SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON V
THE CHURCH ENLARGING ITS FELLOWSHIP—Acts 8
PRINTED TEXT
Acts 8:1-8, 14-17, 25

GOLDEN TEXT.—They therefore that were scattered abroad went about preaching the word. Acts 8:4.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time.—A.D. 36.

Place.—Samaria is the region in Palestine lying between Judaea and Galilee; Gaza was an old city of the Philistines fifty miles southwest of Jerusalem; Azotus was thirty miles north of Gaza, and Caesarea, a coastal city, was located midway between Joppa and Tyre.

This lesson is helpful to us in the study of the consequences of persecution in the Christian church, namely, an even greater dissemination of the Gospel than was taking place before the persecution arose.

Saul the Persecutor

Acts 8:1. "And Saul was consenting unto his death. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church which was in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2. And devout men buried Stephen, and made great lamentation over him. 3. But Saul laid waste the church, entering into every house, and dragging men and women committed them to prison. 4. They therefore that were scattered abroad went about preaching the word."

After the death and burial of Stephen, the persecution still raged in Jerusalem. That temporary protection which had been extended to the rising sect by such men as Gamaliel was now at an end. Pharisees and Sadducees — priests and people alike, indulged in the most violent and ungovernable fury. The eminent and active agent in this persecution was Saul (who here comes for the first time upon the stage of New Testament history): There are strong grounds for believing that, if he was not a member of the Sanhedrin at the time of St. Stephen's death, he was elected into that powerful senate soon after; possibly as a reward for the zeal he had shown against the heretic doing. Before we have read much further in the book of Acts, we will find that he, who is now the greatest persecutor of the early Church, Saul, will become the greatest preacher of the Gospel of the grace of God which the ancient world ever knew. Thus is God able to work miracles within the hearts of men, and to mightily deliver His church in a time of great distress.

The Gospel in Samaria

5. "And Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and proclaimed unto them the Christ." Samaria was populated by a nation of people utterly despised by the Jews, and equally despising their Jewish neighbors—semi-Jews we might call them, who held rigidly to the traditions and laws of the Pentateuch, who were looking for the Messiah. A Jew considered himself contaminated even to go through the country of Samaria. But the love of God through Christ in Philip's heart had given him a love for all men everywhere. Prejudices disappeared. (We need this today as much as it was needed then). Philip, the evangelist, must not be confused with Philip, one of the Twelve Apostles. 6. "And the multitudes gave heed with one accord unto the things that were spoken by Philip, when they heard, and saw the signs which he did. 7. For from many of those that had unclean spirits, they came out, crying with a loud voice: and many that were palsied, and that were lame, were healed. 8. And there was much joy in that city."

Philip proclaimed as a herald the Messiahship of Christ. He preached also as an evangelist the good news of the Kingdom of God, and of the name of Jesus. Undoubtedly Philip preached from the Old Testament, for surely no New Testament book had yet been written, but in his preaching he continually pointed to the Messiah, not the Messiah who was still to come, but the Messiah who had already come, fulfilling the prophecies that spoke of Him. In preaching Christ, he preached Jesus as the Messiah for whom all Jews and Samaritans were looking.

Receiving the Holy Spirit

14. "Now when the apostles that were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John." We find this same action again taken by the mother Church in Jerusalem when they heard of the great work which was being done in the city of Antioch (Acts 11:19-29), sending Barnabas to examine and report to them concerning the conditions of the revival about which they had been hearing. Peter the practical; John the poet. Peter the man of deeds; John the dreamer. When the work in Samaria had to be inspected,—for I think that was the first apostolic intention,—the Spirit, acting through the apostles, sent these two; the man of deeds, and the man of dreams.

15. "Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit: 16. for as yet it was fallen upon none of them: only they had been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 17. Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit." The gift of the Holy Spirit—evidence of the new life which resulted from faith in Christ — to the Samaritan converts was here granted through the agency of the apostles, Peter and John, who were sent from Jerusalem to investigate the work of Philip. The mission of Peter and John, their prayer, and the miraculous gifts, also demonstrated the unity of the Church. 25. "They therefore, when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans."

The apostles had no power to confer miraculous gifts; but the fact that they prayed for their bestowal shows that they recognized the fact that Samaritans had actually become Christians, and that they (the apostles) gave their sanction to the new step which Philip had taken in preaching the gospel to those who were not Jews.

New Brazilian Minister to Canada and Wife

Photographed shortly after their arrival in Montreal, His Excellency, Joao Alberto Lins de Barros with his wife, is shown above. He is the Minister to Canada of Brazil and the first Latin American diplomat of such high ranking to come to Canada. His first task here will be to establish a Brazilian-Canadian direct steamship service.

RADIO REPORTER

By DAVE ROBBINS

THE "BANDWAGON"

The new radio show with a decidedly new twist is entertaining thousands of listeners from ten of Ontario's radio stations these nights under the title—The B-A Bandwagon. The Bandwagon is a fast-moving musical show that has plenty of pep and entertainment value, but in our mind, its outstanding feature is its community service theme which varies according to the location. Red Cross Work, War Savings, Community Welfare, traffic safety, encouraging tourists, and many other problems of the individual community are sparked by this new program.

Its growing popularity all over Ontario proves its worth in the very worthwhile effort it is making in behalf of community life. In Northern Ontario, the Bandwagon is heard in North Bay Thursday nights at 7.00, Sudbury, Thursday nights at 8.30, and Friday nights in Port William. In Eastern Ontario at Ottawa Friday nights at 7.30, Kingston Friday nights at 8.00, and at Prescott Friday nights at 6.00 o'clock. In Western Ontario, at Windsor Thursday nights at 8.00, and London Friday night at 7.00, while in Central Ontario, it is heard from CKOC at Hamilton, Friday nights at 8.30, and from CFRB in Toronto Saturday nights at 7.30.

Tune in for the Bandwagon this week.

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AROUND THE DIAL

Ned Sparks, sour-faced comic of many film hits, stars in a new series of half hour fun programs that are heard over the Columbia chain each Sunday at 5.30 (Standard). The Ned Sparks show is a Canadian program designed to attract American tourists to the Dominion, and includes all Canadian talent—such as Safr Lee, well-known Toronto singer — Luigi Romanelli's King Edward Band — and others. It should be an enjoyable show.

Another new program which has C.A.S.F. written all over the script and "with Love to My Sweetheart" in every song is the feature which takes its name from the song "Over Here For Over There," written by vocalist Jess Jaffrey. Young Bob Farnon of Happy Gang fame will direct the orchestra and the popular Guardsmen are returning, eigh strong, for this new variety show. Several other names will be starred for the feature each Wednesday night at nine.

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NBC's Symphony Orchestra, which closed its season under Arturo Toscanini's baton last Saturday evening, will be replaced this Saturday by a Summer Symphony series heard over WEBR.

The Summer series will concentrate on lighter works and selections of lesser-known composers. Reginald Stewart, noted Toronto conductor, has been signed to conduct the opening four programs.

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Radio Slants: Dinah Shore wants to go to the Charlie McCarthy show at an increase in pay but boss Eddie Cantor thumbs down the proposition . . . You'll be hearing World Series Baseball announcer Red Barber on the sport end of the newsreel in your theatre. . . The name of the new "Lone Ranger" is Brace Breemer . . . Walt Disney will work with a Major film company to produce "The Life and Stories of Hans Christian Anderson" . . . It's not likely we'll ever see Disney's "Fantasia"; the cost of special sound equipment is too high . . . Kate Smith has done a neat recording of "Little Church in England" for Columbia . . . Bing Crosby's work on "Camptown Races" for Decca is really something . . . NBC comedian Bob Burns and his Mrs. have taken to bicycling . . . a 15 or 20 mile daily spin.

Gardening . . .

ARTICLE No. 9

Probably the best garden soil for vegetables, flowers, grass, and most shrubs too, is a good loam. This is a soil that is not all clay or all sand. It is really a mixture of both, plus a lot of humus, or rotted vegetable material like leaf mould. Now, of course, one does not find this ideal soil everywhere but it is possible to create it out of almost anything in Canada.

Heavy Soil

Heavy soil, for instance, can be loosened permanently by the spading or plowing in of some well-rotted strawy manure or lacking this vegetable growth such as clover, quickly grown oats or even weeds. In very small gardens it is possible to secure a load or two of sand, or loose black leaf mould. This will also help to loosen the heavy clay and make it easily worked. Just plain cultivation alone will help. The beginner with a brand new piece of raw clay should not get discouraged. Such soil is always hardest to work at first. Each year will find the job simpler, the soil improved.

Sandy Soil

Light, sandy soils are always greatly benefitted by the addition of strawy manure or black loam. The incorporation of vegetable matter such as straw and weeds or clover will add humus to the sand and make it hold moisture better and give it a more desirable body.

Take Your Time

Because we have long hours of sunlight in Spring and Summer, it really does not matter then if our garden goes in late, as once growth starts it is rapid. Garden beginners are advised to have patience. There is no need for rushing, in fact there are very good reasons against such a course.

Real growth with most vegetables does not get underway until the weather and soil begin to warm. There are some exceptions, of course. Lettuce, spinach, peas, nursery stock, should be planted as soon as possible as all like cool weather.

But for the medium hardy type of vegetable—things like beans, beets, corn and tomatoes—there is no advantage in sowing too soon. They will make little growth in any case until the soil really turns warm.

Even Balkan Experts Differ

Pronunciation of Names in News Proves Difficult

Balkan authorities in New York differ considerably upon the pronunciation of place names recently prominent in the news. Take your choice.

Skoplje, the important Yugoslav centre, can be pronounced Scope-lee-yeh, according to the Slavonic languages branch of the New York Public Library, or more briefly, Scope-lya, according to the Yugoslav Legation.

Ljubljana is Lyu-blya-na to both authorities, and they also agree on Sarajevo as Sara-yevo.

Bitolj Southern Yugoslav city, is variously Bee-toll-ee and bee-toll.

A similar difficulty exists in obtaining the exact English spoken equivalent of Greek names, although the differences are not so great.

For instance, the Struma valley where the Greeks made their herioc stand is pronounced Stream-a and Stream-on, with the "n" sound very slight.

Similarly the Nevrokopi plateau is pronounced Nevro-cope-e and Nevro-cope-en.

Cat Lost All Its Nine Lives

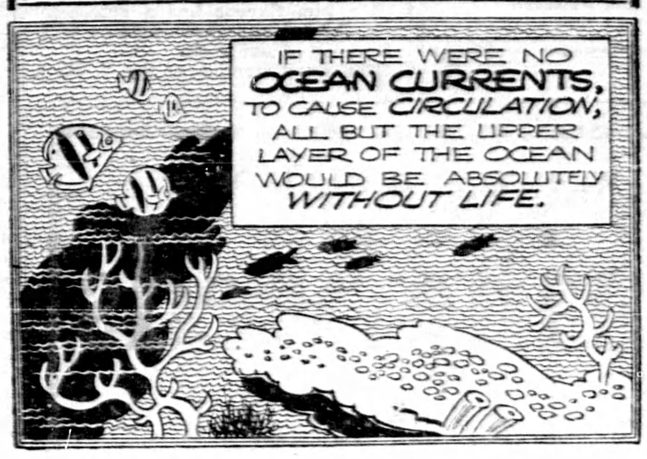
Two Riverton, Wyo., families witnessed a blackout last week—all because of a pole-climbing cat.

The cat scurried to the top of an electric pole, causing a short-circuit which blew a fuse. This resulted in no lights for the two homes.

Total fatalities: the cat.

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



ANSWER: No. It is a common stunt these days for parachute jumpers to give the crowds a thrill by dropping several thousand feet before opening their chutes.

NEXT: Did people know the earth was round before Columbus was born?

WORLD FLYER

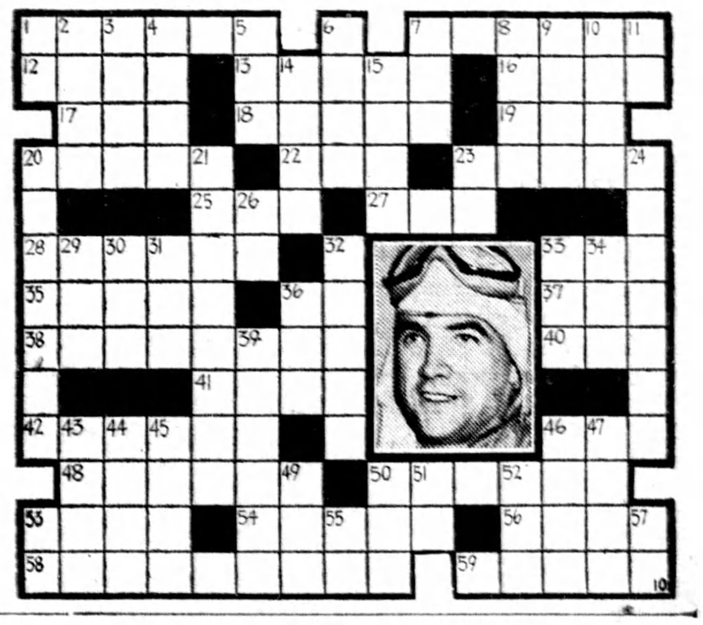
HORIZONTAL

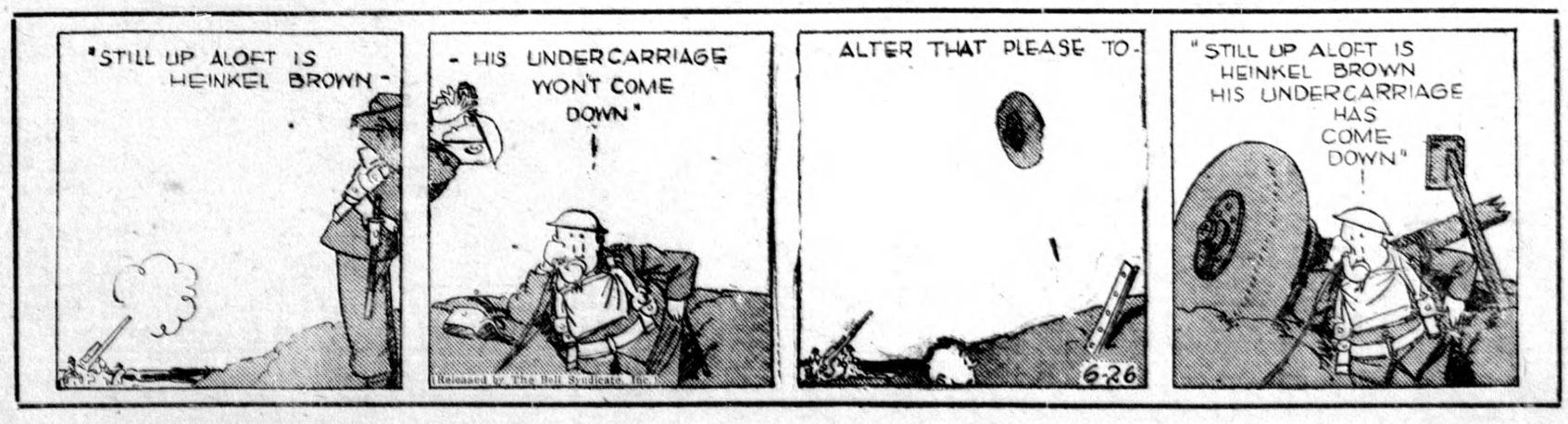
1,7 Pictured round-the-world flyer.
12 Pertaining to grandparents.
13 Dwelling.
16 To drive.
17 Hail!
18 Cantalcupe.
19 Unit of energy.
20 Fast.
22 Opposed to high.
23 Saccharine.
25 Rodent pest.
27 Meshed fabric
28 Connected with a religious cult.
33 Measure of length.
35 Canadian heavy sleigh.
36 Sun deity.
37 Large ox.
38 Ornamented with raised work.
40 Silkworm.
41 To feast.
42 Pendent ornament.
46 Thing.
48 One who wears clothes.
50 Dwarfish.
53 Bill.
54 Tobacco roll.
56 Proffered.
58 Four technical ——s flew with him.
59 He acted as —— on the trip.

VERTICAL

1 Laughter sound.
2 Egg-shaped.
3 Billow.
4 Opposite of aweather.
5 To stop up.
6 Single edged knife.
7 Female fowl.
8 Thrived.
9 To employ.
10 To sharpen.
11 Compass point.
14 Leather girdle
15 Below.
20 He made the —— world flight.
21 To convey a right.
23 Street.
24 He is also a maker of —— or motion pictures.
26 Dye.
29 Branch.
30 Taxi.
31 Stream.
32 Military student.
33 Orb.
34 Gibbon.
36 To soak flax.
39 To choose.
43 Inspires reverential fear.
44 Oceans.
45 Bearded monkey.
46 Gold coin.
47 Edible root.
49 Inlet.
50 Indian dancer.
51 Measure of area.
52 Kimono girdle
53 The soul.
55 Guinea (abbr.).
57 And.

Answer to Previous Puzzle



POP—And Brown'll Follow Later

By J. MILLAR WATT