



2100 W. Frontage Rd. • Palatine, IL. 60078

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"But none of these things move me; nor do I account my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus Christ to testify to the Gospel of grace of God."

(Acts 20:24)

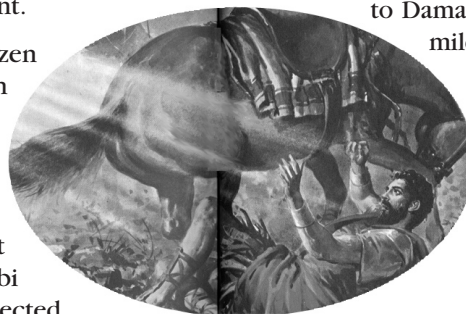
ST. PAUL

Prior to his conversion, St. Paul was always called "Saul". He was a Jew, a member of the tribe of Benjamin (Phil. 3:5). He likely came from a prominent family. According to the strictest sect of his religion he lived as a Pharisee (Acts 26:5) Ironically his background prepared him to be the early church's chief opponent.

St. Paul was born as a Roman citizen (Acts 22:28) in Tarsus, a major city in Asia Minor. It was a center of tent-making industry, and perhaps that influenced Saul to choose that craft as an occupation. He was brought up in Jerusalem at the "feet of Gamaliel", the most illustrious rabbi of the day (Acts 22:3) and a highly respected member of the Jewish council.

Saul was an apt pupil. He claimed to have outstripped his peers in enthusiasm for ancestral traditions and in his zeal for the law (Phil 3:4-6). Probably, through Gamaliel, Saul had the opportunity to observe the council and came to know many

of its principals. He had likely watched earlier encounters between the council and the members of the way such as that which came ahead in the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:37-8:1). But apparently, the incident with Stephen galvanized his commitment to traditional Judaism and set him off on a mission to Damascus in which Saul undertook a 130 mile journey from Jerusalem, in order to persecute Christians there. On the Damascus road, he had an encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ that led to his conversion and changed his life forever. Following to his conversion Saul was known as Paul.



The Apostle of the Gentiles

Even though Paul maintained a deep love for his people (Acts 9:1-5), yet when the Jews rejected his message he turned away from them and went to the Gentiles (Acts 13:46, 18:6, 19:9). That was in response to the Lord's mission: "I will send you far from here to the Gentiles." (Act 22:21)

AN INSIGHT

••••• What a Change !!•••••

St. Paul, being a Pharisee, it was unlawful for him to keep company or to go to one of another nation. (Acts 10:28) So, for him to take the Gospel to the Gentiles was a reversal of his life and a thorough repudiation of his background as a Pharisee.

How could that happen to a person whose first appearance in (Acts 8:1) assisting at the stoning of Stephan, and then leading a gang of persecutors on a campaign against the believers to become a miraculous turnabout on the road of Damascus? (Acts 9:1-19)

All those knowing Saul's old reputation were initially skeptical about his conversion. But, when they heard him



preaching Christ they were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name?" (Acts 9:21)

How could it be for that fearsome Pharisee to become a fearless apostle and Christianity's leading evangelist, and the writer of half the New Testament books! He was perhaps the most thorough converted man who ever lived, and whose creed was "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Phil 1:21) With all measures Saul's miraculous conversion was an Act of God's love and grace

.... How could it be other wise!...
There remains a question : Have you changed your life as St. Paul did?

Church News

Saturday & Sunday August 3rd & 4th:

Our church was blessed by the visit of H. G. Anba Youssef, Bishop of the diocese in the South of the USA. On Saturday H.G held Ashia prayer. On Sunday he headed the Divine Liturgy Service. Participated in the service Rev. Fr. Boutros Boutros, priest of St. Mina's church in Nashville. After the service, H. G., held a meeting for the servants and he talked about the qualities that the servants should have.

August 15, 2002:

H.H. Pope Shenouda III, started his blessed Papal visit to the UK, USA and Canada. H. H.'s agenda included the following:

- Meeting with the Bishops, priests and congregations.
 - The consecration of some churches.
 - Laying the corner stone of some projects.
 - Holding a seminar for the priests at St. Mary's Vineyard in Boston.
- These were just a few of the tasks which H.H. attended to, during this visit which ended on September 10, 2002.

Saturday August 17-Wednesday 21, 2002



Daily service were held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.. The speakers were visiting priests. The subject of the sermons were about St. Mary. On Thursday, August 22, a Divine Liturgy Service was held from 8:00 to 10:45 a.m. to celebrate the ascension of St. Mary's body.

Saturday & Sunday 2nd & 3rd of November

Our church will be blessed by the visit of H.G. Bishop David. On Saturday evening, H.G. will hold Ashia prayer followed by a meeting for the youth. On Sunday morning, H.G. will preside the Divine Liturgy Service, and in the afternoon, H.G. will attend the banquet celebrating the 6th anniversary of the Church.



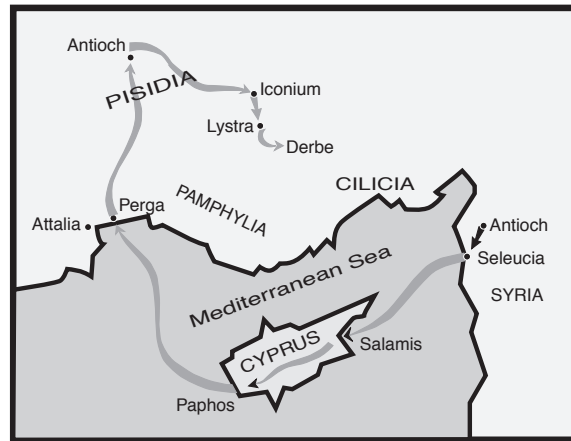
Mark your calendar and plan on joining us. We value your presence

Sixth Anniversary Celebration
St. Mary will hold
this annual event On
Sunday, November 3rd, 2002

At

Hilton Northbrook
2855 N. Milwaukee Ave.

ST. PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY



St. Luke described how this journey started. He said: Then having fasted and prayed, the apostles sent Barnabas and Saul away. (Acts 13:2, 3) So being sent by the Holy Spirit. Barnabas and Saul, taking John Mark with them, they went down from Antioch, -where the followers of Christ were first called "Christians"- (Acts 11:26), to Selucia (port of Antioch). From there they sailed to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis they proclaimed the Word of God.

After they spent some time in salamis they left to the city of Paphos which lies west of Cyprus. It is famous for the temple of "Afrodite" the goddess of love. She was worshiped by the Romans who followed filthy rituals. There they met with the governor of the city "Sergius Paulus" and they preached in the name of Jesus Christ. There was a fanatic Jewish man called "Bar-Jesus" who fought the two apostles and he tried to turn away the governor from the faith, so Paul caused the man to have temporary blindness. When the Governor saw what happened he believed. After that the apostles left Cyprus and sailed to the city of Perga in Pamphylia. In Perga, John Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem.

It was the first instance of Paul preaching in a predominantly pagan environment. There was no evidence that he had much success. Paul and Barnabas departed from Perga and they came to:

Congratulations To:

Rev. Fr. Pavlos R. Fabmy
for his ordination as a priest for
St. Mark's church in Chicago.
We also would like to congratulate
Rev. Fr. Samuel T. Samuel, and
St. Mark's congregation
for this blessed event.

- ❖ Ihab z. Marcus and Shreen M. Abdel Messib
 - ❖ James Moawad and Sherry Gayed
 - ❖ George Guirgus and Cheryl Jeselskis
 - ❖ Emad Malek and Samar Samuel
- for becoming one in Christ. May the Lord bless their marriage and grant them happiness.
- ❖ Samuel & Dina akbnoukh for the birth of their daughter *Miriam*
 - ❖ Dr. Emad and Fadia Rizk for the birth of their son *Antonios Karas*.
 - ❖ Michail and fawzia Boctor for the baptism of their daughter *Virina*.
 - ❖ Marcos and Maria Tawfik for the baptism of their son *Antonious*.
- May the Lord bless the newborn to grow in grace and stature before God and men.

■ **Antioch in Pisidia:** This city had a rare mix of native Phrygians, Greeks, Jews and Roman colonists. On the Sabbath, Sts. Barnabas and Paul went into the Synagogue. There St. Paul stood up and spoke to the congregation about the history of Israel and about Jesus Christ. And on the following Sabbath almost the whole city came together to listen to him. But their enemies stirred up the chief men of the city against the Apostles, so they departed to:

■ **Iconium City:** Capital of the Roman province of Lycaonia in central Asia Minor, known today as Konya in Turkey. There Sts. Barnabas and Paul went to the Synagogue and spoke so that the multitude of both Jews and Gentiles believed. But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and set their minds against the apostles, and when an attempt was made to stone them, they fled into the cities of Lystra and Derba and into the region that lies around, where the apostles preached the Gospel.

(to be continued)