

Bible News

By MRS. T. W. ALLRED
Member of Women's Speakers Bureau, American Bible Society

About 12 months ago, Rev. Joao Batista da Silva, captain of the Bible Society of Brazil's launch "Light on the Amazon" heard about a woman in a remote Amazon tributary who could read—and who was a witch. This was a region of 99 per cent illiteracy, so Mr. Batista decided to visit her.

Arriving at her home, he asked her if she really believed herself to be a witch. Looking frightened, she replied, "No, sir. What happened was that I started to read a book, and after that I did not want to recite any more litany or dust the image. So everyone began saying that I am on the side of Satan." The book that had produced these changes turned out to be a New Testament.

Later, when he returned to help her better understand the Book, Mr. Batista was surprised to hear that the "witch" had invited her neighbors to hear him preach and see the new year in with

This Is The Life

By DONALD THOMAS
Immanuel Baptist Church

THE HOLIEST PLACE REVEALED

Open your Bible, please, to St. Matthew 27:50-54. The curtain or veil in the temple has been ripped open from the bottom to the top of the holiest place. What could it mean? The answer is that on a hill called Calvary the Son of God has given His life to pay for the sins of the world. The veil in the temple no longer separates man from the presence of God, for Jesus, the Son, has opened the way to God, the Father.

When Jesus arose from the dead, graves were opened and the bodies of saints went into the Holy City.

Today we do not need anyone for a go-between for us. We can pray to our Father because Jesus is our high priest for ever. Don't trust any man with your soul but Jesus. It's the most important thing in the world to you. Jesus died for you. He is in Heaven now for the Bible says:

"But this Man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God."—Hebrews 10:12.

Insurance Firm Honors Holmes

NEW YORK—Frank M. Holmes of Edenton, N. C., has been honored for his superior 1966 sales and service record at a national conference of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U. S. at the New York Hilton Hotel.

Holmes is a member of the R. W. Proctor Agency in Raleigh.

Leaders among the group of agents who joined the company in 1964 were invited to take part in the meetings. This was on a national basis and Holmes was the only member of the agency in Eastern Carolina to attain this honor. During the conference, agents viewed home office operations and met with top company officials.

The Veterans Administration frees hospital beds for veterans in need of hospital care by providing nursing home care for veterans who have had maximum hospital benefits but still require skilled nursing care.

Veterans Administration hospitals treated 11,302 more veterans in fiscal year 1966 than they accommodated in 1965 with no increase in the number of hospital beds.

Make Church Going a Habit

Sunday School Lesson

THE DANGER OF HYPOCRISY

International Sunday School Lesson for February 5

Memory Selection: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."—Luke 12:34.

Lesson Text: Luke 11-12.

In our study of Christian discipleship we examine today one of the sins against which Jesus urged an unending war—the sin of hypocrisy.

It is a sin to which all of us are prone, and it is all the more insidious because—despising it—we are loath to admit that we are often guilty of it.

Our Scriptural verses for today pinpoint instances where the outward trappings of faith became a cloak for inward, spiritual deceit. So intent were the Pharisees in preserving the rituals of their faith, that they became insensitive to the true meaning of what that faith meant.

In studying these chapters in Luke, we cannot help but be impressed with the abhorrence in which Jesus, Son of God, held such hypocrisy, and in the light of His words, we should be moved to examine our inner thoughts and feelings in this regard.

Are we—as self-professed and publicly-declared Christians—as guilty as the Pharisees? Do we—claiming to aspire to all the attributes of Christianity—feel the loving concern for our fellow men that Christ demanded of His followers—and still commands today? Do we count our blessings, and give heartfelt thanks for them; and share them with the less fortunate among us? Do we suffer in silence when someone wrongs us, or does us an injustice, and forgive them for the errors of their ways? Do we continue in our forbearance still, and turn a loving countenance toward them, as Jesus himself did, or do we turn on them in our fury, waxing loud in our de-

nunciation, and act spitefully toward them? Are we merely giving lip service to our professed faith?

Does our church (and what it stands for) have a place in our life one day a week—or does it have a place in our lives seven days a week?

And before we answer: "Of course I am concerned for my neighbor; of course I am mindful of my blessings; of course I forgive my enemies—I am a Christian"—we will do well to remember that God sees what is in our hearts, and judges us accordingly.

For Jesus, in rebuking the Pharisee for the importance he placed on outward observances of his creed, was drawing attention to the mistaken idea held by that religious group, that if their bodies were clean and undefiled during their devotions, then they themselves were acceptable to God. A clean heart—greatly desired by the Lord—was not so easily attained. Nor could it be attained by the formality of the washing of hands.

Again, the Pharisees were meticulous in tithing, for such was the law. They completely overlooked the fact that tithing was not a legal matter, to a true Christian. They also failed to recognize the important aspect of such things as all of which were also judgment, mercy and faith, enumerated in their laws.

Today we face the same traps as those that beset the Pharisees. Too often, without our being conscious of it, we become overly engrossed with material riches, and neglect the riches of the spirit. We fail to recognize that material riches—concrete possessions—are the most illusory riches of all. The intangible riches of the spirit—a happy and loving heart, a generous and out-going spirit, a sense of responsibility and a willingness to serve whenever and wherever an opportunity occurs—these are the only riches worth possessing, and

Continued on Page 5



A MATTER OF VIEWPOINT

THE CHURCH FOR ALL ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.


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Sunday Deuteronomy 7:6-11	Monday I Samuel 16:1-5	Tuesday I Samuel 16:6-13	Wednesday Psalms 24:11-15	Thursday Proverbs 14:9-16	Friday Luke 10:38-42	Saturday John 15:18-27
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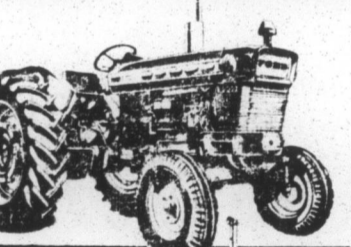
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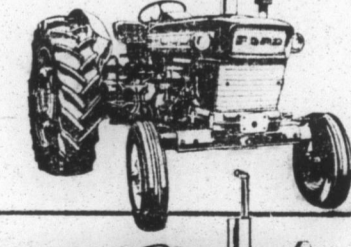
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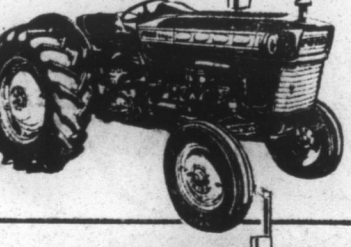
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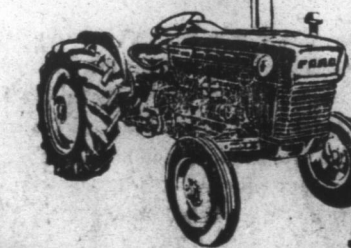
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