

By LOCKIE PARKER

Some Looks At Books

A CERTAIN SMILE by Françoise Sagan (Dutton \$2.95). This book has had top billing in most of the reviews this week, and the publishers are anticipating a success comparable to that of "Bonjour Tristesse," which sold a million and a half copies. This new novel has already proved a best seller in France and received serious critical attention.

In fact, some of the reviews seem almost as long as the book itself—128 underlined pages—and more weighty in content.

Not that these two books are stupid; they are just slight by any measure. The author is an observant, candid, very articulate youngster. She wrote the first book in a month when she was eighteen and the second in two months when she was twenty.

Remarkable? Yes. But any competent book by so young a person would be that, and it hardly accounts for her success with critics and public. I think she succeeded because she gave us a fresh and unidealized view of one adolescent mind and stuck to what she knew. Like the author of "Catcher in the Rye" she spares us nothing, but it is a French mind reporting this time with all of the crisp coolness, the irony, the detachment we expect from a mature Frenchman but are startled to find in a "jeune fille."

As for morals, there are none. One reviewer made the droll comment that the day was when one would have been shocked to find teenage girls reading the kind of books they are now writing.

The narrative follows the love affairs of a girl student at the Sorbonne. When the book begins she is having an uninhibited affair with a fellow student whom she likes but does not find thrilling. Dominique, the girl student, seems to have a rather low boiling point and feels that there must be more to this business than she has yet experienced.

At this point her lover introduces her to Uncle Luc, an attractive world-weary man. They regard each other with interest and gradually drift into an affair which reaches its climax in a holiday on the Riviera. Each is determined to keep their relationship on the lighter side, for are they not both "adult and wise?"

Of course, this turns out to be not so easy, especially for the

younger and more impressionable partner, and therein lies the story. Mlle. Sagan excels at describing moods and shades of feeling as they developed from day to day. Sometimes one might be reading a diary.

Yet we end in no burst of sentiment about the power of love, happy or tragic. The terms of the game were given and are not changed by an unexpected effluence of emotion, and Dominique knows it.

THE PROPHET AND THE KING, a Biblical Novel by Shirley Watkins (Doubleday \$3.95). The prophet is Samuel and the king is Saul in this dramatic novel which deals with the conflict between them. Half way through the book I found myself so deeply involved in a tragedy in the grand manner that I began to doubt whether this was the same Samuel and Paul that I had met before and got out my Old Testament to see. The main facts were the same and some of the speeches. Naturally, Miss Watkins has elaborated on the facts and given her own views of the emotional reactions of the characters but not beyond what may be permitted to a novelist.

In the conflict between the two men, her sympathies are definitely with Saul. She sees Samuel as the king-maker who yielded reluctantly to the Israelites' demand for a king and was ever after jealous of that king's power. Worse still, he secretly undermined that power at every opportunity. She sees Saul, as the young shepherd to whom the summons to kingship came as a rather fearsome surprise and who does his best with humility and courage to be an adequate leader with or without Samuel's help.

Then comes the brilliant and charming young David to complicate matters with his appeal to the hearts of all. Certainly the author was right in seeing here the materials for a novel.

She has given us a good plot with mounting tension and credible characters with whose emotions we can sympathize.

THE ENCHANTED SUMMER by Grace Gelvin Kisinger (Random \$2.50). This is a teen age novel that we can heartily recommend. It deals with a high school girl's first romance and does it

with full respect for the power and poignancy of her emotions, but also for her Anglo-Saxon restraint.

Debby was a shy little girl who had had few dates except with Tom, a studious neighbor boy. Then one night at a school dance Buff Allison dances with her. Buff is the schoolgirl's dream—handsome, a bit older, a "grad" now in college, an athletic star, a divine dancer and owner of a yellow convertible. That her family and best friend are not so enthusiastic about him does not much perturb Debby at first. She is sure it will work out and, of course, it does, but not in the way Debby had expected.

The relations between Debby and her family are exceptionally well done in casual conversations and simple, homely incidents, and you will like the lot of them. The book ends neither happily nor unhappily, but you feel that Debby has taken a big step toward maturity and gained in knowledge of herself.

I KNOW A MAGIC HOUSE by Julius Schwartz (Whittlesey \$2.00). "I know a magic house where you spin a wheel to find a friend, where you can turn dark into light, where music comes from black circles."

Here is a book for the very young—five to nine—on modern devices that a hundred years ago would have been found only in fairy tales but are now in his own home. In simple text and clear pictures the author calls attention to these remarkable inventions of man and stimulates the youngster to observe them for himself and find others to add to the list.

This is a worthy successor to the author's other book on simple science, "Now I Know."



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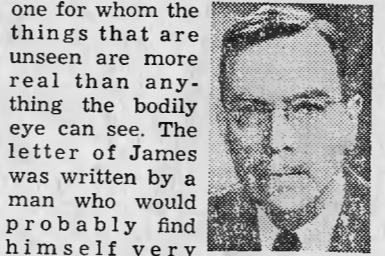
THE BIBLE SPEAKS
International Uniform Sunday School Lessons
BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Background Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11; James 1.
Devotional Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20.

Strength—How?

Lesson for August 26, 1956

THE nine short letters which have been the subject of the Bible studies throughout the Protestant churches of America these past two months are as different among themselves as their writers were different. The 3 letters of John were written by a "mystic," one for whom the things that are unseen are more real than any thing the bodily eye can see. The letter of James was written by a man who would probably find himself very much at home in the typical American go-getting, practical-minded church. He deals with many problems in a short-spoken blunt fashion; and the problems are exactly those that an American pastor would run into most often in talking with his people.



Why Must This Happen to ME?
One question preachers are asked pretty often is something like this: "Why must this happen to me? I have been a good citizen, I try to be a good Christian, I do all the good I can . . . and now this has happened." "This" may mean a disappointment, disaster, sickness, trouble of almost any kind. James has a surprising answer: "Count it all joy," he says, when such things happen to you. The reason why trials ought to make us happy instead of sad is that trials make us strong. Of course there are always a few abnormal people who don't want to be strong, or don't care; but it is perfectly normal and right to want to be strong in every possible way. No sensible Christian will want to be healthy in body and mind, and yet be content with being a spiritual weakling.—This does not mean that troubles and trials don't hurt; indeed they do. There's no telling ourselves that we like being hurt,—we don't like it. Pain is real, death is real, disappointment and frustration are real. But —James would tell us—let's not whine about such things. Nobody loves to sit in a dentist's chair but all the same, sitting there the patient may well be thankful for dentists. Lying on a bed of pain one may not like the pain but if it is from an operation one may be thankful for the surgeon. So we have every right to thank God for the pains he sends us.

How Does Strength Come?

How does a coach build up a powerful football team? Not by taking the boys out to the field every afternoon in Cadillacs and letting them watch somebody else scrimmage. No strong team ever took a game yet, that had not had a full share of aching muscles, perhaps even broken bones, beforehand. How does a recruit in the army put his muscles into shape? Not by tender words from a sergeant who wouldn't for the world hurt these poor young boys committed to his care. No, the sergeant is tough, and his job is to make the boys tough (this does not in the least mean that they have to be profane or mean or cruel), and you don't toughen up by sitting around. You do it by taking long hikes, hikes a little too long, in fact; lifting loads you'd rather not lift; carrying a pack that you think should have been meant for two men. How do students strengthen their minds? Not by letting the teacher do the work. The most effective teachers are those that make the students live hard. So it is in all walks of life. A strong bank is one that can come through years of depression; any bank can make it on a wave of prosperity. A strong farmer is a farmer who can keep on through drought and grasshoppers and boll weevils and what have you, a man who sticks with it while his weaker neighbors pick up and head for the end of the rainbow. Troubles make strength; without trial there will be no strength.

God Knows What He Is Doing

Some people think,—Yes, this is all very true. But there is such a thing as an overload. What if I am so overloaded I break down? The answer to that should be simple for the thoughtful Christian. One who believes in Providence will believe that no trial comes to any man without God's knowledge, indeed not without God's sending. He knows where we need strength; he knows what it will take to make us strong. One who trusts his life to the true God will be assured that God knows what he is doing. He knows what too much would be; and he does not send it.

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Bookmobile Schedule

Tuesday — Union Church route: Darnell, 9:30; Briggs, 10; Baily, 10:30; C. E. Smith, 10:45; Taylor, 11; Oldham, 11:15; Thomas, 11:45; Vass postoffice, 12:15-12:45. W. F. Smith, 1:15.

Wednesday — Pinehurst Community Church, 9:15; Taylortown, 10; Eagle Springs, 10:45-11:15; West End, 11:30-12:30; Chessom, 12:45; Munn and Bronson, 1:45-2.


Friday — West Southern Pines, 9:15-9:45; Priest, 10:15; Lakeview, 10:30-11:15; Patterson, 11:30; Jackson, 11:45; Niagara post-office, 12-12:30.

Reports from Tar Heel growers indicate that a new record wheat yield per acre of 24 bushels was harvested from 354,000 acres for a total production of 8,496,000 bushels. The previous record yield of 23 bushels was set in 1952.

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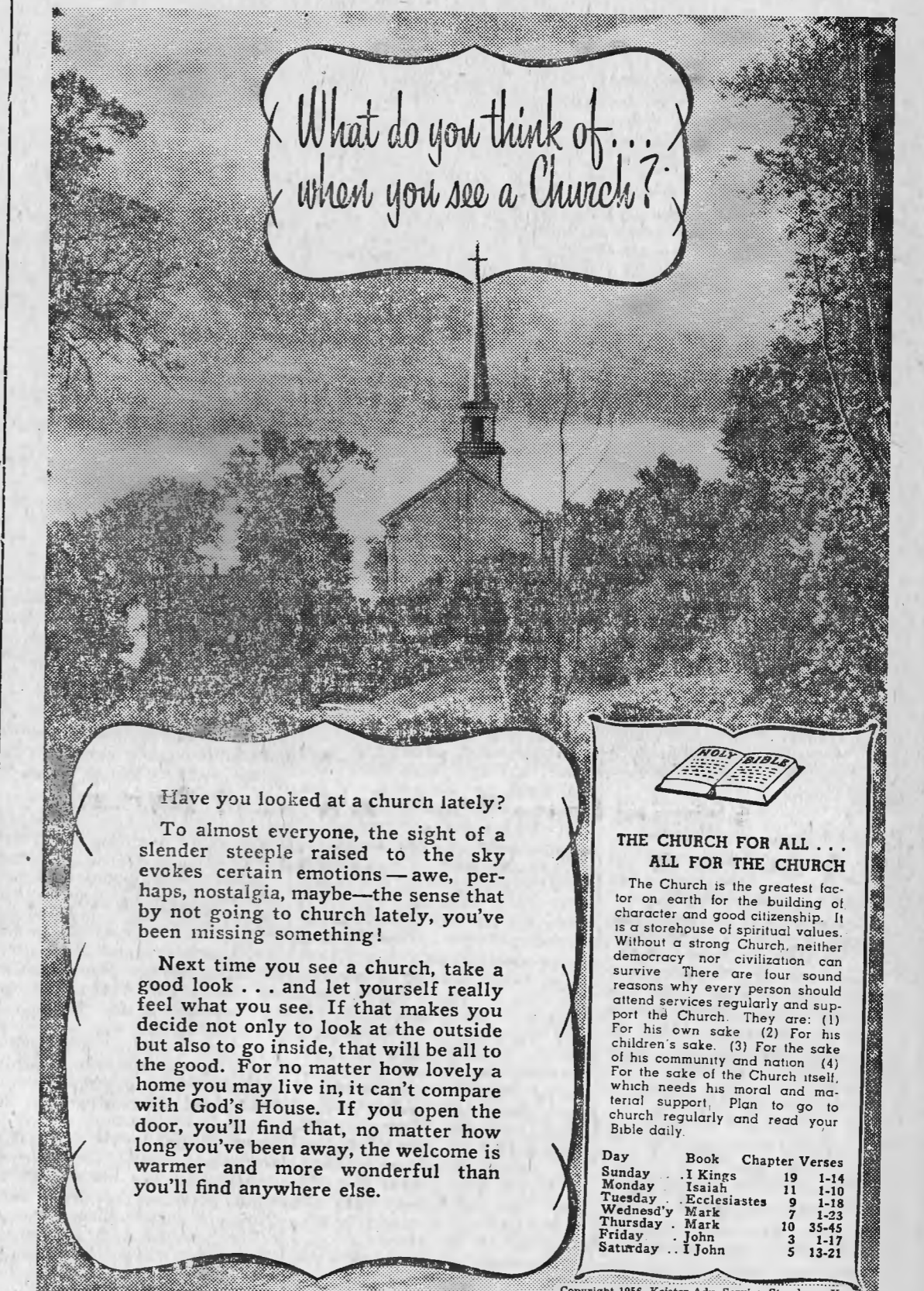
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What do you think of . . . when you see a Church?

Have you looked at a church lately?

To almost everyone, the sight of a slender steeple raised to the sky evokes certain emotions—awe, perhaps, nostalgia, maybe—the sense that by not going to church lately, you've been missing something!

Next time you see a church, take a good look . . . and let yourself really feel what you see. If that makes you decide not only to look at the outside but also to go inside, that will be all to the good. For no matter how lovely a home you may live in, it can't compare with God's House. If you open the door, you'll find that, no matter how long you've been away, the welcome is warmer and more wonderful than you'll find anywhere else.

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.

Day	Book	Chapter Verses
Sunday	I Kings	19 1-14
Monday	Isaiah	11 1-10
Tuesday	Ecclesiastes	9 1-18
Wednesday	Mark	7 1-23
Thursday	John	10 35-45
Friday	John	3 1-17
Saturday	I John	5 13-21

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BROWNSON MEMORIAL CHURCH (Presbyterian)
Cheves K. Ligon, Minister
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship service, 11 a.m. Women of the Church meeting, 8 p.m. Monday following third Sunday.
The Youth Fellowships meet at 7 o'clock each Sunday evening. Mid-week service, Wednesday, 7:15 p.m.

EMMANUEL CHURCH (Episcopal)
Martin Caldwell, Rector
Holy Communion, 8 a.m. (First Sundays, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.)
Sunday School, 9 a.m.
Morning Prayer and Sermon, 10 Holy Communion—each Wednesday and Holy Days, 10 a.m.

MANLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Grover C. Currie, Minister
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Worship Service, 2nd and 3rd Sunday evenings, 7:30. Fourth Sunday morning, 11 a.m.
Women of the Church meeting, 8 p.m., second Tuesday.
Mid-week service Thursday at 8 p.m.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
New Hampshire Ave.
Sunday Service, 11 a.m.
Sunday School, 11 a.m.
Wednesday Service, 8 p.m.
Reading Room in Church Building open Wednesday 3-5 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
New York Ave. at South Ashe
David Hoke Coon, Minister
Bible School, 9:45 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Training Union, 7 p.m. Evening Worship, 8 p.m.
Scout Troop 224, Monday, 7:30 p.m.; mid-week worship, Wednesday 7:30 p.m.; choir practice Wednesday 8:15 p.m.

ST. ANTHONY'S (Catholic)
Vermont Ave. at Ashe
Father Peter M. Denges
Sunday masses 8 and 10:30 a.m.; Holy Day masses 7 and 9 a.m.; weekday mass at 8 a.m. Confessions heard on Saturday between 5-6 and 7:30-8:30 p.m.

THE CHURCH OF WIDE FELLOWSHIP (Congregational)
Cor. Bennett and New Hampshire
Wofford C. Timmons, Minister
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service, 11 a.m.
Sunday, 6:30 p.m., Pilgrim Fellowship (Young people) Sunday, 8:00 p.m., The Forum.

Missionary meeting, first and third Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Church and family suppers, second Thursdays, 7 p.m.

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