

Charles Rivers Norment, T-49

30 March 1931 – 13 June 1951

(aged 20)



MARINE WHO ASPIRED TO PULPIT IS KILLED

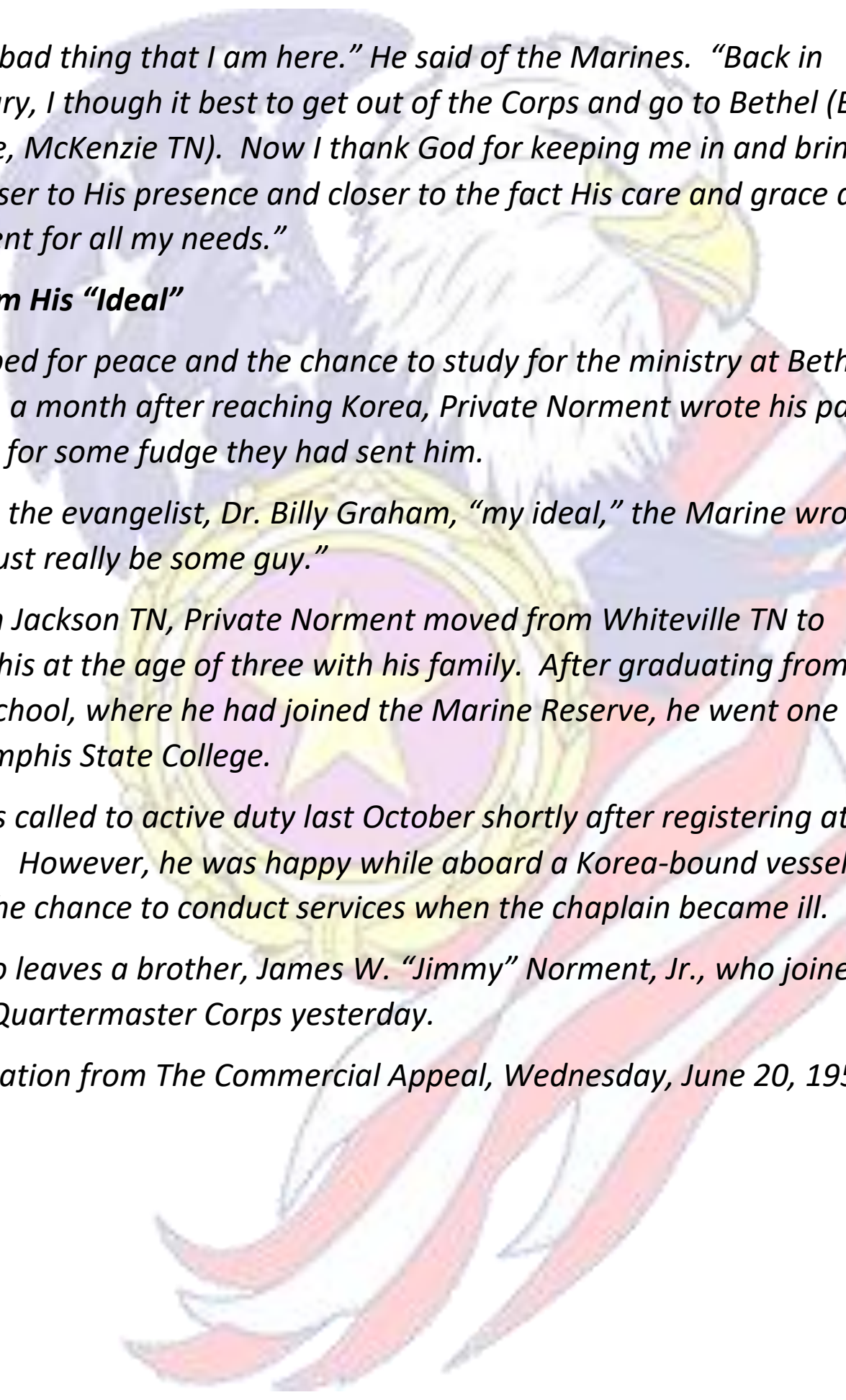
Private First Class Charles R. Norment Dies in Action in Korea

Mr. and Mrs. James Weston Norment of Memphis learned of their Marine son's death in Korea. Private First Class Charles Rivers Norment, 20, who had hoped to become a minister in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, was killed in action June 13, a Marine Corps telegram reported.

"Only Care Is Mom, Dad"

That the Memphis Marine might have had some premonition of his fate was revealed in a letter received yesterday by his minister, the Rev. George E. Coleman, pastor of Park Avenue Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

"The only care I have is Mom and Dad." Private Norment wrote "I don't want them to worry, and then if something should happen, I pray that they will understand as I do that "for me to live is Christ; to die is gain."



It's no bad thing that I am here." He said of the Marines. "Back in February, I thought it best to get out of the Corps and go to Bethel (Bethel College, McKenzie TN). Now I thank God for keeping me in and bringing me closer to His presence and closer to the fact His care and grace are sufficient for all my needs."

Graham His "Ideal"

He hoped for peace and the chance to study for the ministry at Bethel. On June 6, a month after reaching Korea, Private Norment wrote his parents thanks for some fudge they had sent him.

Calling the evangelist, Dr. Billy Graham, "my ideal," the Marine wrote, "He must really be some guy."

Born in Jackson TN, Private Norment moved from Whiteville TN to Memphis at the age of three with his family. After graduating from Tech High School, where he had joined the Marine Reserve, he went one year to Memphis State College.

He was called to active duty last October shortly after registering at Bethel. However, he was happy while aboard a Korea-bound vessel to have the chance to conduct services when the chaplain became ill.

He also leaves a brother, James W. "Jimmy" Norment, Jr., who joined the Army Quartermaster Corps yesterday.

Information from The Commercial Appeal, Wednesday, June 20, 1951.