

Gleanings from the Missionary

THE KOKENZIE FAMILY

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CITY OF TUNNELS UNDER JERUSALEM

“Underneath the crowded alleys and holy sites of old Jerusalem, hundreds of people are snaking at any given moment through tunnels, vaulted medieval chambers, and Roman sewers in a rapidly expanding subterranean city invisible from the streets above. At street level, the walled Old City is an energetic and fractious enclave with a physical landscape that is predominantly Islamic and a population that is mainly Arab. Underground Jerusalem is different: Here the noise recedes, the fierce Middle Eastern sun disappears, and light comes from fluorescent bulbs. There is a smell of earth and mildew, and the geography recalls a Jewish city that existed 2,000 years ago. Archaeological digs under the disputed Old City are a matter of immense sensitivity. For Israel, the tunnels are proof of the depth of Jewish roots here, and this has made the tunnels one of Jerusalem’s main tourist draws: The number of visitors, mostly Jews and Christians, has risen dramatically in recent years to more than a million visitors in 2010. With the new underground, there will be more than a mile of pathways beneath the city. Officials say at least one other major project is in the works. Soon, anyone so inclined will be able to spend much time in Jerusalem without seeing the sky. In a multilevel maze of rooms and corridors beneath the Muslim Quarter, workers cleared rubble and installed steel safety braces to shore up crumbling 700-year-old Mamluk-era arches. Above ground, a group of French tourists emerged from a dark passage they had entered an hour earlier in the Jewish Quarter and found themselves among Arab shops on the Via Dolorosa, the traditional route Jesus took to his crucifixion” (*Levitt Letter*, “City of Tunnels Under Jerusalem”, Associated Press, August 2011, p. 10).

G. CAMPBELL MORGAN AND ORIGINALITY IN PREACHING

“Sometimes we say a preacher is ‘original’ because he has indulged in what sounds a very clever theory or speculation. Perhaps he has given the discourse what we call ‘an original title.’ Dr. Morgan does not believe in that sort of thing. He has no showmanship of any sort. Long ago he realised that the truly original preacher does not create truth, but develops it: does not invent or even discover new truth, but apprehends it, interprets a revelation. ‘Religion,’ as Dr. W. B. Selbie says, ‘is suffering to-day, as so often in the past from the lack of an open vision.’ The Word of the Lord is rare, and men find it easier to accept hearsay and tradition than to discover for themselves the authentic voice of God. In the priestly and the prophetic in religion the priestly always wins because it represents the way of safety and the line of least resistance. The craving for authority is natural and legitimate, but we must beware of satisfying it too easily. The final appeal must always be a “Thus saith the Lord”” (*Campbell Morgan: A Sketch of the Great Expositor and Preacher*, Harold Murray, “Chapter IV: Dr. Morgan’s Methods,” <http://www.gcampbellmorgan.com/gcmbt.html>).

JESUS IS WONDERFUL

“We have not fully appreciated the cross if it has not taken our breath away and become the most important thing in our life.... If the Bible is true, then those who are fanatical for Jesus are right” (*The Cross of Jesus Christ*, William MacDonald).

HOW GOES YOUR WEEK?

Some take all week to prepare for Sunday; others use Sunday to prepare for the week. Whatever you do, be prepared—stay faithful to church!