COMPILED BY
ROBERT MCCONNELL

Ward Park

As a child, I always looked forward to my summer holidays at my Uncle Ken and Auntie Caroline's house in Bangor. One of the places we sometimes went to was Ward Park. I loved going there with its open spaces, duck pond and swings. Three things always struck me about that place, things that as I now look back on and think about, contain many spiritual lessons. It seems as if God was speaking to me through the things I saw in these gardens.

The Red Brick Building

Over in one part of the park stands a very bland, square-shaped, red brick building. Today it is used by a cycling club, but during World War Two it was a public air-raid shelter. It was there to protect people from the bombs that dropped as wartime Germany tried to destroy the shipyard and the boats stationed along Belfast Lough. This building reminds me of Psalm 27:5 where God, in the time of trouble, promises to hide us in the safety of his pavilion. When attacks come, it is good to know that God has provided a safe haven for the Christian.

The War Memorial

The park also has a tall free-standing pillar, in light grey Portland stone, to commemorate 124 soldiers, sailors and airmen that made the ultimate sacrifice by dying for their country during the Great War. What struck me about the list of names is the fact that there is a David McConnell and a Robert McConnell included on the role. Now for those of you that may not know, my father and I bear these same two names. It's a strange feeling to see your name on such a monument as this, a timely reminder that we are not here for very long. How important it is to be ready for the day of our departure. The Bible rightly says in Amos 4:12, "Prepare to meet thy God."

The Big Gun

A little way down from the war memorial stands a big gun. As a boy, I used to climb all over its long barrel and pulled and hauled at the various wheels and levers on it, not realising that this gun was from a German U-boat. It was taken from the submarine U-19 which destroyed many ships off the coast of Ireland during wartime operations. What a reminder this gun is of sin. Sin is not some plaything, but a real danger. If it is not dealt with by Christ, it will pull us down and destroy us forever. The Bible has the answer to our sin. In 1 John 1:7, we read, "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." I wonder if you have experienced this cleansing in your heart and life today. ■

QUIZ

MOST OF WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT IN THIS ARTICLE WAS ABOUT WARTIME. THERE WERE MANY BATTLES IN THE BIBLE.

Using the Bible references provided, find the answers to the questions below. Finally, rearrange the letters in the coloured boxes to spell another word to do with war.

Who killed 1,000 men with the jaw bone of an ass? Judges 15:16

What was Goliath's helmet made from? 1 Samuel 17:4-5

Who did Moses get Joshua to fight against? Exodus 17:9-10

At what city did Israel lose 36 men in battle? Joshua 7:3-6

Whose land did Israel not go through l est a war would start? Exodus 13:17

At what stage of life was David at when he fought Goliath? 1 Samuel 17:42

ANSWER:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CHURCH:

PRIZES!

Are you 12 or under?
Send your answer, name, address and church to:

Rev Garth Wilson
Email: answer@fpvision.org
39 Millreagh Ave, Dundonald,
Belfast, BT16 1TZ

£5 WINNERS LAST TIME

- Grace Gibson (Portavogie)
- Annie McClintock (Ballymena)
- Abigail Blaney (South Grove)
- Naomi McRoberts (Ardaragh)
- Abel Aiken (Lisburn)
- Noah Cahoon (Dromore)
- Jacsen Abraham (Bethany)
- James Wilson (Ballymena)