

What an opportunity for the home-makers of all nations! And what a chance for the women who are God's weavers to make these new homes His looms for weaving the strength and beauty of Heaven into the texture of the new civilization!

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Within a few years four million new houses will be built in Britain, but unless someone introduces the Bible to the new home-makers, or places it in their homes, how many of them will be without this Book of God? And now that the Bible is available in over 700 different languages and dialects the opportunity becomes a challenge to provide not merely Britain but the homes of the whole world with this Treasure of Treasures, the Word of God. Appeals to us for copies are urgent. Help us to respond generously and quickly.

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PASS ON THE BIBLE TO THE POST-WAR WORLD



WORLD-MAKERS' BOOKLETS

Edited by JOHN STIRLING

Now Ready.

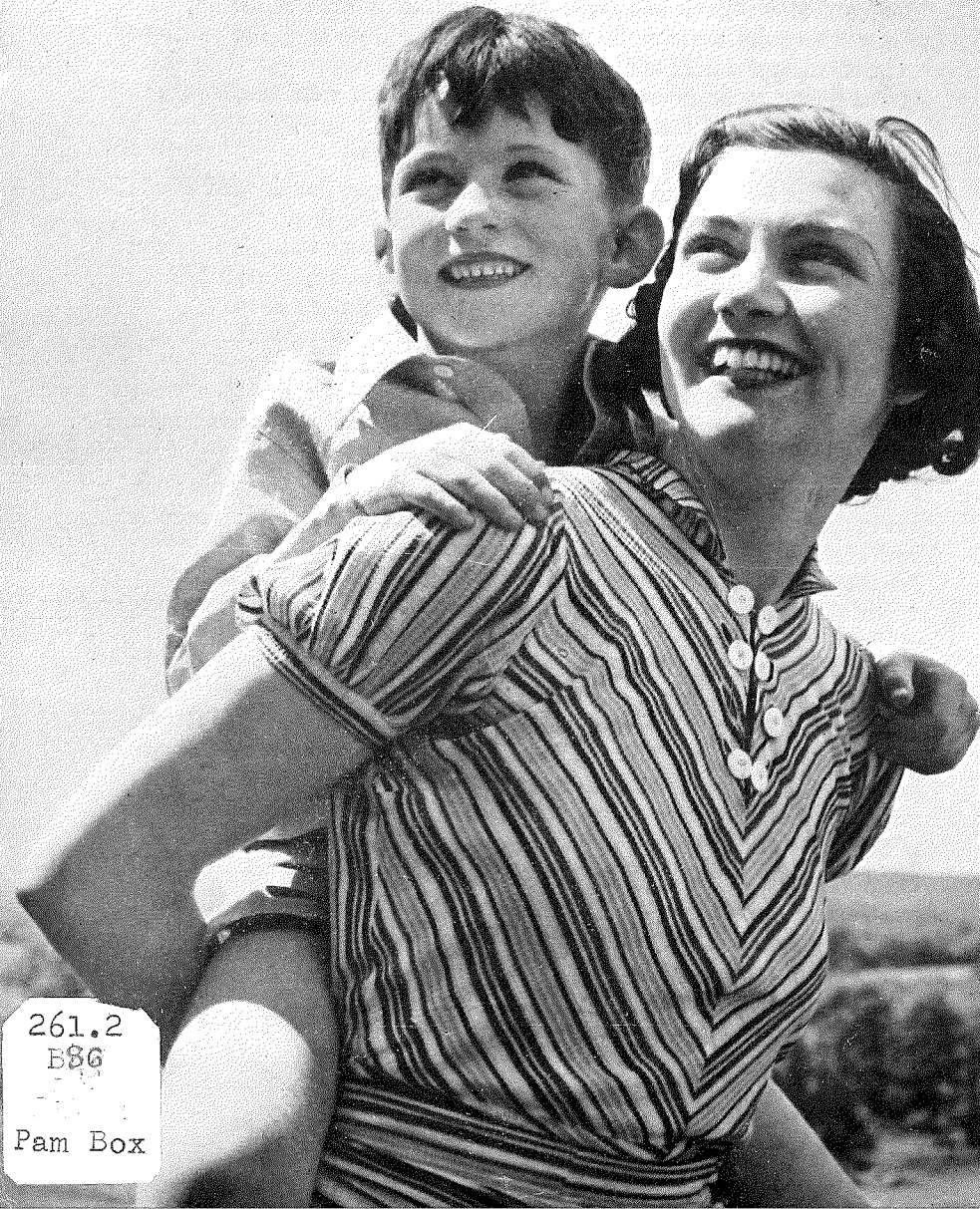
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THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY
146 Queen Victoria Street, LONDON, E.C.4

Calling All Women



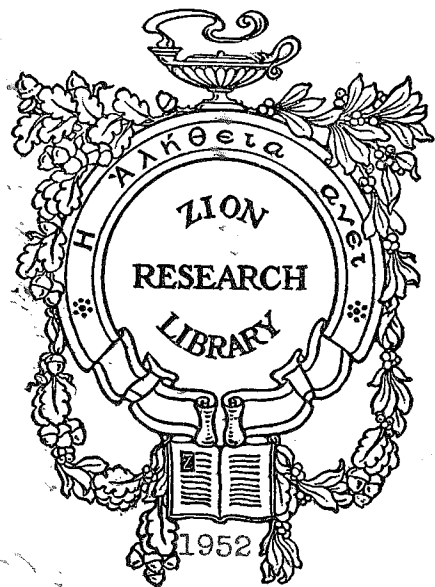
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ALMA LUTZ COLLECTION

The Church and Woman

We were made for Peace not War; to take in our hands not the sword but the spindle—the symbol, our symbol, as the ploughshare is man's symbol, of the age when war shall be no more. For in the Providence of God we have been endowed in our nature to be weavers rather than warriors; Weavers of Life and Love, of Peace and Prayer, of Faith and Hope. This is our true function, and though we are to-day busily engaged in answering the calls of the battlefield, we are dreaming of to-morrow, and of tasks that will be nearer to our hearts' desire. We know, of course, that this is the day of battle; that the things we believe in and hope for must first of all be won. But we know, too, that unless they are also woven into the fabric of human existence, and form the very warp and weft of the civilization that is to be, there will be neither strength nor glory in the era that lies ahead.

To this new era we and all the women of the world are now looking, and moving as one body—eager, expectant, and resolute. For, through the war, there has been born in our hearts a new sense of responsibility, and of the part that women must take in the fashioning of the future. We have seen life from a new angle, and on a new scale. Many of us have become, for the first time, fully aware of our latent powers. We

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In certain parts of Sweden the national art of braid-making is still a favourite pursuit.

have developed abilities we little dreamed we possessed, and discovered in our nature qualities of character we never realized were there. So, with this vision, with this new knowledge in our hearts, and these new powers in our hands, we press forward to the looms of life, to the weaving of a new order, and an everlasting Kingdom of Peace.

Women of To-morrow! March on! The Weavers of Yesterday, the immortal weavers of Christendom salute you: the courageous Perpetua and Felicitas of Carthage, the learned Paula from Rome, and Catherine of Sienna, the wise counsellor of kings; there are mothers, too! Anthusa the mother of Chrysostom, Monica of Augustine, and Helena of Constantine; and the wives of emperors and kings—Eleanor of Austria, our own Bertha of Kent, and the greathearted Elizabeth of Hungary. There are saints, but who can name or number them? From every land of Christendom they come, a myriad strong, to honour you—their sisters, partakers of their courage and devotion, and successors to their task—as you pass.

British and Foreign Bible Society

Weavers of Life and Destiny

*God gives the threads, and
makes our homes His looms.*

WE are His Weavers. Yet in our hearts we hardly dare accept the description. It is too high an honour for what we do. Our daily work, so commonplace and simple, with its unexpected calls and countless interruptions, bears little likeness to the skilful operations required for weaving. There seldom seems to be any pattern, or any pleasing pattern, in the duties we perform; and they are frequently so colourless, so drab and dreary, that it is hard to believe they can form part of a lovely design that God through us is weaving. Besides, how small and insignificant must be our contribution when, as often happens, we work alone, single-handed, and within the limits of a single room. Under such conditions, with family cares also pressing heavily upon us, how dare we claim to be His weavers? We are not aware of this service, of the pattern our hands are weaving, or the threads, so precious, that our fingers hold. Still, to us comes His call to make our homes His looms; and with the call an invitation.

We are invited to meet a company of God's chosen weavers, and to see them working at their looms. It is an experience we must not miss; and an education too. For in the Hall of Weavers in which this guild is gathered there is for our discovery the secret of God's vast design, and a course of training for all who would be workers in the processes of weaving that are day by day producing the character and destiny of mankind.

This sacred Hall of Weavers is, of course, the Scriptures; for in this precious book the looms of life are openly exhibited, and here is displayed the glorious fabric in its grand design, as generation after generation of homely weavers complete their allotted task. Many women are at work here, all with some resemblance to ourselves. The nearer we get to them the closer grows the likeness, until we feel we are beholding as in a mirror the image of our nature, our failings as well as our graces. They are all to be seen very faithfully portrayed, from the weakness (and daring) of Eve to the devotion of Magdalene, from the tyranny of Jezebel to the tenderheartedness of Dorcas; with that mixture of good and evil we all know. Such women are still amongst us; the Sarahs and Rebekahs, who are jealous for their children, the Marthas and Marys who misjudge each other, the Miriams who sing, the Rachels who weep, the Hannahs, Elizabeths, Ruths and Priscillas. But this is the point that the Book of God makes plain: they are all placed in a home setting. They are tied to their homes and families. Whatever they do outside their homes it is their influence in the home that matters most. Their homes are their looms.

Many a solitary weaver, like this Italian plait-worker, works at a homely loom.



Compared with our homes what primitive and lowly looms are those of the Bible women. Sometimes, little better than a Bedouin tent, and often nothing more than a single, common living room built of mud. And yet, how glorious and lasting is the tapestry of sacred story that has come from these looms! How serviceable and sufficient for the needs of the whole human family is the home-spun fabric of revelation that has there been woven! And let us not forget that it was out of such simple and crowded dwellings that there came the symbol of a white robe, and the hope of the "incorruptible apparel of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

They were God's weavers, and so are we, performing a task that is greater and grander than we know. For the material He had placed in our hands is more than silk or wool. It is the thoughts and feelings of mankind, the desires of the souls of men, the frail and precious threads of life and love. And to what end? Not the making of a perishable garment, of swaddling clothes or a shroud, but of a body celestial, clothed with immortality; and for this new creation, not a tent, not even tabernacle, but the Heaven of Heavens, the Home of God. His home-makers are we, and the makers of His family.

But in our hands are also other threads. We are weavers of good and evil, of joy and pain, of laughter and tears, of death and hell as well as of life and heaven. Yet we need not err. For in His Book the threads are named and coloured. He tells us which will stand the wear and tear of everyday existence, and which will be made more rich and rare in the waters of affliction; of those that will fade, and those that will be devoured by the fires of judgment. And then, as if to make our choice more sure, He has placed beside each sacred loom a weaver of our own particular type, with the pattern we desire and the threads that we should use in her hand.

As we pass through this sacred Hall of Weavers we are offered skeins of Heaven's choosing; the threads of Faith and Hope and Love, of Righteousness, Joy and Peace, of Gentleness, Patience and Humility. What threads to use! And there are more, but our hands are full, too full we fear. For how can we ever hope to weave such precious gifts into the common fabric of everyday life?

While we wonder, watching the weavers at their looms, we notice that as each takes the shuttle in her hand she bows her head and utters a prayer. So this is the secret of successful weaving; the essential condition that keeps the slender threads from breaking, and the pattern from being marred!

O God, hear our prayer. Send us forth with heart and will to all Thy waiting looms; and grant us Peace, a millennium of Peace, for our appointed tasks.



From different districts—indicated by different patterns on the dress—these Norwegian women prepare for their life's task.

Every New Home a Loom of Heaven

In Britain alone for new houses are to

HOME-MAKING will be one of the first tasks of the new home-makers, when Peace comes. For the battlefronts of the war have not been confined to the open plains and the mountain passes; they have run through the homes of the people.

To build again these houses, even to the extent of repairing and restoring their material structure, would be no small problem. To restore homes! To recover and to reinstate the spirit that has been driven from the house into a home—who is sufficient for these things? Still, it has been attempted and achieved. For, until houses are homes, and in more than homes—until they are looms weaving faith and love and peace into the social and spiritual fabric of existence—they are no more than places of appointment, or accommodation quarters.

To-day, this question of providing houses and making homes has become, through the war, a matter of unprecedented importance. At the moment Peace is declared half the world will want new

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