

AC students suddenly found themselves digging in Jerusalem

By John Warren

Several hundred people—mostly Ambassador College students—were part of a continuing archaeological excavation known informally as the “big dig” in Jerusalem from the late 1960s through the early ’70s.

In this issue *THE JOURNAL* talks with people who were part of the big dig during those years.

Ray Dick, now 80, of Hawkins, Texas, provided many details to this writer of his personal involvement with the archaeological excavation sponsored by the Worldwide Church of God.

Mr. Dick served from 1967 to 1970 as manager of the church’s office near the Holy City and was closely involved with the startup of the church’s and college’s participation in the dig.

Although anyone who was a WCG member during that era was well aware that there was a dig sponsored in part by the church, many of the details chronicled in this article may not be so well known.

In 1968 Herbert W. Armstrong, chancellor of Ambassador College and pastor general of the WCG, announced that the church had arranged with Hebrew University and Professor Benjamin Mazar to begin participation on an archaeological excavation at the Temple Mount in the Jerusalem.

Mr. Armstrong told coworkers in a letter dated Dec. 10, 1968:

“Today I can announce this big news at last.

“I have just returned from my second visit to Jerusalem in approximately four weeks. Four weeks ago all preliminary discussions took place, and [on] this trip it was made official! It’s one of the most important things that ever happened for God’s work.

“Ambassador College has just been given the great honor and responsibility of entering joint participation with Hebrew University of Jerusalem in the most important archaeological excavation of our time—uncovering 3,000 years of history!”

Fruitful arrangement

It is *THE JOURNAL*’s conclusion that Mr. Armstrong’s public announcements about the dig in those early years were incomplete and in some cases inaccurate.

After the contacts had been made and much behind-the-scenes work had been undertaken through the auspices of the church’s office in Jerusalem, the excavation arrangement indeed came to fruition.

But Mr. Armstrong’s announcements were incomplete in that they failed to mention that one of the men most responsible for the negotiations that led to the dig, and indeed for the existence of the arrangements in the first place, was Mr. Dick.

Most are not aware of the story behind the college’s and church’s involvement with the Israelis on the project. In an amazing succession of events, things just seemed to work out—say some former diggers—that resulted in many AC students spending their summers in Jerusalem.

How it began

Mr. Dick, who came to Ambassador as a married student in 1957, tells how it all began for him during the Days of Unleavened Bread in 1967.

“During the afternoon sermon on the first day of Unleavened Bread at Ambassador College in Big Sandy, Texas, Mr. Ted Armstrong [vice chancellor of Ambassador and son of church founder Herbert Armstrong] shocked his audience by saying the Jews had to build a temple,” said Mr. Dick.

“The only place to build it was on the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem, so something had to happen soon to place it under Israel’s control. Remember, this was April 1967, and the church was expected to flee [to Petra, in Jordan] in 1972.

“The main announcement that afternoon was about establishing an office and having a contract for *The World Tomorrow*.”

Radio Jerusalem

Garner Ted Armstrong (who died Sept. 15, 2003) revealed much “new information” in that sermon, remembers Mr. Dick.



EARLY DIGGERS—Ray Dick (left) and Benjamin Mazar are on duty at the dig site c. 1968. [Photo courtesy Ray Dick]

“He stated that a five-year contract had been signed with Jordan’s King Hussein to air *The World Tomorrow* on Radio Jerusalem and that new short-wave-radio equipment had been ordered from Germany to increase its power so it could be heard anywhere on earth.”

The World Tomorrow, the church’s broadcast, which featured the voice of Herbert Armstrong and later his son Garner Ted speaking on hundreds of



THE DIG’S FIRST YEAR—The Ambassador College students participating in the first year of the dig, in 1969, are as follows (as identified for *THE JOURNAL* by 1969 digger Don BJORAKER): **Front row, sitting, from left:** ZoeAnn Ghourdjian, Robin Sutcliffe, Pat Hill, Kathy Crocker, Janet Forney, Sharon Phillips, Donna Shonyo, Kathy Kruger, Dick Paige, Denys Fell, Danny Martin, Russell Johnson, Jean Bristow, Cheryl Tupper, Karyl Coates. **Second row:** Melva Mickelson, Connie Johnson, Terry Johnson, Mark Kaplan, Deanna Langbraaten, Pat Boehnhardt, Lloyd Briggie, Richard Davey, Helmut Levsen, Sandy Gent, Virginia Howell, Faye Bronkar, Jim Wisman, Carol Burman, Alan Corrie, Owen Willis, Sam Kneller, Freddy Martin. **Third row:** Unidentified Israeli, Jim McNiese, Mike Ghourdjian, Chris Patton, Ruth Van Buren, Darwin Nelson, Steve Fallaw, Tom Smith, Richard Elfers, Joe Dobson, Dave Summerfield, Dave Fraser, Sheila Tremlett, Don BJORAKER, Ken Smylie. Not shown is digger Dave Gunn. [Photo courtesy Don BJORAKER]

were told I were being transferred to a foreign office.”

Since the Docken family had been headed for Jerusalem, a vacancy for an office manager was open in Manila. Mr. Dick instantly assumed that Mr. Armstrong was offering him the job in the Philippines.

“I replied that I supposed I would go home and start packing,” Mr. Dick said. “Since I didn’t seem as shocked and elated as he thought I should be, he restated his question. He said he meant

rationale for opening an office in Jerusalem.

“We had opened the office as a result of the possibility of gaining access to various radio outlets in the Mediterranean Sea area,” he said. “Before the Six Day War [in June 1967] we were in England and had begun negotiations with the Hashemite Broadcasting Co. [of Jordan] to air the *World Tomorrow* broadcast on their Radio Jerusalem station.

“In anticipation of successful negotiations, the business director of the

‘Later in the summer, at night, we could look toward Jericho and we could see flashes of light from bombings and fighting,’ said Mr. BJORAKER.

AM stations in the United States and elsewhere, was a program begun by the senior Armstrong in the 1930s (originally called *Radio Church of God*) and later expanded to include television broadcasts.

“To take care of the mail this daily broadcast [over Radio Jerusalem] would generate,” said Mr. Dick, “an office and a home had been leased near Jerusalem.

“The college interior decorator was already there to completely furnish this 18-room villa.

“Since the Israelis could not send mail to an Arab address, a second office had been leased and furnished in Nicosia, Cyprus. Office managers for both offices had already been selected, and the first broadcast was scheduled to be aired live from Jerusalem at 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 7, 1967.”

Mice and men

Mr. Dick recalls that the Jerusalem office’s manager was to be Art Docken, who was a church employee managing the church’s Manila, Philippines, office. John Jewell, an employee from the Ambassador campus in Bricklet Wood, England, would manage the Cyprus office.

Mr. Dick, who at the time was director of the church’s mailing department on the campus in Big Sandy, vividly remembers subsequent events.

“The next day it was back to work as usual,” he said. “The college had a very fine, elegant faculty dining room, and faculty members and certain key employees had lunch there during the week.

“At noon I went to the dining room as usual, but the seating arrangement had been changed. There was an empty chair across from where I was seated.

“Mr. Ted Armstrong had been recording a broadcast and came in a few minutes late. I was surprised to see him come right to the empty chair across from me.

“Almost immediately he turned to me and asked me what I would do if I

transferring to the place to which Christ would return. He meant Jerusalem.

“Yes, I was shocked.”

Didn’t seem right

Mr. Armstrong and other church elders had met that morning on campus and decided that “it just hadn’t seemed right to send the Dockens to Jerusalem, a war zone, because they had four young daughters,” said Mr. Dick.

But to change plans and send someone else to Jerusalem instead required the approval of Herbert Armstrong.

“He [the elder Armstrong] was contacted, he agreed to send the Dicks, and the change was made,” said Mr. Dick.

The Dicks soon left Texas on the first leg of their journey to a new assignment. Their first stop: Pasadena.

“I received a card stating that I was a press representative for *The Plain Truth* magazine,” said Mr. Dick. “Those were the days of instant experts. Journalists, photographers, teachers, ministers and even the first jet pilots were in-house” church and college employees.

“We arrived at the Bricklet Wood campus of Ambassador College in England on Sunday, May 28, 1967.”

Mr. Dick’s supervisor in England was Charles Hunting, who then served as the business manager for the college in Britain.

Mr. Hunting, now 84 and a resident of Sarasota, Fla., recently talked with *THE JOURNAL* about the church’s and college’s involvement in Jerusalem.

“I went to Ramallah and located an office there,” Mr. Hunting said. “We had also opened an office in Cyprus. We had purchased radio time on Jerusalem Radio. I had negotiated and got the property to rent in Ramallah. When I got it, it was in Jordanian hands.”

Mr. Hunting, who had entered Ambassador at Pasadena in 1958, was a 1961 graduate of Ambassador in Bricklet Wood. His first ordination was as an elder at the Feast of Tabernacles at Big Sandy in 1959.

Mr. Hunting explained the church’s

occupied the entire Sinai peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, the West Bank and Jerusalem’s Old City.

A new plan

Mr. Hunting, an evangelist-ranked WCG minister at the time, remembers the change in plans.

“On the day the Six Day War commenced, the trip had to be aborted,” he told *THE JOURNAL*. “Mr. Armstrong had made some taped broadcasts which I was given to take to Jerusalem, hoping to have them aired. The others went back to Bricklet Wood.

“Radio Jerusalem was taken over by the Israelis. Radio Amman in Jordan began the broadcast on a much-less-powerful station with weak reception in Israel.”

Mr. Dick stayed in Bricklet Wood until he moved to the office in Cypress, which Ray and Norma Dick manned until their move to the office in Israel in the town of Beit Hanina between Jerusalem and Ramallah.

Why are we here?

Mr. Dick picks up the story: “Mr. Armstrong was sure the United Nations would have the Israeli-Arab situation settled in a few months. Meanwhile, we should live in Cyprus, and as soon as Radio Jerusalem was back under Jordan’s control we should resume our original plans.

“The Jewells stayed in Bricklet Wood, the Jerusalem office was unoccupied, and we left for our new assignment in Nicosia.”

The Dicks arrived in Nicosia the evening of July 5. They never glimpsed Israel until mid-August. The war had changed the plans for the radio program, and that affected Mr. Dick’s job.

“There we were on a beautiful Mediterranean island with a lovely, fully furnished home and a new car but without a job description. Why were we here?”

Thanks to the war, “Jerusalem was newly united, and Israel lost no time demolishing every barrier that had once separated them from their holy places,” said Mr. Dick.

“The Mandelbaum Gate was reduced to a pile of bricks, mortar and rubbish. There were no longer checkpoints with police demanding to see our passports.

“Seven miles beyond Jerusalem, on the way to Ramallah, we came to the beautiful villa we were to later call home. Bob Smith, the college decorator, had gone to Beirut to find the quality furnishings that perfectly suited this magnificent structure.”

Mr. Dick said he and his wife had not planned to move to Israel, but as winter set in they couldn’t seem to keep warm in their Cyprus residence.

“Since the home in Israel had central heating, we were given permission to move. We arrived Christmas day 1967, and, except for my press credentials, I had no assigned duties to occupy my time.”

A history lesson

With time on his hands, shortly after moving to Jerusalem Mr. Dick decided to go to Eilat and continue all the way to the north end of the country to locate and visit the sites that would be of special interest to members of the church.

He knew from experience, he said, how easy it was to pay for an expensive trip and yet miss most of the sites that were important to WCG members.

Mr. Dick met an Israeli reporter who was also a professional tour guide named Richard Stoehr. When Mr. Stoehr learned of Mr. Dick’s plan to tour the country, he asked to go along.

“Returning from Eilat, Mr. Stoehr said we would pass [David] Ben-Gurion’s kibbutz [communal farm],” said Mr. Dick. “He knew Mr. Ben-Gurion and said we should stop and see him. I explained it was almost the Sabbath, we had been on the road for three days, we had not been invited, and we were not going to stop.”

Mr. Ben-Gurion, an early prime minister of Israel, “was one of the greatest statesmen who ever lived,” said Mr. Dick. “He was instrumental in the creation of the state of Israel.”

After learning that they would not stop at the kibbutz, Mr. Stoehr asked almost immediately: “Are you interested in archaeology? Professor Mazar is starting an archaeological dig at the southern

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The 'big dig' in Israel became part of Church of God history

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wall of the Temple Mount. Would you be interested in volunteering to dig?"

"Yes, I would," Mr. Dick responded. "We arranged that on Sunday morning we would meet at the dig office at 7 o'clock," Mr. Dick said. Mr. Stoehr "would introduce me to Mazar, and we would both dig."

"I was middle-aged, overweight and out of shape, but I received no special consideration. Our square measured about 15 feet by 15 feet and was about 10 feet deep."

All was vanity

Mr. Dick's digging partner was someone named Yitzhak.

"This young muscle man was making me look pretty bad. We had rubber tubs into which we shoveled our dirt. When the tubs were full, they were handed up to the Arab workers up on ground level.

"If I had been content to let Yitzhak outwork me, this account might never have taken place, but I was too vain for that. We had nearly a dozen rubber tubs. I found that the moist, loose dirt would roll down in a neat grade. I could fill seven tubs in about seven minutes. I showed Yitzhak what I was doing, but he insisted on continuing to fill his tubs one small scoop at a time."

Mr. Dick's tubs were going up at a provocative rate of seven at a time, inspiring an undercurrent of grumbling among the dirt haulers.

"Apparently Mazar must have noticed the increased activity at our square," Mr. Dick said. "I was hard at work when he appeared at our square."

"Deek," called out Professor Mazar. He always called Mr. Dick "Deek."

"Deek, come to the office for coffee."

So Mr. Dick climbed out of his square and joined the professor for a cup of strong, thick, sweet coffee.

"After that, this ritual took place a couple of times a day, and if there were any important visitors I was called out of my square to meet them."

Mr. Dick's digging duties continued for only four days, but during that time the professor "adopted" him, he says.

"I was part of the team and a personal friend."

These events happened in March of 1968. "All spring and summer I would visit the dig, and Mazar would proudly show me what had been uncovered since my last visit."

Expanding the project

Mr. Dick remembers the professor being "almost like a father" to him.

"He was a great man whom I greatly admired and respected. He had been the president of Hebrew University for a number of years. He was a great scholar, a great writer and a leading archaeologist."

During this time a faculty member at Bricket Wood, Ernest Martin, and a small group of AC students were in Israel on an annual educational tour during the college's summer break.

Mr. Hunting explained how the church's involvement in the dig expanded.

"Ernest Martin [who died in January 2003] presented the idea to Mr. Armstrong, who saw its immediate possibilities: possible further inroads into getting the gospel to Israel, prestige for the college in its tie-in with Hebrew University, and a great chance to broaden the educational background of our students."

Mr. Dick added some details of the events that led to the big dig.

"Dr. [Herman] Hoeh, from the Pasadena campus of Ambassador College, asked that I find some pictures of Pella for him."

"Although Pella was in Jordan, I rushed to the government archives in Tel Aviv. There were thousands of pictures but none of Pella."

Mr. Dick's search for Pella, where early Christians were said to have fled when the Romans invaded Jerusalem in A.D. 70, led him to the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem.

Open door

"As I entered the lobby [of the school], I heard a man who seemed thoroughly frustrated telling about the problems at his dig on Mount Girazim," said Mr. Dick.



DIG 1974—Diggers in Jerusalem in 1974, the sixth year of Ambassador College's participation, pause for a picture. **From left:** Sammy O'Dell, Angie Mohler, Debbie Mohler, Laurie Wagner and Kevin Hudson. [Photo courtesy Angie Mohler Kelley]

Mr. Dick remembers asking the man, a Dr. Bull, a professor from a college in New Jersey, what equipment he needed and what the cost would be. Dr. Bull said he needed about \$30,000.

This could be an open door, Mr. Dick thought. It shouldn't be too difficult to raise that relatively small amount.

"Ernest Martin brought in a group of students and faculty from the Bricket Wood campus each year," said Mr. Dick. "The tour was over, they were leaving, and we went to see them off. I briefly told Dr. Martin about being able to get into archaeology."

Mr. Dick didn't hear anything back from Dr. Martin until late August.

At 10 o'clock one evening Mr. Dick's phone rang.

"It was Ernest Martin. Mr. Armstrong had arrived [at Bricket Wood] to

"He [Mr. Armstrong] was surprised and more than pleased. Getting something of importance started in Israel had long been his fondest wish."

In June of the next year, 1969, about 65 Ambassador students arrived in Jerusalem to donate their labor for the next two months.

"We booked a small hotel and hired a city bus to transport the students between their hotel and the dig."

Mr. Armstrong transferred Ray and Norma Dick back to Bricket Wood in 1970. Their son Randall had begun his college education there in 1969. Mr. Armstrong named Richard Frankel the new office manager in Jerusalem.

Valuable exposure

When this writer asked Mr. Dick what the benefits of the dig were for the church, he responded: "Mr. Armstrong was exposed to the top people in Israel. It gave him an opportunity that he would not have had otherwise."

Some 500 students were involved in the dig over the years, from 1969 through 1975.

"They also got to tour Israel and parts of Europe. It gave them an experience they never would have had."

Professor Mazar would continue the dig until 1978 with assistance from the Israel Exploration Society.

Mr. Dick's friend Benjamin Mazar, who was born Binyamen Maisler in Ciechanowiec, Poland, on June 28, 1906, was educated in Germany. He immigrated to Palestine at age 23, in 1929, and joined the faculty of Hebrew University in 1943.

In 1952 the university named him rector, and in 1953 he became president. He served in that capacity for eight years.

take us into the Arab areas."

Not your average tourists

Mr. Bjoraker told *THE JOURNAL* what the workday was like.

"We worked heavy half days. The day started early to beat the heat, and we were usually done by around 2 in the afternoon. That gave us a chance to walk around Jerusalem and tour the sites."

"We were digging on the Temple Mount. I had the feeling we were recognized. People knew we were there digging on the south wall. We didn't look like the average tourist. Typically we wore short-sleeved, light-colored shirts, hats and shorts."

"We were instructed to drink a lot of water. It was extremely dry. It was amazing how fast you could become dehydrated."

Mr. Bjoraker explained where the students excavated.

"We dug on the south and west wall of the Temple Mount. We were digging down through the Byzantine era. We found a very interesting inscription as well as coins and pottery."

"The tools we used were very small picks and shovels. The dirt was lifted out of the holes with pails made of old tires sewed together with a handle. If the hole got so deep we couldn't hand the pail out, it was lifted up by a rope. We were moving small amounts at a time so it could be examined."

"We were there in conjunction with Hebrew University, and they had an office in a nearby building. If we found something interesting it would go to them."

One day Mr. Bjoraker sensed things were somehow different at the dig sight.

"One morning some Orthodox Jews moved in right where we were digging."

the lobby walls were pitted also.

"Later in the summer, at night, we could look toward Jericho and we could see flashes of light from bombings and fighting."

Desperate hunger

THE JOURNAL asked Mr. Bjoraker where the students stayed while in Jerusalem.

"We stayed at the Cliff Hotel in the Arab section of the city," he said. "It was called that because it was up high. We could look down on the Temple Mount and the valley. The Mount of Olives was right across from us."

Perched on top of the Mount of Olives was the luxurious Intercontinental Hotel.

"When we got desperate for American food, we would climb up there to a coffee shop where we could get coffee and a hamburger."

As many people who travel abroad have found, food can cause problems.

"Many of us got Pharaoh's revenge," he said. "It turned out that we were getting it from the hotel. For a few days I only ate food from street vendors and I didn't have any problems."

A warm good-bye

The day the Ambassador students left for home was an eventful one, Mr. Bjoraker recalls.

"The day we left was a memorable one; it made the world news," he said. "A young man from Australia named Rohan had set fire to the al-Aqsa mosque. It is the second most holy place in the Arab world."

The man was Dennis Michael Rohan, a non-Jewish tourist from Australia.

A Web site at www.palestinefacts.org sponsored by the Jewish Internet Association (JIA) describes Mr. Rohan as "an Australian Protestant follower of an evangelical sect known as the Church of God. By his own admission, Rohan hoped to hasten the coming of the Messiah by burning down the al-Aqsa Mosque" so Jews could "rebuild the Jewish Temple on the Temple Mount."

The "Church of God" described on the site was the Worldwide Church of God. Mr. Rohan turned out to be a "coworker," one who had regularly donated money to the church. The JIA Web site said Mr. Rohan was hospitalized in a mental institution, found to be insane and eventually deported back to Australia. The fire Mr. Rohan started was on the southern end of the Temple Mount, remembers Mr. Bjoraker. "We had been working right below it. I had gone there as a tourist and looked around the mosque. As we looked down from the Cliff Hotel, it was almost like looking across. We saw smoke coming out of the place."

One of the students, Freddy Martin, from the Bricket Wood campus, ran down to investigate the blaze. As a result, the Israeli authorities almost did not allow the students to leave. "I think it took some fast talking to get those guys out of there," said Mr. Bjoraker. "I feel it was our close relationship with Hebrew University that got those guys out of there."

The authorities were taking people into custody and questioning them.

Two pastors' perspective
Two church pastors now serving in the Big Sandy area were members of the 1972 contingent of students who traveled to Israel for a memorable summer at the dig.

Ken Treybig, who came to Ambassador in Big Sandy from Houston, Texas, and later graduated in 1974 from the church-operated college, spent the summer of '72 in Jerusalem.

Mr. Treybig is pastor of the United Church of God congregation that usually meets in Gilmer, Texas. He lives in Gladewater with his wife, Kathy.

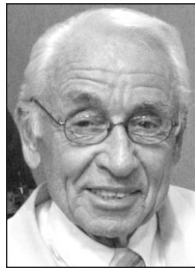
THE JOURNAL asked Mr. Treybig what made him decide to dedicate a summer to an archaeological project in faraway Jerusalem.

"I wanted to visit the land of the Bible," he replied. "My brother had

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Ray Dick



Charles Hunting



Don Bjoraker



Ken Treybig



Dave Havir



Kimberly Mabry

begin the new school year. Dr. Martin had given him my information, and Mr. Armstrong was interested."

By this time Dr. Bull had left Israel and returned to the United States. Mr. Dick read an article in *The Jerusalem Post* that announced that another archaeological project was in need of funds.

Mr. Dick explained: "The next day, the day before the Feast of Trumpets, a full-page article appeared in *The Jerusalem Post* all about the dig. Norma asked, 'Did you see this?' If finances permitted, they would dig the year round."

Mr. Dick decided to visit the dig site and meet with officials there.

"In Israel, Trumpets is a two-day holiday," he said. "Mazar had gone to Haifa and would be back the third day. Only Meir Ben-Dov and another man were in the office. Meir agreed we should join their dig. The other man was Yosef Aviram."

After Mr. Aviram became convinced Ambassador's involvement would be a good thing, in walked Professor Mazar.

Mr. Dick remembers the professor's response: "When he heard our proposal, his reaction was, 'Fantastic, absolutely fantastic.'"

One little string

Mr. Dick remembers the skepticism of some of the Israelis.

"Why would anyone offer to give them \$100,000 a year unless there were strings attached? Other organizations had offered support, but their conditions had not been acceptable."

"Our only request was that we be written up in their journals, and this was only to help us in our quest for [college] accreditation."

Mr. Armstrong made a trip to Israel in November of that year, 1968, to specifically approve the arrangements that had been made regarding the dig.

"I related all the events as they developed and details of the agreement I had reached with Professor Mazar on behalf of Ambassador College," said Mr. Dick.

Professor Mazar died Sept. 9, 1995. More information about him can be found at the Web site of a former Ambassador professor, Michael Germano, www.bibarch.com.

A student's good idea

One of the first student volunteers at the dig was a 28-year-old junior who attended the Big Sandy campus of Ambassador. Don Bjoraker, who lives in Hawkins, Texas, entered Ambassador as a 25-year-old in 1966, coming from Owatonna, Minn.

Mr. Bjoraker, now 62, and his wife, the former Gladie Osborne, talked with *THE JOURNAL* about his memories of that first year of the project in Jerusalem.

"I suspect it was a little different for students from Pasadena and Bricket Wood, but those of us from Big Sandy had to come up with the money for the trip," Mr. Bjoraker said.

"Basically, the expense was the transportation cost; it did not cost us while we were there. My dad provided the funds for me. He had sold his business, and I convinced him this was a good idea."

Mr. Bjoraker remembers flying from Love Field in Dallas to Kennedy Airport in New York, where the Big Sandy students met up with Pasadena students on their way to Heathrow in England.

"I didn't know what to expect when we reached Jerusalem," he said, "but there were signs there welcoming us to the country. Moshe Kol was the minister of tourism at the time. He had a good relationship with Ambassador."

"We stayed at the Cliff Hotel, which was south of the dig. It was an Arab hotel. That was a good experience because we developed a very close relationship with some of the Arab employees."

"We had a term of 11 weeks. The first week was devoted to an intense tour of Israel. We had two very nice Arab buses with Arab tour guides."

"It was good to have Arabs because things were very tense, and they could

They were there illegally. They were testing the waters, so to speak. We tried to ignore them and continue working even though they were in our dig area."

After a short time the authorities ordered them away.

"Ernest Martin was our dig director, and Ray Dick was there as the church's office manager. Randall [Dick] came around the dig often and spent a lot of time there. Being a resident, he knew his way around Jerusalem, and he was able to give us a lot of information even though he was just a kid."

All work and some play

The students held to a pretty strict schedule, but they found time for leisure activities as well.

Mr. Bjoraker shared an experience: "Four of us got on a bus and spent a few days in Eilat. That is on the northern tip of the Gulf of Aqaba, also known as the Gulf of Eilat."

Eilat, which had a population of about 50,000, is Israel's southernmost city, on the eastern sleeve of the Red Sea.

"There was a place where we could rent snorkeling gear. From there we traveled five or six miles to the coral reefs. We snorkeled and camped out on the beach for two days. We spent most of the time in the water."

"It was very impressive. We don't have anything like that in East Texas."

The students ended up walking the five or six miles back to the bus station, running out of water on the way. They arrived tired and thirsty.

"When we boarded the bus for the return trip, we were surprised to see a soldier with a tommy gun in the right-hand seat by the driver. We had to go up to Tel Aviv and back down to Jerusalem because of the threat of terrorism."

A routine Mr. Bjoraker remembers well is traveling to church services each Sabbath.

"We boarded a bus and went to a YWCA for church services. The hall we met in was on the second floor. The elevator was riddled with bullet holes, and

AC diggers of '60s and '70s lived a summer of a lifetime

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gone the year before, and after talking to him I was interested in the chance to travel. I wanted to see Jerusalem and the surrounding area."

The students from Big Sandy traveled to New York City, from where they flew to London and then met up with students from Pasadena at the Ambassador campus at Bricket Wood. After a weekend stay in England the would-be archaeologists were off to the Middle East.

"It was my first experience with archaeology," Mr. Treybig said. "They had it all laid out in grids. They told us where to dig. We had to sift everything."

Mr. Treybig soon found an "inscription," he said. "It looked like part of a parapet. It said something about blowing a trumpet. We only found a small piece, but I understand that later other pieces were found and it is now in a museum in Paris."

Digging in another hole, Mr. Treybig and fellow AC students found a tunnel they quickly determined followed a route under the Temple Mount.

"They shut that down quick," he said.

Like a chain gang

THE JOURNAL asked Mr. Treybig about the student housing and the post-war atmosphere while he was at the dig.

"We stayed at the King David Hotel, which was in what had been the Arab sector," he said. "There was a bit of tension still. The people we were around were all friendly. We didn't have any problems."

"We did see signs of the war like burned-out tanks. It was very different than what we were used to, being in an area where soldiers walked around with machine guns."

Mr. Treybig talked about the digging routine. "We dug five days a week. It was a grueling job. It would get hot, between 105 and 110 degrees, and it was dry. We got up early to get out before the heat of the day."

"There was free time after work, but they got a lot of work out of us. I learned what it would be like on a chain gang. We smashed a lot of rocks with sledge hammers."

Mr. Treybig remembers the summer of '72 as the "most educational" summer of his life.

"I got to travel overseas and be

immersed in that culture. On the trip home we also got to tour Greece including Corinth and a little bit of Asia."

After returning to Bricket Wood, the group made one last side trip before coming home.

"We went on a whirlwind tour of Europe after the dig. After spending the weekend at Bricket Wood, we traveled through seven countries in five days. During our tour of London we got to see the crown jewels of England. That was a most spectacular thing."

Painful cut

Dave Havar, who entered Ambassador at Big Sandy as a 17-year-old from Allentown, Pa., and now lives in Big Sandy with his wife, Pam, also dug in Jerusalem in 1972.

Mr. Havar, a staff member of and columnist for THE JOURNAL, is pastor of the Church of God Big Sandy.

He explained to this writer his first

there were things about Jerusalem he enjoyed even more than the dig.

"The relationships were more important to me than the archaeology," he said. "I have wonderful memories of experiences with Karon Martz, Glenda Osborne [now sister-in-law of Mr. Bjoraker], Judy Jackman, Gary Lock, Chuck Gehringer, Patty Fields and others."

"We made friends with some of the Arab employees at the hotel. One was named Charlie. He spoke pretty good English but with a heavy accent."

"Clyde Kilough and I would stay up late to talk to him."

Mr. Kilough and Mr. Havar visited Charlie at his residence in Jerusalem more than once.

"He was 38 and had nine children," said Mr. Havar. "The children got a big kick out of our tape recorder."

'Tonight I will kill him'

Mr. Havar described a practical joke he,

thinking about it."

Mr. Havar says two basic types of work were carried out at the dig.

Grunt workers

"Some of the students were digging for pottery and other fine items, and they had to be very careful," he said.

"Others did the grunt work. We tried to see how much dirt we could move. We spent a lot of time busting rocks. We liked that better than the pottery stuff."

"Ken, Clyde and I worked in a couple of tunnels, and we got under the Temple Mount. As soon as the dig supervisors found out where we were, they pulled us out of there."

When THE JOURNAL asked Mr. Havar about the benefits of the dig, he responded:

"On the college level it was an opportunity for Ambassador to let its light shine," he said. "The Ambassador students had a good reputation as hard work-

members Mrs. Mabry.

"The boys lived on the second floor, and we girls had the third floor where we slept in bunk beds. We did our own cooking. We had crews for breakfast and dinner duty. For lunch we were on our own."

Mrs. Mabry remembers the routine: "We would start digging at 7 in the morning and work until 1 in the afternoon. We dug at assigned holes and lifted 20-pound buckets of dirt over our heads all day."

When this writer asked Mrs. Mabry if she found anything of interest, she responded: "We literally moved wheelbarrows full of dirt. One day we did find a Byzantine lamp. Except for that, there was nothing exciting."

Some excitement was generated away from the dig, Mrs. Mabry remembers.

"There was a bombing that year," she said. "A relative of the family we were staying with was injured by the bomb."

"The house we were in had a flat roof, and we were able to watch as the family sacrificed a goat. That was after they knew the injured person was going to survive. They offered the goat, roasted it and had a big dinner. We watched the whole thing."

Shutting down

Archaeological digs are a continuing fact of life in Israel, but Ambassador College and the Worldwide Church of God discontinued their involvement in 1976.

Mr. Dick and his wife returned to the site in 1982 and visited with Professor Mazar's assistant, Meir Ben-Dov.

"Meir and his secretary were still there working on the dig records," he said. "After a very warm greeting, Meir pointed to the dig and made this statement: 'What you see there was only possible because of the financial support of Mr. Herbert Armstrong and the labor of the students of Ambassador College.'"

Meir Ben-Dov, who was the active supervisor of the dig site, is the author of the book *In the Shadow of the Temple: The Discovery of Ancient Jerusalem*, Keter Publishing House, Jerusalem.

"There was no plan for Ambassador to become involved with archaeology," said Mr. Dick, "but for a few years some church and college employees and hundreds of students enjoyed the summer of a lifetime."

Mr. Treybig remembers the summer of '72 as the 'most educational' summer of his life. 'I got to travel overseas and be immersed in that culture.'

impression of Israel.

"We landed at the airport in Tel Aviv and saw the spot where a number of people were gunned down just a few days before we arrived," he remembers.

Mr. Havar reminisced about a typical day on the dig.

"We would dig in the mornings, and in the afternoon Dr. Martin would teach a class at the hotel."

Mr. Havar talked about field trips.

"We got to see Galilee and other historical sites. I remember Dr. Martin opening his Bible to 1 Samuel and teaching us about a certain battle. We were standing there looking out at where the armies would have been."

"We went to the Dead Sea and swam in the salt water. We had cuts on our legs from smashing rocks with sledge hammers. The salt made those cuts sting."

Mr. Havar, who enjoyed the dig with two of his fellow classmates and friends, Mr. Treybig and Clyde Kilough, now of Sacramento, Calif., says

Mr. Kilough and fellow Big Sandy student Dave Robinson played on Charlie.

"We staged this scene where Dave came into the hotel yelling at me and acting like he was upset and ready to hit me," Mr. Havar said. "Clyde stepped between us and held Dave back. After Dave left, Charlie came to me and quietly said to me, 'Tonight when he is sleeping I will kill him.'"

"I said, 'No, no, it was a joke.'"

"Charlie may have been kidding, but it sure didn't seem like it."

Mr. Havar would somehow secure dinner invitations to various Jerusalemites' residences.

"We never discussed unclean meats with our hosts," he said, "but it was never a problem. We were served chicken or fish."

Another memory of Mr. Havar's involved Big Sandy coed Judy Jackman.

"Judy was a blonde. One man offered Thad Russell 75 camels for her. We would tell her that we were still

ers. Other groups who participated on the dig did not have as good a reputation.

"On a personal level it expanded my horizons. It was the trip of a lifetime, and it helped me focus on what I wanted to do in life."

When asked what the greatest lesson he learned on his summer overseas, the Big Sandy pastor said: "God is the God of all people, and we all need His Kingdom."

Not for men only

Kimberly Mabry (then Kimberly McCullough) decided to go to the dig in 1975 as a 21-year-old. Miss McCullough had entered Ambassador at Big Sandy in 1972.

"I think 24 of us went that year," she told THE JOURNAL. "I believe there were 12 boys and 12 girls. We stayed in the Arab section of Jerusalem in the home of a well-to-do family."

An Arab family lived on the first floor of their temporary residence, re-

How does the king of the North decide who to invade?

Continued from page 9

ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through."

That will be the model for Western countries' warfare tactics in the Middle East for the foreseeable future. The Europeans no doubt also learned that, if they want to be taken seriously in the world, they'll have to have some military power to back up their bravado.

It will take some time for them to build up their military, no question about it. This won't happen next week or next month or next year, but it will happen. Watch for Europe to start a military buildup, and when that happens watch out.

Entering the land

"He shall also enter the Glorious Land [the Holy Land, today's Israel], and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon [these are the people of modern-day Jordan, so this ruler invades Israel but stops, apparently at the Jordan River]" (Daniel 11:41).

Verses 42-43: "He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels."

So Egypt and Libya to the west of Egypt and Ethiopia to the south of Egypt are also dominated by this end-time power. This would also include Sudan, which is between Egypt and Ethiopia and anciently was part of those two powers.

Why does the king of the North invade these specific areas? Because

presumably that's where the attack came from.

As the United States invaded Afghanistan because that was the center of power for al-Qaida, this power seems to invade these areas because that's where the threat seems greatest.

Of course, to do anything militarily in this area you must have access to the Suez Canal, in Egypt.

Verses 44-45: "But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many."

"And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him."

So it appears that this stirs up a hor-

ing Israel and determined to cut it off. Psalm 83:1-8:

"Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, and do not be still, O God! For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; and those who hate You have lifted up their head. They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, and consulted together against Your sheltered ones."

"They have said, 'Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more.' For they have consulted together with one consent; they form a confederacy against You:

"The tents of Edom [including Palestinians and some of the Turks] and the Ishmaelites [Arabs in general];

so they'll learn their lesson and finally realize that You alone are the one true God."

I find that interesting because all of these areas are absolutely convinced that Allah is the one true God, and it will take something drastic to shake them out of that belief.

Long prophecy

Another long, long prophecy is to be found in Isaiah 13-24. This section contains a list of prophetic "burdens" against various peoples, nations and kingdoms.

These 12 chapters seem to weave in and out between events of Isaiah's day and those of the end time and are immediately followed by several chapters

Some fascinating prophecies mention Islamic regions and nations in an end-time context. Though there doesn't seem to be a direct connection, we read some intriguing hints.

net's nest among other nations to the east and north of this region, and this leads to other events described in the book of Revelation including, ultimately, Jesus' return to prevent the annihilation of humanity.

Do other prophecies tie in with these events or with Islamic regions in general in the end time?

Some fascinating prophecies mention Islamic regions and nations in an end-time context. Though there doesn't seem to be a direct connection, we read some intriguing hints. One of these is in Psalm 83, a prophetic hymn written by Asaph. It describes an end-time alliance of Muslim nations surround-

Moab [central Jordan] and the Hagrites [apparently the descendants of Hagar, mother of Ishmael]; Gebal [equated with the Phoenician city of Byblos, modern Jubayl in Lebanon], Ammon [the environs of Amman, Jordan], and Amalek [a branch of Edomite Palestinians]; Philistia [the Gaza Strip] with the inhabitants of Tyre [southern Lebanon along the coast]; Assyria [ethnically we believe this to be Germany; geographically it was northern Iraq] also has joined with them; they have helped the children of Lot [Moab and Ammon, modern-day Jordan]."

In the rest of this psalm, Asaph in effect says to God, "Wipe them all out

that appear to describe the immediate aftermath of Christ's return. Notice who these "burdens" are set against:

■ Babylon (chapter 13 and 14:22-23): This includes a time setting of the Day of the LORD (verses 6, 9) marked by heavenly signs (verses 10, 13).

We understand this "Babylon" to be an end-time system rather than the literal city of Babylon, because the literal city does not exist at this time.

■ Assyria (14:24-27).

■ Philistia (14:28-32): Philistia today is the area primarily occupied by the Gaza Strip.

■ Moab (chapters 15-16): Again,

this is talking about a region of modern-day Jordan.

■ Damascus and Syria (17:1-3): These names haven't changed over all these years.

■ Israel (17:4-11).

■ "The multitude of many people" (17:12-14): God destroys them.

■ Ethiopia and beyond (chapter 18).

■ Egypt (chapter 19): This also includes clear end-time markers: that the Messiah will deliver Egyptians and they will repent, and Egypt, Assyria and Israel will be allies.

■ Egypt and Ethiopia again (chapter 20).

■ Babylon again (21:1-10).

■ Edom (21:11-12): Again, this appears to refer to many of today's Palestinians and Turkey.

■ Arabia (21:13-17): This would be the area of what is today called Saudi Arabia.

■ Jerusalem (22:1-14).

■ Tyre and Sidon (chapter 23): These were both city-states in what is today southern Lebanon.

■ Judgment against the entire earth (chapter 24): This appears to apply to the end time.

Waiting to explode

That all are mentioned in the same overall context one after another appears to indicate that all are involved at some level in end-time events.

These prophecies are nowhere as specific as the predictions of Daniel 11, but it is intriguing to see how this region of the world dominates the headlines and how the whole Middle East is like a powder keg waiting to explode.

As we can see from these prophecies, eventually it *will* explode.