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GLOBE-TROTTING With GINNY

What Went On Behind
Strange, Secret Door?

By Virginia Harris Hendricks

CORINTH, Greece (BP)--Archaeologists were deeply puzzled by certain excavations near the famous spring of Peirene.

What had been uncovered was obviously a small religious shrine, well-constructed of stone blocks, perfectly matched and dovetailed together. But there were several strange features in this shrine.

In the center of the shrine stood an altar. A very curious tunnel was dug in the rock, large enough for a man to crawl through. This tunnel began just below the altar and ran to an entrance elsewhere.

The tunnel ended in a very sacred area where the public was warned not to enter on penalty of a fine. A door to the tunnel was cleverly constructed in a wall of uniform block designs, appearing to be but a decoration in the wall.

Beyond the secret door was evidence of another swinging stone door. This one was kept securely locked against would-be curious folk who, in spite of the fine, might stumble upon the concealed outside entrance.

The experts were confounded by this secret, seemingly useless tunnel.

A small hole, shaped like a megaphone, concealed in the roof of the tunnel just below the shrine floor gave a clue to the real explanation.

Obviously, 2500 years ago, this is where a priest crawled to conceal himself from the worshiper above. From here he could pronounce oracular responses through the megaphone to questions asked at the altar just above him!

This Greek shrine lay buried by the Roman city of Corinth when Paul stood only a few yards away and proclaimed that through God's Son, Jesus, all men might come to the Father for guidance and life.

We must be certain that we are following the voice of our Master today and not the cleverly concealed voices of prejudice, ignorance or selfish interests.

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Cutline: The Bema, where Paul appeared before Gallio.