

THE DUPLIN TIMES
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Blind Man Gets Talking Book

Through the efforts of the Faison Lions Club, Frank Byrd, a blind resident of Faison, received the loan of a talking book machine this week. It is attracting the attention of the townspeople as well as furnishing considerable pleasure to Mr. Byrd. Many of the local people did not know anything like it existed until only a few days ago.

Today there are some 1,530 titles of talking books. These are being distributed to more than 30,000 sightless readers throughout the country.

It was in 1934 that Dr. Xenophon P. Smith, then head of the Library's Division for the Blind, began to carry out Thomas A. Edison's prophecy that the phonograph would some day be "dandy for the recording of books for the blind."

The present chief, G. A. Schwegmann, Jr., says the recorded books include the Bible and most of the good books past and present. "The collection," he said, "must meet the needs of those who wish to study and read the Bible and of a much larger group like their sighted friends, who prefer the latest current novels, detective stories, westerns, and books on politics, economics and history."

For years the program struggled along on meager funds, but now it's booming under the impetus of a million-dollar appropriation from Congress. The division has more than 30,000 talking book machines in use; 12,000 were sent out during 1949. The goal now is 65,000.

Machines are furnished free and may be kept indefinitely. Users

don't have to worry about repairs or upkeep. If something goes wrong the library repairs the machine. If it wears out the user gets a new one. Recordings are lent by libraries over the country just as ordinary books and for the same length of time. They are mailed postage-free in leather containers.

Recordings and readings are made at New York's American Foundation for the Blind and at the American Printing House for the Blind, Louisville, Ky. Readers are generally professional radio announcers, selected by recording studios. The average book consists of 20 records with two sides. They are recited at the rate of 165 words a minute, compared with the average of 350 to 500 words per minute by sighted readers. About half the books listed on the best seller lists each year are recorded. It takes nine to 12 months to get books recorded.

WILDLIFE SEEDS FREE

The Wildlife Resources Commission still has about 2,000 wildlife seed packets for planting as quail cover. Packets contain ten pounds of a mixture of annual seeds which will produce good wildlife food when placed near permanent cover, or when planted on old tobacco beds and other suitable areas.

Persons wishing to obtain free seed packets should write the Wildlife Resources Commission for an application form which gives details of procuring the seeds.

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SCRIPTURE: Zephaniah, especially 1:12-18; 2:1-3; 3:12-13
DEVOTIONAL READING: Psalm 111: 1-10

Repentance

Lesson for June 11, 1950

ZEPHANIAH seldom has been any reader's favorite prophet. His pictures of doom are enough to send shudders down any one's spine. It is as realistic as if he were describing H-bomb day. But the main point of Zephaniah is plain and practical: Repent! For selfish man and stubborn nation, that is the first necessity of all. Repentance is not merely regretting something one has done. Anybody can do that—and go right on committing the same sin. Furthermore, a man's regret for something he has done may be for a wrong reason.



Suppose an adulterer is sorry for the publicity he got when the newspapers caught up with him? Suppose a lazy farmer is sorry, at harvest time, that he didn't work harder during the summer? That sort of thing is not repentance at all.

Also, repentance is not just repentance-in-general. It is one thing to say, "O God, I am a sinner." It is quite another thing, and a harder one, to kneel and say to God: "You know well what a liar I have been."

Repentance is not real unless it is honest; and it is not honest till the repenter looks squarely at his own sins, knows them for real sins and is willing to call them by the ugly names they deserve.

Repentance As The Bible Sees It

THE BIBLE MEANING of repentance is something radical, something life-changing. As the prophets and our Lord set it before us, it means a total change of inner attitude and viewpoint. It does not mean so much stopping something you enjoy, as it means enjoying something altogether different from what you used to enjoy.

For example, you never truly repent of pride until you are really humble on the inside. You never have fully repented of selfishness so long as your biggest "kick" comes from kicking other people around. Repentance means a re-direction of life. It means loving whatever good you hated and hating whatever evil you loved.

The question is: Are you content to be what you are, as you are, or do you sincerely want to be a better, indeed a different person? For that, the grace of God is necessary. For repentance means nothing short of being made over.

Are you aware that by yourself you are doomed to be yourself, your worst self? What is needed is not that you shall make yourself over, what is needed is that you shall pray God to make you over. His grace is not forced on the unwilling. The change may not come all at once, not overnight. Yet surely, and it may be swiftly.

There have been persons whose lives have changed in a single night. In a single moment. There are others whose life-transformation has come slowly. But wherever real repentance is, there the Spirit of God has been at work.

Why Repentance Is Needed

ZEPHANIAH POINTS UP the same two reasons for repentance that we find all through the Bible. One reason is the judgment of God; the other is the promise of God. These are two sides of the same thing.

Man does not live in his own universe. He lives in a universe which he could not have created—in a sense he is a guest of it. It is a universe God created in love, and rules in love. Work and live "against the grain" of God's law of love, and you are headed for destruction.

To repent means that you come out new, in the image of God. Not to repent means that you are a breaker of God's laws because you do not like his laws. To repent means that (in the language of the ancient Psalmist) you love the law of God.

To the unrepentant, the laws of God are like the bars of a cruel cage. To the repentant, the laws of God are like rails to a locomotive—the highway of power.

(Readers who wish to examine the Bible's teachings on repentance should read "The Meaning of Repentance" by William Douglas Chamberlain, published by the Westminster Press.)

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Bad License Plates Exchanged Free

Motorists having on their vehicles two 1950 license plates on which the paint is peeling today were asked by the Department of Vehicles to exchange the tags for new ones.

The exchange will be made without cost to the motorist either by mail from the Raleigh office or upon application to any branch office in the State. Where paint is peeling on the front plate only, the Department did not request motorists to make an exchange. However if the motorist wishes new plates in such cases, the exchange will be made free of charge. Where the back plate remains legible, motorists may use the plates throughout the remainder of the year. Only one plate was used during the war, it was pointed out.

The plates which are peeling all have an aluminum base. Since other states have used aluminum successfully Department officials stated that the manufacturing process was believed to be responsible for the defective plates. A shortage of steel brought about by the steel strike of several months ago made it necessary for the Department to use aluminum for 100,000 sets of 1950 plates.

The Department was hopeful that all 100,000 sets would not have to be replaced since steel allocated to manufacture of 1951 plates would have to be used, delaying production of next year's plates.

CORN EAR WORMS CONTROL FORMULA

By L. F. WEEKS
Corn ear worms have already begun to appear in early sweet corn fields. This insect is very destructive. The moth lays her eggs on the tassels or on the silks, after the eggs hatch the little worms enter the ears of corn to feed on the tender grains and there is where the damage is done.

Produce buyers tell us there is no market for worm infested corn. Housewives will not buy it. On the other hand the buyers tell us they have little or no trouble selling all the good grade, worm-free corn that they can get, usually at good prices.

The ear worm can be controlled by spraying or dusting with DDT. Spraying or dusting should start when silks first appear. Spray with 3 pounds of wettable DDD to 50

gallons of water or dust with 5% DDT. The corn must be dusted or sprayed every three days until the silks dry if control is to be expected. Let's stop share-cropping our sweet corn with the ear worm.

ABOUT ATHLETE'S FOOT

2127 Prominent Druggists Can't Be Wrong
Here's what Stout of Parkersburg, W. Va., says, "The sale of T-4-L has been very pleasing. One customer said it is the first thing in six years that gave relief."

REMEMBER TODAY TOMORROW WITH A PHOTOGRAPH BY KRAFT'S STUDIO

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June
11-Fossil Comstock hole discovered in Nevada, 1950.
12-Baschell Centennial celebration of gun's invention at Cooperstown, N.Y., 1950.
13-U.S. announces neutral stance between Spain and Cuba, 1950.
14-Flag day.
15-King John signs Magna Carta, 1215.
16-First robot built in London, 1944.
17-Battle of Bunker Hill, 1775.

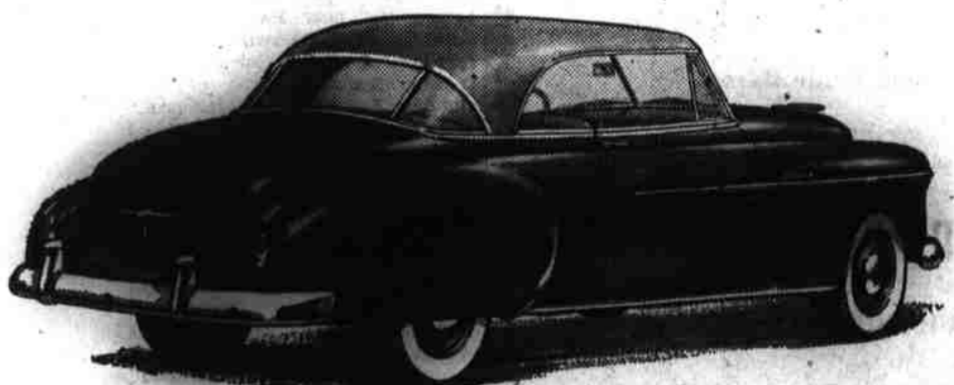
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