

BIBLE SOCIETY NEWS

By MARY ALLRED
Member of Women's Speakers Bureau, American Bible Society

Jose is only one of the millions of newly literate adults who are now able to read the printed page for the first time. Having struggled through some elementary primers, he will want to read the Scriptures in Spanish, his mother tongue, but unfortunately the language of the traditional forms of the Scriptures in the Spanish language is too elaborate in style and much too difficult in its grammatical forms to be fully comprehensible to a person such as Jose, who is only now beginning to read.

But something can be done for Jose, for the basic truths of the Scriptures can always be expressed in simple language, particularly selected passages which are relatively free from complex terms and difficult grammatical structures. In fact, to meet these very needs of

Jose and to prepare some additional materials for those who may be somewhat further advanced in reading, but not yet ready to master the complicated forms of the traditional Scripture style, the Bible Societies have prepared a New Testament in simple Spanish and are working on passages for very new literates.

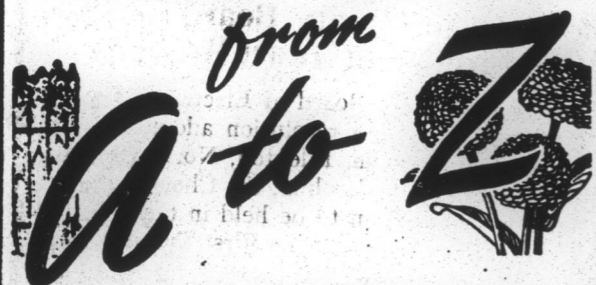
What meets Jose's needs, however, is not satisfactory for men like Elder Martinez who are accustomed to the traditional forms of the Scriptures and find beauty in the style of the revered language. Moreover, they are concerned with the needs of the church, and feel that the public reading of the Scriptures needs to be in an elegant language.

But the forms that satisfy Jose and Elder Martinez will not meet the requirements of a young university student like Francisco, who has often thought of the Bible as a collection of ancient leg-

ends. He has sometimes looked in the Book for historical references in connection with some of his university courses. But if the Bible is to be relevant to him, he insists that it be in strictly contemporary language and have such marginal helps as will make it possible for him to understand something of its historical background and the manuscript traditions which underlie the differences in various translations. Hence, for Francisco and thousands of university students like him, a new form of translation must be considered if the Word of God is to speak to them.

The stories of Jose, Martinez and Francisco can be repeated over and over again, in language after language. In the early days of translation, the translators were concerned with geographical dialects, but today dialects are principally socio-economic, rather than geographical. As a result of national education programs and the general spread of literacy and literature, new problems have arisen. From the new literate to the sophisticated university student, there are three levels of learning. The Scriptures must be available to each level in language it understands and respects.—Reprinted from Christian Mission Digest.

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Let's Go To Church Sunday

Sunday School Lesson

THE CALL TO REPENTANCE

International Sunday School Lesson for April 16

Memory Selection: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."—Acts 2:38.

Lesson Text: Acts 2:22-24; 32-19.

The theme of our studies today is REPENTANCE and the healing power it brings to our troubled souls.

Through repentance of our sins (no matter how grave those sins may be) we are renewed in Christ.

Personal witnessing, by dedicated Christians, and effective preaching by those ordained to the ministry and a life of service to Christ can bring this wonder into the lives of every human being upon whose lives they touch.

The sermon of Peter at Pentecost is—from beginning to end—a call to repentance. And in it—if we but study it closely and earnestly—we can find the guideposts for an effective witnessing for Christ.

The Resurrection of Christ from the dead and His ascension into heaven had left their mark on His disciples. So much so that they could not fail to be moving in their declamations to the populace on the promise of a life everlasting, assured by God's sacrifice of His only Son, that their sins might be forgiven and they would come to a state of Grace if they but embraced the concept of Christianity.

And who was in more need of forgiveness than those who had turned away from Jesus during His earthly ministry, and had tolerated His crucifixion on Calvary? Certainly in the light of what transpired after the crucifixion was an accomplished fact, many of them had suffered doubt and a sense of guilt in their innermost beings.

The message carried by Peter at this time must have been of immeasurable comfort to these troubled souls. By acquiescence in the ignominious death meted out to the Saviour of mankind, they were guilty of a most heinous sin. But God, in His wisdom and compassion, had made provision in His plans for the sins of mortal men; through the shedding of Christ's blood, man was cleansed of sin.

For, though Jesus might be crucified by unbelievers, He could not be destroyed. He lived on in the dedication of His disciples to God's plan for mankind. For certainly no one who knew these men could fail to be impressed in the change that had come over them. Frightened and confused by the crucifixion, they had first fled into hiding, rendered useless by the many unanswered questions which most certainly plagued them. Then they rallied and stood staunchly side by side to proclaim their faith in a Leader who was no longer with them in the flesh.

Repentance is certainly the cornerstone of any

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The high spot of our family album! We've only seen Meg hold this solemn expression once before, when she was a freckled angel in the Sunday School pageant . . . and then she wasn't quite so cross-eyed!

Meg's our darling adopted daughter, and usually she's a little livewire . . . full of surprises. It was Meg's enthusiasm for Church School that led us to improve our own record of church attendance. It was Meg's searching question, "Why don't we ever thank God for dinner like the Andersons?" that revived the custom of mealtime grace in our home. And it was Meg's worry about "the poor hungry children" that eventually drew us into our work for the Mission Fund.

Frankly, we used to be "fringe Christians," giving God very little of our time or thoughts. Meg was God's instrument in showing us that our church really needs us . . . and that it is a blessed thing to be needed.

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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 stand service 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.



STRAW HAT CIRCUIT



Sunday I Chronicles 16:7-13	Monday II Chronicles 29:31-36	Tuesday Extra 3:10-13	Wednesday Luke 17:11-19	Thursday John 6:4-14	Friday II Corinthians 8:1-7	Saturday II Corinthians 9:6-12
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