

Biblical Site We Will Visit in this File
The Via Della Rosa (Fourteen Stations of the Cross)

A Trip of Lifetime...



“Next Year in Jerusalem is Now” TM

“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem.” Acts 20:22

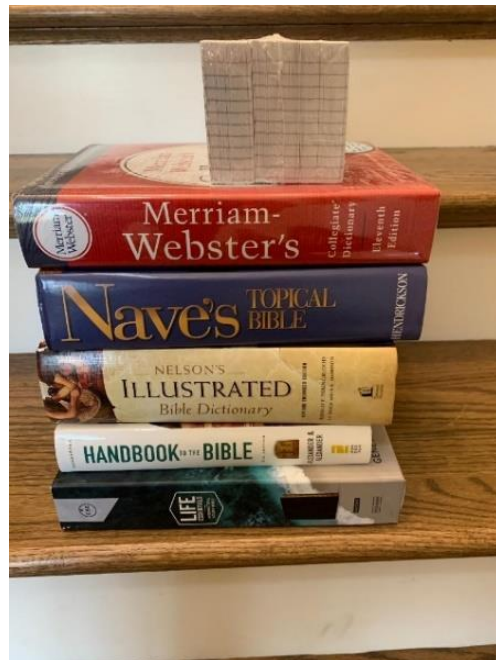
A Bible Study Strategy for Studying God’s Word Seeking God’s Perspective on Life Issues

We live in an “age” with many “Christian” tools, resources, books, study guides, sermons, teachings, etc. And with the Internet, most of the information is available instantly. It’s great that someone has researched, outlined, and delivered God’s Word. However, **no one** can infuse what they have learned and what God has accomplished—*into your life*. Yes, they can share what they learned and inspire you, but YOU must begin and maintain a personal relationship with The Lord. He is the **source** for attaining and maintaining “Spiritual Health.”

An essential part of the “Spiritual Health” process is taking ***your*** “life issues” and then acquiring, understanding, and living by **“God’s Perspective”** on those issues. Studying the Bible is fun and exhilarating when you learn and apply His Word to your “personal” life issues and concerns. Therefore, Bible study becomes “personal.” Though the process can be lengthy and sometimes painful, it is necessary and “will” bear fruit.

Here are the essential tools you will need.

- A Bible with an accurate translation, not a “modern” Bible translation.
- Topical Bible
- Bible Dictionary
- A Webster’s Dictionary
- A Bible “Handbook”
- A computer or “journal” to write down your thoughts and what you hear in your study.
- Note cards or index cards and a pen to carry.



Consider printing the next page and keeping it near your Bible.

A Bible Study Strategy for Studying God’s Word

Seeking God’s Perspective on Life Issues

Study YOUR Life Issues Through the Lens of Scripture

When you find an issue or an area of your life that needs “God’s” TOUCH, or you “find” a word or topic in your Bible study, you are curious about it. Locate **ALL** the verses that speak to that topic or issue. Your **Topical Bible** will help you begin that process. Then, use your **Bible** to read all the verses you discovered in your Topical Bible. Read the chapter(s) and verse(s) before and after that “word” or “topic” to understand the authors’ and God’s original intent in its “context.” Also, look up the words or topics in your Bible, Webster’s dictionary, and Bible handbook.

Read and Think About the Scriptures

Modern versions of the Bible, such as the “Message,” are not accurate Bible translations. Therefore, use a precise translation of the Bible. Read “small” sections of Scripture (a few sentences to one paragraph or chapter) repeatedly. For every **ten minutes** of reading, spend ten to fifteen minutes **“Thinking”** about what you just read. Read the “Sections” of Scripture in different translations. Read “them” at various times and places throughout the day. Also, read the section you are studying before bed and when you wake up.

Remember Your Friends

Who? -What? -Where? -When? -Why? -How?

Ask your friends “Questions” about what you read, think about, and listen to.

YOU Must Do the Study Work

I am not a big fan of commentaries or similar resources. But they can help you see what you may have missed AFTER **your** studies. The “same” goes for using the Internet. Remember that Bible “commentary” or similar resources are only as good as the person making the commentary and their educational, theological, and ministry training and experience.

One Idea

Whenever you read a book, listen to a sermon, etc., make it your objective to gain ONE idea. Please write it down and learn all about it. Then, find ways to use that one idea in your life. General knowledge, including Bible knowledge, is NOT life-changing. **“Heart Change”** comes by the “Application” of what you are studying, reading, or hearing **and** God’s GRACE!

Paper and Pen

Always carry index cards or a small notebook and pen. Write down whatever is pertinent to you as you listen to or read sermons, teachings, etc., and what “comes to mind.” It could be as “seemingly insignificant” as a “To Do” item you need to accomplish. Your mind is an idea-producing machine, so write your ideas down. Refer to the “cards” later to accomplish whatever is necessary and to study the “words,” “issues,” etc., from your cards. The process is one change, one step at a time...

What I Had to Do

Seeking God's Perspective on Life Issues

Forgiving the Germans

Another ongoing "life issue" was my hatred towards the Germans for killing all of my family (except my Mother, her sister, and their Mother) in Poland during the Holocaust. Therefore, because of what the Germans did to my family, I hated them. I lost the privilege of seeing my grandfather and my family.

Even though the German government had taken some measure of responsibility for their actions by paying my grandmother and Mother (and other survivors of the Holocaust) a monthly pension, I still hated them. Who knows what resources and opportunities we would have had if the Nazis had not stolen everything from us? So, from the time I began dealing with this issue, it took over **25 years to finally forgive the Germans for what they did to my family**. There was much personal and spiritual learning and growth that took place.

Interestingly, no person has impacted me more than the author, businessman, people builder, and philanthropist, the late **Paul J. Meyer**. My love for Paul stems from my becoming a Christian under his ministry. In the spring of 2007, I read his book "*Forgiveness... the Ultimate Miracle*." That book changed my life forever. I was confronted with the reality that Paul was German, and his family had immigrated to America from Germany. As I began reflecting on Paul's impact on my life and my love for him, I was struck with God's sense of humor. It was ironic that I hated Germans but was in love with one. However, because of Paul's book, I finally forgave ALL Germans. I also wrote a letter to my friend Paul J. Meyer expressing my love for him and presenting him with a precious gift.

August 28, 2007 "Dear Paul J. Meyer,

I have always known that someday I would give you the following present—a Star of David that was given to me shortly after my birth in Israel. This Star of David is the MOST precious material possession that I own. My Father kept it for me, and I began wearing it shortly after I accepted Christ as my Savior. I have worn it for over 25 years, but I am certain you should be its new owner.

Several years ago, I proposed in my heart to give you this pendant because I love you. Anyway, I rehearsed this event over and over in my mind during the last few years. Each time, it led me to tears. But now there are no more tears, only joy, which brings me to the point of this letter. A few months ago, I read "*Forgiveness—the Ultimate Miracle*." The same whispering voice of the Holy Spirit who has guided my life and choices inspired me to finally forgive ALL Germans for what they did to my family in Poland. However, I did not recall that you came from a German background. Interestingly, the Germans invaded Poland this same week in August of 1939, killing and plundering many Jewish families. Therefore, please accept this most precious gift as a memorial of God's Ultimate Miracle—reconciling ALL people to Himself—including Jews and Germans. I have included the chain I wore in case you want to wear it. I pray you will treasure this Star of David as much as I have." With much love, Michael Attar

Four Stolen Silver Trumpets

One aspect of the Spiritual Health process is dealing with sin issues. Everyone sins because we all are born into sin because of the “Fall.” Thankfully, by believing in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, those who “believe” have righteousness—right standing with God.

Everyone has experienced “pain” after someone sinned against them. And everyone has inflicted “pain” by sinning against someone. But because God has forgiven ALL our sins, we should extend His grace to those who sin against us. Likewise, we should ask for forgiveness from those we have sinned against. In asking for forgiveness, sometimes God will “tell” us to offer a form of restitution to those we have offended.

For over seven years, I told the story of the “Four Stolen Silver Trumpets” in our *“Engaging with God”* presentation to Carrolton Springs Hospital patients. It is a compelling story, and many patients were impacted by it, and my story of finally forgiving the Germans for killing my family in Poland. **Therefore, MANY patients came to the “conclusion” to begin the process of asking for forgiveness for sins they had committed. And also to start forgiving those who sinned against them. However, it is impossible to seek “Biblical” forgiveness or to provide “Biblical” forgiveness unless a person KNOWS the author of “forgiveness-Jesus Christ. So, these two stories led to a clear presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Here’s my story...

In 1976, I was sixteen years old and pursuing a career in classical music as a trumpet player. I had been studying for five years under a teacher who became the principal player of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. Since I played in several different orchestras at school and throughout the city, I thought I needed a C trumpet. I wanted one. The standard Trumpet is constructed in the Key of B flat. However, most professionals use a trumpet explicitly built in the Key of C, as it is more versatile for orchestra work. So, I walked into the Giardinelli Band Instrument Company in New York City and, without paying for it, casually walked out the door with a new silver C trumpet—**stolen silver trumpet number one**. I was so proud, playing and later selling it for three hundred dollars.

I needed a job and went to the Giardinelli Band Instrument Company that same year. I asked the president, Robert Giardinelli, to hire me, and he did. The first day at work was a Saturday, the busiest day for the company. I was “posted” at the front door. My mission was to prevent people from leaving the store with instruments they didn’t pay for. I was the proverbial fox standing guard over the henhouse. That fall, a trumpeter in our band needed a new horn. I suggested he could get a brand-new horn for only one hundred dollars. The plan was for him to bring his empty case and for me to put a new horn into it—**stolen silver trumpet number two**.

I prided myself in shipping and packing instruments all over the world, but my thefts never bothered me. One day, very brazenly, I packed two new silver trumpets into a box and then loaded the box onto the dolly with other instruments ready to be shipped. I rolled the dolly out the door, walked down to the post office, and mailed the boxes. I had cleverly forged the destination and recipient of the box. Several days later, the two silver trumpets arrived safely at my home—**stolen silver trumpets three and four**. I was so proud of my new silver trumpets,

which I brought to school and played everywhere. Friends wondered where I got the money to buy two new silver trumpets. I suspect my parents probably wondered, too.

There is no question about it; at this stage in my life, I was a criminal with no integrity. Immediately after the thefts, I began thinking that, had I been caught, I probably would have been incarcerated. This began to bother me and, during the next four years, caused unbearable emotional pain. I dealt with this pain, as most people do, by indulging in vices.

Immersed in the pain of my sins, I was invited to a church at the age of twenty. I heard the Gospel for the first time in my life—the Gospel that Jesus Christ died as a substitute for my sins, rising again on the third day. In faith, I believed in the Gospel and became a Christian—a Jewish believer in Jesus Christ. Because of this spiritual and eternal transformation, my sins, past, present, and future, as far as God was concerned, were forgotten. My spiritual transformation and “spiritual journey” began. I believed that God had forgiven me for the thefts of the four silver trumpets and forgotten about them, too.

Because of God’s grace, regaining and maintaining integrity became a big issue for me. I pursued integrity with a vengeance, tackling one issue after another until I regained a considerable measure of my integrity. However, the issue of the four silver trumpets never totally went away. Over the years, I thought about it so often that I began to lose sleep—becoming anxious and depressed. Frequently, I wondered why no one took notice of the things I had accomplished in business and in my personal life. Finally, I realized that my talk and walk didn’t line up. Purposefully, I kept my mouth shut and entered a time of repentance, reclaiming lost integrity and taking personal responsibility for my actions.

While learning to overcome my mood struggles, I became intensively involved with a group called Top Gun—a men’s accountability and discipleship ministry in my Church. Each week, I met with other men to discuss and resolve deep, personal life issues. These men were well aware of my intense mood struggles. They loved me and encouraged me to follow through with the extensive reading and strict accountability required of each man in the group. Through this process of close accountability and with God working in my life, the issue of the four silver trumpets kept coming back to my mind.

The pain regarding this sin became so intense that I cried each week in front of these men. I understood that one source of my mood struggles was sin. There are many other reasons and sources, but since the issue of the four silver trumpets always lingered in my mind, I began to wonder and seriously consider if my mood struggles resulted from the thefts. After painful reflection and consideration, I concluded that taking the silver trumpets contributed to my illness.

Lamenting over my evil deeds, my leader confronted me on this issue. He told me, ***“The pain of your sin never went away because God is trying to get your attention.”***

My accountability leader was right. I knew it was time to resolve this issue. Just as I had dealt with similar situations, I let the pain drive me, following it to the source—my lack of integrity.

First, I calculated the value of the four stolen silver trumpets. I added compound interest for twenty-two years. I also added “restitution” for my thefts—a dollar value that would say, “I mean business.” I opened my checkbook and wrote a ten-thousand-dollar check to Robert Giardinelli.

Did I have ten thousand dollars to throw away? No. But that didn’t matter. Money wasn’t the issue—the source of the pain was. Regaining and keeping integrity intact was more valuable than money. Why now? Why so, suddenly? Why at all?

On a Thursday, I mustered the courage to call Bob Giardinelli to pay my debt. I called the store in New York and asked to speak with him. I was told that Mr. Giardinelli had died two years earlier.

“Is his wife still alive?” I asked.

“Yes!” Came the reply.

“Could I please get her phone number?”

“*We don’t have it. Mrs. Rose Giardinelli is in Italy.*”

“Is there a number for her hotel?”

“No.”

“Do you know what hotel she is staying in?”

“*Yes, here it is.*”

I hung up, called international information, and got the number of the hotel in Italy.

“*Rose Giardinelli? You missed her by a day. She’s on her way to Rome.*”

I called the store back and explained that this was a matter of “life and death.” “Could you arrange for Mrs. Rose Giardinelli to call me collect when she returns to New York?” I gave them my name and phone number. Several days later, I got a call from Rose Giardinelli.

Slowly, I explained who I was, that I had been employed by her husband and had stolen four silver trumpets. Also, I was now a Christian. I asked her if she knew what that meant.

She said, “*Yes, I’m a Christian, too.*”

I told her the story of the four silver trumpets and was prepared to send her a ten-thousand-dollar check. I began to cry.

Mrs. Giardinelli blurted out, “*I forgive you.*”

Immediately, I responded, “But you don’t understand, Mrs. Giardinelli, I stole four silver trumpets. I owe you, and I must pay!”

She said again, “*I am a Christian, too, and I forgive you.*”

I could not stop crying. “But you don’t understand. I owe, and I must pay.”

“But you don’t understand. I forgive you.” Mrs. Giardinelli said again, “I forgive you. However, Mike, if you feel you must pay, then give the money to someone who needs it.”

With that, Mrs. Rose Giardinelli said goodbye and hung up. I sat there, stunned, crying, and it all hit me. I was forgiven! I had been forgiven for the theft of the four silver trumpets. Closing my checkbook, I was flooded with relief. But that’s not the end of the story. No! It’s the beginning.

I went back to my accountability leader and told him what had happened. Several weeks later, my leader commented that something very good was going to come out of this, adding that most people would never have followed through. I replied that I still felt some pain and that the event wasn’t fully resolved. He encouraged me to continue the follow-through process until the pain went away. Still, days later, the pain lingered.

Forgiven? Yes!

Resolved? No!

Mrs. Giardinelli said if I felt I had to pay, I should give the money to someone who needed it. I wrestled with that thought for days.

Why did I still feel pain?

My very first pastor and friend, JW, came to mind. He was also the one who encouraged me to pursue sales, especially the securities business. He had been right on all accounts. I had spoken with him several times over the years, telling him about the overall success I had been having. “Give this man some money,” the voice in my head said. “How much?” Obediently, I wrote out a check for **five thousand dollars**.

Then I called, made an appointment, and drove to his house. Filling him in on the pieces of my life, I told him I wanted to write that I had written much, but generally, I felt I had nothing to say. I informed him I was going to continue my writing pursuits. He reminded me of a letter I had written him soon after my friend Angela died. It described my despair, heartache, and my battle with mood struggles. John said he had kept that letter on his desk and prayed for me often. He said he wanted the first copy of a book signed by me whenever it was published.

At that point, I told him I had nothing to publish. In parting, I told him I loved him, took out the check, and gave it to him. He looked at the check, and the large sum drove him instantly to tears. He said that he really could use the money. He asked me why I was doing this, so I told him the story. Coincidentally, I ran into him and his wife three years later at a local restaurant. We shared a meal that night, and he asked me,

“How is it going?”

“I’m learning how to write.”

We discussed the progress I had been making...He told me to continue pursuing my passion, suggesting I write a book that would comfort and bring hope to others. He quoted the verses I used on this book’s back cover as we ate dinner. The following day, I got up and worked on this book for the next two years. I am convinced that following the Holy Spirit’s urging to make restitution birthed my first book and the ministry of the Good Mood Foundation.

The BIG Outcome of the Process

How I did “better” was the question I often heard from the in-patients of Carrollton Springs Hospital. It was where our volunteers ministered every Sunday and Wednesday for seven and a half years. I had suffered a concussion and closed head trauma, which led to my brain going to “sleep” for five years.

“Life-Issues” are HARD! Therefore, we must dig deep into God’s Word and allow Him to guide us through the “process” of receiving healing, hope, and restoration. However, the circumstances of life issues and needed changes are NOT an overnight event. It takes time! I told the patients that the “number one” issue I struggled with was to;

- Forgive the people who hurt me.
- Receive forgiveness from those who I hurt.

I told the “previous” story of how it took 25 years to finally forgive the Germans for killing my family in Poland. I also explained the “previous” story of the “Four Stolen Silver Trumpets” and how I received forgiveness and offered restitution.

They are powerful and impactful stories that opened the door to present “How To” because patients had “forgiveness” issues, too. I told that story to thousands of patients, which moved many to begin the “forgiving” and “being forgiven” process.

Ultimately, forgiving and being forgiven for the life-wrenching pain that I caused or someone inflicted on me is NOT possible outside of a personal relationship with the God of the Bible. Therefore, the Gospel of Jesus allowed the patients to believe in or return to Him.

They knew I had given \$5,000 of the \$10,000 I had offered as restitution. However, the patients always asked what happened to the other \$5,000 and what I did with that. I said that’s another story because I had nothing else to say.

In December 2018, my friend JW, whom I mentioned in my story, called me at home a few weeks before Christmas. You’ll recall that I offered Mrs. Giardinelli \$10,000 as restitution for the theft of the four silver trumpets and gave him \$5,000. I thought we would use the money to take a vacation or something like that.

JW had wanted to “tell me something” a few years earlier. He said he had written me a long letter on his computer, but it disappeared moments before hitting the “send” button. He was unable to retrieve the letter. In short, this is what he told me.

He had used the five thousand dollars to purchase a computer, projector, and other essentials to “seed” a new business opportunity. He explained the annual income he was getting from his sales, which was jaw-dropping. Also, he broke every sales record in his company and became the “number one” salesperson” in this industry. He became the VP and was with the company for 30 years before retiring recently. JW said he considers the receipt of the money “One of those divine provisions of God” and a “turning point” in his life.

God is GOOD!

In the fall of 2024, we were at Church. The pre-music was by a young man who had just graduated from High School and won a scholarship and entrance into a “National Music Conservatory.” The Senior Pastor praised the young man and told his story. Then, the young man started to play his TRUMPET. He was several measures into his solo when I “knew.” I wrote him a note saying I wanted to gift him a new Silver “C” Trumpet and Silver Flugelhorn. I gave him the note after the service.

Over the years, I purchased a new Trumpet in every “Key”— part of my TRUMPET collection, but I never played any of them. It just made my heart glad to own them. He and his Father were at my home that evening, and I gave the young man the two new silver instruments.

I remind you that the Four Silver Trumpet is a public story told to thousands of patients and published in my book. I am not saying the following to Trumpet my giving publicly. It explains what finally happened to the “other” \$5,000 and God’s redemption of my sinfulness as a young man. God had used my restitution of \$5,000 to seed JW’s business. The other \$5,000 would seed the young man’s studies as a Trumpet player, something I had wanted to do.

His Father asked me where they could purchase an E flat Trumpet. I said, give me a minute. I went upstairs, brought down an E Flat Trumpet, and gifted it to his son. One week later, I was “moved” to gift a 4th Trumpet—a Silver Picillo Trumpet. The young man came to my home to pick it up before leaving for the Music Conservatory.

God is in the business of forgiving our sins. But when we obey His leading in the restitution process, ONLY God could have orchestrated the resolution to my story.

The restitution of \$10,000 for the Theft of Four Silver Trumpets allowed a dear friend to seed a successful business venture, and a young man has Four Trumpets to use in Conservatory and most likely in his professional Trumpet playing career. But the BEST outcome is what God did in the healing process of my heart and mind over my sin. He’s in THAT business!

God is good!

Here’s another story related to my TRUMPET, which will tie everything together. You’ll understand after reading it!

My Inner PAIN Disappears

In the Spring of 1978 (I was 17), “something” happened to me. I didn’t understand “what” at the time. But in May 2017 (40 years later), “something else” happened to me that could ONLY be described as a miracle. Because of what happened to me, I “lost” NOTHING but gained “EVERYTHING!” Shortly after that, I sent the following letter to my Father.

May 2017

Father,

All my adult life, I have struggled with an “inner pain” that I describe as debilitating. Whenever the inner pain arose, I would become physically incapacitated-impotent! I chose to harness my inner pain as a motivating force that enabled me to accomplish many things. I also used this inner pain as a “steering mechanism” regarding personal relationships. Still, there were times when the pain became so unbearable that I could do nothing except “escape.” As hard as I tried, I could NOT identify the source of my inner pain.

The last time we spoke (in November of 2016), you offered to send me to school to become an X-ray technician. Maybe you forgot that I am 56 years old. You promised to pay for my education. Then you said, “I give you my word.” Immediately after we hung up, this inner pain rose again inside me. It was unbearable. I was infuriated with your offer and insistence, “I give you my word.” Where did I hear “I give you my word” before? As I contemplated my excruciating inner pain, I REMEMBERED!!!

When I was 17 years old, I received a full four-year music scholarship to college. It included private music lessons. Who was it that worked so hard practicing his Trumpet? ME! All I had to do was pay for my textbooks and show up. Then I explained that I needed money for my books and transportation. I can still remember how proud you were of me. You were lying on the sofa downstairs, and you were smiling. Then you uttered, “I will provide- I GIVE YOU MY WORD.”

In the fall, the college started, and I asked you for money. You began to yell at me. I asked again and again for money for my books and transportation. NO! Mom did what she could, but you took her paycheck. You oversaw the finances. NO! You said over and over again! I began to explode inside. Regardless of who I was and who you thought I was. That should not have mattered. I was 17-18, IMPERFECT! Yes, I made some bad choices. I needed an education and earned a scholarship. You promised to pay for my books and transportation. I was under your roof. You were the head of the house. You can’t put that on me, nor can you put that on Mother. It was on you!

A time came when I could no longer “show up.” I had no money. I stayed in my room in pain! Then, like clockwork, you came into my room every morning and taunted me. “Half Brain”-over and over and over again. NAMES-CURSING-YELLING! Slamming the door again and again every morning, it was the same thing! The result is that I sold my Trumpet for \$150 to buy a suit to look for a job. But still, you taunted me. You never kept your word to me!

I found a door that opened! I took it and left home.

From that time on, you know that God has transformed me! You will be hard-pressed to find any time when I wasn't loving, gracious, forgiving, gentle, and kind to you. NEVER did I curse you. NEVER did I hang up the phone on you! And always, when I failed, I asked for your forgiveness. You and I have always been "good." Except for those times when you "lose it" and begin to taunt me with insults, cursing, and yelling. It's as if I was dealing with someone "sleepwalking." Sleepwalkers have no idea of what happens when they "wake up."

After your "offer," I struggled deeply. I now recognize the source of my inner pain. It came from you not honoring your word regarding my education and how I suffered when I left home trying to find my way. I often prayed to God about my inner pain and asked that He would take it away. Or let me die! For 38 years, He did not!

But NOW that I recognized the source of my inner pain, I said, "I forgive my father."

I cannot explain it except to explain it this way. Right before Mitzi died, I held her in my arms, and then, in an instant, I felt her spirit leave her body. That's what God did for me! **I experienced the "bondage" that weighed me down for almost forty years—LEAVE ME! I consider this a miracle!!! The inner pain is GONE!**

True forgiveness is a one-sided event. I don't need or require any acknowledgment, etc. You've already acknowledged your behavior toward me while I was under your roof. I get it! Hurt people, hurt people. You've had to deal with your inner struggles. We all do! I also want you to know that being an X-Ray Tech was your dream. It was not and is not my dream. For weeks now, every day, I wake up, and the "inner pain" is NOT there. It is liberating. Therefore, I would like to try again to serve my Father and continue honoring him (and my Mother).

I would like you to tell me how I can honor and help you.

In conclusion: Why now? Why, after almost 40 years?

I can't answer these questions now, but I have one question.

Will you please be reconciled with me?

I love you dearly. You are my Father! It was wrong of me not to call- but now we both know why.

Please forgive me! Please let us be reconciled! Again, I ask respectfully.

Firstborn, always!

Michael

The Story of My Father's Salvation

When I believed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ at age nineteen, my father “Cut Me Off” in every respect—part of the Jewish dilemma of becoming a “believer.” In 1982, my youth pastor drove me to the airport so I could go home to visit my family. He encouraged me to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with my Father. But how do you love your Father when he has rejected you and cut you off? One step at a time.

It took MANY years of loving my dad, and ultimately, God's grace restored our relationship, and he believed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It came about “directly” after a “period of ten years” (1993-2003) when my Father would not talk to me. My Father had traveled to **Israel** to visit our family and spend time with his ailing sister.

Here is the note he gave me.

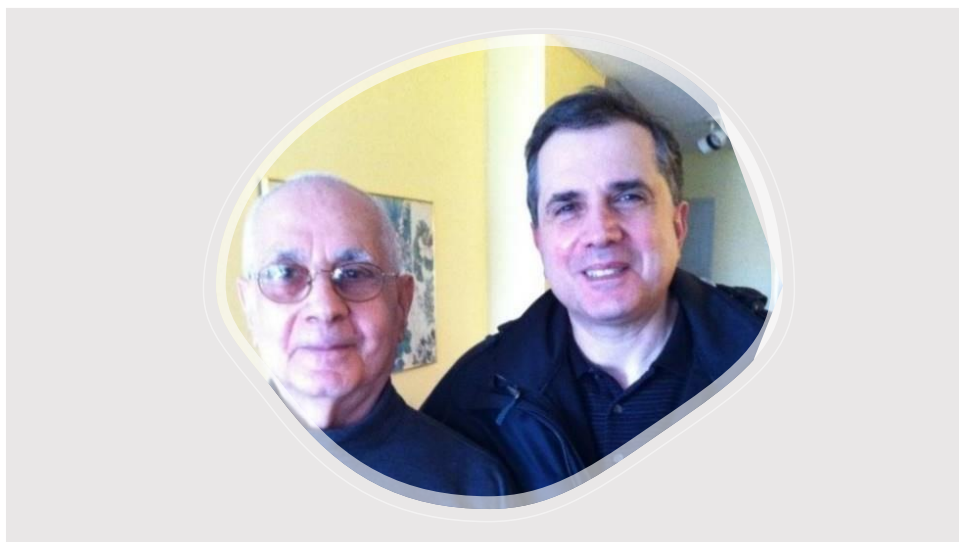
“Dear Mike,

My short stay with you was good. This reunion would not have been possible without your belief and trust in Christ and with my own growing understanding, which culminated in affirming Christ as the Savior for all sinners on Earth. This came about after my last trip to the Holy Land and my visit to the old City of Jerusalem.

Never before in my previous visits was I so moved and attentive to every step Jesus walked from the Via Dolorosa to the Church of Sepulcher. I stood next to the platform where Jesus' body was washed and entered the sanctuary where He was buried. It was exhilarating. I was excited and thrilled!

Our talks in your office, your patience, and your genuine love are all a testimony to the fact that you have grown in the spirit of Christ. I would like to add that by affirming my belief in Jesus. I am not rejecting my Father. May he rest in peace or my Jewish heritage. Nor am I denying my ancestors. I do believe that it is the right continuation for my Jewish secularism to follow my life with the real Savior—the Christ Jew.

Regards to Michelle, your wife and soul mate, and allow me to call her my third child. Thank you for bringing her to our family. Love, Dad”



Pictured is my Father and me the day before my trip to Israel in 2013.

In 2021, God put it on my heart to have my dad come and live with us. I cleared my office and put a bed in it. I had “boxes” shipped to the “doorman” of my Father’s building, instructing the doorman to keep them in storage for me.

I flew to New York on an “open-ended” ticket. I asked my Father to come and live with Michelle and me. He slept on it, and the next day, he said yes. I went downstairs to the storage room, retrieved the boxes, and packed all my dad’s things, and we flew back to Dallas.

My time with my dad can be summed up this way.

Nothing was left unsaid or undone. I “WAILED” in grief when he passed. Dad also “remembered” me after he passed. His “enduring love” enabled us to purchase our new home in Alabama, and we built a walkout basement apartment so my brother could move here, too. Dad is HAPPY! In memory of my Father, I hung two of his “Mezuzahs,” one by the front door and the other by the back entrance. Inside the Mezuzah is a parchment with several verses.

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts...Write them on the doorframes of your houses” Deuteronomy 6:4.

The last verse in the Old Testament indicates what God did for my Father and me.

“He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers.” Malachi 4:6

“The Via Della Rosa” — 14 Stations Where Jesus Christ Carried His Cross The Place Where My Father “Believed”

- On the cross, Jesus said, “It is finished.”



Israel is a place for “everyone” to enjoy, to visit and explore the “Biblical sites.” The site that everyone who loves Jesus visits is [The Via Dolorosa](#) in Jerusalem.

The Via Dolorosa consists of “14 Stations,” which correspond with the events of Jesus as He [carried His cross](#). As you visit each Station, you’ll reflect on the events at that Station. You can designate someone in your group to carry a large cross as you walk from “Station to Station.”

Words cannot even describe the “Spirit” in Jerusalem as you walk the Via Dolorosa.

1st Station-Where Jesus was Condemned to Death

“Meanwhile, Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” **“Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied...** Now it was the governor’s custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time, they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So, when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, “Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas or Jesus, who is called Christ?” For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him. While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message: “Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.” But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” asked the governor. “Barabbas,” they answered. “What shall I do, then, with Jesus, who is called Christ?” Pilate asked. They all answered, “Crucify him!” “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere but that instead, an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. **“I am innocent of this man’s blood,”** he said. “It is your responsibility!” All the people answered, **“Let his blood be on us and on our children!”** Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged and handed him over to be crucified. Matthew 27:11–26

2nd Station-Where a Crown of Thorns was Placed on Jesus’s head and He Was Given His Cross

“Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they struck him in the face. Once more, Pilate came out and said to the Jews, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him...The Jews insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law, he must die because he claimed to be the Son of God...It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. “Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!” “Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered. Finally, Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.” John 19:1-16

3rd Station-Where Jesus Fell for the First Time

Jesus falls beneath His Cross, weakened by torments and blood loss.

“Yet it was the LORD’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge, my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong because he poured out his life unto death and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors.” Isaiah 53:10-12

4th Station-Where Jesus Met His Mother

Jesus was abandoned by his followers and denied by Peter. Amid His loneliness, Jesus met His Mother. But she was powerless to change the course of events.

“Near the cross of Jesus stood his Mother, his Mother’s sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his Mother there and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his Mother, “Dear woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.” John 19:25-27

5th Station-Where Simon of Cyrene Carried the Cross for Jesus

“A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross.” Mark 15:21

6th Station-Where Veronica Wiped the Face of Jesus

7th Station-Where Christ Fell for the Second Time

Events occurring in Stations 6 and 7 are based on tradition. It’s humbling to remember that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was a rejected man. He understood rejection and betrayal from His brothers, family, some of His disciples, His hometown, and people, the Jews.

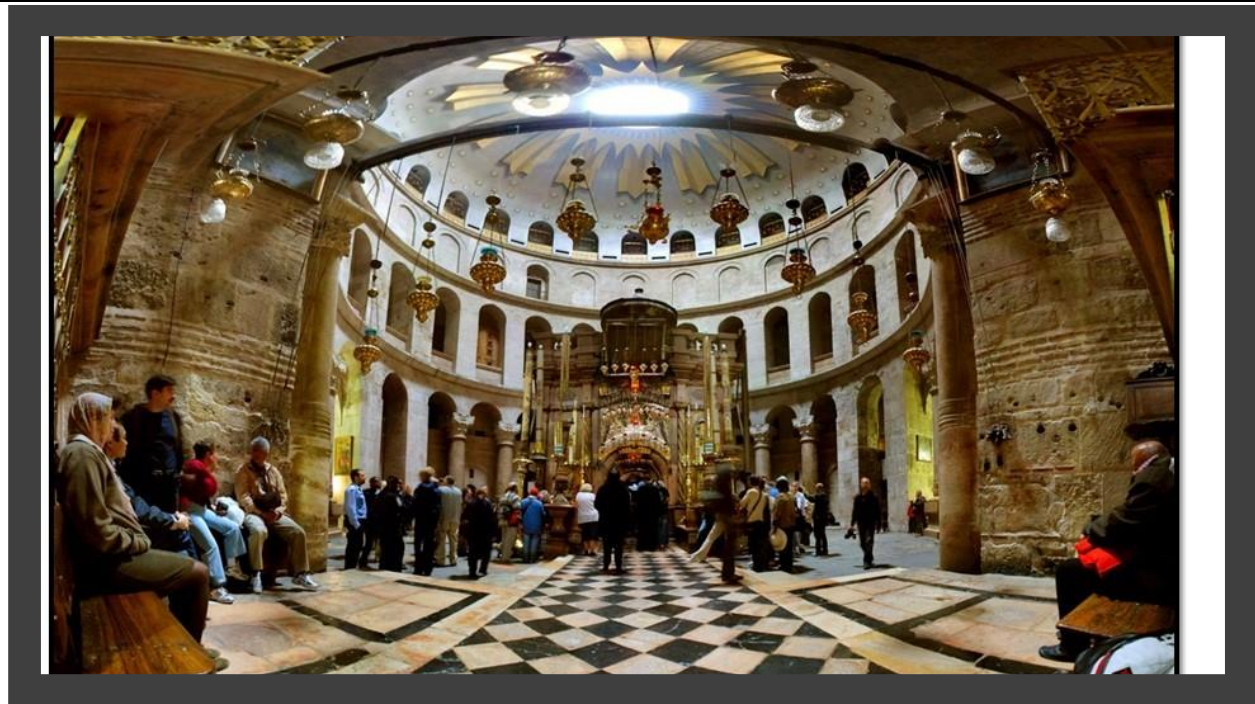
What gave Jesus the strength to carry on and to press forward to the cross—the symbol of total scorn, shame, and ultimate rejection? It was the words of His Heavenly Father— ‘This is My Son, whom I love, with Him, I am well pleased.’ At the cross, Jesus dealt with rejection once and for all. Never, under any circumstance, will He leave you or forsake you. He is ‘A friend that sticks closer than a brother.’ Never will He leave you; never will He forsake you. ‘I am with you always, even to the very end of the age.

8th Station-

Where Jesus Met a Group of Women and Stopped to Preach to Them

“Many people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me.” Luke 22:27-29

9th Station-Church of the Holy Sepulcher



The Church of the Holy Sepulcher is where the [remaining stations](#) of the cross are found. It is believed Jesus fell here for the third time.

10th Station-Where Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

“When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. “Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.” This happened that the Scripture might be fulfilled, which said, “They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.” So, this is what the soldiers did.” John 19:23-24

11th Station-Where Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

“Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, **“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”** And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.” The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” There was a written notice above him, which read: This is **the King of the Jews**. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are

getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” **Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”** Luke 23:32-43

12th Station-Where Jesus Died on the Cross

“About the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice... “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.” Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.” And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit... Surely, he was the Son of God!” Matthew 27: 46-54

13th Station-Where Jesus’ Body is Removed from the Cross

“Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken,” and, as another scripture says, “They will look on the one they have pierced.” John 19:31-37

14th Station-Jesus is Laid in a Tomb

“As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away...the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. “Sir,” they said, “we remember that while he was still alive, that deceiver said, ‘After three days, I will rise again.’ So, give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.” “Take a guard,” Pilate answered. “Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.” **So, they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.**” Matthew 27:57-66

But on the Third day, He arose! Jesus is the LORD.

“The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.” The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies...The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.” The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath. He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole Earth.” Psalm 110

I also said, **“You can’t take a pill to take away the pain from the effects of the sinful nature.”** Some patients were experiencing the consequences of walking via the “Fruits of the Flesh.” Thankfully, when we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive and restore us to Himself. God provided the Precious Holy Spirit, who will guide us moment-by-moment via the “Fruits of the Spirit.” Again, this is only possible with a personal relationship with the God of the Bible.

I also quoted Dr. Richard Pelligrino (Neurologist), who said, **“In 25 years of working with the brain, I still cannot affect a person’s state of mind the way one simple song can.”** So, I encouraged the patients to find or rediscover songs that “ministered to their Spirit” and then listen to them repeatedly during the day and at night (via a pillow speaker and MP3 Player while they sleep). I said, **“One of the best ways to overcome negative thoughts and emotions is by watching, listening, and singing to praise and worship music.”** So, “we” sang “Brighter Day” by Kirk Franklin and many other songs to reinforce these truths and for the patients to discover and rediscover the soothing balm of Worshipful Songs. Amongst the many “items” we offered the patients was a (hospital-approved) MP3 Speaker Player (with worshipful songs) that patients could “check out.” Hospital staff always commented that the patients were in a better mood after our groups.

Click on the file **“Spiritual Component”** to learn more.