

TIMELY TOPICS

by Barbara Baines

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE OR PERISH, SAYS DOROTHY THOMPSON

Dorothy Thompson was tendered one of the greatest ovations ever given a woman when she spoke in Toronto recently. She is the top-ranking woman journalist and lecturer on the continent, and is internationally known for her keen insight into world affairs, and the uncanny accuracy with which she predicts the totalitarian programme of ruthless aggression. She is no less well known as a friend of Britain, and has used all her influence to stir up her fellow Americans to a full realization of their peril and their responsibilities.

"All, grey-haired and very handsome, Miss Thompson is now 47 but looks much younger, perhaps because she has such a buoyant, magnetic personality. She is a powerful and eloquent speaker. Her platform manner is delightful, but, though she uses all the arts of the born actress to dramatize her subject, no one hearing her could doubt her sincerity or her belief in democracy as a living creed.

At a small reception held afterwards in her honour, the writer of this column had the pleasure of being presented to Miss Thompson, and will long remember her warm handshake and friendly smile.

The theme of her stirring address was, "Democracy in 1941." "We are facing," she said, "not the test of arms; but the test of whether we are worthy to survive. Hitler cannot destroy us. He can only convince that we destroy ourselves.

In the Anglo-Saxon world there are 200,000,000 people. If we act as one people without regard to race or creed or economic conditions, nothing in this world can destroy us, and whoever attempts to do so will be destroyed.

If we desire isolation we shall have it — the isolation of a prison camp — penned up while hostile nations do their best, their vicious, scheming, organized, subsidized, ruthless best to destroy us from inside by an internecine fight."

Miss Thompson understands the fundamental religious character of the present struggle. She believes a world revolution is taking place. She says: "We should abandon such false slogans as the One We Are Defending Our Way of Life. A great wave of dissatisfaction and unrest has swept over the entire universe, and there is a growing feeling there is something wrong in a world that chokes to death on surplus commodities. But in all the turmoil and discontent there is something divine — the passionate desire of men and women for a better life — a better life of body, of mind and of soul — a better world to live in.

If we try to oppose Hitler with a defence of This Way of Life we shall certainly fail. But the new order will not be Nazism nor Communism — the wave of the future will be Democracy, Federation, Communism, Freedom, Equality. The exact amount of our effort today will determine in exact proportion the world of to-morrow."

That Dorothy Thompson is held in equally high esteem in her own country, was amply shown at a testimonial dinner in her honour, held at the Hotel Astor, New York City, last week. It was sponsored by a committee of prominent citizens in recognition of the distinguished and unforgettable service she has unfailingly rendered her own country and democracy.

Messages were read from Churchill, Roosevelt and Mackenzie King. Mrs. Sara Delano Roosevelt presented her with a bust by Jo Davidson. In accepting it Miss Thompson said, "I have heard myself described on the German radio as Enemy No. 1 of Hitlerism in America, and looking at Mr. Davidson's conception of me I can believe it. He has chiselled into my features the wistful indignation that flutters too often in my real heart, a strength of purpose which I only sometimes feel, and a vision that I very rarely glimpse."

In the address which followed Miss Thompson listed the 10 articles of her own personal and social faith — her answer to the search for a better life — the summing up of 18 years of gradual, slow, dawning experience. It is one of the finest statements of practical democratic idealism ever formulated, and should be studied carefully by everyone who has the destiny of the world at heart.

WE'RE ALL TAXPAYERS NOW

The new Isley budget was a bit of a jolt to the Canadian public, but it would have rocked Canada from ocean to ocean if it had been suggested even two years ago. Passed at a time when our attention was focussed on a series of swift-moving, world-stirring events, its implications evoked but little comment from the average citizen. The remark most often heard is this, "We do not mind paying taxes, but we should like to see the money really go for necessities of war, but we should hate to have it wasted, or spent on non-essentials, or to line the pockets of some chiseler."

There has been a certain dissatisfaction in some quarters with the government's war effort, but Mr. Ralston cleared up a lot of misunderstandings when in a recent address he gave us a detailed account of what Canada is doing: her armed strength in the different services, the progress of the air training plan, the rapidly increasing production of ships, transport equipment, guns, chemicals and ammunition.

Mr. Menzies has said "This war will not be won by the defeatist, neither will it be won by the man who sits in easy and idle optimism — who says we will win, we always do." It is useless to minimize the imminent peril in which Britain, beleaguered on all sides, finds herself, nor the desperate odds she is facing, nor her great need for planes and ships, and men and equipment. But we cannot all be in the armed forces, neither can we all be engaged in war industries. We can, however, make the greatest contribution possible in the sphere in which we find ourselves. We can all be on the alert to do any war job that comes our way, and we can fit ourselves for greater usefulness when needed.

On housewives largely will fall the burden of reshaping the household budget to fit in with the new tax levy. Economies will have to be practiced in some cases the whole standard of living altered. But despite these necessary sacrifices, the Canadian people will still be much better off than most other peoples of the world. In any case, whatever the price of victory may be, it is lower than the cost of defeat.

LET ME REMIND YOU

Let not thy creations be too expensive lest the pain of purchasing them exceed the pleasure thou hast in their enjoyment. — Tibetan

BOOK REVIEW

HOW AMERICA LIVES — By J. C. Furness and the staff of The Ladies' Home Journal — (Oxford Press, \$3.00)

Haven't you always been curious about how the other half of the world lives — in the little house across the tracks, in the big house up on the hill?

In "How America Lives" you are given a true and intimate picture of the everyday life of 18 representative families in the United States. You are told what they eat, what they wear, what they worry about, their problems, their joys, their sorrows; how they make their money, how they spend it, how they bring up their children. You are told, too, how they love and quarrel, and what they dream about; how they spend their leisure, what they read, what their hobbies are.

There are families belonging to the privileged classes, families of average means; there is one family on relief and a sharecropper with 17 children trying to live on "King Cotton." In every case their story is told without glossing over facts, or resorting to false sentimentality.

One of the conclusions reached is that money seems to be the greatest source of trouble in the American family; jealousy, infidelity and drinking all take second place. But on the average, Americans are a good people, surprisingly modest in their demands upon life, and willing to work to achieve what they want.

It is no haphazard picture of American life based upon guesswork that you are presented with, but authentic facts based upon careful investigation and study. Over a year ago the staff of the Ladies Home

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INTERNATIONAL UNIFORM Sunday School LESSON

Broadening Christian Horizons: Paul's Conversion

SUNDAY, MAY 13, 1941

GOLDEN TEXT: "Whereupon, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision." Acts 26: 19.

LESSON PASSAGE: Acts 9: 1 - 16.

I did not think I did not strive, The deep peace burnt my me alive; The bolted door had broken in, I knew that I had done with sin.

To us it seems that Saul had received an education in prejudice. He was given pride in his birth, in the tribe of Benjamin, and his education as a Pharisee. He was taught to think of himself as an Hebrew of the Hebrews. His Jewish nationalism stirred and when he received Roman citizenship he took pride in that also. His religious training did not make him catholic in his sympathies but sectional and nationalistic. As the Christian preaching the gospel of understanding and sympathy, he did not investigate it impartially. His mind was made up at once; he would resist this innovation and seek to put it down. He was so convinced that he was right that he was ready to use cruel methods of persecution. It is possible that modern methods of education should produce similar results of superiority and prejudice? Children who are taught to worship blood and soil will doubtless develop narrowness and bigotry. The Christian religion is a powerful force in teaching the practice of understanding and sympathy. Christ convicts us of our sin and makes us much more considerate towards other people.

A Dramatic Experience. 3 - 5

The story of Saul's conversion is brief but in a few sentences the tumultuous experience is described. Saul set out from Damascus as a resolute persecutor but when he saw the city he was a meek disabled man, led by the hand. Saul started out vindictive towards Christ but after his experience on the Damascus road, he was a bond slave of Christ. Saul was armed with authoritative official documents to persecute Christians, and discover that he was actually persecuting Christ. There are many modern examples of conversion in which there has been crisis and dramatic change similar to that of Saul. Certain persons who have been resisting religion and fighting God have been transformed in spite of themselves. They give God the glory but their neighbors are soon aware of the change. Not everyone has a dramatic conversion such as Saul had. Many people grow into the Christian life gradually, yet their Christian faith is real and their growth in Christian spirit is evident.

Asking for Action. 6 - 9

Saul's first question was, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Evidently, Saul was a man of such prominence in the Pharisaic society that he expected some responsible commission. Instead, he was told to go into the city of Damascus on faith, there to receive further marching orders. The great scholar and leader of the Pharisaic party was led into the city by the hand. For three days he was blinded and could not eat or drink. It was a dramatic experience, and proud and haughty man, but he uttered no word of complaint. He had first of all to learn the lesson of humble obedience. Later he was to regain great authority but only after he had won a victory through discipline and self-surrender. Many of the great leaders of the church have passed through a time of preparation and lowliness such as Paul had to undergo. The man who trusts himself and wishes to manage his own life cannot give the fullest service to Christ. When Christ enters the heart, he comes to reign.

A Hesitant Helper. 10 - 14

Ananias had nothing of the genius of Saul, yet he served a useful purpose at one stage in the career of the great apostle. He was told to go to visit Saul. Naturally enough he drew back from going to see a man who had earned a reputation of cruelty as a persecutor. Ananias feared that Saul might be working a ruse upon the Christians. This hesitant helper finds a place among a number of men who were helpers of the great missionary. Barnabas is another example. Luke became his travelling companion, Silas and Timothy and John Mark gave him great assistance. It is seldom that

Journal approached the first family, made friends with them, and were given permission to take pictures and write up their family life just as they lived it. Since then a new family has been presented each month in the "How America Lives" series. Now the whole series is presented in book form with several added features, for your perusal and enjoyment.

HYDE PARK TO GROW VEGETABLES

The shipping situation being what it is, Britons are gradually awakening to the need to grow at home a greater share of what they eat. So this year Hyde Park, in the fashionable Grosvenor House district, will be a show spot for onions, Brussel sprouts and vegetable marrow, instead of tulips and geraniums. It is the first time on record that food has been cultivated in the Park.

PINEAPPLE DELIGHT

A plentiful supply of small cakes on hand is a great boon to the busy housewife. Pineapple Delight keeps well, and it also will make a hit at a company party.

- 1/2 cup flour, baking powder and salt. Work in the butter, add the egg and milk. When thoroughly mixed pat into the bottom of a greased cake tin. Spread a layer of the pineapple jam evenly over the top. To make the frosting, cream the butter, add the sugar and beaten egg, then the vanilla and coconut. Mix thoroughly and spread carefully in an even layer on top of the pineapple jam. Bake in a moderate oven (350 degrees F.) for 25 minutes or until a light brown. Cool slightly and cut in squares.

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great deeds are done by generals or statesmen or scientists without the cooperation of humbler helpers. One man may get the glory and publicity but in the background there are people who are willing to serve in a humbler place. The work of a great leader is made possible only by the loyalty of his followers.

A Man of Destiny. 15, 16 At last Ananias was convinced and he went, bearing a message of hope and guidance to Saul. Little did he know what a great destiny awaited the man he was helping. He could not foresee the letters that Saul would write, the missionary journey that he would take, the inspiration that he would give to thinkers and saints, the number of churches that would be named after him, the spiritual influence that this blinded man would exert throughout the Christian centuries. Looking back, we can see clearly that Saul was a man of destiny. His thinking clarified the gospel for the Jews, but his greatest appeal was to the Gentiles. Saul was specially chosen for a great task but he was never promised happiness. His way was one of hardship and suffering, facing pain and persecution, shipwreck, imprisonment and martyrdom. Saul sought no glory for himself; his whole purpose was to bring glory to the Christ who transformed his thinking and replaced prejudice with love.

Questions for Discussion 1. How far was Saul the product of his education? 2. How intense are your religious emotions? 3. "Do." What did that two-letter word mean for Saul? 4. Am I ready with an alibi as Ananias was? 5. Saul was "chosen." By whom? For what? (Lesson Outlines copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education. Used by permission.)

United Church Presbytery Endorses Prohibition Campaign

The Presbytery of Halton met for the May meeting in the United Church Lowville, on Tuesday, May 6th at 10:00 a.m. Ministers and Lay representatives were present from all the Churches in the Presbytery. The work of the Presbytery was reviewed in preparation for the Annual meeting of the Halton Conference to be held in McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, May 26 to 31. The election of Presbytery Officers resulted in the appointment of Rev. A. O. W. Foreman, B.A., Ballinacree, as Chairman, Rev. R. F. Morrey, of Appleton as Secretary, and Rev. D. A. Peacey, B.A., as Treasurer, for the ensuing Conference year, 1941 and 1942. Rev. D. H. Gallagher, B.A., B.D., of Oakville, and Rev. J. O. Totton, of Hornby, are the Presbytery's nominees to the Settlement Committee.

Every duty, well and honestly done, is a contribution to victory. THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA. MANY A "JOHN DOE" IN TELEPHONE WORK. A subscriber writes: "The other day I read that John Doe had completed 30 years with your company. John got where he is by intelligence and industry. But your company got John where he is because it also was intelligent enough first to choose, then to promote him. To me John Doe is the telephone company." We are quite content that this company should be judged by the people who work for it. Their skill, courtesy and devotion to service, in large measure, for the progress of the telephone.

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tragic days when the highest efficiency is necessary in every effort to prosecute the war. We affirm our opposition to the use of alcoholic beverages and would call upon our people to create such a strength of public opinion as will compel our Government, as the Government did in the Great War, to enact total prohibition for the duration of this war. We would urge that all our Churches earnestly support the Ontario Temperance Federation.

3. We believe that the present day trends and problems call for a note in our preaching that sometimes has not been emphasized. People are bewildered and we meet many who are not sure what they believe. The time calls for a definite affirmation of the truths for which we stand, such an affirmation as will lead people to say, "This I know, I am sure of Christ my Saviour, and I believe in God, and it is my definite purpose to express this belief in my daily living." This report was presented by Rev. F. O. Overend of Georgetown.