused a stagnation in my walk with God, and He gave me a wonderful opportunity to come out of it today.

*May 26, 1974*

Today was our Sunday Sabbath and some of us attended various church services in Istanbul, some English-speaking and others Turkish speaking. I went to a Dutch Chapel—very liberal and quite depressing, to be honest.

In the afternoon, I just talked with some people and after dinner, all the groups got together for a worship and communion service along with some Operation Mobilization people and their friends. It was a neat time of singing.

*May 27, 1974*

We'd all been waiting for this morning. It was a day in which we were going to have a "test" on our travels so far. We'd been studying for a couple of days for it. Took the test in the afternoon—and it wasn't bad. I'm very glad I've been traveling the whole thing.

The afternoon was free, and in the evening, we had our first lecture from Sidney Wilson of Open Doors (who replaced Brother Andrew who is recuperating from mouth surgery). Mr. Wilson helped disciple Brother Andrew after his conversion and help him into ministry. They've been to Eastern Europe a few times and Sidney's ministry is now in other areas—mainly discipleship training in Holland. Going to be a good week.

*May 28, 1974*

Had a second morning of lectures on the Ascension of Jesus and His triumph! It was another beautiful day and some of us went downtown and shopped. In the evening, Brother Sidney gave a neat talk on the Tabernacle—and we called it a night.

*May 29-31, 1974*

Shared three days of teaching with Sidney Wilson—mornings and evenings. Afternoons were free to do any number of things. **I've been working on my latest newspaper article on Greece and Turkey and hope to finish this afternoon.** Tonight, we begin a 24-hour day of prayer and fasting for our ministry in Eastern Europe.

Tonight, we had a tremendous time. We all gathered together as a group and had a “walking in the light” session of confessing our sins and really coming clean before God in anticipation of our next critical months of travel in Eastern Europe and Russia. Spent nearly four-hours in gut-level confession and prayer. We really needed it. This is the time we need to come together.

*June 1, 1974*

Today began early as I rose at 3 am to spend time in prayer as we're having a 24-hour prayer chain during the day. Ad as couple of neat hours on the bus as God revealed some things to us and we worshipped Him.

This is a critical day. We're fasting and spending both individual and flock group time seeking God about our ministry in Eastern Europe. Tonight, we'll end our fast with a love feast to Him. God really did some things among us today. **I don't think I've ever spent a more intense day spiritually of individual prayer, group prayer, and counseling people about the things of the Lord.** We really grew during this fast. This is what God showed us:

- Our need for a standard of purity before Him in our actions and attitudes.
- Our ministry in praise and worship.
- A “new commission” God was giving us for this month of spiritual warfare.

I was really bushed after a long day.

*June 2, 1974 – Day of Pentecost*

God began this day of Sabbath by teaching me a real lesson in leadership and the power of prayer as I helped one of my “sheep” with a problem. Big lesson. Then we had a neat service in the morning with a lot of sharing and asking God to “fill us anew” for the adventures that lie ahead.

**Spent the afternoon finishing my article on Greece and Turkey.** In the evening we all listened to a tape concerning the last May Day in Moscow—and then the rest of the time was free.

*June 3, 1974*

Today was catch-up day on a lot of details and menial tasks as we prepare to move in Bulgaria. Had a very good time of intercession in the morning and then the rest of the day was free.

*June 4, 1974*

Spent another day in camp basically counseling people and sorting out problems. **Being a Christian and giving yourself to others is an agonizing and time-consuming thing. People are not easy.** But they are important. I've learned so much this last couple of days.

God DID miraculously and wonderfully PROVE Himself to us today by bringing us the mail. What a wonderful Provider He is. This whole mail situation was another real learning experience for me. Tomorrow, Lord-willing, we leave for Bulgaria.

## **Bulgaria**

*June 5, 1974*

We're on our way to the Bulgarian border and God has given us many promises that we must claim by faith and action concerning our time in this area. These are the most important ones: Is. 52: 11,12, 55:11,12, 41:9-14, 58:5-14, Ps. 100:4, 105:13-15, 106, 111:10, Prov. 3:25,26, Jud. 18:5,6, and Josh. 5:7-8.

Marty Green believes that the Lord would have us to move out more in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Was a long, hot day of travel. Spent a long time at the Turkish-Bulgarian border but God got us through with no hitches. We then drove through the Bulgarian countryside about 160 kms. To our campsite in the woods.

THOTS: 1) What a change from Turkey. This is a communist land, but it certainly does not have the depressing spirit and curse on the land that Turkey had. 2) It is beautifully green and fruitful so far. All local, primitive farming. 3) The people are very friendly. They'd smile and wave as we drove by on the bus.

*June 6, 1974*

In the afternoon, we went into the city of Plovdiv (south, central Bulgaria) and looked around and spoke to some people. A socialist city is really a different kind of place. Very quiet, few cars, and **pictures and books on Lenin and communism everywhere. You see signs and placards depicting the cause.**

We also met some Bulgarian guys at an English school, brought them to the camp for dinner and talked quite a bit with them. Wow, that was revealing. Their names were Todo and Andre. This is my first real look “inside the system.”

*June 7, 1974*

Packed up camp and leisurely drove through the country to the outskirts of Sophia. Poured down rain and thundered and lightnined just after we set up camp and the on into the afternoon and evening. We had a neat time of singing after dinner.

*June 8, 1974*

Spent the morning in camp, and after lunch, went into downtown Sophia. It was much like Plovdiv—clean, quiet, and very communist. After we had walked around for a while. Four of us went to the top sundeck of a big hotel to get some pictures of the main square. Had a good time of prayer up there. We met a Bulgarian man who was a bartender with whom we shared. He was nice to us.

There were numerous large churches in Sophia—big cathedrals—but they were now museums and communist “propaganda covers” more than anything else. Had our last love feast that evening as an entire group (120) at the camp and even did a bit of square dancing in the cool of the evening.

*June 9, 1974 – Sunday*

The Lausanne group left this morning to head to Bucharest, Romania before entering Russia on Tuesday. We won’t see them again for three weeks until we rendezvous back in Hurlach. **It was sad going separate ways.**

Lunch and afternoon, I spent by myself just sleeping and reading and praying on the edge of the stream that flows through our camp. Peaceful. I’m feeling somewhat spiritually low, though, and I pray that God will again renew my heart.

**\*\*The future for me is still a bit hazy. God has not given me any more details yet—and I sought Him about it. I believe He said, “The vision is not yet.”**

*June 10, 1974*

Today we spent most of our time being led of God in Sophia. We had a mighty time of sharing experiences and praise last night all together and today we went out in pairs into the city and talked with people, not believers, and saw a lot of miracles of the Lord.

As we met together in the evening and shared, we realized how supernaturally God had led us all day long to share and encourage believers and talk with other people. Noelene and I had miraculously met a Bulgarian woman believer who had lived in Australia for quite a while



and spoke good English. We spent almost all day with her. Other had divine encounters with people and answers to intercessory prayer.

\*God has given us much insight into the people and communist system in this country. What an inside view of things! It has sure been revealing. **Communism has created such fear and bondage in the land.** Tomorrow we move into central Bulgaria.

*June 11, 1974*

Spent all day on the road today weaving our way through 250 kms. Into the interior of Bulgaria. Our destination was a town called Tarnovo where we had some contact with local believers. We arrived at our campsite about 5 pm under a very imposing dark sky. After praying and asking God to hold back the rain, we whisked up the tents just before the floods came. Man, did it pour! It came down in sheets. Cold as well. After dinner in a little building nearby, we called it a night.

*June 12, 1974*

We awoke this morning to a tremendous windstorm which was playing havoc with the tents. We had intercession in the am and then after lunch, we had a time of openness and brokenness together in the guy's tent. Little irritations had been building up for some time now and a lot of things came out—and I feel we came together. Praise the Lord. Right after this session, some of the gusty winds began to break the supports in the girl's tent—and we spent most of the afternoon shifting gear, fixing equipment and relocating it. Then we had a leisurely evening in camp. Never did get to see Tarnovo. Tomorrow early we leave for the Black Sea.

*June 13, 1974*

It was another long day of travel as we broke camp in Tarnovo and continue east to Varna on the Black Sea coast. Long day. Didn't get into camp until late after dark.

*June 14, 1974*

Spent most of the day walking around Varna and getting supplies and stuff. It was good except that my leg was really getting sore the more we walked. After dinner we had a time of sharing experiences and "contacts" we'd had during our time in Bulgaria.

We have learned much about the people—communism—and the situation that believers face here. It is horrible. It has depressed me greatly. As we gathered in the bus tonight to listen to a report on communism and for prayer, **God really revealed areas of sin in my life—ugly areas of pride and jealousy and fear of man in sharing the gospel. It was hard to bear.**

*June 15, 1974*

This morning after breakfast on this free day in camp, I went off to seek the Lord about my bummed-out attitude and strain. After this revealing time, I just lounged around the camp most of the day, going down to the beautiful beach for a while. Had a love feast with the English Team in the evening and again shared contacts and experiences. After clean-up, a group of us went down to the beach and just sat near the water, talking, singing and praying. It was a wonderful time.

*June 16, 1974*

After a worship service in the morning (while others shared at some churches in town), we picked up camp and drove north toward the Romanian border. One little problem on the way as we blew a tire on the bus and had to change it. At the border crossing people were nice, but we had to go through the most thorough inspection we've had so far—even individually opening our suitcases, a German dog smelling for drugs, and a complete “frisking” of our vehicles.

#### EXPERIENCES WHILE IN BULGARIA

1. Communism: as a theoretical system, its motivating factor is fear. It's good to live for other people (that's what they say they're doing), however if you don't change people's selfish hearts, you must motivate them by force.
  - a. One-third of the people in Bulgaria work directly or indirectly with the police.
  - b. We had numerous people following us on in our travels.
  - c. You must keep people ignorant – there is no literature outside of communist propaganda everywhere. People don't know about the freedom of the West.
  - d. It's a brain-washing system. One college girl said to us there if there were a Christian at her university, then daily pressure would be put on this person to persuade them they were wrong. Our friend used the word “propaganda,” not knowing its connotation to us.
  - e. Attitude toward the church: Have given up on out-and-out persecution and turned to more subtle tactics:
    - i. Indoctrinate the youth as communists—no choice.
    - ii. Put pressure on believers – fear. Always watched – harassment.
    - iii. Allow nearly no outside literature.
    - iv. Watch the older generation of Christians die off with no leaders to take their place.
    - v. Put up a “tourist front” of freedom of religion to trick the West into thinking that there is no problem. They allow a few “show” churches in the cities.
      1. Tourist guide in Sophia – two laws – both religious freedom and no proselytizing.

- vi. Cut off necessities to Christians:
  1. A pastor in Varna suffers from migraine headaches daily. Can't get medicine—even aspirin. (We gave him all of ours.)
  2. Christians can't get jobs.
- 2. Experiences in Bulgaria:
  - a. Believers are crying out for literature and supplies.
    - i. In Sophia we visited the home of a pastor who was very old and sick. His wife wanted many books to translate into Bulgaria. We gave her some.
    - ii. An old pastor in Varna desperately wanted books to translate—he could hardly see.
  - b. Fear in the home:
    - i. Tarnovo – We visited the home of a Christian family, and when neighbors came to the door, they became very nervous and fearful.
    - ii. Varna – We took a van on a round-about detour and parked far from a believer's home because “they were being greatly watched.”
    - iii. Had a wonderful time of prayer and praise in a Christian home in Sophia.
  - c. Attending house meetings:
    - i. In Sophia, we were greeted by a pastor's son in a home who wouldn't go with us, got fetched his dad. Both were fearful for going with us.
    - ii. Had to be careful in homes. Was easy to endanger the locals.
    - iii. In the “formal” churches, there was almost always a policeman (KGB) present, as well as others.
  - d. Street Contacts:
    - i. People were much more open than I expected. Many of them could not put God out of their minds.
      1. A believer in a hospital shared her hope in God with a doctor and said she had no fear of death. The doctor told her that the first time he heard a heart=beat, he knew there must be a God.
        - a. He told her not to tell anybody.
      - ii. Bulgarian boys in Plovdiv—Just hadn't thought about God because they couldn't do it and “more up” in society.”
        1. They said, “We were taught in biology there was no God.”
      - iii. Noelene and I meeting the woman from Australia. God's guidance.
- 3. Other Things:
  - a. God showed us to be on the offensive here during our stay. We can shatter the power of the enemy.
  - b. The church desperately needs unity and freedom from tradition.
  - c. In Tarnovo, some of our guys talked to camp personnel who tried to get their pictures. Later, in Varna, a desk person said to us: “Oh, you're the religious group,”—obviously showing that the authorities had called ahead.

- d. At one house fellowship of twelve they told us they greatly coveted our prayers. But they had one request: They do not want our sympathy or pity when we come, but desire spiritual “food” and help.

## Romania

Now we’re in Romania. Very similar to Bulgaria at first site. We’re staying at a primitive camp for the night and tomorrow we move on.

*June 17, 1974*

Had another long day driving through the Romanian countryside toward the Russian border. The propaganda and influence of communism doesn’t seem as great here. We haven’t seen the abundance of signs, posters and monuments that littered Bulgaria. All around us is farming land—of a very poor country.

We crossed the Danube River at one point today. Very big. We’re camping right near the border. In the morning, we will move into the territory of the devil himself. We must be prepared and ready and full of the praises of our God. Some of our “rough edges” have been showing. Tomorrow we must “shine for Christ.”

## Russia (The U.S.S.R.)

*June 18, 1974*

An eventful day. Today was our first day in Russia. We headed to the border early (which was a good thing) because it took us six hours to cross. I’ve never seen anything like this before. Security was so tight. The Russian border guards went through everything that we had, and even confiscated some of our personal material and literature, saying that it was “anti-Soviet.” They got a good look at enough Bibles and things pertaining to God. I think they know who we are (ha ha).

We then set off on a long drive to Odessa with a young Russian guide whose name is Valentina. Odessa is a large city of about 1 million people on the Black Sea. What a journey! The Russian roads were the worst we’d seen so far, far more rugged than the ones in Turkey. It was a bumpy, slow night of song and sleep.

We arrived in Odessa around 3 am, and by the time we found the camp-site and put up the tents, it was daybreak. Quite a first day in this land of darkness.

*June 19, 1974*

Got an hour or two of sleep in the morning and at lunch around 11 am. Then a few of us went across the street and enjoyed a refreshing dip in the Black Sea—beautiful resort beach area. In the afternoon we took a tour of the city—interesting. The city guide was nice but gave us a snow job on the greatness of Russia and the important features of Odessa. You just can't believe what they say.

*June 20, 1974*

In my quiet time this morning in the trees near the beach, God really spoke to me about the depth of love that I must have for Him. I still am somewhat entrenched in a love of God that is centered around what He does for me, and how I feel, rather than His pure worthiness. I'm not yet completely willing to suffer for Jesus.

In the afternoon, I went with a couple of others into Odessa and spent quite an interesting afternoon. First, we met a Russian Jewish woman at a post office and shared a good talk with her. Right after that we conversed with a Russian man who knew English—and who ended up taking us out for champagne and lemonade as we chatted. Really interesting... We got some real insights into the Russian living conditions here.

After that we walked past a small Russian Orthodox Church, took some pictures and rode a tram back to camp. In the evening we listened to the remainder of the Linda's report on communism and called it a night.

*June 21, 1974*

Started out very early on an 800 km. drive from Odessa to Kiev, the capital of Ukraine. Long day of traveling on very rough roads. Arrived at the camp around dinnertime. Camp here is a little better than the one in Odessa. Had a nice evening—including a snack—before going to bed.

\*\*There seem to be quite a few "suspicious" people around here, however.

*June 22, 1974*

After breakfast we went into Kiev for a short sight-seeing trip and then back to the camp for lunch. After a leisurely afternoon we had dinner, which was interrupted by an opportunity for me to share a Bible with a young Russian boy. What a fantastic encounter! Four German kids had met him, and he wanted to know about God, so the five of us sat down in their tent.

Shared all that I knew about the moral government of God. He was so receptive. I prayed for him before he had to leave, and I gave him my pocket Bible which he was so anxious to have and read. Hallelujah.

\*We all have some great opportunities today. A young Russian Christian came to contact Lynn. He had met the Lausanne group and was from a large fellowship group in town—what news! He also informed us that there are hundreds of Christian youth in Moscow and even an underground newspaper. Praise God He is raising up His church.

\*\*Some young thieves approached us at the camp who had stolen many times and possessed 2000 rubles. They wanted to buy most of what we had. They were very nervous and even mentioned the KGB. You READ about these things...Tomorrow is our last full day in Russia.

*June 23, 1974*

In the morning some went into town to spend time there. Some went to a Catholic Church service, others went to a technological exhibition and I went with others taking pictures, meeting people, and just looking around.

After we made it back to back by public transport, we all got together (along with our guides) for our last love feast as a group. It was a time of eating and sharing, had a couple of skits, and worshipped. It was a great ending to our time in Russia. A young Russian man, one of our eleven “Jesus People” in Kiev, was also with us. A very rich time.

*June 24, 1974*

Rose early and began our trip west toward the Russian border. It ended up being a long day of travel, and we arrived in the town of Lvov around dusk. We're on our way home now and it's hard to imagine that this Middle East Field Trip is almost over. **What a wonderful, life-changing three months this has been. Now it's on to the next adventure...a little more confident, a little more thankful, and a lot more in love with God and hopeful for the future.**

\*\*God so graciously leads us step by step.

*June 25, 1974*

Up early again and are sailing toward the border. Lord-willing, we want to drive straight through to Hurlach as “Katie” is really smelling the barn! Maybe I can compile some of my thoughts now:

- Eastern Europe and Russia were much different than I expected. Much poorer and dirtier than I had anticipated. Especially Russia.
- **Socialism as a system doesn't work. The east is much poorer in all ways that I can see in comparison to the West.**

We drove all day and all night, God leading and protecting. Prayer really speeded us through the Russian border this time.

# Hungary-Czechoslovakia

*June 26, 1974*

At about 4 am we made it to the Czechoslovakian—Austrian border. What a good feeling. After a long night as the sun began to dawn on us, we were again entering the Free World. It was a wonderful feeling as we sailed into Austria. There are vast differences between the West and socialist countries. Quite a contrast. I'm thankful to have visited this imprisoned part of the world...Sure makes me appreciate the land of my birth and the blessings and privileges there. For far too long, I've taken it for granted.

## Austria

\*\*Now it's on to Deutschland!!!

## Germany

\*\*\*Made it back to the Castle for a hearty reunion and welcome about 5 pm. What a joyous occasion it was! So good to be back "home" and to see everyone again. And boy was mail-call a treat. Hallelujah.

After seeing everyone and reading mail and having dinner, we called it a night.

**The adventure for God is over. Now the future and His glory looms every ahead and quickening toward us. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*June 27, 1974*

Our first day back at Schloss Hurlach. Got up early and took some people (Chris and Kathy Overman and Nathaniel) to the Munich airport, then returned to the Castle to begin taking care of some of the "transitional details" that must be done before we leave for Amsterdam. It was a day of enjoying people and doing little stuff. I had a nice walk and quiet time in the evening—God is still showing me many things.

*June 28, 1974*

Today was a day of odds and ends—preparing for what lies ahead. Can't think of anything specific except that in the evening Jerry and Jan Gaffney invited me to go with them to a McDonalds in Augsburg. That was a real treat!

*June 29, 1974*

Today was another day of preparation. I shipped some things home, then in the afternoon Dave Boy and Ron Stephens shared what had been happening at the Castle and especially about

their financial needs. Don also shared a testimony about his own personal need and it really touched me—Then we all shared our needs together and prayed for one another.

+ God really spoke to me during this time about my faithfulness and giving and my trusting in Him concerning finances.

In the evening, we all squeezed together into the chapel to sing and share, mainly about our different times of ministry in Russia and Eastern Europe. Was extremely wonderful. This sure is a wonderful family.

*June 30, 1974*

Wrote my last short newspaper article this morning and spent the rest of Sunday “working,” preparing for our trip to Amsterdam tomorrow. (It sure is hard to write on a bumpy bus!) In the evening we all gathered in the chapel again for a lovely time of song, praise, and giving. We took two offerings at the service, one for the Castle payment and the other for people’s needs for the summer. Over 5600 Deutsch Marks were given!! I couldn’t believe it. God must have multiplied it. There was such a wonderful feeling of love and sharing.

Don also shared about our two weeks in Amsterdam and they sound very exciting. Early, early tomorrow we leave.

\*Our next adventure begins.

*July 1, 1974*

We’re on our way to the Amsterdam Summer Kick-off Crusade. We left real early from Hurlach after some tearful good byes, then drove all day through Germany and up north to The Netherlands.

## **Holland (The Netherlands)**

Holland is an extremely flat, but pretty country. I think it’s one of the “neatest” countries I’ve ever visited. Every home is so pretty, clean and well-kept. It’s beautiful. The land is so flat, too.

Arrived at our campsite about an hour’s drive from Amsterdam at about 6 pm—and took hours to set up our 20 or so large tents. What a job! Then the people started to gather... These two weeks are going to be tremendous.

*July 2, 1974 – Beginning of the Amsterdam Kick-off Crusade*

[There are 500 kids here from about 20 nations (mostly Europe), and the meetings are being held in a large tent with simultaneous translation taking place in about five languages. My first



experience with this little “taste of heaven.” I was chosen to be one of the young team leaders at the outreach. I’m too busy to write most of the time!]

*July 4, 1974*

I’m waiting on two things before the Lord now, and as I prayed today, things still were not clear: 1) My specific place this summer, and 2) California (Desert Hot Springs) Leadership Conference in September. STILL WAITING....

*July 9, 1974*

God has really begun to teach me to depend on Him for my needs. For a couple of days, I’ve been praying about a new razor blade and two stamps, and yesterday He provided beyond my imagination. 100 guilders (\$40)!! He is so wonderful.

*July 11, 1974*

Corrie ten Boom spoke to us this evening and it was a real wonderful time. When she stepped to the podium she said, “I might be eighty years old, but I’m still Youth With A Mission!” She loves the Lord and I’m thankful to have heard her and had a chance to meet her after the meeting.

*July 14, 1974 – Sunday*

It was our last day of the outreach and very appropriately, Loren Cunningham flew in to be with us to speak. He was very inspiring. What a man of God he is.

\*God spoke deeply to me yesterday about the ugly areas of pride that are still in my life, including my dreams of leadership, fruitfulness etc.—and it really hurt. I really need to make this right with You, Lord Jesus.

As I prayed and confess this, God gave me these verses: (Jer. 31:16-20):

“Thus, says the Lord. Retrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears. For your work shall be rewarded, declares the Lord. And they shall return from the land of the enemy—and there is hope for you future, declares the Lord, and your children will return from their own territory.”

“I have surely heard Ephraim grieving. You have chastised me, and I was chastised, like an untrained calf. Bring me back that I may be restored, for You are the Lord my God. For after I turned back I repented... (v.20). Therefore, my heart yearns for him. I will surely have mercy upon him, declares the Lord.”

+ I’m at a crucial state in my life. Lord, please guide me and purify me that I may honor You in the greatest way.

*July 15, 1974*

It's on to the next growing stage in God. Soon we leave for England. God showed me these things today: 1) Lay aside my pride and longing for leadership, 2) Fix my eyes on Jesus, and 3) Endure discipline.

## **Belgium**

*July 16, 1974*

God is so abundantly taking care of me as I move into the Summer of Service (SOS). He miraculously provided me with enough money (282 Belgian francs—I already had 285) for the ferry across to Dover after teaching me to trust and obey Him in Amsterdam, giving away the 5 guilders out of 25 that I thought I'd need. What a wonderful Savior.

## **England (United Kingdom)**

Then today upon my arrival at Ifield Hall [first YWAM base in England], there was 300 Deutsch marks waiting for me! Oh, Lord, **continue to teach me to give and depend upon You**. Thanks for guiding me to give half of this to Nelda.

*July 21, 1974*

**God has given me here in England the greatest challenge of my life. I will be leading a team in a city called Guildford and it's an immense undertaking.**

I'm feeling the burden today, Lord Jesus. So inadequate, so frail—so inferior—so self-conscious. Please, Lord, raise me up and gird me to live up to my calling with joy, humility and confidence in my God.

*July 25, 1974*

So much has happened while I've been here at Ifield Hall that I kind of feel at a loss to list it. I'll try—that God may be honored by the results.

I believe the Lord would have me to make it home for Wally's wedding—which is very tight, but I'm trusting Him to get me back to Germany and for the connections to be made. It will be difficult, but I feel it's right.

\*Today we will begin our SOS by traveling down to Guildford. I'm very anxious to see God do a work amongst us. I pray that we will be a worthy channel for His great power and love.

*July 26 – August 23 – Summer of Service in Guildford, England*

How can I say in words the experiences in God that I've had in Guildford, Surrey, England this summer? God had clearly called me to lead a team of four people (Steve Herzig – England, Katherine Foster – South Africa, Cheri Whittington – Australia, and me) into one of the richest communities in the land—physically and spiritually, to the city of Guildford and a thriving Baptist Church under the ministry of one of Britain's most reputable men of God, the Reverend David Pawson.

His congregation is a large one of between 600-1000 people, by name, the Millmead Centre. They had asked for a Youth With A Mission team to come and begin a coffee bar work right near the church on the River Way and to mobilize the church and church youth to move out in evangelism.

The four of us arrived in high spirits, geared to move into this youth work, to train and send them out in the city door-to-door on the streets, and in the coffee bar itself with the saving message of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our first week was spent getting to know people, then renovating and remodeling a small building near the church which was to become the “Way Inn”—our coffee bar and headquarters. Had been a tough “pub” before we took it over. Its transformation was miraculous and quick.

During the second week, our real spiritual warfare work began, and much to our surprise, God showed us that we had a large youth group with many needs—so we led them in the direction of teaching and discipling them in the ways of God. Though a powerful ministry word came from David Pawson from the pulpit each Sunday, the youth were vague and inexperienced in their faith and very unsure about their own hope and salvation—let alone sharing it with others. Because of this, after much prayer and discussion, the four of us felt that God was directing us to center our minister around evangelizing them—and see God develop a core of young people who would carry on the work after we left. With this perspective, we opened the coffee bar and began teaching.

For two weeks our schedule was very intense. In the mornings we would meet for team teaching and prayer and then the coffee bar would open at 1 pm—three ministering downstairs and me teaching upstairs in our “Upper Room.” God was really blessing—and the fight was on. We were sharing things that were polarizing people—the truth does that—and we began to see a real confrontation brewing with the church leadership—yet God was blessing our work!

Our fourth and final weeks in Guildford saw the fruit and fight develop. We were doing much individual discipling at this point and taking kids out door-to-door and into the streets. Downstairs in the coffee bar, we had made many wonderful friendships with tough folks who frequented the place. God's Word was changing them.

[A special encounter during this time was meeting Roger Cresswell near the river where he'd come--contemplating suicide. We prayed, counseled, and disciplined him into serving God with us. He went on to join the Renewal Team in 1977 and eventually married Mary Scott, my D.C. secretary--long-time friends.]

We finished our work having completed our message—producing a solid core of fifteen young people who turned their lives around. The entire time we took only one day off. Stuart Caldwell, my good New Zealand brother, joined us the last week-and-a-half and his presence was tremendous. A summer to remember...and never forget.

#### THOUGHTS:

1. This SOS was the greatest challenge of my life to date. I felt the anointing of God in terms of sharing and prayer like I'd never experienced before. I felt His absence acutely at other times as well—as I agonized over decisions I was having to make here.
2. The issue of what really was the truth of the gospel—was mind-boggling. For the first time I saw the radicalness of the words of Jesus. You cannot have a mediocre opinion of Jesus Christ. You either love Him or you don't. You're either in the Kingdom of Light or you're not. You're either given Him everything or you've given Him nothing. There is no middle road in the Christian faith.

+ The consequences of this message are frightening. I learned this in Guildford. Can the basic truths of the gospel be compromised for unity? Are we rightly representing God and lifting Him up through His truth?

3. I learned a lot about leading people—it's an awesome responsibility. We'll stand before God about how we have directed the lives of others.

+ This is the question: WHAT REALLY is the message of Jesus Christ, and am I willing to speak it and stand behind it as all cost?

God gave me a message on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August—the international day of prayer and fasting: 1) Speak the truth, 2) Trust in Me, 3) Be humble, 4) Be clean, 5) Be willing, and 6) MOVE FORWARD!

## Scotland

*August 24-31, 1974 – Edinburgh Outreach*

Spent my final week of the SOS in Scotland where 200 YWAMers gathered to witness for God in this very pretty but dark city in the north. The Edinburgh Arts Festival was the occasion for our gathering, and we took advantage of the crowds to sin on the streets and share

with people. Enjoyed wonderful teaching times in the mornings and outreach most afternoons and evenings. I was leading a team of twelve, and it was very challenging.

\*God is speaking to me and humbling me. The future lies ahead.

*September 1, 1974*

God is saying—Prepare Yourself. It's time to move out and back to the States with a vision for God. I believe He wants me to attend the YWAM leadership conference in mid-September.

\*Spent nearly two-and-a-half hours just waiting on Him today. My prayer life is anemic. Reading *Praying Hyde* just blew my mind. I need to know God in the place of prayer.

+ Prepare Yourself, Ron. Should be home in a week. Can I be a vessel that God can use to take America for Jesus Christ? God is saying to put on His armor (Eph. 6) and undergird it with prayer – 1 Pet. 1:13-16.

\*I must go home in humility and weakness filled up with the power and authority of my God. Lord, help prepare me.

## Germany

*September 5, 1974*

It's wonderful to be back at the Castle again—after a long drive. Took us almost 26 hours (which included an eight-hour wait for a ferry in Dover). There was a strong gale in the English Channel and everything was shut down. Arrived around midnight back home.

These couple of days have been difficult as well. Since I'm on the verge of returning to the United States, and moving into a ministry, I've been greatly tempted by the enemy the last few days. Part of it is due to what God has been saying to me concerning my prayer life. This morning He showed me to take a small step forward and begin setting aside time twice a day instead of once to be with Him. I will not become a prayer giant overnight. I must be realistic and grow from where I currently stand.

+ Lord – teach me to meet You in prayer.

“Be what you are, while pressing in toward what you can become in Me.”

*September 6, 1974*

Well, I'm in the air again and on my way home. It has been a long day of traveling, flying, sitting, reading, thinking and trying to imagine what is ahead.

How could I ever forget how wonderful You've been to me during this time, Father?  
Nine months ago, I left home weak, confused, dirty, and uncertain.

+ Today I return, still weak, but now knowing the truth, clean, and expectant for the future.

\*I'm a new person, washed in the blood of the Lord Jesus, and very thankful.

I'm coming back to take America for God. I don't know how, when or what, but I know  
WHO will be my guide and strength.

I read Paul's pastoral letters to Timothy and they seemed as if they were written to me:

Once again, Lord Jesus, I lay my life at Your feet, now a little wiser, a little older, and  
much more in love with You. Also--totally dependent. You ARE my life. I can truly say that  
now. May we move forward together for Your glory alone on this earth and throughout all  
eternity.

## Port Orchard, Washington

*October 1, 1974*

I praise the Lord for working out all the details in moving me into this time of real study  
and sharing vision.

+ Believe God wants me to set aside a day a week to fast.

*October 7, 1974*

Ezra 7:10: "For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of his God and to practice it and to  
teach his statutes and ordinances in Israel."

\*This is my goal, Lord Jesus.

God is really speaking to me about my prayer life. I will learn to pray. Am going to set  
aside a half an hour around lunchtime every day to intercede.

*October 11, 1974*

I've been feeling a little lonely the past couple of days, but this morning the Lord really  
spoke to me about the use of this time to study and what an important time it is. I believe He  
encouraged me to Build the Wall (Nehemiah), rooting my life in Him and His Word. This is a  
time of preparation. I must use it.

"But now, O God, strengthen my hands" (Nehemiah 6:9).

Heard from Gordon Olson. I sure hope I can spend some time with him in the spring. And if I'm asked to come to Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), I believe I should go.

*October 16, 1974*

Had a time of prayer today and was strongly impressed to pray for Finland and the move of God there, and especially that 100 Finns would come to Eurofest next summer, and that the Spirit of God would use Finnish young people to sweep across the country of Sweden.

Also prayed against the workings of the devil in Bremerton at this time as both the "Exorcist" and "Chariots of the God" are in town.

+ We need to make a stand.

*October 18, 1974*

After a talk with my dad last night, I realize how unloving I have been at home, especially toward my mom, and what a time-bomb is sitting in this house. What a heavy, disillusioned heart I had today. I don't know what's going to happen. Quite a battle is going on in my life at this point as to following God wholly and my relationship to other people.

+ One thing I know is that I must learn to be a servant. I can hate sin and still serve people. It must be possible. I don't want to be melodramatic, but I'm feeling very much here that "a prophet isn't without honor except in his hometown and in his own household" (Matt. 13:57).

*October 19, 1974*

"You shall prepare the roads for yourself" (Deuteronomy 19:3).

"Behold how happy is the man whom God reproves. So, do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. For He inflicts pain and gives relief. He wounds, and He heals" (Job 13:15,16a).

Lord: "Only two things do not do for me. Then I would not hide from your face. Remove your hand from me and let not the dread of You terrify me" (Job 13:20,21).

I've been going through difficult waters, but the Lord has encouraged me to continue to BUILD THE WALL, meaning to study and make His truth a foundation for defense as well as warfare in my life.

\*This is something to pray on. I believe it is a possibility that the Lord would have me take a group of young people to Eurofest '75. Need to pray about it.

*October 29, 1974*

The past couple of days have been ones of a great deal of temptation for me—a real problem in me and a big assault by the enemy. It's been vicious.

Proverbs 28:13 – “He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper. But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.”

*October 30, 1974*

The deep dealings have continued, but the Lord spoke to me about some things this morning. I've really been struggling...like swimming against a current. Here is what He revealed:

1. I need to humble myself. I don't know it all nor have all the answers. There remain areas of pride in my life.
2. Keep on believing. I still must learn the perseverance of faith. The fruit and the rewards are won in battle.
3. \*Real revelation: I must remember that I am in my hometown. This is the reason I've missed God's anointing since coming home. Even Jesus had the experience (Mark 6:5,6). There is not a “channel of faith” here, and it will be this way.
4. Forsake evil, I must turn away from the temptation I've been facing.
5. Taking up the full armor of God is a must. The enemy is on the attack.

Father, these aren't pat answers. But I pray they'll help me through to honor You. I want to learn.

*November 10, 1974*

Much has happened since I've been home, many joys and many trials. I'm also learning a great lesson: Once you've given yourself to a person, emptied your heart, cried, prayed and then they refuse you, just as the Lord commanded us to love, he also commanded us to shake the dust off our feet. This is the case with C! I believe it is over. Her heart is hardened, she has rejected God and rejected. Why? I guess because “people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.” \*I can do no more.

*November 14, 1974*

“You are going to preach. You are going to understand my ways. You must be filled with the Holy Ghost.”

*December 4, 1974*

The Lord has continued to take me through quite a time of searching and testing. Many things are on my mind about my ministry now. Prayer requests for the future, and my plans in the distance. I've never gone through a “purging” of this type, but I know it's necessary.

The Lord has said, “Go through the Valley with Me.” I'm going to be shaken. If it's for your glory, Lord Jesus, then I'm ready and willing. Do with me as you wish. “Thy will be done.



December 8, 1974

I've been going through deep water, just as the Lord told me it would be. I've sinned against God and felt hardness of heart that is frightening. Reona Peterson (Joly) wrote me from Finland and shared 2 Cor. 4:17-18 with me. She felt that I was going through a real testing time "alone with God" and that's exactly true.

*[ For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. ]*

Show me your ways, dear Lord. I'm willing to go... "Forsake your folly and live and proceed in the way of understanding" (Proverbs 9:6).

This I will do...

+ One wonderful prayer confirmation from God was Reona asking me to pray about going to Eurofest. Thank you, Lord, for this great confirmation."

December 16, 1974

Spent a wonderful weekend with Dan Secrist here at home. On Saturday evening we had a tremendous meeting with about 20 college age kids, and on Sunday, a meeting with about 20 high school age young people.

I believe God that laborers are going to come out of this group.

\*I believe very possibly that God's timing for my going to Rhodesia is about a year away and will involve much more than a week SOE stint. This is the impression that I get in prayer. I prayer the Lord will unfold and clarify it.

\*\*My ministry to people is getting very broad. Lord, I must know Your priorities for me during this time. I love people and want to be available to their needs, but could I do more for God if I gave my heart to study and prayer NOW as priority?

December 24, 1974

It's Christmas Eve and it's a lonely night. After the candlelight service at Elim, it was late and chilly and raining, but I just wanted to get away, so I took a walk. My heart is very heavy and confused tonight over the state of the Church, my own family, and my testimony in it, and the inadequacies in myself...It is a burden that is hard to bear.

I am truly an alien in my household, foreign to the language and loves of it, a pilgrim who's struggling on a lonely road. Lord Jesus, what do I do?

My all again comes to mind: 1. Be sober, 2. Endure hardship—that's now! 3. Do the work of an evangelist. 4. Fulfill your ministry.

Lord please show me how. "My wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established. And by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is strong, and a man of knowledge increases power (Proverbs 24:3-5). \*Words are inadequate to describe my thoughts. Father—I place my life at Your feet. Show me, then use me.

*December 25, 1974*

Last night as I lay thinking on my bed, "the work of the Lord" kept coming to my mind—that I must go forward and not fail in God's work that He has called me to.

+ Well, here is the morning's *Daily Light*: "Be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith...I must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day. The night comes when no man can work." Amen, Lord Jesus. This is my need and my call. The WORK must go on.

*December 31, 1974*

What a year it has been. God has been SO good to me...As I looked over my journal this morning concerning His works and His dealings over the past twelve months, I was amazed at the lessons and the insights that were given.

+ God changed my life in 1974. I met Him in sincerity and truth for the first time. He completely turned my heart and mind around concerning my conduct, my message, my future and everything in between. 1974 was a year of OVERHAUL. He has been so abundantly gracious. I have not deserved even one iota, but He has been faithful.

\*I believe this coming year God is "setting me apart for the work to which He has called me" (Acts 13:1-2). This year the WORK OF GOD begins and intensifies.

As I read the book of 2 Timothy. I believe the Scripture illumined personally paints this portrait for the future:

- "Serve with a clear conscience."
- "Join in suffering for the gospel."
- "God through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us the treasure that has been entrusted to you."
- "Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."
- "And the things that you've heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."
- "Suffer hardship with me as a good soldier of Christ Jesus."

- “No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him a soldier.”
- “Be diligent to present yourself approved unto God as a workman...handling accurately the word of truth.”
- “Pursue after righteousness, faith, love, peace, with those who call upon the Lord from a pure heart.”
- “And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”
- \*\* “You however, continue in the things you have learned, and BECOME CONVINCED OF, knowing from whom you have learned them.”
- “I charge you: “Preach the word. Reprove, rebuke, exhort with great patience and instruction. ...Be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

What a picture! **Marching forward in the WORK OF GOD, teaching, studying, preaching and enduring.**

I love you, Lord Jesus. Things are not quite right. Let's make them so.