

Bible Society News

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

NEW YORK—Representatives from more than 65 Protestant and Orthodox denominations, eight church related agencies as well as Roman Catholic observers are expected to attend the American Bible Society's annual Advisory Council here November 13-15.

Principal speakers will be His Excellency Lij Endalkachew Makonnen, permanent United Nations representative from Ethiopia, and Edward B. Lindaman, manager of Interdivisional Projects, Apollo, Space Division, North American-Rockwell, Downey, Calif.

NEW YORK—A man who spends a great deal of time in jail is responsible for the distribution of almost 20,000 copies of "Good News for Modern Man," the New Testament in Today's English Version, according to a report from the American Bible Society.

He is Rev. Tom Petty, an ABS distributor in Columbia, S. C., and a faculty member at Columbia Bible College. As one of two chaplains who serve Richmond County, S. C., prisons, Mr. Petty may visit as many as three prisons on a

Sunday. More than seven million copies of "Good News for Modern Man" have been distributed since its publication by the ABS a little over a year ago.

NEW YORK—President Lyndon B. Johnson recently issued a proclamation in a White House ceremony endorsing a new worldwide interfaith program for encouraging Bible use. The new program combines the previously separate programs of the American Bible Society and the Laymen's National Committee. Worldwide Bible reading continues through Thanksgiving and Sunday, December 10 will be observed by many churches as Universal Bible Sunday.

Vice Admiral William F. Raborn, Jr., United States Navy (retired), presented a specially inscribed New Testament to President Johnson on behalf of the ABS and the LNC. Admiral Raborn is vice president of the Aerojet General Corporation and national chairman of the new interfaith program. The presentation volume was a special leather bound copy of "Good News for Modern Man," the New Testament in Today's English Version, published by the ABS.

NEW YORK—In accordance with the American Bible Society's 150-year history of giving Scriptures to men and women of the armed forces of the United States and their allies, a special new glue for pocket sized Testaments for service personnel is being tested in Vietnam. Recently several dummy copies were presented to chaplains going to Vietnam to establish durability of the glue in that climate.

ABS service to members of the armed forces began in 1817, with the presentation of 65 Bibles to the crew of the USS John Adams, a corvette of 24 guns.

NEW YORK—Alfred Franz Wallenstein will conduct an orchestra, comprised of 73 pieces from the New York Philharmonic, in a presentation of Franz Joseph Haydn's "The Creation" on Sunday, November 5 at 8 P. M. The program will be sponsored by the American Bible Society at Philharmonic Hall in Lincoln Center. The Westminster Choir of the Westminster Choir College, Princeton, N. J., will provide 200 voices to perform the chorale accompaniment. Phyllis Curtin, Donald Gramm and Leopold Simoneau will perform the solo roles.

NEW YORK—Among unique volumes in the American Bible Society library is a Turkish language New Testament with passages printed on one page and selections from the Koran on the facing page. An Armenian Christian, determined to obtain a New Testament that could not be torn by extreme Muslims in Constantinople, conceived the idea of printing the volume because no Mohammedan would dare to tear the Koran. Printed in 1914, it was presented to the ABS in 1939 by the late Rev. Dr. Samuel M. Zwemer, who was once jailed in Michigan for distributing American Bible Society Scriptures without a license.

Labor is the curse of the world, and nobody can meddle with it without becoming proportionately brutified.
—Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Let's Go To Church Sunday

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

GOD'S PURPOSE IN DISCIPLINE

International Sunday School Lesson for Nov. 26

Memory Selection: "My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him; for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."—Hebrews 12:5-6.

Lesson Text: Hosea 2-3.

"Discipline" is the keynote of our lesson for today—in fact, we might more readily say "self-discipline." For discipline does not always mean punishment—it also refers to character.

The old saw: "This is going to hurt me more than it hurts you . . ." when punishment of a child becomes necessary is more or less a standing joke in a family, but it carries a ring of truth. The child may not see it, but the parent about to administer the punishment is sincere. Parental instinct is basic—nothing must hurt this beloved child. But—deeper than that, if the parent truly loves the child, is the conviction that if one stays one's hand now, the child is the one who, in the long run, suffers. The child—and society! How many people have been hurt—how many families broken up—because some parent, somewhere, failed to guide a child in the way he or she should go? The child we raise goes on to be the wife (or the husband) of another—the father (or mother) of another life or lives!

Thus was it with God and with Israel! God's disciplining of Israel throughout the years was His effort to teach them that the way of the transgressor is hard, but the way of those who live in righteousness is fraught with many blessings. Man was given the freedom of choice; but if he makes the wrong choice, he cannot escape the results of that choice. The universe is governed by God's laws, and any person—or any nation—that runs contrary to those laws must abide by the inevitable results. Thus it was in the relationship of God and Israel.

God never closed the door on Israel. He loved His chosen people, and was ever willing to receive them; but the way back to Him would be fraught with the discipline of captivity. The way back to God, for Israel, would be hard, but she would emerge from it a stronger nation—one who could take her rightful place in God's universe, tempered by fire to the strength of steel.

It is only right that we keep in mind the fact that Israel lived in the day of the law; today, we live in a state of Grace. For God does not save us in the light of our actions—He saves us on the basis of our faith in Jesus. We are not—as were the Israelites—promised material blessings; rather we are promised eternal life in Him, and daily communion with Him if we receive Him in our hearts. Our key to His kingdom lies in our hearts.

God's discipline takes many forms in our lives—deeply personal, the loss of a beloved husband or wife, the death of an equally beloved child. If we lock up in our hearts the
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How much corn in a cornfield?

Bobby was raised in the city. It wasn't until recently that he had ever set foot in a cornfield.

Oh, he'd seen hundreds of cornfields from the window of a speeding car. And, shopping with Mother at the market, he'd seen the golden ears peeping through their green jackets.

But when we visited the Stoner's farm Bobby actually set foot in a cornfield. And Bobby looked at our host as though he were a millionaire.

"Gosh, Mr. Stoner," he said, "God sure gave you a lot of corn." The other day we had a note from the Stoners inviting us to have Thanksgiving dinner with them.

"Please bring Bobby along," they wrote. "He helped us appreciate just how much corn there is in a cornfield—and where it comes from."

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Sunday Genesis 41:25-45	Monday Ruth 2:1-13	Tuesday Psalms 65:1-13	Wednesday Joel 2:18-27	Thursday Matthew 12:1-8	Friday Mark 4:26-32	Saturday John 12:20-26
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Dear friends,

In thinking about reasons to be thankful, such as abundant food, education, security—the fact that many human problems remain to be solved is also reason to be thankful. How would each generation grow in maturity, wisdom and compassion if it were not for the problems left unsolved or created by the previous generation?

Let us be thankful both for our blessings and our burdens which help us to grow in the image of our Creator.

Sincerely,

H. B. Williford, Jr.

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