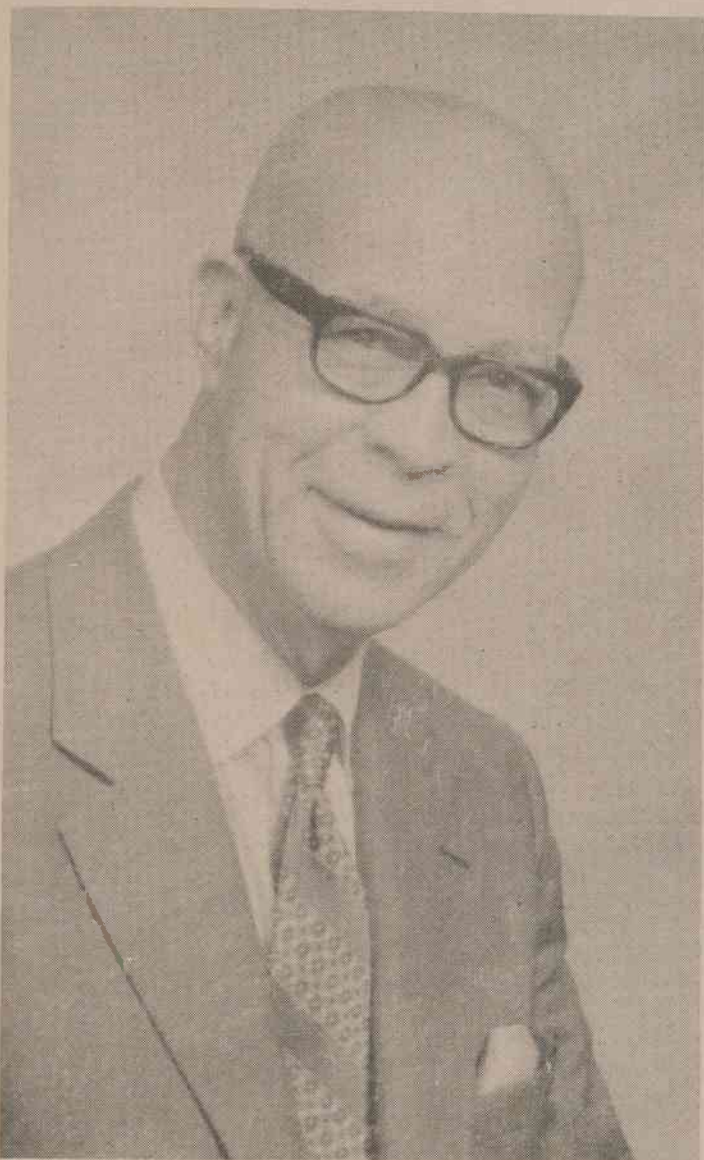


SPECIAL FEATURE



Dr. R. Irving Boone

By R. Irving Boone
University Minister

Upon the invitation of Editor Liverman and his staff of the COMPASS, I am pleased to give some of the reminiscences of my recent trip abroad. From time to time in the months ahead, there will be time to elaborate on my travel experiences: with students in my academic courses; in regular sessions of UCRF; with other student organizations; in informal conversations with my colleagues and students; from the platform; and in subsequent articles in The COMPASS, as well as through my own publication, THE MASONIC JOURNAL.

This present release will confine itself to a summary report of some of the places visited on this three-continent itinerary-in parts of Europe, Africa, and Asia-with focus on Rome, Italy; Cairo, Egypt; Jerusalem, and other points in the Holy Land.

Rome-the "Eternal City". Our visit to this beautiful Metropolis started at Piazza Venezia, the geographical center of the manifold and picturesque attractions of Rome. This particular square, dominated by the spectacular Monument to Victor Emmanuel II, is not only the fulcrum of Rome's political, religious, and social life, but also a point of reference for the visitor. It is here that the most important thoroughfares of the city radiate.

And, now, a point of reference to other points of special interest visited in this ancient city: The Forum, with its massive temples and imposing arches; the Colosseum, in whose amphitheatre were held the greatest gladiatorial shows of antiquity; the Arena, where early first century Christians were thrown to vicious beasts, and where the "blood of the saints became the seed of the Christian Church"; the ghastly dungeon, where the Apostle Paul was imprisoned, and where he wrote three of his great Epistles (Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon); the site of Nero's chopping block, where the Apostle suffered martyrdom; the Sistine Chapel, one of the most outstanding masterpieces of Italian art, celebrated for Michelangelo's marvelous frescoes, and the famous paintings of other renown artists; the Vatican City-State, spiritual center of the Roman Catholic Church, and scene of St. Peter's, the world's largest church- a massive and stately edifice of awe-inspiring majesty and exquisite grandeur; the Appian Way, the world's oldest paved road-over which traveled the proud Caesars and marched the might Roman armies; the ruined walls and ghostly fortresses, bearing mute testimony to the ultimate futility of physical might and the eventual obliteration of the sword.

Cairo, Egypt. Here in

this ancient city (population, 5,000,000), we were in residence at the fabulous Nile Hilton Hotel, located on the Nile River. It will be recalled that here on the banks of the Nile-through the ingenuity and skill of black men-is where world civilization began; and it is here where one of the "wonders of the world,"-the ancient Pyramids-still stand, a monumental shrine of mathematical and architectural genius.

Fantastic, indeed, was our boat ride down the Nile, and our visit-on this ride-to the spot where Moses was hidden by his mother among the bushes, to protect him from the wrath of Pharaoh, and where, later, he was found and rescued by Pharaoh's daughter.

Of special cultural significance among the scenes in Cairo was the Egyptian Museum-the world's largest-filled with tombs, mummies, shrines, works of art, relics, dating back to 3,000 years B. C. Throughout this vast complex, the scientific research and findings of world famous archaeologists were in impressive evidence.

The total population of Egypt (the official name is the United Arab Republic) is slightly over 34,000,000, with Cairo as its largest city. About 92% of the population is Moslem and Islam is the state religion; while about 7% belong to the Coptic Church. Arabic is the official and national language.

Jerusalem, Israel; Holy Land. For thousands of years men have talked of "going up to Jerusalem." They were not thinking of the rugged Judean hills that command the approaches to the city but rather the eternal aspirations of man that this city symbolized. It is however, literally, a "going up" as the last part of the 44-mile road from Tel Aviv (where our plane landed) to Jerusalem winds ever upward along the side of the rose-tinted rock, until one feels that he is about to leave earth for heaven. Suddenly, on a plateau at the very top rise the stone-faced buildings and red-tiled roofs of the capital-the city of Jerusalem. It was Solomon the wise, the son of David, who made Jerusalem the religious spiritual center of the tribes of Israel, when he built his magnificent temple there. Over the centuries, Jerusalem has become a sacred symbol to more than a billion people. On its grounds stand shrines venerated by the three great monotheistic religions and therein lies the essence of its strength and spirit.

Jerusalem has a population of over 300,000, with 90% Jews, and the rest mainly Arabs. It was here in this ancient city that we spent a greater part of our sojourn in the Holy Land.

Among the sacred places which we visited in Old Jerusalem were: the site of Solomon's Temple; the Wailing Walls, commemorative of the destruction of the Temple by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar; the House of Annas, the High Priest; the Citadel, monumental fortress built by King David, to protect the city against foreign invaders; the Garden of Gethsemane, scene of the sufferings and agonies of our Savior, where "drops of sweat like blood ran down"; the Via Dolorosa (Way of the Cross); Golgotha, place of the crucifixion; the Garden Tomb, scene of the burial and resurrection of Jesus, where now stands the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, a magnificent shrine commemorative of these momentous and sacred events.

Also, in Israel we visited the "little town of Bethlehem," scene of the Nativity and the Holy Manger; the city of Nazareth, "where Jesus was brought up," (Luke 4:16); the city of Capernaum, where Jesus spent most of His years after He fled Nazareth, and where lived several of his disciples; the city of Cana, where Jesus performed His first miracle - that of turning water into wine (at the marriage); Bethany, home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus, where Jesus spent many hours in rest from the strenuous duties of His busy ministry; the Church of Bethany, built over the spot where Jesus raised Lazarus from the grave; Jacob's Well in Sychar, where Jesus met and ministered to the Woman of Samaria; the Mount of Olives, place of the Ascension of our Lord; and we traveled by bus down the hazardous Jericho Road, scene of the immortal parable of the Good Samaritan; thence, on to Jericho, reputedly, the world's oldest city and also the lowest in altitude - 1200 feet below sea level; also, to the Jordan River and to the Dead Sea - both replete with biblical lore and with archaeological wonders.

It should be noted that Jerusalem is a dual city, comprised of Old Jerusalem and the New. Contrasted with the Old - characterized by massive walls, stately temples, sacred shrines, and other places of veneration - the New Jerusalem, a separate and distinct sector of this metropolitan area, is a strictly mod-

ern city, with booming businesses, factories, high rise, ultra-modern buildings, and a continuous flow of traffic, such as one would find in a typical American city.

As is the case with Jerusalem, Israel's capital city, so it is with the entire country of Israel - a mixture of contrasts in practically everything. Beneath its 8,000 square miles - the size of New Jersey - lie ruins of some of the world's most ancient civilizations: Phoenicia, Philistine, Hebrew, Roman, and Greek. Above, a vital contemporary society is being built. The diversity of the landscape is matched by the people, who come from a hundred different lands.

(To be continued - in succeeding articles: a) "Other Lands Visited"; b) "Some Spiritual Implications.")

Majors In Key Positions

Even before Elizabeth City State University initiates its program in business administration, the department of business, which offers studies in basic and comprehensive business education and secretarial science, continues to provide adequate training for its majors. Information regarding the employment of two of its business education majors who graduated in May, further shows their abilities to enter and render junior-level accounting and managerial services in business, industry and government even with an educational background for teaching careers.

The Public Relations Department of the Carolina Power and Light Company announces the employment of Leander Crawford as a junior industrial development analyst. Crawford, a native of Chocowinity, N. C., is married to the former Miss Laura Dixon, also an ECSU business major, class of 1972. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Crawford, Jr. of Chocowinity.

Following graduation, in May, Miss Gwenae Marie Johnson was immediately employed by Chase - Manhattan Bank, New York, as a stock investigator. A native of Elizabeth City, she is the daughter of Mrs. Lois Johnson, a local head teacher in the EIC full-year Head Start Program. Crawford, his wife and Miss Johnson were members of the Eta Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda as Future Business Leaders of America.