

International Sunday School Lesson for SEPT. 13, 1964

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A SPOKESMAN FOR GOD

Memory Selection: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy path."

—(Proverbs 3: 5-6)

Lesson Text: 1 Samuel 1-7.

In keeping with the theme of our present unit — "God Stands by His People" — the emphasis of our study continues to be upon God's work through human instruments. In our lesson for today, we see how a praying mother and an aged priest became God's instruments through whom Israel was given a leader whose ministry was to have far-reaching effects on the destiny of that nation.

The meeting of the venerable Eli and Hannah took place in the temple, where Hannah was praying to God, voicing her deep yearning for a son. Blessed and comforted by Eli, Hannah returned to her home in the country, where she continued to pray for her heart's desire, promising that if her wish were granted, she would dedicate the son's life to service in the Master's cause.

And, when, in due course, Hannah's prayers were answered, when the child became of age, she fulfilled her promise to the Lord. Taken to the temple, and put under the care of Eli, the child Samuel waxed strong and good in the eyes of God and of the populace. He ruled as a judge over the people,

and proved to be an able, wise, well informed on all issues, and fair and impartial in his judicial decisions. He traveled extensively enjoying the confidence and respect of the people, and he exercised far-reaching influence on the destinies of his nation. He was an active religious leader of his times, as a result of his early religious training and background.

Looking deeper into the lesson we are studying, we see that the good exercised by Samuel's life on earth had its beginnings in his home life. A loving, dedicated, deeply religious woman, Hannah saw in her son a wonderful gift from God, to be loved and cherished mightily—a precious vessel entrusted in her care until such time as God called him to serve His divine purposes. This fact is illustrated by the fact that, in accordance with her promise before the child was born, she took him to the temple when he became of suitable age...there to receive further religious instruction. There was nothing grasping, or greedy, or self-seeking in Hannah's concept of motherhood.

Herein can lie a lesson for all parents — and for all children who will one day become parents. In homes where parents are indifferent to their own spiritual needs, and to those of their children, delinquency and crime have a fertile breeding ground. But where the church plays an active part in family life — there, in those homes, are found the students for the ministry, the evangelists and missionaries... the Samuels of our times, with his propensities for good, to be dedicated to a needy world.

The influence of religion on the life of a nation is aptly illustrated by the life of Samuel. Circumstances, it is true, may be vastly different today from those that existed in Biblical times. But, essentially, the lesson remains the same. For it is into the world of men and their needs that the religious homes and the houses of God send their sons and daughters to do the Lord's work.

RAMSEY CITES DUTIES OF ASCS COMMITTEEMEN

The farmer-committee system of administering farm programs has been in effect for 31 years, according to Ralph W. Ramsey, manager of the Madison ASCS county office. During these years, these farmer-elected committeemen have had a large variety of duties. Their prime responsibilities have been the conservation and production adjustment programs. Through the sound work of county and community committeemen, many county farm problems have been and are now being solved.

This system of administering action farm programs has proved highly effective. It gives the real farmer an opportunity to participate in both the formulation and administration of needed programs. These on-the-spot committeemen play vital roles in keeping the programs keyed to the needs of local farmers.

Ramsey stated that election of these community committeemen is now in progress. Ballots were mailed to all known eligible voters on August 31 and are to be returned to the county ASCS office not later than Friday, Sept. 11. Farmers who did not receive a ballot may call at the ASCS of-

to do the Lord's work. As individual Christians we can truly learn from the story of Samuel. We must realize, from our lesson today, as well as others previously studied, that God will always call forth men with the qualities of leadership when his children are sorely in need of such a man. And we cannot fail to have noticed that He works with whatever he has at hand to accomplish his goals — saints or sinners, we can all serve the Lord in even the humblest capacity if we but listen for his call.



PHILLIP BALL is the Republican nominee for constable of Precinct 15 (Mars Hill) in the November 3 general election. He is a graduate of Mars Hill High School where he was active in sports and student affairs. A veteran of service in the United States Army, he is employed by the Southern Railroad. Ball was married last Spring to the former Cornelia Fay Jacobs who was a senior at East Tennessee State University.

Mrs. Jessie Carter Passes Monday; Rites Tuesday

Mrs. Jessie Buckner Carter, 52, of Mars Hill Rt. 1, died Monday, Sept. 7, 1964 in an Asheville hospital following a brief illness.

A native and lifelong resident of Madison County, she was an employe of the Hammelund Manufacturing Co., and a member of the California Creek Baptist Church.

Surviving are the husband, S. M. Carter; a daughter, Mrs. S. M. Davis of Morristown, Tenn.; a son, Ray Carter of the home; the father, John Lee Buckner of Mars Hill; three sisters, Mrs. Lemmie Ballard of Weaverville, Mrs. Floyd Ponder of Mars Hill Rt. 3, and Mrs. Owen Alford of Springdale, Ark.; two half-sisters, Mrs. Richard Ponder of Weaverville and Mrs. Harvey Ponder of Mars Hill; four brothers, Sam and Newton Buckner of Mars Hill, Bob Buckner of Gaffney, S. C., and Clyde Buckner of Marshall; two grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held at 4:30 p. m. Tuesday in California Creek Baptist Church. The Rev. Robert Holt and the Rev. William Able officiated. Burial was in Mars Hill Cemetery.

Active pallbearers were Guy Carter, Jake Drake, Perry and Neal Willis, Jimmie and Boyd Ramsey. Flower bearers were employes of the spinning department and supervisors of Hammelund Mfg. Co.

Holcombe Funeral Home was in charge.

SHADOW
Delving too much into the past causes us to have grave doubts concerning the future.

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GIANT BURLEY TOBACCO dwarfed Frank Barnes, Jr., in a field belonging to James Gentry of Hot Springs. While this is not exactly typical of tobacco at this stage, there are a lot of fields of tall leaf almost ready for cutting in Western North Carolina. Gentry, who owns a hardware store and works in the post office too, raised the tobacco as a side job. It is of a 301 Hybrid variety and all of the .53 acre lying alongside Spring Creek just outside Hot Springs, is equally tall, estimated at 12 feet before topping. Each stalk has about 33 saleable leaves. Farmers and agriculture agents in this area say the field of burley is a record crop.

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Walnut 4-H Club Is Organized

On Monday, Sept. 8, the Walnut 4-H Club was organized. Officers elected were Gail Reeder, president; Patricia McDevitt, secretary; Theresa Ramsey, secretary-treasurer; and Linda Henderson, reporter. Meetings will be held on the first Monday in the month. The next meeting will be held Oct. 5.

BE COUNTED
Be sure to be counted when it counts — get out and vote.

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Annual Merrill Reunion Will Be Held This Sunday

The annual family reunion for the descendants of Ransom Merrell and Amie Metcalf Merrell will be held this Sunday at the old Merrell homeplace, currently referred to as the Calvin Edney Farm. It is located on Big Branch Road about two miles from Mars Hill.

The Merrell clan has for years made this occasion one of the outstanding events of the year and

MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sept. 11—Spruce Pine—here
Sept. 18—Cane River—here
Sept. 25—East Yancey—there
Oct. 2—Hot Springs—there
Oct. 9—Bakersville—there
Oct. 16—Crossnore—here
Oct. 23—Mars Hill—there
Oct. 30—Rosman—here

All descendants are again asked to bring baskets of food for "the big spread" at noon.

All singers and preachers are invited.

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