

Ain't It So
An optimist is a man who
makes his secretary thinking
he'll continue to be able to die
tate to her.

A man is growing old when
he begins to tell his elders how
to stay young.

A lota folks resemble a
clock. They buy everything on
time and strike when it comes
time to settle.

FIRST AID TO AILING HOUSES

By Roger Whitman

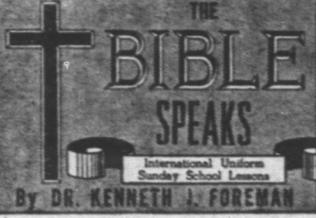
QUESTION: The floor of our
trailer home is covered with an
asphalt covering which is rather
badly worn. Would you recom-
mend laying tile over this cov-
ering, or taking up the old and start-
ing from scratch?

ANSWER: A good floor-covering
contractor probably would prefer
to take up the old covering because
it might make an uneven base for
the tile. He would know best about
that, however, after seeing the ac-
tual condition of the present cov-
ering.

QUESTION: Is there a paint to
seal leaks in a roof by painting
over the roofing?

ANSWER: Leaks often can be
stopped by the application of an
asphalt roofing cement. A roofer
can do this job for you. But if the
roof leaks all over, a new roof
would be more advisable.

'Tis the season to be jolly—and
if you're a woman facing the vex-
ing question of what to get him,
here's a two-way perfect solution:
If he's a smoker who likes his
cigarettes on the cool, mild side,
get him a carton or two of Camels.
Their choice tobaccos are sure to
please him on Christmas Day. Or
perhaps he enjoys smoking a pipe,
too. If so, mellow Prince Albert
Smoking Tobacco will round out
your gift selection in a mighty
handsome manner. Both items are
right in keeping with your holi-
day sentiment; they come gaily
wrapped in special Christmas
packages. The Camel cartons con-
tain 200 cool, mild Camel ciga-
rettes. And the pound tin of Prince
Albert is brimful of mild, tasty
smoking that has truly earned the
title—the National Joy Smoke.
Each gift has space for your writ-
ten greetings. When you give
Camels and Prince Albert for
Christmas, you can be sure of
pleasing him! They're easy to
order, too; local dealer is well
supplied right now. (Adv.)



International Uniform
Sunday School Lessons
By DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

SCRIPTURE: Acts 1:8; 2:1-4; 4:1-4;
8:4-10; 10:1-18; 12:1-3; 14:26-27; 16:1-
10; 20:16-20; 21:1-14

DEVOTIONAL READING: Acts 4:23-
31.

Story of Revolution

Lesson for December 5, 1948

THE MOST important history in
the world is in one small book.
The most important movement, the one that is
destined to change

the world more than any other, is the
Christian church.

The story of how
it began is in the
book of Acts. No
other book is in
or out of the New
Testament tells the
story: The history
of the beginning

of the one and only
international, interracial, world-
wide movement that sets out to aim
at nothing less than a complete
transformation of mankind. The
Revolution from Within, the Chris-
tian Church.

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What the Church Is

THERE are hundreds of churches
today and they do not all agree.

But every church, whatever its
name or peculiarities, aims to stay
on the course marked out by the
Christian church when it was one
and undivided, the church of the
Apostles. We look back to the story
in Acts to see what the true church
is.

In the very beginning, the
church was not the place where
the Christians met for worship.

It was not the officers. The
Apostles themselves were not
the church. The church was not
a thing at all; it was people.

In Acts these people are seldom
called Christians or never called
churchmen or church-members.

They are given more meaningful
names. They are called "disciples,"
that is, learners, students. They are
called "believers." They are called
"brothers" for their life was like
that of a family. They are called
the people of "the Way,"—travelers
together to the same destination.

The church, in short, is a fellow-
ship, the Family of the Friends of
Christ.

How the Church Began

THE infant church was like all
human babies; it began small and
poor. No bystander would have
expected it to live; but it had life
in its heart. Two forces set that
church on its way. One was the
command of Christ.

The people who were in it, or
rather the people who were the
church, took their orders from
Christ. It was because of him
that they went out to bear witness
to him to the "uttermost
parts of the earth."

Then the people were filled with
the Holy Spirit; they were guided
constantly by the Spirit. The book
of Acts has often been called the
"Acts of the Holy Spirit" rather
than of the Apostles.

Leaders

GOD never does for people what
they can do for themselves. So
guidance of the Spirit was never a
substitute for human leadership. A
true church is not a mob: It acts, as
the New Testament church did, in
an orderly fashion.

One of the church's first prob-
lems was that of finding leaders.

The history in Acts is largely the
history of certain leaders—John,
Peter, Paul. But these were not
alone. Not even the Apostles tried
to run the church like a dictator-
ship. The people themselves chose
the officers who were ordained by
the Apostles.

What the Church Does

FIVE things the Apostolic church
did, and these mark any true
church today. They "continued in
the Apostles' teachings;" the be-
ginning of all our church schools
and Sunday schools is in that brief
phrase. They formed a fellowship
in the church that was not a list of
names of people who cared little
for one another; it was a true
family.

They observed the sacra-
ments; they and their house-
holds were baptized, and they
continued "in the breaking of
the bread." Baptism and the
Lord's Supper have always
been observed in some form in
every Christian church! They
"continued in prayer;" a church
in which only the minister prays
is a feeble affair.

Above all, they were "witnesses."
That is to say, they told the story
of Jesus—his life, his teachings, his
death, his resurrection. Jesus lives!
Jesus is Lord! So the Apostles
preached, from Jerusalem to
Rome and far beyond. But their
preaching would have been mere
shouting in the wild, if Christ had
not lived again in thousands of
everyday Christians.

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