

## Twentieth Session of the Natal-Transvaal Conference Held at Johannesburg, May 9 to 15, 1927

### A Spirit of Consecration

THE conference session is over. We turn our minds again to the routine of our several occupations, and ask, What has been the value of our associations with those of like faith who have been gathered together during these seven days?

This conference has been marked by the spirit of consecration that has taken possession of God's people. This has been evidenced in the devotional services, both of workers and lay members. The keynote of these meetings, as also of the Bible studies, has been the need of an indwelling Christ. It seemed to be the conviction of all that the time had come for a more personal contact with Christ, until there is experienced an actual communion with our Heavenly Father. Not only has this been the conviction, but we believe it has also been the earnest desire of those attending the conference. This has produced an atmosphere of unity and love and has led to the unanimous passing of resolutions, the fulfilment of which will ensure the continuance of this spirit of consecration and the advancement of the work of God. It is here that the value of this session will be experienced and seen.

As we return to our churches and homes, let us endeavour to carry the atmosphere of this yearly feast with us. Let it not be a yearly experience only, but a daily one—a constant dwelling in the heavenly atmosphere of consecration and service. The year opens before us filled with opportunities and wonderful possibilities. Let us unite our efforts with those of the conference officials and church officers for the salvation of souls and the closing of the work.

The conference officials appointed for the ensuing year are as follows:

PRESIDENT, The Division is requested to release Brother T. M. French that he may respond to the call to take the presidency of the conference.

SECRETARY-TREASURER OF CONFERENCE, A. E. Nelson.

SECRETARY-TREASURER OF DEPOSITORY, A. E. Nelson.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, T. M. French, A. E. Nelson, W. H. Hurlow, B. P. de Beer, Dr. B. V. Ingle, A. A. Pitt, Dr. Evert Birkenstock.

SABBATH SCHOOL SECRETARY, Mrs. A. E. Nelson.

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER SECRETARY, Mrs. A. E. Nelson.

HOME MISSIONARY SECRETARY, The president of the conference.

HEALTH SECRETARY, Mrs. B. M. Heald.

FIELD MISSIONARY SECRETARY, A. Blennerhassett.

W. H. HURLOW.

### Extracts From President's Address

WE extend a hearty welcome to our delegates and visiting brethren of the General, Division and Union Conferences in this the twentieth session of the Natal-Transvaal Conference. "Grace and peace be unto you through the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord."

It is with a heart overflowing with the love of God that I stand before you on this occasion. God has been good to His people since we last convened, and His merciful kindness is great toward us. We praise His great and Holy name. The lives of our workers have been spared, and we rejoice in loving service today. As we look out upon the horizon of races, we see dark war clouds gathering for the final Armageddon. The spirits of war are mobilising for the "battle of the great day of God Almighty." Sister White has said, "The tempest is coming and we must get ready for its fury by having repentance towards God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." Consciousness of His soon coming has spurred us on to a greater soul-winning activity during 1926 than ever before in our

history. It has been an eventful year. Along the different lines of work there has been activity and progress.

#### EVANGELISTIC DEPARTMENT

The latest experimental plan for the Evangelistic Department has been to give our churches free Afrikaans literature, free postage and the voters' list that even the far-away "back-velder" could be reached. Another experimental plan for the evangelisation of the field has been to operate a tent effort on the Lichtenburg diggings.

Elder Hyatt baptised fifty as the result of his late tent effort in Johannesburg. It became necessary to build a new annexe hall to the Johannesburg church to accommodate the overflow Sabbath school attendances.

Elder Hurlow has held several baptisms in the Maritzburg church since his tent effort and that church is rejoicing in loving service.

In Pretoria, we opened a campaign for souls the night of October 7, 1926. These "Back to the Bible" services continued until the last night of the year. God blessed the tent company and twenty-five have been added to the little Pretoria company of believers.

Elders Carey and De Beer held a tent effort in Krugersdorp, and as a result a church of twenty was organised. It will be one of the pleasures of this conference to accept this new born church into our sisterhood of churches.

There have been 184 baptisms since we last convened and 30 added by letter, thus bringing our membership to 666.

#### SABBATH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Our Sabbath school, under the direction of Sister Nelson, should be mentioned. There have been six schools added to the sisterhood of schools with an increase of 101 members, and £157-17-8 in offerings. Our schools are very zealous, are all well organised and are running smoothly.

#### HOME MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT

The Home Missionary Department covers a multitude of activities. I suppose the leading general missionary endeavour during the past year was the Harvest Ingathering Campaign. You will be encouraged to learn that we circulated 6,745 papers with a net income of £1417-3-9, or £231-11-6, over 1925. This intensive effort, along with our other mission offerings and campaigns, brought our total offerings for missions to the sum of £3,762-9-4, £848-12-0 above 1925, or 2/5 per week per member. The Home Missionary Department circulated 58,008 *Signs*. Truly, there is every reason to praise God from whom all blessings flow.

#### HEALTH DEPARTMENT

This department, under the direction of Mrs. Heald, has had a successful year. This conference carried on a strong health promotion work during the past year. The latest development has been the organisation of schools of health. The department is planning for these schools of health to be organised among our churches.

Elder Hurlow conducted a successful series of health meetings in Maritzburg, which were attended by some of the representative ladies of that city.

#### PUBLISHING WORK

There are ten colporteurs in the field. During this year, £4,413-3-9 worth of our truth-laden literature has

been sold. I have been greatly encouraged to find that our faithful messengers of truth had already placed our books in the homes of many who were baptised during the year. Elder Joseph and Brother Blennerhassett have just closed a successful colporteurs' institute in Johannesburg, and the prospects are brighter than ever for a successful ensuing year.

#### MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER AND EDUCATIONAL

There are five organised Missionary Volunteer Societies in the field. We rejoice with our dear young people, who are so zealously carrying on the work of Him who went about doing good. These societies are organised into bands, which is the secret of their success.

We have a strong church school in Durban, with two teachers, Miss Eileen Crouch and Miss Ella Snyman, who are endeavouring to train and fit the Durban boys and girls for efficient service. We regret again to report that Maritzburg, Johannesburg and Potchefstroom do not have church schools.

#### FINANCIAL

Our tithe for 1925 was £5-391-4-11, and for 1926, £5,049-0-8, a difference of £342-4-3. But, in spite of the shortage, the conference has operated at a profit of £56-6-0. The Mission Department operated at a profit of £28-19-7. It may encourage this assembly to know that we are keeping within our budget for the first three months of 1927.

#### CONCLUSION

Our God is at the head of the work. He is a living God. He is doing things. His providences are working in spite of our failures, and not because of our success. May He continue to guide His cause in the Natal-Transvaal field.

B. M. HEALD.



## Extracts from Secretary-Treasurer's Report

#### OPERATING

At the beginning of the year 1926, the conference committee made plans for extensive evangelistic work in connection with the regular plans of the year, the expense of which would exceed the probable income for the year. Therefore, it was voted to appropriate £600 from the previous year's surplus to the present year's operation. The income of the year, together with this appropriation of £600, covered the year's operations and exceeded it by £56-6-0. The tithe income for the year amounted to £5,049-0-8. The Native Department made a profit for the year, after appropriating £40 from surplus to present operating income, to the value of £28-19-7.

#### MISSION OFFERINGS

The offerings to foreign missions for the year made an increase over last year's offerings to the value of £848-12-0. The funds contributing largely to the splendid accomplishment are: Camp-meeting funds, Harvest Ingathering and Sabbath school offerings. In fact, there was an increase in all mission funds excepting two. The per capita for the year was 2/5 per week.

## STATISTICAL

There were 184 baptisms during the year, 114 of which were added to our European constituency, and 70 to the Mission Department. The membership of the European Department at the close of the year totalled 654, and that of the Native Department, 422.

A. E. NELSON.



### Colporteurs' Institute

A VERY inspiring institute was conducted immediately preceding the camp-meeting, and the colporteurs present expressed gratitude for the spiritual and practical lessons received.

The programme was well arranged, and the following persons took a leading part: Elders Joseph, Heald, Hurlow, De Beer, and Brother Nelson. To these brethren we wish to express our sincere appreciation.

The colporteurs in attendance were: Brethren P. Grobler, W. G. Rademan, F. E. Potter, and M. W. Bisset, Sisters I. Swanepoel, E. Pitt, E. T. Potter, and H. Bissett.

All of these persons set for themselves goals both in hours and sales, which, if faithfully adhered to, will cause 1927 to be a banner year in evangelistic colporteur service. Let us not cease to regard our goals as solemn promises to God, indicating our determined purpose to do only our best in the use of time, and every talent we possess in trust from Him Who longs to confer upon us that inestimable reward of infinite love.

A. BLENNERHASSETT.



### Johannesburg Sabbath School

ONCE more, we are glad to be able to report that the work in the Johannesburg Sabbath school is onward, as indicated by the results shown during the quarter just closed. The Lord has done great things for us and our hearts have rejoiced as we have seen the intense interest manifested by members in this important department.

From a membership of 213 (including the Home Department and Cradle Roll) we have had an average attendance of 190. No less than 186 have had a perfect daily study. This is splendid, but we trust that ere long we shall attain the 100% mark, for is not our aim PERFECTION?

Our mission offerings show a marked increase. The receipts for the twelve Sabbaths were £60-2-0, or £6-2-0 more than our goal.

The last thirteenth Sabbath will be long remembered. We do not think such unbounded enthusiasm has ever been displayed in our Sabbath school. As the ushers came forward and the offering was taken, "Will we reach our goal?" was the question written on every countenance. We were all relieved when our treasurer, Brother Tickton, handed the slip of paper, which bore the amount of £32-10-1, to the superintendent, Brother Harold Pratt, who announced to the school that our goal had been exceeded by £5-0-1. We thank God for this splendid result.

May God bless one and all for the sacrifices they have made for the cause of missions, and may all be encouraged to do even greater things the next thirteenth Sabbath.

Y. RENO, *Sabbath School Secretary.*

## ZAMBESI UNION MISSION

E. C. BOGER, *Superintendent.* C. W. BOZARTH, *Secy.-Treas.*  
OFFICE ADDRESS: P.O. Box 573, Bulawayo, Rhodesia

### The Kalahari Desert Entered

MANY of our people, no doubt, are anxiously waiting to hear more regarding the interest that was reported last year from the heart of the great Kalahari Desert. At that time, Brother W. W. Walker, superintendent of the Bechuanaland Mission Field, reported that a trader from the desert had visited our Kanye mission hospital, and had manifested an interest in our work, and begged for a worker to accompany him back to his desert home to teach the native people living there. No one was able to go, but literature was supplied to him for distribution among the native chiefs and headmen of his district.

Later, Brother Walker wrote: "I heard a few days ago that there is a company of Sabbath keepers out there somewhere, of the same kind that Elder Campbell found at Munyona and Dinakone." Also, two months later Brother Walker wrote again stating that he had been assured that there was quite a company of these interested people, and urging that steps be taken to open up work among them.

In view of this report, the Zambesi Union Mission recommended that some of our representatives should visit these desert people at the first favourable opportunity. On Sunday night, February 6, 1927, Brother Glenn Morton and Brother C. W. Bozarth left the Kanye mission hospital in a large wagon drawn by sixteen oxen, provided with tent and camping kit, and set out toward the heart of the desert to a village known as Luhututu. This journey required many weeks of slow tiresome travel, and the brethren were often hindered during the first part of the journey by the scarcity of water for the oxen. However, after they entered the desert proper, this situation was relieved by the fact that the Lord sent rain and supplied the much needed water for both cattle and men.

Reporting on the experiences had during the trip, Brother Bozarth says:

"After leaving Kokon, we reached the desert proper. In the dry time of the year there is no water between Kokon and Tshani, which is a distance of about 100 miles, and sometimes the transports lose quite a number of their oxen in trying to cross this. However, it would seem that the Lord was preparing the way for us because the rain was just ahead and we found water all the way across this great desert. Tshani is a village of about seven or eight hundred natives. From Tshani, we went to Luhututu and we received a right royal welcome from these people. They were certainly pleased to see Itumeling, our native evangelist, who visited this section a few months ago. The big chief said, 'I am certainly glad that the teacher has come back.' Itumeling had spent about three months with them, and it seems that he made quite an impression upon them. Now, I might say that we found quite a little interest at this place. We saw about twenty-five who are interested in the Sabbath truth and are going to study the Message with Itumeling.

"Luhututu is scattered over an area of about twenty

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 Grove Avenue, Claremont, Cape

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miles, and throughout this district, Itumeling has a list of over seventy, who are interested in the Sabbath. The tribe has built a church there for another society, but the chief told Itumeling that he could feel free to go in there and hold meetings. I really believe that when we hear from there again that he will be able to report quite a number of these people really keeping the Sabbath.

From Luhututu, we went to Guhunsi. There we found quite a large village and there seemed to be some interest. It was really from this place that Brother Walker got his report, and the one that you gave at the General Conference. There is located at this place, a European trader by the name of Mr. Rowland. He called a meeting of all the headmen of this place, and we talked with them about our work and told them that we would like to open up work there, provided they wanted us. They all expressed themselves as being favourable to our work but would not give us any definite word. So, the next day after we returned to Tshani on our way home, the big chief overtook us and said that all of their men had met together, and that he had brought us word that they must have the Sabbath church, and that they would also like to have the doctor visit them. Should the doctor visit them, they have agreed to put up a small dispensary for him to use while he is there, and also another hut for the Europeans to stay in during their visit to that section.

“Brother Walker’s report, passed on to you, dates back several years ago. Brother Morton and I talked this matter over with Mr. Rowland, and he says that some thirty-seven years ago, or about 1890, some natives wandered away from the Luhututu section down into Mafeking, and while down there they came in contact with some religious society, and learned about God, and secured a few Bibles. They then returned to their home and began teaching the Bible. They were not connected with any society whatsoever. They taught the second coming of Christ, and that He would soon return. However, they did not, at that time, know anything about the Sabbath. This they learned from the trader mentioned above, as he had told the natives in this section of the country about the Sabbath church, and the work we were doing. Then, they wanted a teacher to come to them, and it was at this time the call came to our mission.

“I feel that at our next committee meeting we should give serious study to this important interest. These people are certainly anxious for us to open up work amongst them, and I think that we should lay some definite plans to that end at once.”

Thus another one of the very dark places of the earth has been penetrated by the representatives of the Message, only to find that the knowledge of the

truth of the gospel and the coming of the Lord had preceded them thirty-seven years, and also that the Sabbath truth had more recently reached this far-away country.

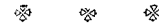
W. H. BRANSON.



### Congo Union Constituency Meeting

NOTICE is hereby given that the second biennial session of the Congo Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at Songa mission, July 17 to 20, 1927. The first business meeting will be held at 10 A.M. July 17, for the election of officers and the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the constituency.

C. W. CURTIS, *Chairman*,  
 D. A. WEBSTER, *Secretary*.



### Wanted To Sell

1 SET “Testimonies” (Four volumes) in limp leather binding.

1 set “Conflict of the Ages” (Five volumes), all in good condition.

A good opportunity for anyone desirous of alleviating the worries of the Spion Kop College librarian.

Purchaser would be required to pay cost of carriage from Longhope, as I am unable to do so.

Address: (Miss) S. Pearse, “Kismet,” Longhope, C. P.



### Returned to South Africa

ON April 13, in company with Elder R. P. Robinson and family and Brother and Sister J. L. Grisham, missionary nurses for Nyasaland, we sailed from New York on the S. S. “Mauretania.” From England to South Africa, we were joined by Dr. and Mrs. Marcus, Dr. and Mrs. Sturges, and Dr. and Mrs. Erickson, with their families.

We sailed from Southampton to Cape Town on the R. M. S. “Balmoral Castle” on April 22, and had a very pleasant trip out. Soon after the voyage began, we organised ourselves for special devotions each afternoon, and also as a Sabbath school. Besides the blessings received from the study of the Sabbath school lessons, we received £3-5-0 in offerings.

Monday morning, May 9, brought us to the shores of the good land of South Africa, and we were glad to again meet those who came to the boat. We have been seeking God for His blessing upon the meeting in Johannesburg, and are sure that He will not disappoint us. The finishing of the work of the Third Angel’s Message in this generation should be the burden on every heart.

F. B. JEWELL.



### Division Council

As we go to press, the Division Council and Special Session of the South African Union Conference at Johannesburg are just closing. Our readers may expect, in our next issue, to receive a most interesting and full report of these meetings.

W. B. COMMINS.