

READ THE BIBLE

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand for ever."—Is. 40:8.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

"Let no man despise thy youth"—I. Timothy 4:12

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A LIVING OR A LIFE

"A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesseth."—Lk. 12:15.

VITAL FORCE

"What inspiring guidance can the Bible have for this modern age?" asks a correspondent, who reminds us that the world today is "not what it was under Pharaoh or Augustus Caesar?"

Two recent news items supply an adequate answer.

In his farewell address to the British Eighth Army in Italy, General Montgomery said that never in his command had he issued a written order to his subordinate generals and officers. "I tell them," he added, "what is wanted clearly and personally—acting on the advice of the 14th Chapter of the First Epistle to the Corinthians." And the General quoted:

"Except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken?"

And the second item is this statement made by Sir Stafford Cripps in a recent speech:

"The New Testament lays down in my belief the highest attainable standard of conduct not only for the individual relationships, but for national and international relationships as well. These principles should be our inspiration, and by them we should test every item of our policy."

A brilliantly successful soldier and an outstanding statesman evidently find "inspiring guidance" in this ancient Book. It deals with fundamentals and eternal principles. And though we are long centuries away from the Pharaohs and the Caesars of early Rome, the Bible remains as a "lamp unto our feet and guide unto our path." It needs not to be rewritten, but only needs to be more read and studied, and used, to be a vital working force.—Editorial, Halifax Herald, Jan., 1944.

THE BIBLE APPLIED

I would that every student of the Bible would take the motto which Bengel took for his guidance in study: "Apply thyself wholly to the Scriptures, and apply the Scriptures wholly to thyself." Some are applying themselves wholly to the Scriptures with microscopic intensity of search and research, but they neglect the other half.—Selected.

ADVENTURE IN THE SOLOMONS

When an Australian destroyer arrived at a port in the Solomon Islands its crew was given shore leave. A young sailor, finding himself free for the day, decided to spend it quietly by himself in Bible study, and, seeing a trail leading through a forest, he followed it until he came to a quiet spot, where he sat down and began to read his Bible.

So immersed was he that he did not notice, until he was already by his side, a huge, almost naked native, carrying a club. Before the sailor could cry out, the native, pointing to the open book, asked:

"That Bible?"

When the sailor replied that it was, the native replied:

"Me read Bible, too—me Christian," and taking the Bible from the hand of the sailor, he read aloud a chapter of Isaiah in creditable English. Then he handed the Bible back to the sailor, and went on his way.—The Evangelical Christian.

BIBLES IN CANADA

For the first time in history Bibles are being printed in Canada. The United Church Publishing House at Toronto has a contract for 30,000 copies of the Scripture.

Copyright for the Bibles is held in Great Britain by the Crown. The King accepts a Bible during the Coronation service. Part of that acceptance is symbolic of the copyright in his person. The right to publication in Britain is held by the King's Printer, Eyre and Spottiswoode. Rights have been granted to the two great publishing houses, Oxford and Cambridge. The right was also extended to the Collins Publishing House in Scotland.

War conditions have made it impossible to print Bibles in Britain. So, the Oxford Press has contracted with the United Church Publishing House at Toronto for 30,000 Bibles. The plates have been imported. Each Bible has 1,300 pages. The first pages have been run off.

There is always a demand for Bibles. Holy Scripture continues to be a best seller.—W. L. Clark in Windsor Star.

JACK MINER AND THE BIBLE

Jack Miner, famous naturalist and lover of birds, who just died at his home in Kingsville, Ontario, was a Christian gentleman and a keen student of the Bible. Of God's Book he had this to say: "With me nearing eighty years of age, I want to say I have spent more time during my life reading my Bible than all other books put together. The Bible is full of God's promises and every promise that I have read and been privileged to test out, I have found to be true."

MEET THE AUTHOR

A young lady once laid down a book which she had just finished with the remark that it was the dullest story she had ever read. In the course of time she became engaged to a young man, and one night she said to him: "I have a book in my library whose author's name, and even initials, are precisely the same as yours. Isn't that a singular coincidence?" "I do not think so," he replied. "Why not, pray?" "For the simple reason that I wrote the book." That night the young lady sat up until two o'clock reading the book again. And this time it seemed the most interesting story she had ever read. The once dull book was now fairly fascinating because she knew and loved the author. So a child of God finds the Bible interesting because he knows and loves the Author. It is his Father's message, addressed to him.—Record of Christian Work.

BIBLE BRINGS COMMUNITY GOOD

A young lawyer, an infidel, boasted that he was going out west to locate in some place where there were no churches, Sunday schools or Bibles. Before the year was out he wrote to a classmate, a young minister, begging him to come out where he was and start a Sunday school and preach, and "be sure to bring plenty of Bibles," closing with these words: "I have become convinced that a place without Christians and Sabbaths and churches and Bibles is too much like hell for any living man to stay in."—Record of Christian Work.

MINUTE BIOGRAPHIES OF GREAT CHRISTIANS

Martin Luther

Martin Luther, the great religious reformer, was born in Eisleben, Germany, Nov. 10, 1483.

Diligent Student

His father and mother lived in very humble circumstances, but they were anxious, nevertheless, that Martin have a good education. After preliminary training, he was sent, at the age of 15, to a Seminary where he made great progress in his studies, particularly logic, Latin and Greek. When 20 years of age, Luther graduated from the University of Erfurt with his Master of Arts degree.

Effects of a Thunderstorm

Up until 1504 Luther was unsaved, but by a strange circumstance his mind was turned to religious things. One day while walking along the road with a friend, they were overtaken by a thunderstorm. Suddenly a bolt of lightning struck his friend dead by his side. So greatly was Luther moved upon that he decided to devote his life to religious work, entering the Augustinian monastery at Erfurt in 1505.

Ordained a Priest

Luther applied himself with great diligence, and in 1507 he received "Holy Orders" and conducted his first mass. This same date was very important in his career, for it was about this time that he discovered a Latin Bible in the monastery library. The reading of God's Word was a tremendous revelation to him, showing with great clearness the error of the system with which he was connected.

Break with the Church

Luther became particularly stirred over the sale of indulgences, whereby people could get forgiveness for certain sins, or permission to commit them, for a sum of money. He wrote out a bulletin containing 95 propositions denouncing the wicked system, and affixed it to the church door at Wittenberg. Immediately a storm of ecclesiastical abuse burst about his head, and he was soon called to appear before Emperor and high church authorities at a council in Worms. When friends tried to dissuade him from going, he replied: "If there were as many devils in Worms as there are tiles on the roofs of the houses, I would go."

Excommunication

The pope at Rome then issued a "bull" condemning Luther, but when it appeared, Luther immediately burned it, along with the **Decretals of the Pontiffs**, in the public square. Luther was then finally excommunicated, in 1524, and he laid aside forever his monastic garments.

Writings and Death

After this Luther went into retirement for awhile, but there he spent his time translating the Scriptures into German, writing commentaries on the Bible, and publishing thousands of tracts against the Romish system.

The rest of his life was filled to the measure in preaching the gospel, and in 1546, the man who started revival fires burning in the whole of Europe, died on Feb. 18, 1546, aged 63 years.

W. H. M.