

Kids' Chronicle

David and Saul.

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Spies from Ziph reported to King Saul that David was hiding on the hill of Hachilah, at the edge of the wasteland. Saul immediately selected 3,000 soldiers to go with him to find David.

But David also had spies. And they told him that Saul had made his camp by the hill. David went out to see for himself. With Saul was Abner, his general. Saul and Abner had their sleeping quarters within a barricade and they were protected by soldiers on every side. David returned to his own camp and asked, "Who will go down into the camp with me to Saul?"

"I will," said Abishai.

When it was dark, David and Abishai went into Saul's camp. Everyone was asleep — all of the soldiers, General Abner and Saul. David and Abishai entered Saul's tent and found him with his spear stuck into the ground by his head, where he could reach it easily if there were any danger.

Then Abishai whispered into David's ear, "God has delivered your enemy into your grasp this day." Abishai grasped the handle of Saul's spear. "Let me nail him to the ground

with one thrust of the spear; I will not need a second thrust."

But David answered firmly, "No, do not harm him, for who can lay hands on the Lord's anointed and remain unpunished? Now take the spear that is at his head and the water jug, and let us be on our way."

Abishai took Saul's spear and water jug and he and David left the camp. No one heard or saw anything, because the Lord had put them all in a deep sleep.

David stood on a hill directly across from Saul's camp and he called out to Abner.

"Who is it that calls me?" Abner asked.

David replied, "Why have you not guarded your lord, the king? You peo-



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

ple deserve death because you have not guarded the Lord's anointed. Go look. Where are the king's spear and the water jug that was at his head?"

Saul knew it was David who was speaking. "Is that your voice, David?" "Yes. Why does my lord pursue his servant? What have I done?"

And Saul answered, "I will not harm you again, because you have held my life precious today."

"Here is the king's spear," David said. "Let an attendant come and get it. The Lord will reward each man for his justice and faithfulness."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
1 Samuel 26

Q&A

1. Who was David hiding from?
2. What did David do with Saul's spear?

Bible Accent


David is one of the most well known figures of the Old Testament. He was the youngest son of a shepherd, but because God called him to greatness, David rose to be king of Israel. Because of his faith in God, David, wearing no armor himself and having only a sling-shot for a weapon, defeated Goliath, the heavily armed giant.

David was born in Bethlehem, which later was also the birthplace of Jesus (David was a distant ancestor of Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus). David chose Jerusalem as the site for the capital city of his kingdom. In fact, it became known as the City of David. David is credited with writing many of the psalms in the Bible. The story of David's life from his childhood to his death is recorded in the two books of Samuel.

St. Michael Febres Cordero

In 1863, a young Ecuadoran boy named Francisco Febres Cordero was one of the first students to enter a school run by the Brothers of the Christian Schools, who were also called the De la Salle Brothers. Francisco wanted to become a brother, but his parents said they would rather see him become a priest.

After three months in the seminary, he became too sick to continue his studies, and he returned home to rest. Later, with his parents' support, Francisco became one of the brothers, taking the name of Michael. He was an excellent teacher. He specialized in languages and preparing children for first Communion. He wrote Spanish textbooks, a catechism and other religious works. The government of Ecuador erected a monument in his honor in 1954. He was canonized in 1984. We honor him on Feb. 9.




Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question:
Solomon asked God to make him a wise king.
(1 Kings 3) What makes a king wise?

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to *Catholic Courier*, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Deadline for entries is Feb. 15, 2001. The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of *Kids' Chronicle*.

Last month's winner was Reilly Conditorio, a fifth-grader at Holy Family School, LeRoy. In answer to, Why do you think Jesus used parables, or stories, when he was teaching? Reilly wrote, "I think Jesus used stories when he was teaching because sometimes people get bored just listening to Jesus just teach. I know I always like listening to people put things into stories. It is more fun. When one of our pastors comes to teach us more about Jesus I always look forward to him coming and when we do math problems that are in stories I like it. I wish everyone in the whole wide world talked in stories. That would be so awesome."

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Puzzle

Can you find the four books of the Old Testament and three books of the New Testament that are hidden in the phrase below using the letters only as often as they appear?
Answers on page 8. Hint: the letter "H" does not appear in the phrase.

... and deliver me from all difficulties.

(1 Samuel 26:24)


COURIER CLASSIFIEDS

GENERAL

Announcement

ADOPTIONS The Catholic Courier does not publish adoption advertising. To obtain a list of agencies that serve birth mothers and adoptive parents, call 716-328-4340. Agencies wishing to be included on this list may send information to the Catholic Courier.

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