

TENNESSEE SUPPLEMENT

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Ralph Burks Taylor
Grand Commander

A Message from the Grand Commander: *The Price of a Soul*

In Matthew 13:45-46 we read of the Parable of the Pearl, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it" (KJV).

A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. This parable teaches us that having the gospel is like a priceless pearl. It impresses the great truth on the soul of man, that eternal salvation from sin and its consequences is what men should seek above all things.

Can you imagine walking in the footsteps of Jesus, to see what he saw, to touch what he touched? Could you imagine walking the Via Dolorosa or the route supposedly taken by Jesus between his trial before Pilate and his crucifixion and burial? Could you imagine looking out over the Sea of Galilee and seeing the beautiful sunrises and sunsets and knowing that over two-thousand years ago, our Savior witnessed those same sunrises and sunsets?

Many of us may never get the opportunity! We can read about it, look at pictures and movies, but it is not the same as being there. Although we may never get to go there, we as Knights Templar in Tennessee can take the opportunity to demonstrate to our communities that we are attempting to make a difference in the lives of ministers by affording them the opportunity to travel to Holy Land and see the very sights that Jesus saw.

At our past Grand Commandery session a code proposal was passed that establishes a Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment Fund which is to be a separate, segregated account with the Grand Commandery of Tennessee which sole purpose is to create an investment pool of funds used to sponsor qualifying minister(s) on trips to the Holy Lands. It was also approved that no payments could be made until the fund had reached \$150,000.00 and then the annual interest is only used to pay for trips. If 5% of the Membership would enroll in the program, this would

generate \$175,000.00 and be sufficient to send a minister to the Holy Lands.

Donations are received from local Commanderies, Foundations and Corporations. The program works like the Grand Encampment Knights Templar Eye Foundation's Grand Master's Club.

There shall be three levels of donations. They are:

1. Patron - \$1,000.00 and is available to Foundations, Corporations, or Individuals who are not Sir Knights
2. Knight Cross of the Holy Land - \$1,000.00 if paid in full
3. Knight of the Holy Land - \$100.00 and is a PLEDGE that \$100.00 will be contributed over a 10-Year period or 10 installments of \$100.00 which will lessen the time of achieving \$1,000.00

Then there is the General Donation that can be made by any Sir Knight, Masonic Group or Individual who is not a Sir Knight that wishes to contribute to this cause.

On completion of the \$1,000.00 commitment, Sir Knights shall receive an Acknowledgement Letter and meritorious jewel (*see inset below*) that can be worn on the Knights Templar uniform, sports coat or displayed in the individual's home. The commitment may be withdrawn by any donor when unforeseen circumstances require, however, funds previously paid into the endowment shall not be refunded.

Donors wishing to make donations to the Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment fund may do so by sending money and the Grand Commandery of Tennessee Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment form directly to the Grand Recorder's office. **Pilgrimage Endowment Fund must have the Endowment form attached to the payment.** The form can be found on the Grand York Rite website by selecting documents and the Commandery and the Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment form.

Sir Knights, can you put a price on a Soul or the Pearl? Please be one Sir Knight within the 5% that is willing to stand up and make a difference!

In His Service,



Burks Taylor
Grand Commander



Meritorious Service Jewel, Holy Land Pilgrimage