

YMCA

The Gideon camp I belonged to in Omaha, Nebraska arranged to present some Bible for the rooms of the YMCA. Because I was a new member they asked me to be present at the dedication service in the chapel. Gideon men ~~stood~~^{each had} speaking parts in the presentation. The staff of the YMCA also attended. One of the staff men approached me as we started to depart and said the Superintendent of the Y wanted to talk to me in his office. The gentleman said that they were in need of a volunteer to do some spiritual emphasis work with the men that lodged there. He thought my youth would make me suitable and wondered if I would be interested. We talked over what I might do.

In the end, I agreed to go one night a week and attempt to reach some of the young men by calling on them

in their rooms during leisure hours. The first night was a fearful one for me, so I prayed the Lord would have an open door to someone's room as a SIGN for me to knock and introduce myself.

I walked to the end of the hall before I came to a door that was open about six inches. I knocked and a man said, "Come in."

I introduced myself and said I had come to talk about spiritual things. He was a young man about 19 years old. He had attended Sunday School with 10 years perfect attendance. When I asked if he knew if he were going to Heaven if he died right now, he said "no." I asked him he would like to know if I showed him from the Bible. He said, "Yes." I had him read Isaiah 53:6. All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned, every one, to his own

way. And the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was excited because he had memorized that verse in Sunday School, but didn't know what it was for. I explained that we are like sheep and have gone our own way, which is the reason we are lost. I explained the picture of the Lord Jesus being the good Shepherd, and turned to Luke 19:10 which reads, "For the son of man has come to seek and to save that which is lost." This relates to Christ as a shepherd, looking for lost sheep. He could understand that, and so I had him read Hebrews 7:25, which reads, "Wherefore He is able to save to the uttermost those that come unto God through Him. Seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. "This explains the fact that God saves those that come unto God through Christ. The last verse I used was the last half of Isaiah 53:6, "and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

This explains that Christ took our iniquity on himself at the cross so our sin can be forgiven. The last question I asked him was, "would you like to kneel and pray with me now by your bed and ask Jesus Christ into your life and forgive you of sin. He agreed, and we knelt and prayed. I do not know his name anymore and only know he came to the Bible study at the YMCA for about 16 months after that, until I was recalled in the service. *Air Force - Korean War*

There came a time when the YMCA superintendent asked me to hold a weekly service in the small chapel on the third floor. This led to some interesting experiences. One was when a boy, nearly blind from a brain tumor, came to the chapel and asked me to come to his room and discuss how to know the Lord Jesus. After reading some scriptures and explaining them to him I suggested he kneel and pray.

He had never been involved in such an endeavor and, to my surprise, he got down on his hands and knees at my suggestion. This was new to me, but not to him. I mention this to help us all remember that things that are familiar to us are not always familiar to someone else.

We prayed together and he asked the Lord to save him from sin and asked Christ into his life. This changed his attitude and he came to the chapel until he left the YMCA.

After completing his training in radio repair school, he went back to Illinois and later wrote a letter telling what the chapel service had meant to him.