

“Be Ye Also Ready”

(Sermon preached by Elder W. A. Spicer at the Cape Conference session on Sabbath morning, April 25, 1925)

(Concluded)

THE Spirit of Prophecy says to us:

“Be always ready; ‘in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.’ Go to your rest at night with every sin confessed. Thus we did in 1844, when we expected to meet our Lord. And now this great event is nearer than when we first believed. Be always ready, in the evening, in the morning, and at noon, that when the cry is heard, ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh: go ye out to meet Him!’ you may, even though awakened out of sleep, go forth to meet Him with your lamps trimmed and burning.

“The light of truth is to go to all the dark places of the earth in a much shorter time than many think possible.”

Be ready in the morning, be ready at noon, be ready at night, always ready. That is the mes-

sage of the Saviour to Seventh-day Adventists. I do not read it as a command. When the Saviour says, “Be ye therefore ready,” I can hear the pleading, loving voice of the Saviour in it. It is an appeal. “Oh,” He says, “My children, I am coming, I am coming sooner than you think. Oh, My children, I love you, be ready, be ready!”

What is it that makes us unready? There is just one thing, and that is sin. My own sins, nobody’s else can make me unready. I was glad when I found out that nobody’s else had religion could spoil any good religion that I had. Nobody’s else bad religion

can come between my heart and God. The only thing that can keep me out of heaven is my own sin. Jesus says to me “Be ready,” and that means if I let Him do it, He will make me ready.

What shall we do with sin? Brethren and sisters, we are in the days of the parable, we are waiting for the coming of the Bridegroom, we all have the lamps, but the only question is, will we have the oil in the lamps? Will we have the experience? We need the forgiving grace of Jesus that cleanses our hearts from all sin and makes us

ready. In John 1:9, we read, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Oh, He forgives, and He cleanses. But He has not left the cleansing to me. If He had, I never would know whether I had my heart clean or not. I would always be uncertain about being ready. But

“He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.’ He pressed upon them the gifts of love, but they rejected them. Yet He never failed in His loving, never grew impatient, never wearied in His offers of blessing, never withdrew His gracious gifts. He stood with His hands outstretched towards His own until they nailed those hands back on the cross, and even then He let drop out of them, from their very wounds, the gifts of redemption for the world.”—Miller.

my friends, Jesus puts it so that we should know whether we are ready or not. He says if we will confess, then He will cleanse. He has power, and the man, whose sins are forgiven and whose heart is cleansed, is ready. We will drink deeper and deeper, and if we know that our sins are forgiven and that Jesus has cleansed us from all unrighteousness, we will not be ashamed to look up and meet our Saviour when He comes.

And when Jesus tells us to be ready, He tells us to do this very thing. We confess, He forgives. He is the Saviour I need. The former verse says: "If we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

Why, if I come and try to brace up and say, "Well, I am not very bad, I am all right," the Lord says, "You are wrong." But if I go to the Lord and say, "Lord I am all wrong," why, He says, "My child, you are all right," and He makes it so. Oh, it is a wonderful paradox, this way of salvation! When I try to cover my sins, keep them out of sight, somehow the Lord is forever uncovering them. But when I go to the Lord and say, "Lord, look at the mistakes I have made," He covers them all with the righteousness of Christ. He is the Saviour that I need, and if we confess, He will forgive. If we do our part, will He fail to do His? Never. Oh, brethren, let us do as He tells us, and then He will do what He promises. We confess, He will forgive, and He will make us ready.

I find so many Seventh-day Adventists who look at their sins, who think about their mistakes, and get discouraged. What does the text say? He does not look at them any more. He says He will cast them behind His back, where even God Himself will never look. Oh, brother, the Lord Jesus wants to make us ready.

"But," you say, "I have confessed, and I do not feel any different. I do not feel that I am ready." Well, the text does not say anything about feeling. It is dealing with fact, not feeling. Two and two make, how much? Four. How do you feel about it? It does not matter how you feel. It is a fact. Well, just so, my brother, my sister, if you confess your sins, it is a fact that Jesus forgives you, and He cleanses from all unrighteousness. Do not look unto yourself, do not study your feelings, look to Jesus. Believe in His power to save. Oh, we are to confess our sins, we are to do it quickly. There is a great secret in that. So often we do wrong. We speak an impatient word, and then we wish we had not, and we worry and we worry and we try to forget it. It makes us miserable for a few hours, and we say, "Well, I will get over that." The text does not say, "If we forget our sins, He will forgive." Ah! these things are written in the book above. It is when we confess our sins, that the Lord writes pardon and we ought to be quick to do it.

If you sin in the morning at 9.30, make sure it is forgiven before 9.31. Do not wait until night, for your name may be called at noon. Suppose I do wrong at 9 o'clock in the morning, and I think, "Well, tonight, before I have my evening prayer, I must get that right." Suppose my name is called at noon. I am eternally too late. This is why the Spirit of Prophecy says, "Be ready in the morning, be ready

at noon, be ready at night," for we do not know when our names will be called; and the secret of the Christian life is to be ready always. The instant sin gets into your hearts and into your lives, that instant confess it and have it forgiven. Many dear mothers start the day thinking, "Today, I must not speak an impatient word to the children." Then, lo, about 10 o'clock, the little one does something and there it comes, an angry word. That poor mother did not mean to do it, but it is done, and all day long she is thinking about that mistake, a black mark on the day's record. By night she has had a miserable day. What should she have done? Sharp at 10 o'clock, when that angry word came, she should have said, "Lord Jesus, forgive." He would have forgiven her, and all through the day she would have had the memory of His forgiving grace and love to make her heart sing for joy.

Well, brethren, it is a wonderful thing. Here the next chapter opens: "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous." He tells us how to have our sins forgiven, not to make us careless about sinning, but to show us the way out. Kept free from sin, for if we will be quick to confess our sins and if we will keep our sins forgiven, we will find in the experience a power to keep us from repeating these things. Forgiving grace is keeping power. Too many are trying to get keeping power when they have not known forgiving grace. The power that forgives is the power that keeps. If by grace we will keep our sins forgiven, the Lord Jesus can cleanse us and He can keep us from sinning. But if any man does sin, then what? Get discouraged? No. "But if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Righteous." We have to fight against sin in our lives item by item, and by the grace of God we will keep it inch by inch and moment by moment. The instant it gets into our lives, that instant we will take it to Jesus. But, my brother, it is easier to talk about it than it is to do it. You know it is hard to confess, it is hard to say, "I am sorry." Why, we grow up strong, self-confident, and it is hard to come down, like a little child. A little child can say it so easily, "Mamma, I am sorry," but we grow up, you know, and this old flesh of ours says, "You cannot say that." That is human nature, but the text says, "Confess your sins." Ah, but that is hard, don't I know it? Indeed I do. There is one experience I like to tell. It was years ago, when we first moved our headquarters to Washington. We were rushed. That makes us nervous, and then it is we do our sinning, Friday night, when leaving the office, just before the Week of Prayer, I spoke impatiently to one of our workers. Next morning, I was to go down to the Memorial Church in Washington to help sinners find the Saviour. Well, I knew one sinner that needed to find Him, and I rolled and tossed that night. I had a miserable night. I knew I could never face sinners at that church until that impatient word and speech had been forgiven. My old flesh just trembled. The brother had made a mistake, but the Lord did not expect me to put impatience into it. Early the next morning, I went to that brother and asked forgiveness. He did forgive me, and we were bound closer together than ever before. I went down to

the church. You know that morning I knew Jesus could save sinners. I knew He could, for He had just saved one. Oh, brother, this is the only way out.

There is a story of the wars between the Protestants and the Catholics in the days of Henry IV. The King had in his service some German troops, helping the French-Protestant cause. They were on the eve of a great battle. It was a great crisis in the story of Protestantism. On the eve of the battle, General van Stromberg, who was in charge of the German troops, came to King Henry and asked for some money for the troops. The King had no money, and he answered, "No brave man would call for his money on the eve of a battle." Van Stromberg said nothing, but turned and went back. Next morning, the enemy was coming. King Henry on his horse rode up and down before his troops, and finally came and stood in front of General van Stromberg. He said, "General van Stromberg, last night I spoke words that reflect upon your honour. We are about to go into a dreadful battle. If I go down in death, I want to know that you understand. Will you forgive me?" Ah! it was a kingly thing to do, was it not? Van Stromberg said, "Sire, last light you hurt me, but now you have slain me. After this honour, I could not come off this field alive." And he did not.

Brethren, it is a Godlike thing to say, "I am so sorry. Forgive." Oh, pray for the grace to confess. Pray for the grace to take the first step on the way to salvation, and the Lord says, if we will confess, He will forgive, and He will cleanse. And, brethren and sisters, our people are at it in deadly earnest all over the world. Somehow the conviction has come to the hearts of Seventh-day Adventist people, who are watching, that the close of probation is even at the door, that our only safety is to be ready and to keep ready. All over this world, you will find men making wrongs right. Some things we never can make right, but we will turn them over to Jesus. He can cover those things. We do not know everything that is wrong in our past lives. We can give Him everything we know and everything we do not know. He knows. We will just absolutely give them all to Jesus, all our sins, all our mistakes, every wrong of the past.

I am sure the Spirit of God does bring things to our memories, because He wants us to have the blessed privilege of making right. It does hurt people when we acknowledge wrong. It is a testimony to men that the grace of Christ is helping us to make wrong right. Things that we cannot make right, we will give to God. He will make them right. But, brethren and sisters, we must know that it is all right between our hearts and God, and that Jesus makes us ready.



A Letter from an Old Friend

DEAR BRETHREN AND SISTERS,

It seems a long time since we left your sunny shores; nevertheless, time has sped quickly by. The seventeen days en route to England were pleasant and ended too quickly. At Waterloo station, we were met by Elder Butler and family. Two weeks later, Elder Armitage and family arrived. The days in London were busy ones, visiting the Wembley Exhibition, Lon-

don Tower, museums, gardens, etc. London has many grand old sights, that are well worth seeing.

Brother Bacon booked our three families on the S. S. "Olympic" for New York. This is a monstrous vessel of over 46,000 tons. The accommodation is excellent, and the service all that we could ask. As we drew near the U. S. A. coast, we saw a large number of patrol boats watching for the "rum runners." Frequently, large quantities of the forbidden stuff are captured and destroyed.

On Tuesday evening, May 26, we anchored near the Statue of Liberty, and the next morning we landed. We were met by Brother Dorn, our New York transportation agent, and soon everything had passed the customs officials. After two days of sight seeing, in this great city of the New World, we went to Takoma Park and were entertained at the Washington Sanitarium. The General Conference committee invited me to attend four camp-meetings and tell the story of our missionaries in South Africa. That was a privilege which I greatly enjoyed. As I listened to our ministers proclaim the grand old truths that make us a people, my heart rejoiced. These sounded just as they did when I first entered the work more than forty years ago. At these meetings, I met several ministers who entered the work about the same time that I did. It was a great privilege to meet these faithful and tried workers, whom God has used for the up-building of His cause these many years.

We are now enjoying the kind hospitality of friends in Wisconsin. Here we have met several whom we knew in our early ministry. Next week, I expect to attend a camp-meeting in the northern part of the state.

Quite often our minds turn back to friends and loved ones in South Africa, and our prayers go up to heaven that our Father's blessing may attend His people and ministers in their labours for the lost.

W. S. HYATT.

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER CORNER

In Time of Loneliness

"He never smiled so sweet before
Save on the Sea of Sorrows, when the night
Was saddest on our heart. We followed Him
At other times in sunshine. Summer days
And moonlight nights He led us over paths
Bordered with pleasant flowers; but when His steps
Were on the mighty waters, when we went
With trembling hearts through nights of pain and loss
His smile was sweeter, and His love more dear;
And only heaven is better than to walk
With Christ at midnight over moonless seas."

"LONELINESS is one of the most pathetic of all human experiences. The yearning for companionship is one of the deepest of all yearnings. The religion of Christ has something to meet every human need; what is its blessing for loneliness? We may turn to the Master's own life for answer to our question. He met all the experiences that ever became ours, and He found for Himself the best there is to be found in the divine love to meet each experience. Thus He shows us

what we may find in our times of need and how we may find it.

"There are special experiences of loneliness in every life for which Christ is needed. Youth is one of these times. Youth seems happy and light-hearted. Companionships swarm all about it. But oftentimes a young person feels lonely even amid such scenes and friendships. All life is new to him. As his soul awakes, a thousand questionings arise demanding answer. He is in a world with a thousand paths, and he must choose in which he will walk. Everything is mysterious. There are perils lurking on all sides. Choices must be made. Lessons must be learned. All is new, and at every step the voice is heard, "You have not passed this way heretofore." This loneliness of inexperience, when a young soul is taking its earliest steps in life, is one of the most trying and painful feelings of all the years. If Christ be not then the Companion, lonely and perilous indeed is the way. But if He walks beside the young soul in its inexperience all is well."—*Miller*.

CAPE CONFERENCE

J. F. WRIGHT, *President*, P. W. WILLMORE, *Secy. Treas.*
ADDRESS: P. O. Box 378, Port Elizabeth, C. P.

God Brings a Heavy Charge!

THE remnant church did not respond fully to the call which God sent thirty-eight years ago, asking for a "revival of true godliness," so fifteen years later, in 1902, the Lord delivered through His servant another message. This time, it does not come in just the same form as a call or a warning, but as a charge. We give it as follows:

"God brings against ministers and people, the heavy charge of spiritual feebleness," and again,

"In many hearts there seems to be scarcely a breath of spiritual life."—*Mrs. E. G. White, in Review and Herald, Feb. 25, 1902.*

Thus reads the charge! It is very brief, yet most comprehensive. Remember, that God never makes false charges. There is no use to deny this one! In no way can we evade the issue, or excuse ourselves, claiming that it does not mean us. It is directed to the church; to her membership. This reveals why many are not sharing in the "latter rain" at the present time. The true condition of many hearts today is here unveiled. Truly, my brethren, such a situation as this charge outlines, calls for most serious consideration on our part. Shall we not give it this as we seek to study the reasons for this charge? Surely we must earnestly set to the work of righting ourselves with the Most High.

"Spiritual feebleness,"—What does this imply? We know what feebleness means when we think of it in connection with the physical being. It reveals a lowered vitality, loss of vigour, lack of resisting power, easily susceptible to disease. Does it then have such a meaning when applied to the spiritual side of life? Yes, it must mean somewhat the same; that is, it is loss of spiritual power, spiritual resistance, a lowered vitality. There is little power to resist the world, the

flesh and the devil. The individual falls an easy prey to the disease of sin. Thus the efforts put forth are very weak, very frail, and so accomplish little, if anything at all, in behalf of a well-ordered Christian life. This is why the experience of so many today is often discouraging.

Now really, brethren, does not this reveal to us the condition today among many of God's people? We feel that we must admit that this is altogether too true in many cases. A large number have a name to live; they make a profession but they are spiritually feeble and, sad to say, many are spiritually dead. They lack in spiritual power, spiritual vitality. They do not have a healthy Christian experience. Only a few here and there seem to be living very near to God in these closing days of earth's history. So God brings His charge and calls for a reformation. He says:

"At this time, a time of overwhelming iniquity, a new life coming from the source of all life is to take possession of those who have the love of God in their hearts."—*"Testimonies," Vol. 9, page 44.*

Thus you see our heavenly Father not only lays the charge before us, but in these words just quoted, He outlines the remedy. From whence is this power, this new life to come? Jesus answers by saying, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life." This life is in the word. How do we receive it into our life experience? Listen again while we read:

"In every command, and in every promise of the Word of God, is the power, the very life of God by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realized. He who by faith receives the Word is receiving the very life and character of God."—*"Christ's Object Lessons," page 38.*

If Seventh-day Adventists would give more time to daily feeding upon the Word of God and allow the power of prayer to have its proper time and place in the individual life, there would not be so much spiritual feebleness among both workers and laymen. It is a sad, lamentable fact, but nevertheless, it is altogether too true that today, right now in this present year of our Lord, 1925, there are many homes where the voice of prayer is seldom heard, the family altar is broken down, the Bible is studied too much from the point of duty rather than to daily feed the soul, and the secret chamber is not often visited. My brethren and sisters, God calls for a change. What shall we do about it?

Again the message reads: "In many hearts, there seems to be scarcely a breath of spiritual life." This is a fearful state in which to be, right down here on the threshold of eternity! The servant of God continues by saying:

"This makes me very sad. I fear that aggressive warfare against the world, the flesh and the devil, has not been maintained. Shall we cheer on, by a half-hearted Christianity, the selfish, covetous spirit of the world, sharing its ungodliness and smiling on its falsehood?"

These words should stir our inmost souls, and we should at once seek to learn what relationship we sustain to this whole matter.

"God calls for a spiritual revival and a spiritual reformation. Unless this takes place, those who are now lukewarm will continue to grow more abhorrent

to the Lord, until He will refuse to acknowledge them as His children."—*Id.*

Spiritual revival means a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of powers of heart, mind and soul, a resurrection from spiritual death. And reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in habits and practices of life. This is the call and need of the hour. It is the work upon which God would have us enter. Shall we heed the counsel of the "True Witness" thus given us at this time? We cannot afford to turn aside from it. We should at once turn to God, rending the heart and not the garment. The prophecy of Joel throws light upon the programme for this hour. The "Testimonies to the Church" are filled with this call of the hour. We should earnestly study them. God will strengthen us in this reformatory action. May God help us to take the charge He sends, ponder it in our hearts, then, with true confession, respond to His call to a higher, richer, deeper experience, seeking the same with all our souls. J. F. WRIGHT.

News Items

BROTHER LADD writes us that the work is progressing nicely at the Bethel mission, and new students are being enrolled.

ELDER WRIGHT was with both churches in Port Elizabeth, Sabbath, September 19. He conducted the services at this time.

BROTHER SIEMAN writes that he and his family are getting along nicely at Spion Kop, and are working hard to prepare themselves for work in the Lord's cause.

SUNDAY night, September 13, Elder Wright was asked to speak in the Port Elizabeth church at the regular evening service. His topic was, "The Victorious Life."

We are expecting Brother Vixie, our new field missionary secretary, to arrive the first week in October. We then look for our book work to move forward at a more rapid pace.

At present, Brother Claude Tarr is making a trip into Pondoland and reports a good interest where Amos Magalela is working. We are also pleased to learn that Brother Tarr's wife is improving slowly.

Mrs. WRIGHT, who has been ill for some weeks with influenza, is able to be up again. We are also pleased that Eveline, who has had to be in hospital for some time on account of an accident, has returned home.

WORD just reaches us that the wife of Brother P. J. Raubenheimer has undergone a serious operation. It is hoped that it will prove to be successful. Let us remember Brother and Sister Raubenheimer at this time of need.

We have just received a copy of the *Worcester Standard*, containing an article more than a column in length, describing the recent baptismal service conducted at Worcester by Elder J. J. Birkenstock. More than 400 persons witnessed this service, and this paper speaks well of our work. We trust that the Lord will continue to bless the efforts Brother Birkenstock and his associates are putting forth to win souls and build up a good, strong church.

ELDERS WRIGHT AND HOWARD expect to be with the new company at George Sabbath, September 26. It is hoped that the new church can be organized there at that time. Elder Wright then goes to Worcester and Elder Howard to Port Elizabeth.

ORANGE RIVER CONFERENCE

J. N. DE BEER, *President.* MISS E. M. ROWLANDS, *Secy.-Treas.*
OFFICE: 41 West Burger St., Bloemfontein, O. F. S.

Bolivia Church

It was a real pleasure to the writer to be present with our brethren at Bolivia and to have Elder and Sister de Beer and child with us for our quarterly meeting, which was held on the 29th of August. A good number of brethren and sisters attended. At a quarter to 10 o'clock, we held our Sabbath school, which was a great source of blessing to us all.

After Sabbath school, Elder de Beer preached a very impressive sermon, taking for his text Hebrews 12: 2, 3: "Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. Consider Him that endured such contradictions of sinners against Himself lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." We were helped to understand how utterly impossible it is to live a Christian life without looking to Jesus, who is our Example and the Author and Finisher of our faith. We all determined that in our future Christian experiences we would ever consider Christ and in whatever circumstances we may be placed to endeavour, by His grace, to do as He would.

After service was over, Sister Vanita du Preez, who had been studying the Message for some time with us at home, decided to take her stand on the side of Truth and was buried in baptism, to arise, we believe, in newness of life. The baptistry of the Bolivia church is neatly made, having been cut out of rock near by. This was the personal work of our elder, Brother T. J. van Rensburg.

In the afternoon at 3 o'clock, we came together to partake of the Ordinances of our Lord and Saviour. The Spirit of the Lord came very near and we were refreshed. On Sunday morning, an interesting business meeting was held. After several subjects were discussed, Harvest Ingathering papers were handed out, and all present were anxious to do their part in gathering means for God's great cause, that the work may be finished and Jesus come to receive His people unto Himself. E. H. HAREBOTTLE.

NATAL-TRANSVAAL CONFERENCE

B. M. HEALD, *President* A. E. NELSON, *Secy.-Treas.*
OFFICE ADDRESS: 8 Stranack St., Maritzburg, Natal.

Harvest Ingathering

I FEEL inclined to recall for your benefit and my own, this Scripture: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

It is true of Africa that the present year's harvest is past, and, generally, it has been bountiful. The end-of-the-world harvest will also end some day, and

we believe soon. The reapers are the angels, and I believe that we may truly expect the presence of the angels with us in this Harvest Ingathering work, for its primary purpose is for the salvation of souls.

Paul, in writing a message of courage to the Greek converts at Corinth, said: "Therefore being engaged in this service and being mindful of the mercy which has been shown us, we are not cowards." 2 Cor. 4: 1. (Weymouth's translation.) And, again, in verse 16, he repeats his victorious note: "Therefore we are not cowards." Such a note of cheerful courage is needed by the Harvest Ingathering worker.

I am finding more and more that the best plan is for us to first visit the people that we know. All of us have business connections. We should use this influence for the Lord and His cause. We pay our accounts month by month, so we are entitled to ask business men and neighbours, with whom we deal, to give us a substantial lift on this fund, and they are willing to help when requested in a kind way. Go to your lawyer, friends, doctors, chemists, grocers and bakers; and sisters must not forget their drapers,—they all will help. They go farther afield among strangers. And why should not Adventists who deal with bankers, ask the officials for personal gifts?

I am convinced that following the above plan will help us very much in achieving success this year. It has been of great help to me in this work for many years. There are several men in my district who have become so well accustomed to give a certain amount each year that they seem all ready for my annual visit. One big-hearted gentleman never fails to have five one pound notes ready every time I go. He is a busy man, and often I have to go several times before finding him, but never has he failed me, if I persist until I meet him face to face.

"And every one said to his brother: be of good courage."

J. C. ROGERS.



Report of Literature Sales for July

Natal-Transvaal

NAME	HRS	ORDS	VALUE	HELPS	TOTAL
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Our Day.

P. J. Vermaak	154	94	63 0 0	1 9 6	64 9 6
Mrs. M. Smith	21½	3	2 6 0	7 6	2 13 6
W. Retief	102¾	103	76 19 0	5 4 6	82 3 6
T. de Meyer	100½	30	22 5 0	2 15 0	25 0 0
P. Grobler	116	56	39 15 6	2 19 6	42 15 0

Daniel & Revelation

A. C. le Butt	58½	4	4 10 0	4 6	4 14 6
C. R. Botha	48	16	21 2 0	4 8 0	25 10 0

Bible Readings.

C. R. Botha	100½	27	34 5 6	11 0 0	45 5 6
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Practical Guide.

P. Engelbrecht	143	94	129 10 0		129 10 0
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Ladies' Handbook.

Mrs. Bulgin			delivering		
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Agents	9	868¾	427 393 13 0	28 8 6	422 1 6
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Native sales	45	6	0		
Office sales	4	18	0		
Magazine Sales	68	1	6		

Cape

Bible Readings.

D. D. Toerien	137½	58	80 17 6	40 9 6	121 7 0
I. H. Beattie	115½	22	29 0 0	13 1 0	42 1 0

Ladies' Handbook

Mrs. M. N. Steyl	47	3	4 2 6		4 2 6
Mrs. Sunshine	17	5	7 7 6		7 7 6

Our Day

D. Theunissen	77	40	29 1 0	2 6	29 3 6
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God's Answers

Miss v.d. Schyff	56½	21	7 15 0	11 0	8 6 0
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Great Controversy

F. N. Human	106	19	21 17 6	4 10 6	26 8 0
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Agents	7	556½	168 180 1 0	58 14 6	238 15 6
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Native Sales	7	0	6		
Office Sales	50	4	8		
Magazine sales	15	7	3		

Orange River

God's Answers

Mrs. C. A. Baker	28½	33	12 16 6	6 0	13 2 6
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Practical Guide.

B. H. Wienand	46	48	59 18 0	2 0	60 0 0
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Great Controversy

S. J. Fourie	35		delivering		
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Agents	3	109½	81 72 14 6	8 0	73 2 6
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Native sales	61	19	10		
Office sales	11	0	3		
Periodicals	3	16	0		

Literature Sales for the Zambesi Union

Miscellaneous	3	3	6		
Native sales	31	19	9		
Periodicals	1	7	0		

Totals for July 1925

N-T Conf	9	868¾	427 393 13 0	28 8 6	422 1 6
Cape Conference	7	556½	168 180 1 0	58 14 6	238 15 6
O. R. Conf	3	109½	81 72 14 6	8 0	73 2 6
Zambesi Union			3 3 6		3 3 6
Magazine sales			88 12 6		88 12 6
Native Sales			146 6 1		146 6 1
Totals	19	1534½	676 884 10 7	87 11 0	972 1 7



Evolution Number of the "Signs"

THE October number of the African *Signs* is devoted largely to evolution and the Bible. The first page article is a report of the San Francisco debate between Elder Nichol and Mr. Shipley, president of the Science League of America. The judges, who were prominent U. S. A. jurists, rendered a decision in favour of Elder Nichol. This report sets clearly before the public the fallacies of evolution.

The issue also contains an editorial entitled, "The Science of Christian Experience," and an excellent comment by Elder Longacre on the "Origin of the Earth."

This is a good time to get this important subject before the people. Order from your conference tract society office.

Appeal for Missions Campaign

WE are very pleased to be able to report splendid progress made in all of the conferences in the South African Union for the first three weeks of the Harvest Ingathering Campaign.

£3,000

Congratulations are due to the brethren in the Transvaal-Delagoa Mission Field, as they reached their goal before the end of the second week of the campaign. We certainly rejoice with these brethren in what they have done.

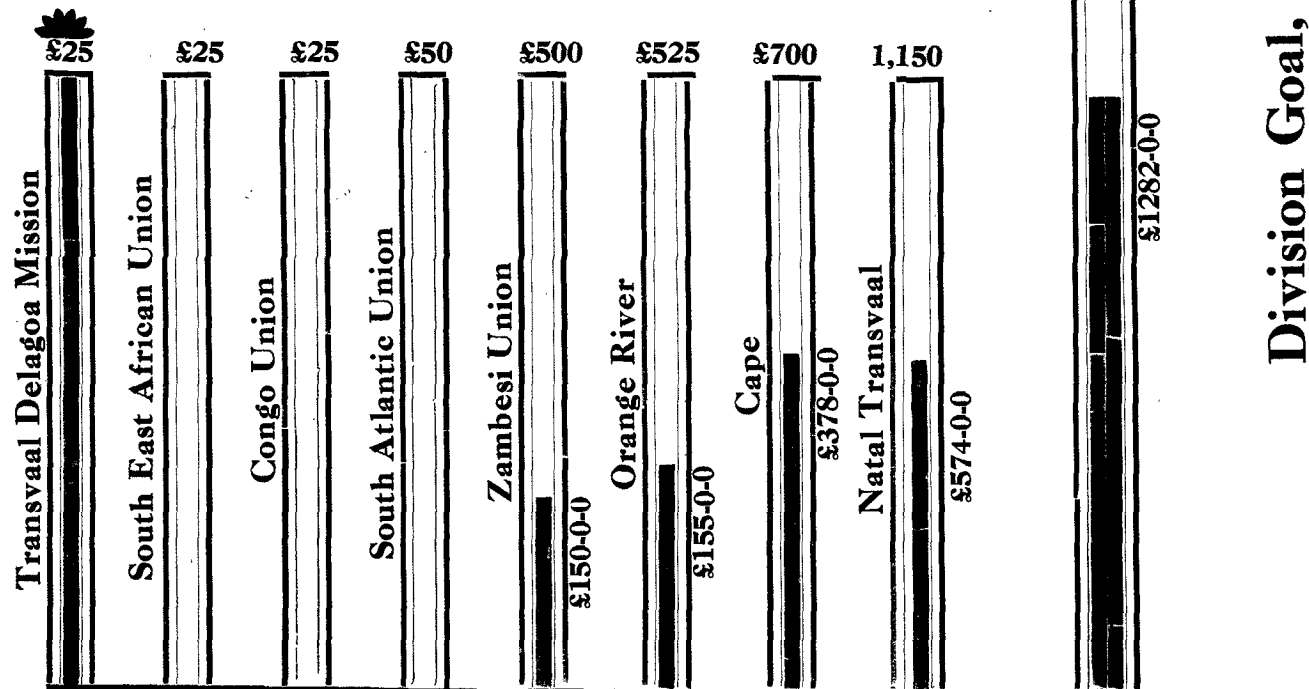
The Natal-Transvaal Conference has succeeded in gathering in £574-0-0 which is approximately 50% of their goal. Many of our church members, who have not heretofore taken an active part in the Harvest Ingathering Campaign, have joined in with us this year and report that they are enjoying the work. Elder Heald sends the following very encouraging message from Durban, "Harvest Ingathering going strong. Durban new members getting the spirit. Expect to reach our goal."

Up to date, the Cape Conference has reached more than 50% of their goal, and they are still going strong, and are determined to finish by the end of the sixth week. The members of the new church at Worcester accepted a goal of £21-0-0, and have collected £56-0-0. Elder Birkenstock and several other brethren from the Worcester church went to Ceres and were successful in collecting £12-0-0.

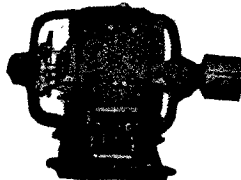
In the Orange River Conference, £155-0-0 are reported for the first three weeks. We quote the following from a letter received from Miss Rowlands, dated September 16:

"So far the Bloemfontein church has collected half of their goal of £115-0-0. Some of us collected at the sheep show and received an amount of £23-0-0. We find the people very sympathetic towards our work, and willing to give as much as they are able."

The brethren in the Zambesi Union have also made a good start, and report £150 in hand to date.



Division Goal, £3,000



THE AFRICAN DIVISION OUTLOOK

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W. B. COMMIN, Editor
 MISS P. E. WILLMORE, Asst. Editor
 Grove Avenue, Claremont, Cape

Read, and Think—and Pray

1. DOES my life please God?
2. Do I enjoy my Christian life?
3. Do I cherish in my heart a feeling of dislike or hatred for any one?
4. Am I studying my Bible daily?
5. How much time do I spend in secret prayer?
6. Have I ever won a soul to Christ?
7. Have I ever had a direct answer to prayer?
8. Do I estimate the things of time and eternity at their real value?
9. Am I praying and working for any one's salvation?
10. Is there anything I cannot give up for Christ?
11. Where am I making my greatest mistake?
12. How does my life look to those who are not Christians?
13. Do I place anything before my religious duties?
14. Am I honest with the Lord's money?
15. Have I neglected any known duty?
16. Is the world better or worse for my living in it?
17. Am I doing anything that I would condemn in others?
18. Do I have a clear conception of my place in the Lord's work?
19. What am I doing to hasten the coming of Jesus?
20. Am I doing as Christ would do in my place?



Confidence in Converts from Heathenism

PAUL addressed converts from heathenism as "saints in Christ Jesus." When he thus wrote, those addressed were far from being perfect or saintly; but the apostle regarded them not as they actually were; he looked upon them in the light of what they were in Christ Jesus, and of what they might become by His grace.

What hope is expressed in the words of Paul to the weak, erring, backslidden church at Corinth: "I rejoice therefore that I have confidence in you in all things." To the Philippians he wrote: "Being confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ." The apostle assured others that God would make them "perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ."

So it is today. By expressions of confidence, by responsibilities entrusted and borne, believers are enabled to grow in grace and knowledge, and thus workers are developed for God's cause. On the other hand, by an attitude on our part of indifference, of reluctance, of withholding, of suspicion, of distrust, men are oft-

times weakened, discouraged, defeated. These very men, under expressions of confidence, would grow strong, and oftentimes would be helped to succeed. An expression of confidence in them would place them on their honour, and an entrustment with responsibility would put them on their mettle.

Various instances of the outworking of these principles have come under our observation. Servants who when first brought into contact with Christianity were seemingly slow to grasp ideas and to learn, and who had not learned fully the value of fidelity, have been assured of our confidence, and have been given responsibility, greatly to the benefit of all concerned. It seems as if the bestowal of confidence in such often results in their being quickened, enlightened, transformed, ennobled. A ricksha coolie has within the short space of six years passed successively through the stages of inquirer, Sabbath school teacher, student, canvasser, and evangelist. During the same period a house servant progressed from house boy to student, colporteur, and evangelist. Still another young man, released from evangelistic work and transferred to another province because he was regarded as not wholly profitable, developed to our great joy, within two years, into one of the leading workers—strong, efficient, promising.

In our work as missionaries, we do need often to express confidence in our associate workers, and in those who give promise of spiritual development. The conversion of sinners, the spiritual growth of believers, the upbuilding of a strong church, the training and development of workers of sterling worth,—these all depend upon our placing confidence in converts from heathenism and seeking in every way possible to place them on vantage-ground.—O. B. Kuhn, in *Asiatic Division Outlook*.



General News Notes

BROTHER G. S. JOSEPH has returned to the Cape Peninsula, and is helping the churches in the Harvest Ingathering work.

WE are glad that the Plumstead Nursing Home is full and enjoying success in its work. Miss Thomason is working especially hard, on account of being short-handed.

BROTHER W. H. BRANSON reports a safe arrival at the mission at Lepi, Angola, and that all the mission family, with the exception of Sister Anderson, is enjoying good health. Sister Anderson has been laid up recently with the fever. Brother Branson expects, after his visit to Angolaland, to visit the Chimpempe mission in the north-west of Rhodesia.

Good News by Telegram

WRIGHT

OUTLOOK

TWENTY-SIX baptized George. New church organized. Splendid spirit. Excellent outlook, others to follow soon.