Religion

Time spent travelling can prove instructive

By JIM RYAN Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Times Mark 6:1-6 July 7, 1991

TOM'S TRIP

My younger brother has just returned from a month long trip in Ireland. I picked him up at the airport last Sunday.

He had a great time, but was tired, and was glad to be back for Canada Day.

Driving back from the airport, in the midst of stories about the pubs in Tipperary, Bloomsday in

Summer camp

Giving your child a few days at summer camp just got a lot easier, thanks to Beth El Christian Reformed Church and Acton Baptist Church. "We've transformed our buildings into friendly campsites complete with "campfire sing-a-longs, Bible stories, crafts, learning activities, snacks ... and lots more fun, too," a press release states.

The 10-day "Camp Can-Do" program is being run in two parts at the local churches. Days 1 to 5 of "Camp Can-Do" will be July 8th to 12th, held at Beth El Christian Reformed Church, 369 Queen Street. Children ages 4 to 12 can join in on the fun every morning from 9:00 to 12:00. Please call 875-1813 for more information.

The last 5 days of "Camp Can-Do" will be August 19th to 23rd, at Acton Baptist Church, 80 Mill Street East. Days 6 to 10 will be full of surprises every morning from 9:00 to 11:45 for children ages 5 to 12. Please call 853-0690 for more information. Preregistration will be Thursday, August 15 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

At "Camp Can-Do" we plan to have lots of fun without the mos-

quitoes! We hope to see you and your friends at "Camp Can-Do" where we can do all things through Christ! Anna Christine's Hair

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Dublin, endless walks along cliffs and over mountains, and the rain, Tom said, "When you travel_ along you have too much time to think."

We prepared a welcome-home barbecue lunch and spent the afternoon sitting out under my favorite tree in the backyard.

But we didn't talk about his trip. We talked about his two jobs in Ottawa: the one in the bar, and the one in the bank. We talked mostly about his job in the bank.

I began to fall asleep. After some time discussing the various scams that people play to get money, (Apparently bank robberies are almost obsolete. With security systems and computers, there are other ways to supplement one's income.) I said, "It's funny Tom, but you've just spent a month in Ireland, and yet all you're talking about is your life here in Canada. Was that what Ireland was all about? Were you sorting out your future and your past?

"Yeah! All that, I was thinking about what I want to do with my life. I mean, if I worked in a bank I'd only start at two weeks holiday a year. What kind of family life would you have. Family is important to me."

"The other thing was all the dreams I had in Ireland, All about the people that I've met. It was amazing."

TOM'S STORY

"This happened in one of the ten Ryan pubs in Tipperary. It was run-down, dark and small, only three rooms, connected by the bar in the middle. There were five or six men in the bar. They were all sitting together, except for one man who appeared to be retarded. He was sitting by the wall, by himself.

The men in the bar were work-

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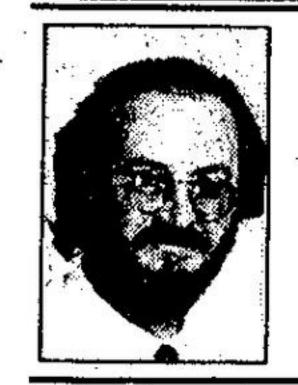
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Religion and Reality

Jim Ryan

ing men. A well-dressed man walked into the bar. He sat down by himself. The others asked him to sing a song. He declined, so they went on talking among themselves. Suddenly he began singing. Everyone stopped and listened. He had a beautiful voice. (Do you know the Rita MacNeil song about the miners? That's what he sang.) The welldressed man sang a song about working men. The other men in the bar were very still. It was a beautiful moment. (I'd never want to work in a mine, going underground.) Anyway, the men understood his song. They knew what he was singing about. When he finished, they went back to their beers. They asked me to sing, but I don't know a song. I think I'll learn "Big Joe Mufferaw", the Ottawa Valley, Paul Bunyan song. When I go back I could sing it."

JESUS' TRIP

In today's gospel story, Jesus goes back to his hometown, Nazareth, with his disciples. He goes into the synagogue to teach, but they won't listen; he goes into the marketplace, but he can't work a miracle. Mark reports

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that Jesus was amazed by their lack of faith.

JESUS' STORY

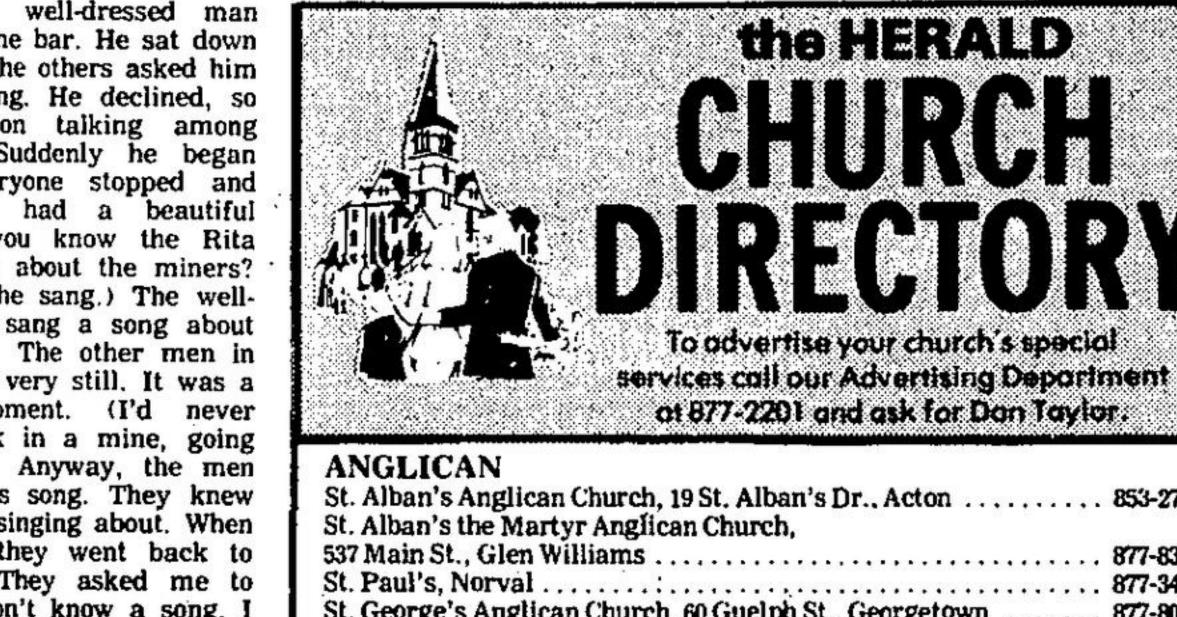
But Mark has a different story to tell than Jesus. Mark wants to stress the rejection of Jesus, not only by his hometown, but also by the religious leaders in Jerusalem. Mark wants to stress that Jesus was misunderstood by all who saw him, even by his disciples. He wants to tell this story because his community was experiencing rejection too. Jesus

was suffering the same fate that

they were suffering.

For Jesus, and scholars believe there probably was a trip to Nazareth, (although Northrop Frye writes that whether or not it was historical is beside the point), the trip home was another of those moments in his life when he realized what his future would

The trip home was as instructive for Jesus, as my brother's trip to Ireland was for him.



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