



St. Timon

Patron Saint of Hauran

One of the Seventy Apostles and sent out by Lord Christ, and one of the Seven Deacons sent out by the Twelve, to preach to this land.

+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. Remember, O Lord Jesus Christ, Our God, Thy mercies...and have mercy on us. Save, O Lord, and have mercy upon all the clergy and people of Hauran. And lastly, save, O Lord, and have mercy upon me, for Thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we give glory. Amen



THE HAURAN CONNECTION

Sharing with and praying for
a new sister
in a far-away land

(3rd- 5th Grade)

We hope you can understand now about the people of that far-away place, Hauran. Imagine that you live in that place with no trees, and not very much food or money!

When you talk to your family about Hauran, here are some things you can do:

- Pray for the new “sister” families in Hauran every time you pray for your family.
- Talk to your family about helping to feed a poor family with a box of food, or about helping a Kindergarten child to be able to go to a nice, clean school.
- Draw some pictures and send them with a happy letter to a child in Hauran. Your Sunday school teacher will tell you where you can send it.
- Thank God for your family, for food to eat, for your Sunday School teacher and all of your other teachers.
- And don’t forget to thank God for His wonderful love for all of us--here in the heartland of Kansas, or in the heartland called Hauran!!

Our beloved Bishop Basil has asked us to “adopt” a new sister in a far-away land. This “sister” is a big place full of people who need our help and our love and our prayers. It’s called “Hauran.”

Read Acts, chapter 2, verse 11. List the people in that verse who heard the Good News of the Apostles “in his own language” on the day of Pentecost: _____.
The “Arabians” were from an area in the south of Syria. That’s the area called “Hauran.”

Now read St. Matthew 4:23 to 25 to find out where Jesus went to preach and heal people. List the places where people traveled from, to hear him:

The area called Decapolis is a part of Hauran.

In St. Mark 8:27 we can read about another area in Hauran where Jesus and his disciples went. Verse 29 is a famous verse where Jesus questioned Peter, saying, “Who do you say I am?” What was Peter’s reply? _____

Then, did you notice that Jesus told Peter not to tell anyone? Why do you think that was so? _____

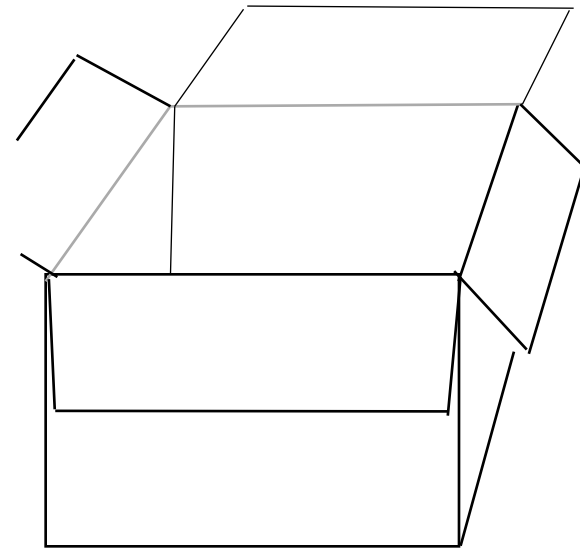
Here is a map of the center of “Eurasia”--Europe and Asia. Between those two continents is the “Middle East.” **In the box you can see Syria--the country whose south part is called Hauran--in the upper left.** Jordan is just below to the left, and the larger county of Iraq is to the right. Lebanon is the tiny bubble of a country just to the west (left) of Syria on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. **Can you trace the outline of Syria and the little bubble of Lebanon?**



Metropolitan Saba has worked hard to begin a **medical clinic** to show God’s mercy and healing to everyone in need. **People are treated kindly, and each one is cared for as a unique person.** Have you ever broken your arm or leg or had to go to an emergency room? You hoped they would be just that kind and helpful, didn’t you!!

The Metropolitan has started a **food box**

program for the poor. He helps everyone, whether a Christian or not, especially families with children, the elderly, and widows. **Please draw some food in this box that would feed a poor family.** Keep it healthy!!



Metropolitan Saba helps everyone, whether a Christian or not. He says we have to BE the good news of Christ to people there by giving a loving and helping hand to them. Could you pray about what you and your family and class can do to BE the gospel?

When Metropolitan Saba arrived, there were hardly any priests and hardly any churches that were open. He helped to change that. Today there are 20 churches in Hauran! The churches in our diocese (The Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America--DOWAMA for short) are going to have “twin sister churches” in **The Archdiocese of “Bosra Hauran, Jabal al Arab and the Golan, Syria.”** That’s why, for short, we just say **“Hauran!”**

The Metropolitan has begun some **Kindergartens** where children can go to school in clean and caring places. **Most of the children are not Christian, but they feel the love of Christ there.**

Some days you may wish you didn’t have to go to school, but check off the things, below, that you wouldn’t be able to do if you couldn’t go to school:

- Read a comic book.
- Figure out the directions to a new game.
- Count your allowance to see if you have enough money yet for the toy or game you want to buy.
- Play sports on a team.

Bishop Basil has asked the Sunday School children of his Diocese (DOWAMA) to help the little children of Hauran. You could earn some extra money to send to the children. You could join with the kids in your class to help send a little child to Kindergarten. You could draw a picture or write a letter to send to the children there. Talk to your teacher and your parents for some other good ideas!

Hauran is just like the mid-West--only not!

In the days of the Roman Empire, she grew wheat for the world--just like our part of America! But today Hauran is a treeless place with volcano peaks and barren lava fields of black and grey rock called basalt.

There are many Greek and Roman ruins of temples, marketplaces and huge amphitheatres cut into the hills and built of the plentiful stone.



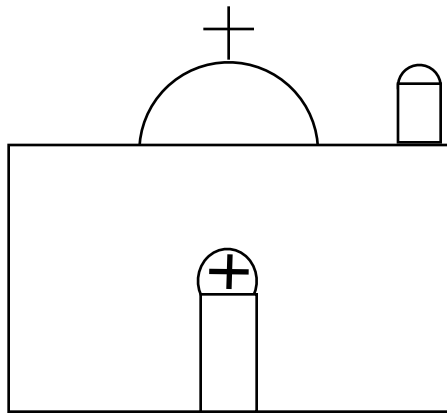
Symbols of wheat and grapes are carved into

many of the ruins. There are many ancient towns whose buildings and furniture are made entirely of the lava rock. About 300 of these “giant cities” have been found.

Here’s a picture of Greek temple ruins in Hauran. It was taken in the 1920s. That’s almost 100 years ago. That may seem old, but remember that this temple was built over 2,000 years ago!



This land became an important Christian center during the late Roman times. It was full of churches! St. George in Izraa was built in 515 A.D. on the ruins of a pagan temple. Carved above the main entrance is this saying: **“This has become a house of God which (was once) a lodging place of demons. Where....now (are) choirs of angels....A certain Christ loving man.....made offering of (this) noble structure placing herein the revered relic of the holy martyr George...the glorious victorious who appeared to him....in....(515 A.D.)”** The bones of St. George were here many years!



Here is a sketch of St. George in Izraa. Outside it's a square, but inside, it's an octagon topped by the dome. The architecture of this church was so important that the giant Cathedral, Hagia Sophia (Holy Wisdom) in Istanbul, was patterned after it. The walls of St. George in Izraa were crumbling a few years ago, but people from our diocese gave money to help repair the old church. Can you imagine going to a church that was built over 1,500 years ago?

Today the people of Hauran have a hard time getting work or education or even food, sometimes, so many have left to find work somewhere else. Those who are left find life very difficult. There aren't very many Christians left there today.

In our country, who gives money to support our churches and all of our activities? _____
In Hauran, the people are so poor that the church has to help support them. Metropolitan Saba came to this land a few years ago, and he has worked hard to do amazing things. He has started many new programs to help them, and wants to do more to help them be able to earn money to take care of themselves.

You might think that your family doesn't have all that much money. But, look at the lists in box below. **Circle the things you hope you will always have.** Then underline which things you know you couldn't live without. Those are the things many children in Hauran don't have.

Video games	Television	Books	
Food, especially: _____			
Ipod	Water	Movies	Clothing
Medicine when you re sick		Your bike	
Games		Vacation trips	
CD Player	Your favorite toy: _____		

