

Bible Society News

By MARY ALLRED
NEW YORK—Upon his recent immigration to the United States after being prevented from returning to his home in Jerusalem, Vartan Sahagian, executive secretary of the Bible Society in Jordan, expressed deep concern over events in the Middle East.
 "Christians accounted for only seven per cent of the population and this figure is declining due to mass migrations to Canada, Australia and the United States," he said in conferring at American Bible Society headquarters, 1865 Broadway, this week with Rev. John D. Erickson, ABS secretary for Asia. Mr. Sahagian and his

wife and their infant daughter were visiting relatives in Amman when hostilities broke out the day before the family planned to return home to Jerusalem. On several occasions since then the Sahagians have attempted to return to Israeli-held Jerusalem, but readmission has been refused them at border points despite their international Red Cross applications.
 There now are some 250,000 refugees in the East Bank of Jordan from the present held Israeli territory, with about 170,000 of these having been given validated international Red Cross applications for re-entry, Mr. Sahagian said. He added that only 14,000

to 20,000 refugees have been allowed readmission and that no former residents have been permitted to return to Jerusalem.
 An elder of the Church of the Brethren, Mr. Sahagian said his family are visiting relatives in Boston until he relocates himself in this country.
 The non-profit American Bible Society is an international organization devoted solely to translating, publishing and distributing Scriptures without theological note or comment.

Medicare Given Local Support

The number of Southern hospitals participating in the medicare program showed a dramatic increase during medicare's first year. Robert P. Bynum, Regional Assistant Commissioner for Social Security's Atlanta region, said today that 837 general hospitals in the seven state area of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee are now certified to provide services under the health insurance program for the aged.

This is a 24 per cent increase over the 674 hospitals participating as of July 1, 1966. The 837 hospitals represent 84 per cent of the total available general short term beds.

In Chowan County the participating hospital is Chowan Hospital, located in Edenton.

The 171 hospitals that came under the program during the period July 1, 1966, through June 30, 1967, included some that achieved participating status either by upgrading their care or by coming into compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

One hundred and forty one hospitals in North Carolina are furnishing quality medical care for about 375,000 eligible aged persons. This is about 99 per cent of the total available beds.

Bynum said that there is evidence that a significant number of elderly persons have entered hospitals for surgical procedures and other medical services they otherwise might not have received. This is most likely to be true of almost half the elderly, who, before Medicare, had no health insurance protection.

New Offices Aid To Public

New social security offices are now being opened faster in North Carolina than anywhere else in the country, according to Wardell K. White, regional representative for Social Security's Bureau of District Office Operations in Atlanta.
 Eight offices have just been opened and one more is scheduled to open in the near future. The new offices already in operation are Burlington, Kinston, Lumberton, North Wilkesboro, Rockingham, Elizabeth City, Roanoke Rapids and Statesville. Kannapolis will soon join the other eight in providing additional service to North Carolina residents. Elizabeth City is in the Charlottesville, Va., social security region and is a branch of the Norfolk, Va., district office.

There are now 24 district and branch offices in North Carolina. In addition, representatives from these offices make frequent visits to smaller or branch office.
 White said that changes in the social security program and the enactment of medicare program as well as a large number of middle size cities all contributed to the decision to open the offices.

Let's Go To Church Sunday

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

WHEN IS RELIGION REAL?

International Sunday School Lesson for Oct. 29

Memory Selection: "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."—I Samuel 16:7.

Lesson Text: Amos 4:4-5; 5:21-24; 8:9.

The goal of this lesson is to enable adults to realize the marks of real religion and the nature of true worship.

At the period on which our lesson is based, Israel was failing miserably in holding to a right relationship with God. She went through the motions of ceremonial rites and the observance of religious holidays, but this was mere "lip service" for she disregarded the prerequisites of a Godlike existence, as laid down in the Covenant. Therefore, she was to be destroyed; a few were to be spared, however, and—if they lived in accord with the Holy ordinances, the future would be bright; the slate would be wiped clean, and a new beginning established. Such was God's infinite mercy towards His sinning children.

What Israel forgot was that God can see into the hearts and minds of men. Mere worship—without commitment—was not acceptable to the Lord, for worship is meaningless unless the worshiper first commits himself (and his life) to God. The only truly beneficial worship is that which stems from sincere and personal dedication to God; that (and only that) benefits the individual, and is acceptable to the Most High. Had this been the case with Israel, God would have accepted their offerings and have taken pleasure in the people.

But what we must remember is that now—as then—God can see into the heart of man, and He abhors hypocrisy in any shape or form; and—before we condemn the Israelites—it would behoove us to examine our own day and time—and then make our judgment—if we dare.

Church attendance, if we are to believe the statistics, is at an all-time high. How, then, do we account for the events that daily claim first place in our newspapers, on television, on the radio? Are we giving "lip service" to the Lord, and failing to heed His Covenants in our private lives?

For the true test of religion is what it does to the individual's life—and, collectively—what the sum total of individual lives adds up to on a national basis. Religion works through, and for, the worshipper—if he is sincere. That (and that alone) is the test.

A true and sincere religion manifests itself in daily living. It is not easy to attain, for it calls for a selfless dedication on the part of the individual Christian. He realizes that service does not end with church ceremonies or attendance; he fully comprehends that what he listens to in church must be carried into his daily life, and lived up to. Only by putting this concept into

Continued on Page 13

FORGOTTEN SOMETHING



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.

Have you been forgetting something lately? Have you been forgetting yourself?

Let's be completely selfish, for the moment, about this matter of going to Church. Let's look at it solely from your own point of view.

Will the Church offer you an escape from reality? Will it lead you into some kind of a rosy dream world? Will it be your own, personal panacea—a kind of spiritual crutch?

Emphatically no! What the Church will do is give you Faith. It will help you find the courage and strength to meet life's tests. It will bring you complete realization of one all-important fact: with God's love, it is never too late to begin again.

If you haven't been going to church you have undoubtedly forgotten yourself. Start going now!



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Sunday Deuteronomy 13:1-5	Monday Psalms 44:17-26	Tuesday Isaiah 17:7-11	Wednesday Hosea 13:1-9	Thursday II Corinthians 13:5-10	Friday I Thessalonians 5:12-24	Saturday Titus 3:3-7
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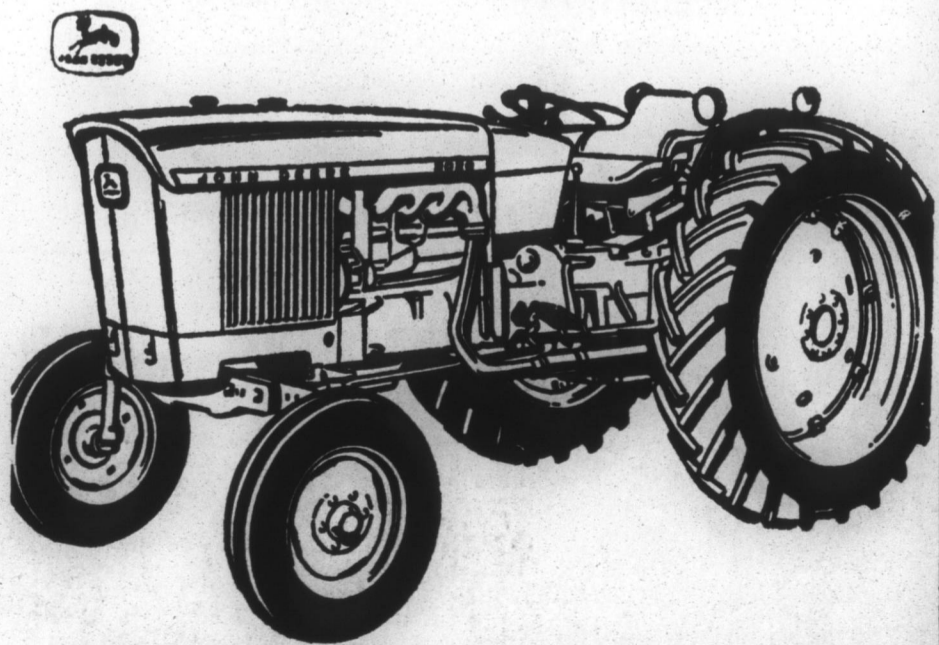
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