

Bible Society News

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

New York—A happening 1817 style: An event that happened 150 year ago—the gift of 65 Bibles from the American Bible Society to the USS John Adams was symbolically recreated on May 11 at the society's 151st annual meeting at the Plaza Hotel. Rear Admiral George H. Duker, USN, and a sailor in an 1817 uniform participated in the ceremony.

New York—Spanish American War "Veteran" to Be Honor Guest: One of the last surviving "veterans" of the Spanish American War—an 1817 Bible—was a guest of honor at the annual meeting of the American Bible Society on May 11 at the Plaza Hotel. The presentation of an 1817 Bible (KJV) to a sailor in a uniform of that period for the Naval archives celebrated the 150th anniversary of ABS service to the military.

New York—In the Service: More than half a million Scriptures were distributed free by the American Bible Society to American armed forces last year, it is reported in the board of managers report presented at the 151st annual ABS meeting on May 11 at the Plaza Hotel. For personnel on active duty as of June 30, 1966, this is equal to about one-sixth of total armed forces, three-fourths the Navy, half the Army, almost three-fourths the Air Force and twice the Marine Corps.

New York—The ABS Gives Berth to the USS John Adams: A watercolor painting of the USS John Adams, which was

supplied with 65 Bibles by the American Bible Society in 1817, was exhibited at the 151st annual ABS meeting on May 11 at the Plaza Hotel. The painting, by Artist Cammillieri, is on loan from the Maryland Historical Society, which received it as a gift from Mrs. Anne Vorhees McKim, whose ancestor, P. R. Vorhees, commanded the ship in 1832.

New York—"Bookmakers" to Meet: One of the oldest bookmaking establishments in the country—the American Bible Society—held its 151st annual meeting May 11 at the Plaza Hotel. Special guests included Bishop James K. Mathews of the Boston area of the Methodist Church and a former missionary to India; Vice Admiral William F. Raborn, Jr., U. S. Navy (retired) and Rear Admiral George H. Luker, U. S. Navy.

New York—High Ranking Personnel Served ABS: On the first American Bible Society board of managers were such high ranking armed forces personnel as General Stephen Van Rensselaer, who commanded the attack on Queenstown in 1812, the Honorable Smith Thompson, who was named Secretary of the Navy in 1820, and Richard Varick, one of General Washington's staff officers. The 150th anniversary of ABS service to the military was

observed at the society's annual meeting May 11 at the Plaza Hotel.

New York—Annual Give-away Totals a Cool Half Million: More than a half million Scriptures were distributed free in 1966 to American servicemen and women here and abroad, it was reported at the 151st annual meeting of the American Bible Society on May 11 at the Plaza Hotel.

New York—ABS Notes Inflation: Today the American Bible Society spends upwards of \$200,000 annually giving Scriptures to American servicemen and women, according to a report presented at the 151st annual ABS meeting May 11 at the Plaza Hotel. When the society first presented Scriptures to military personnel 150 years ago, the total cost was \$55.25 for supplying 65 Bibles to the crew of the USS Adams.

New York—Dollars and Cents: The number of Scriptures (38,981,620) distributed by the American Bible Society in the United States during 1966 alone, would provide more than one-fifth of the population of the United States with the printed Word. This incurred a distribution cost of \$1,864,672. These figures are included in a report which was presented at the 151st annual meeting of the American Bible Society on May 11 at the Plaza Hotel.

Let's Go To Church Sunday

Sunday School Lesson

TRANSFORMED BY CHRIST

International Sunday School Lesson for June 4

Memory Selection: "What things are gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ."—Philippians 3:7.

Lesson Text: Acts 9:1-31.

In today's lesson we are concerned with the transformation conversion to Christ's ways will bring to our lives. To confirm this fact, we have only to look to the story of the conversion of Saul.

Saul, the persecutor, became the persecuted. Even though he had been converted, he was reluctantly accepted by the disciples, for they were distrustful of his intent.

Saul, however, had one ally—Barnabas. Barnabas, trusted and respected by all, believing Saul to be genuine in his professions of faith, ranged himself on his side, and stayed there tenaciously. Such is the fellowship of man.

Paul preached before both Jews and Gentiles; he knew no boundaries of race or creed, for he believed the Word to be universal. Like Christ, he sought out the excluded ones, for (like Christ) he saw this was where his work lay. The story of Saul affirms the innate ability to change that lies in everyone.

Thus Paul preached before Gentiles, as well as Jews. The Christian community of believers was—in Paul's eyes—a fellowship. The age-old distinctions which separated Jews and Gentiles, to Paul, was unimportant, for Christ was (and is) universal.

In reviewing Paul's character, we see that pride was removed from his makeup. Saul was somewhat notorious for his arrogance; the adoption of the name "Paul" was, perhaps, synonymous of the change that had come about in this man; for Paul was known for his teachings, which was tempered, always, with humanity.

Humility became Paul; convicted of his wrongdoing, he repented and surrendered his life to the service of Christ—whom he had hitherto been persecuting.

Indeed, in the story of Saul (or Paul) there lies a lesson for everyone who would proclaim himself a Christian, for in Paul's attributes—his moral character, his refinement, his prestige and popularity among the people of his times—all these were telling weapons in the struggle to bring Christ's message to the people.

But, as we study the story of his conversion, we realize that all these fine characteristics were not enough to swing the pendulum. We realize that to these attributes it was necessary to add the ingredients of faith, unconditional surrender of the will, the yeasts of total commitment and total obedience, before the sum total of this man was worthy of Christ.

We live in a time of changing mores, and we are apt to conform to those standards, for man is strongly endowed with the herd instinct.

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No! It doesn't happen in one day. It takes four years.

And it's not really the years that count. It's the days . . . and the hours.

For when the scroll is in our hand . . . what are we?

We are what we have become . . . gradually . . . through all those hours, days, and years.

So the wiser among us recognize a degree for what it is; a recognition of knowledge and proficiency that have been attained.

And while we're acquiring that knowledge . . . and while we're applying that proficiency . . . we build into our hours, days and years the spiritual fibre of religious conviction and Christian service.

For gradually — we are becoming the men and women that one day we will be!

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 read your Bible daily.

Sunday Proverbs 22:1-12	Monday Hosea 6:1-6	Tuesday John 8:25-32	Wednesday I Corinthians 3:5-15	Thursday I Timothy 4:6-10	Friday II Timothy 3:1-9	Saturday James 3:13-18
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These Religious Messages Are Published In The
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This Is The Life

By D. E. THOMAS
 Immanuel Baptist Church
 GOODBYE, DEATH!

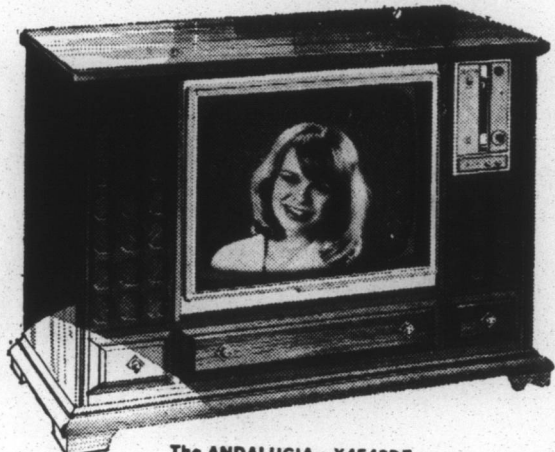
Take your Bible, please, and open it to Genesis Chapter 5. Here we see that all of them had one thing in common. They all died. Some of them could have been rich and some could have been poor, some good people, some bad, but they all died. Notice that none of them lived 1,000 years because 1,000 years is as one day with the Lord. We see that death is our enemy and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death.

When Jesus died for our sins, you and me, He paid the price and now we can say goodbye, death. In the resurrection Jesus overcame death and He lives. The saints that die today will soon be with their Savior. I'd like to ask you, "Are you ready to meet your Maker? Will it be Heaven or Hell? If you aren't saved on this side while you are alive, there are no chances on the other side. Christ is the answer. Won't you take Him now before it is too late?"

"The Bible says: "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."— I Corinthians 15:26.

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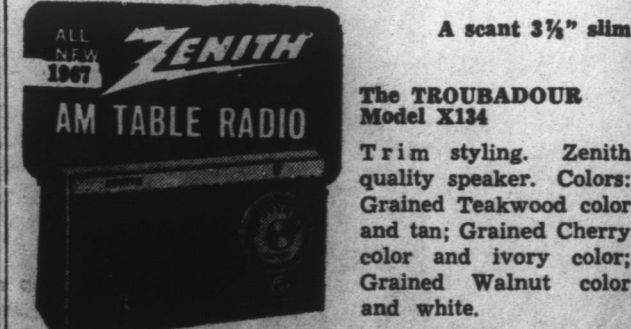
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