

Interfaith Scholars Turn Out New Bible

By GEORGE W. CORNELL (AP Religion Writer)

The Bible, which figured in the breakup of the churches, today is providing a major catalyst in bringing them back toward common ground.

Increasingly, they've found that objective investigations into it, using improved techniques, lead to parallel findings.

Acting on that premise, a monumental project, involving Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish scholars, has begun turning out a 38-volume rendition of the Bible, along with the latest discoveries about it.

Called the Anchor Bible, the new translation, together with the array of supplementary information, much of it turned up in recent years, constitutes the first such interfaith undertaking of mankind.

YEARS IN MAKING

It has been eight years in the making, and its completion is expected to take six years more.

However, the first two volumes, one devoted to the Old Testament Book of Genesis, and the other to the New Testament Epistles of James, Peter and Jude, came out recently, with the rest to be issued at the rate of three volumes annually.

The general editors are William F. Albright of Johns Hopkins University, one of the world's foremost biblical archaeologists and Old Testament linguists, and David N. Freedman of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, also a biblical archaeologist and linguist.

Twenty-six other biblical experts from various countries, including 14 Protestants, seven Roman Catholics and five Jews,

are handling individual volumes of the series.

Drawing on a vast amount of new data uncovered in recent years about the language, culture and communities of biblical times, the venture aims at producing both the most accurate translation and most up-to-date compilation of other relevant detail.

EXEMPLIFIES UNITY

It is not, however, a "common Bible," in any formal sense, Dr. Albright points out, since it is not sponsored by any ecclesiastical body, and the volumes are being prepared by individual scholars.

The rector of Rome's Pontifical Biblical Institute, Very Rev. R. A. F. MacKenzie, a Jesuit, says of the new Bible: "It is much to be welcomed, both because it is a collaborative enterprise in which Protestant, Catholic and Jewish scholars are taking part, and because it represents an admirably high level of scholarship."

Paradoxically enough, the break between Rome and Protestantism in the 16th century developed over the Bible, and the Protestant maxim "only the scripture," while Rome insisted both on scripture and church tradition.

Mediation trends, however, have developed, with many Protestant scholars recognizing the value of church tradition in preserving and interpreting the Bible, and many Roman Catholic scholars now maintaining that traditional teachings must be rooted in the Bible, at least implicitly.

This approach has been pointed up at the second Vatican council, which also has stressed a scriptural orientation in its efforts to further Christian unity.

Proposals, Mosquito Bites Received In Wild Bushland

MELBOURNE (Reuters)—Diane McNiece, the toast of Tennant Creek, came home to Melbourne from the wilds of Australia's Northern Territory with 40 marriage proposals and legs swollen from mosquito bites.

"They're a beaut mob up there," the 21-year-old telephone operator said after her three-week vacation with the gold mining town's 150 bachelors. "But the mosquitoes were no gentlemen."

Diane, a chubby (39, 26-30 1/2) Melbourne girl, flew to Tennant Creek after reading that the bachelors were prospecting for wives.

After her flight home Friday, she said she had not made up her mind whether she would accept any of the proposals.

"Every man was a real gentleman—well almost everyone. One of the blokes clobbered a fellow and laid him out because he kissed me when he shouldn't have."

"One day someone nicked (stole) the underwear I'd washed and left drying on the hotel balcony—but the boys chipped in and I got a complete set of lingerie for Christmas."

"On New Year's Eve we had an all-night party. It adjourned to the airport to see me off on the plane."

"A BEAUTY"

"At Alice Springs (a major Northern Territory airstop), four truck drivers I'd met in the territory met me when the plane called. Big Dad John was one of them—he's a beauty."

"They've all got mad names up there. I met Herman the German, Hushin the Russian, and Lager Beer."

"They all told me to come back as soon as possible and bring some girl friends. I would tell any girl to go there. They couldn't do better."

She goes back to work Monday.

"I reckon I'm in for some ribbing and it'll be hard to settle in after so much fun, but I'm going back to Tennant Creek for my next vacation."

When Tennant Creek's bachelors had heard that red-headed Diane intended to visit them, they paid her fare and gave her the biggest welcome and hospitality in the town's history.

Antibiotic Treatment Planned For Certain Types Of Cancer

NEW YORK (AP)—Treatment of certain types of cancer with an antibiotic called dactinomycin will begin in hospitals very soon, Merck and Company has announced.

The drug manufacturer said the antibiotic has been found useful against a rare type of kidney cancer known as Wilms' tumor, but is not a cure for the disease. Victims of the disease are mostly children, and the firm said its use probably would be limited to fewer than 10,000 persons.

In Washington, John L. Harvey, deputy commissioner of food and drugs, said dactinomycin has been approved for sale for use in treatment of patients in hospitals only, and with labeling specifying that the drug can be used only against certain

types of cancer. He described it as "an adjunct drug to be used in the treatment."

Harvey said dactinomycin is "the first drug of significance of this kind that we have been able to clear for use against a limited number of neoplasms (tumor-like growths)." He expressed hope others soon may follow.

STOCK RISES

News of federal approval leaked out last week, sending Merck stock up more than \$4 to about \$51 a share on the New York Stock Exchange Dec. 24.

A Merck spokesman said the antibiotic prolongs and intensifies the effect of radiation treatment on a tumor.

The drug also inhibits growth and reproduction of more numerous cells, the Merck spokesman said, but is most effective when used in conjunction with surgery and radiation.

Dactinomycin first was isolated by Dr. Selman Waksman of Rutgers University in 1940 while Waksman was working on antibiotics that were to lead to the discovery of streptomycin. Dactinomycin was found ineffective as an antibacterial but in the 1950s its effect on tumorous cells was discovered, Merck said.

The company said its role in dactinomycin started with its financing of Waksman's work on the drug at Rutgers. Because of its limited application, Merck said, the drug is "unlikely to be of economic significance to the company."

Daimler-Benz Splits With Studebaker

STUTTGART (AP)—Daimler-Benz A.G., West German maker of Mercedes automobiles, has announced it is taking over distribution of its own products in Canada and the United States.

Distribution of Mercedes cars has been handled by a subsidiary of the Studebaker Corp. which recently switched its own car production to Hamilton, Ont., from South Bend, Ind.

Daimler said it was agreed with Studebaker to transfer distribution to a subsidiary of the German firm.

This company, fourth largest auto maker in West Germany, said it plans to expand its sales and increase service facilities in North America.

Studebaker Corp. said at South Bend, Ind., it had "reached agreement in principle for an undisclosed amount of cash" for Daimler-Benz to "reacquire" distribution of its products in the U.S. and Canada.

Capital Murder Is Charge Laid

TORONTO (CP)—William Henry Green, 24, of Toronto has been charged with capital murder in connection with the fatal shooting Thursday night of Thomas Anthony Quinonis, 24, also of Toronto, police said Friday.

Police said Quinonis died on a lawn a block away from a New Year's Eve party he had fled after being shot once in the chest by a .38-calibre revolver.

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