



## *Essential Evangelization*

### **Jerusalem Slept**

The events of the preceding day were almost too much to bear. Even comprehend. The blood of an innocent man was shed and darkness covered the whole land at midday. An earthquake. The mighty curtain of the temple of God was torn in two, for those who saw it, from the top down?

Hopes and dreams were shattered. The hope of a Savior was all but gone.

Mary the mother of Jesus couldn't sleep and she pondered her whole life. Her heart ached for her Son and all that she endured and wondered why. What was next?

Peter lay in a deep depression over the betrayal of friend. John, the beloved disciple was hurting bad and missing his teacher and his best friend. Magdalene wept in the loss of perhaps the only one who ever really understood her.

The criminal Barabbas was pondering a new found freedom. But that was bittersweet as he wondered about the man he had never met, yet took his place on the cross. The governor Pilate was still wrestling and second guessing. Why did he not make a decisive decision and what did his wife's dream really mean? And the centurion guard from the foot of the cross thoughts raced too. He knew he was an unfortunate accomplice to a grave injustice.

And the rest of Jerusalem slept.

In an instant, two graveyard guards were blinded by a mysterious bright light and by a sight in which they had never seen. And they feared for their very lives, at least for their jobs.

Morning came and EVERYTHING changed.

*Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Phil 2: 9-11*

*This is one of a series of articles on  
Evangelization from the  
Evangelization Committee*