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Publishing statistics reveal that the nation's best-selling book is not a sex piece or smut study but what some refer to as the "good news" Bible. Last May this new version (in style) from the King James Bible (paperback) surpassed a famous doctor book as the nation's all time best-seller, with more than 25,000,000 copies sold.

The new translation was by a team headed by the Rev. Robert Bratcher and is available in several editions. An example of the new style (John 3:16):

King James version: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Good News version: "For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life."

While there are those who like the old version and those who like the new, the significant fact is that the new version has become the nation's all-time paperback best seller, which is heartening to all Christians.

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Letter To Editor

The Hertford Grammar School eighth grade students have recently done an excellent job selling candles, raising an excellent amount of money which will go toward the purchase of athletic equipment.

Somewhere along the way the PTA has come in for some unjust criticism, the result of rumors from the blue, spread, for the most part by people who don't attend PTA meetings and know little or nothing about the many activities undertaken by the organization to benefit their children.

The rumor is that the eighth graders are collecting the money to make up for a deficit in PTA funds. A part of the rumor is that those funds were spent on something else.

If the few - and fortunately it is

just that amount, albeit quite vocal - would check with Principal Bill Tice, myself or any other PTA director, they would be shown that not only has the outdoor athletic equipment been purchased and paid for, but there is money left over for some indoor equipment, requested by the school.

In addition, this year will find shelving, screens and other improvements made to our school library - this money coming from the PTA dinners and such special projects as the big festival scheduled for Saturday. These are sorely needed improvements - and the school librarian will be happy to show you around and let you see the need for yourself.

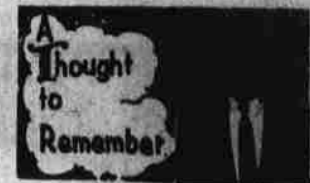
I hope this clears up any misconception, resulting from rumors that would never have been spread, much less

believed, if those taking them in would attend PTA meetings.

Again, I think congratulations are due the eighth graders. They took this project on their own - to help their school - and this kind of initiative is most encouraging.

Sincerely,

Frank M. Roberts,
President, Hertford Grammar
School PTA



MARION SWINDELL

The story is told about the famous French tight-rope walker who was preparing to walk across Niagara Falls on a rope.

"Do you believe I can walk across these falls?" he asked a bystander.

"Yes," was the reply.

"Do you believe I can carry a man on my shoulders?" he further inquired.

"Yes, I do," the man stated.

"Would you be the man to ride on my shoulders?" he asked.

"No, not me!" he emphatically replied.

Faith, sometimes, is a strange thing. Like the man and the tight-rope walker, it takes on a different meaning when it involves us personally. We often believe in great achievements and ideals, but we do not want to be an actual part in their accomplishments. Great faith is that which is supported by our own efforts - our own energies and talents.

OUR THOUGHT TO REMEMBER: "IF YOU BELIEVE IN SOMETHING—BE WILLING TO BE A PART OF IT."

OUR THOUGHT TO REMEMBER: "TO HAVE A FRIEND—YOU MUST BE A FRIEND."

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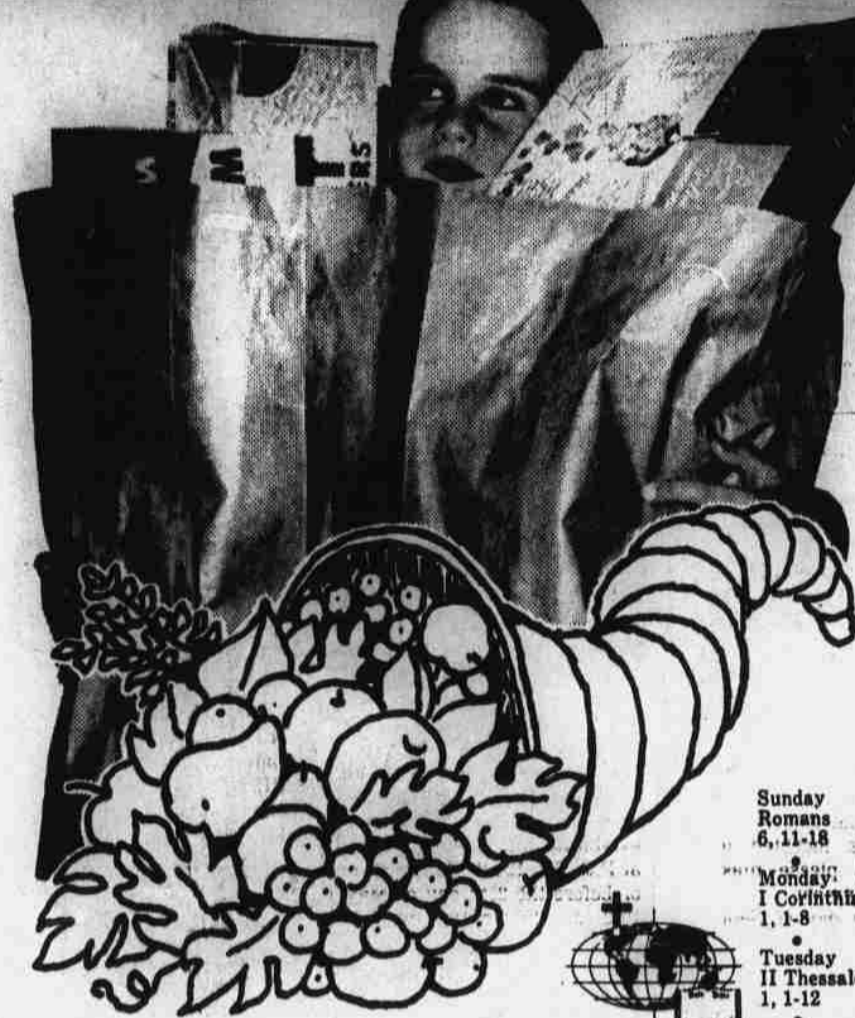
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Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Now it is a tribute to the intelligence of men that no one thinks He was talking about the material abundance we enjoy today. Everybody knows He was talking about something else.

But what else? What could Christ add to your possessions? What can He give men that might account for the logical distinction we readily make between a life of abundance and the abundant life?

Himself! That's it. That's all. Precisely what He said: "I am come that..."

To know Him and to know the meaning His Life has for our lives is to discover the abundant life!

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GOD CONQUERS EVIL
International Sunday School Lesson for November 21, 1971
LESSON TEXT: Romans 8, 28-39; 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

We have previously studied God's establishment of moral order, and, since moral order cannot survive under conditions of evil that are tolerated and allowed to go unpunished, this Lesson will detail the way in which God conquers evil in the world; thus assuring furtherance of His overall plan for mankind.

For the believing Christian the steps taken by God to conquer evil must be a very personal thing, for their basis was the redemptive death of Jesus Christ. His only begotten Son, on the cross at Calvary, that all men might be saved.

Christ's redemptive sacrifice, however, can only realize its full potential if man acknowledges Him openly and fervently, awarding Him the central place in the individual's life. This can only be done by man accepting the burden of his full guilt, enduring his punishment for sin, and returning a full response in faith - thereby making of himself a creature fully acceptable to God. This is what Paul meant by "justification of the sinner."

As will be seen from Romans 8, Paul then goes on to spell out the benefits accruing to man as a result of sanctification... what it means to be saved.

Through sanctification sinning man discovers a deep sense of inner peace. Anxieties and insecurities vanish, and he is bolstered with a new inner strength to endure through trials and tribulations which would hitherto have utterly defeated him. The Christian experiences a new sense of well-being, for he acknowledges that there is an afterlife, and the best still lies ahead of him.

He has gained access to God's presence, and the sense of loneliness that is present in every man alienated from God is a thing of the past. Where, as an enemy of righteousness, he was excluded from close communion with God, as a justified sinner he has access to Him in prayer, and he reaps all the benefits that prayer can bring.

Another newly-discovered blessing of the redeemed sinner is grace. Through it, man comes to the realization that God is ever active in his behalf in His redeeming love, provided in the Person of Christ.

And no litany of the benefits of the Christian doctrine would be complete without mentioning hope. For, because of Christ's sacrificial death, we possess the confidence that we will eventually come unto that state which God originally ordained for His most precious creation... man!

We come, also, to realize that each and every affliction we may endure has its own purpose. Adversity courageously accepted develops quality and character in the individual. As we mature in Christianity we have more of ourselves to give to those around us who have yet to be saved in this world, and as a consequence, we have more of ourselves to bring to the Throne in the next!

If we accept God in our hearts we become His willing instruments in defeating all that is sinful and evil in the world. We become His most effective weapons in His war on sin! (These comments are based on outlines of the International Sunday School Lessons, copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education, and used by permission.

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