

# Secret Prayer

Family prayer and public prayer have their place; but it is secret communion with God that sustains the soul-life. It was in the mount with God that Moses beheld the pattern of that wonderful building which was to be the abiding-place of His glory. It is in the mount with God-the secret place of communion-that we are to contemplate His glorious ideal for humanity. Thus we shall be enabled so to fashion our character-building that to us may be fulfilled the promise, "I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." 2 Cor. 6:16.

While engaged in our daily work, we should lift the soul to heaven in prayer. These silent petitions rise like incense before the throne of grace; and the enemy is baffled. The Christian whose heart is thus stayed upon God cannot be overcome. No evil arts can destroy his peace. All the promises of God's Word, all the power of divine grace, all the resources of Jehovah, are pledged to secure his deliverance. It was thus that Enoch walked with God. And God was with him, a present help in every time of need.

Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power. No other means of grace can be substituted, and the health of the By E. G. WHITE

soul be preserved. Prayer brings the heart into immediate contact with the Wellspring of life, and strengthens the sinew and muscle of the religious experience. Neglect the exercise of prayer, or engage in prayer spasmodically, now and then, as seems convenient, and you lose your hold on God. The spiritual faculties lose their vitality, the religious experience lacks health and vigour.

It is only at the altar of God that we can kindle our tapers with divine fire. It is only the divine light that will reveal the littleness, the incompetence, of human ability, and give clear views of the perfection and purity of Christ. It is only as we behold Jesus that we desire to be like Him, only as we view His righteousness that we hunger and thirst to possess it; and it is only as we ask in earnest prayer, that God will grant us our heart's desire.

When men are as devoted as Elijah was and possess the faith that he had, God will reveal Himself as He did then. When men plead with the Lord as did Jacob, the results that were seen then will again be seen. Power will come from God in answer to the prayer of faith.

Because the life of Jesus was a life of constant trust, sustained by continual communion, His service for heaven was without failure or faltering. Daily beset by temptation, constantly opposed by the leaders of the people, Christ knew that He must strengthen His humanity by prayer. In order to be a blessing to men, He must commune with God, from Him obtaining energy, perseverance, steadfastness.

The Saviour loved the solitude of the mountain in which to hold with His Father. communion Through the day He laboured earnestly to save men from destruction. He healed the sick, comforted the mourning, called the dead to life, and brought hope and cheer to the despairing. After His work for the day was finished, He went forth, evening after evening, away from the confusion of the city, and bowed in prayer to His Father. Frequently He continued His petitions through the entire night; but He came from these seasons of communion invigorated and refreshed, braced for duty and for trial.

Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. The eye of faith will discern God very near, and the suppliant may obtain precious evidence of the divine love and care for him. The prayer

that Nathanael offered came from a sincere heart, and it was heard and answered by the Master. The Lord reads the hearts of all, and "the prayer of the upright is His delight." Prov. 15:8. He will not be slow to hear those who open their hearts to Him, not exalting self, but sincerely feeling their weakness and unworthiness.

Those who teach and preach the most effectively are those who wait humbly upon God, and watch hungrily for His guidance and His grace. Watch, pray, work-this is the Christian's watchword. The life of a true Christian is a life of constant prayer. He knows that the light and strength of one day is not sufficient for the trials and conflicts of the next. Satan is continually changing his temptations. Every day we shall be placed in different circumstances; and in the untried scenes that await us we shall be surrounded by fresh dangers, and constantly assailed by new and unexpected temptations. It is only through the strength and grace gained from heaven that we can hope to meet the temptations and perform the duties before us.

It is a wonderful thing that we can pray effectually; that unworthy, erring mortals possess the power of offering their requests to God. What higher power can man desire than this—to be linked with the infinite God? Feeble, sinful man has the privilege of speaking to his Maker. We may utter words that reach the throne of the Monarch of the universe. We may speak with Jesus as we walk by the way, and He says, I am at thy right hand. (See Psa. 16:8.)

We may commune with God in our hearts; we may walk in companionship with Christ. When engaged in our daily labour, we may breathe out our heart's desire, inaudible to any human ear; but that word cannot die away into silence, nor can it be lost. Nothing can drown the soul's desire. It rises above the din of the street, above the noise of machinery. It is God to whom we are speaking, and our prayer is heard.

Ask, then; ask, and ye shall receive. Ask for humility, wisdom, courage, increase of faith. To every sincere prayer an answer will come. It may not come just as you.

desire, or at the time you look for it; but it will come in the way and at the time that will best meet your need. The prayers you offer in

loneliness, in weariness, in trial, God answers, not always according to your expectations, but always for your good.

# Notes from the Union President

December 2nd to 9th is the period of our annual Week of Prayer, attention to which subject is directed by an article appearing elsewhere in this issue. There can be no more important period in the whole year than this Week of Prayer. There never were times calling for prayer just like the present. We should arrange in every church and company for meetings as far as possible each day in the week. It may not be possible, owing to the black-out conditions, to have meetings every night in our halls, and we shall of necessity limit somewhat the amount of travelling by our conference workers. Nevertheless local arrangements should be made for as many meetings as possible. Special attention should be given to the needs of children and young people. Surely no church should forget to hold separate meetings for its children: Special readings have been provided for adults and children in the usual way.

At the close of the Week of Prayer the annual offering for missions will be received and we hope that our members will be mindful of the great difficulties we have in maintaining our mission work in these days. God has been good to us in this land, and we should be mindful of His work in the form of a liberal thank-offering.

The end of the year follows hard on the heels of the Week of Prayer, and we should like to point out that while there is no decrease in our tithes and offerings this year, the gain over last year is very small. We hope that in times of stress, faithfulness to God will rise to new heights. Let us bring our tithes and offerings into the treasury that the cause of God may not suffer because the wickedness of man is running riot in the earth.

THERE is to be no General Con-

ference session in the United States next year. The General Conference Committee has decided to postpone this session owing to present world conditions. This is doubtless a wise decision, for none of the leaders in the troubled parts of the earth would have felt free to travel away from their fields at a time like this.

THE presiding judge, at a recent tribunal hearing cases of conscientious objections to combatant warfare, recently made comments indicating that Seventh-Day Adventists by their attitude during the Great War were considered to be men with sincere and conscientious convictions. God does honour the faithful witness of those who put their trust in Him.

OUR College students have been allowed to remain at their studies without an official public hearing, the authorities having decided to accept a written report from our College principal certifying that the person in question is a registered theological student.

Word has been received that the leader of our work in Poland, W. Czembor, known to many of us here, is safe, and that our head-quarters property is very little damaged by the recent bombardment. Apparently some of our workers in the Baltic countries are being moved, but indications are that the Lord's work is continuing despite great difficulties in these lands.

H. W. Lówe.

#### Change of Address

The members of the Stockport church have resumed the holding of their meetings in the Textile Hall, Chestergate, off Mersey Square, Stockport. Times of meetings: Sabbath-School, 10.30 a.m.; Preaching Service, 11.30 a.m.; Sunday Service, 3 p.m.

R. A. FREETH, Elder.

Sell the Christmas "Good

## **NEWBOLD COLLEGE**

#### Student Witnessing

Ample opportunity is afforded the student for developing that spirit of absolute dependence upon the heavenly Father which should be the mainstay of every Christian. The complex and oft-times arduous nature of the many tasks and duties that fall to his lot to perform demands of the student more than inherent ability and strength, and drives him to seek a power than his own. Faith strengthened in this way brings iov and contentment, and enables him to face fresh problems with renewed energy and courage.

There is no experience more calculated to foster the growth of this desirable trait of Christian character than that of a summer spent in the colporteur field. Even to those who have the privilege of carrying with them the memories of past achievements by the help of God, there comes a feeling of trepidation as the shelter of College walls is left behind. Uncertainty as to the reception awaiting them in their assigned territory, the consciousness of light pockets and a need for a temporary abode, thoughts of separation from the customary spiritual stimuli of chapel and class; all these combine to bring the human aspect uppermost. But success will never be forthcoming if this element is allowed to predominate.

While due provision must be made for the financial aspect of the work, the broader outlook, the intense desire for soul-winning service, will cause its relegation to a place of secondary importance. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

During the past summer months the sure nature of this promise has been proved many times. No one listening to some of the testimonies that have since been given by the students could doubt their sincerity. The close of graduation, May 21st, saw the dispersal of some forty students to various parts of the Union in search of souls and scholarships. Some found their field of labour in the industrial centres of the land, some in the mountainous and sparsely populated districts of Scotland and Wales, while others reached the delightful Scilly Isles, beyond the reach of many visitors, but remarkable for their variety of bird and plant life, and the culture of flowers.

To the Isle of Man, home of legend and romance, birthplace of Hall Caine's novels, were brought many volumes of weightier importance, while the garden isle of the South, the Isle of Wight, at such times a crowded resort of pleasure-seekers, did not present the stubborn resistance to spiritual appeal which might have been anticipated.

Even the state of Eire was entered. Government restrictions here caused entirely fresh problems, but failed to prevent the successful dissemination of truth-filled literature.

It would be possible to compile a volume of all the providential leadings that were experienced. Let it suffice to say that many found their temporal needs supplied, and their problems eliminated in almost miraculous fashion. Earnest prayer for heavenly guidance directed the feet of more than one worker to souls hungry for the Bread of life, souls in doubt by reason of affliction, or in the throes of disillusionment resulting from the false witness ofprofessing Christians.

A faithful testimony to our saving message touched responsive chords in the hearts of such folk, and there is every reason for confidence that the correspondence which has been made possible by these first contacts will ultimately bear fruit to His glory. A number are now engaged in this missionary endeavour, and we are praying for the success of their efforts. We would ask you to pray with us, that determined obedience might fol-

low the conviction of truth that has been brought to many hearts.

Some fifteen students were awarded scholarship benefits. Beside these there were others who showed successful sales figures, butwere unable to meet all the scholarship requirements. It would be wrong, however, always to count success wholly in terms of sales, and one day, those who have endured faithfully in the face of discouragements. hardships. spiritual apathy, will find that their labour has not been in vain. How great will be their privilege and reward, how immeasurable their joy in seeing souls saved for eternity through their instrumentality! May we all have a part in that rejoicing! A. W. Howard.

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# Statement of Tithes and Offerings for British Union

SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

	<u>                                     </u>												
NAME OF CHURCH OR COMPANY	Mem- bership	Tithe	Tithe per Capita	School Offerings Inc. 13th S.	Young People's Offering	Harvest Ingatheri's	Annual Offerings	Miscel- laneous	Week of Sacrifice	Big Week	Total Offerings	Offer- ings per Capita	
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# Conference for the Quarter ended Sept. 30, 1939

WELSH MISSION

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## UNION TOTALS

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## **WELSH MISSION**

Superintendent: Pastor S. George Hyde

Office Address: "Ventnor," Ty-glas Road, Llanishen, Cardiff

Telephone: Llanishen 600

#### Notes from the Superintendent

WE feel proud of our Welsh membership for their achievement in this year's Ingathering Campaign. The last report revealed the gratifying fact that we were £70 over the official goal and only £80 short of our greater objective—the £1,000! Pastor Harker reports that since then little has been reported. But that does not mean we are going to fail when so near the goal of our hopes.

For example, Newport, our largest church with the largest goal, is going to bring their figure nearer their £200 mark. Brother Conroy writes that before he leaves the district in a few days' time, he is going to see that both Shrewsbury and Hereford have their goal. That's fine! By the way, Brother Conroy has done exceedingly well in the campaign already. Then there is Llanelly . . . now in the picture and more to follow. Better late . . .!

Pastor Matthew Murdoch is also giving us good help and his contribution is yet to come in. So we feel confident that Wales will be able to hand over to the cause of missions a handsome cheque for £1,000 once again. But to make sure will you send along that extra little bit—just in case? Thank you so much.

Perhaps we should record the churches and companies who have reached (in some cases considerably overreached) their goal so far:

Mountain Ash
Merthyr Tydfil
Buckley
Cardiff
Swansea
Barry Dock

Aberdare
Blaenavon
Henllan
Rhos
Rhyl

Ystrad Mynach and Porth are not far off; Caerphilly has promised to see their campaign through, and with Hereford and Shrewsbury "over the top" nearly all will be in, all but five little brothers.

But there may be surprises from the "wee five" yet!

Brother A. G. Rodgers, home from India, has given very excellent help in our Ingathering work. Not until he made the "Kerdif" docks (as Cardiff was called as early as the twelfth century when it was one of the leading docks of medieval Britain) his "field of labour" were we aware of the hundreds of shipping and allied firms which do business there and from which fruitful contacts have been made and a long list of subscribers created.

Death continues to take its toll of our Welsh membership, three more of our esteemed members of long standing having passed to their rest with fervent hope that it will not be long ere the Redeemer will call them to the eternal joys. They were Sister Mrs. Box, Hereford, Sister Mrs. Harper, Llanelly, and Brother Evans, Kidwelly. We shall miss these faithful associates. May the youth who are growing up and who will fill the gaps that are being made, prove worthy successors.

Pastor H. K. Munson has now moved to Wrexham in preparation for his campaign there. Miss Marjorie Mason, recently transferred from Scotland and whom we sincerely welcome to Wales, will be associated with Brother Munson. Breaking new ground has its thrills, but it also has its peculiar problems, so I feel sure we will give the forthcoming effort in Wrexham a special place in our prayers.

Before leaving Newport, Brother Munson conducted a baptismal service when four covenanted with their Lord and were welcomed into the Advent fellowship. We extend a warm welcome to these additions to our Advent "family."

Brother Paul Cumings opened his campaign in Barry Dock on November 12th. Unfortunately, being an afternoon campaign, it clashed with the town's Air Raid Exercise, and the attendance was undoubtedly affected. But there were people present who obviously had come to learn the way of truth more perfectly and who listened with rapt attention. Let us pray for this effort and for Brother and Sister Cumings in their great endeayour.

On the same day, but in the black-out and "after church," Pastor Jackson, in Swansea, had a great beginning. The cinema was packed and large numbers of people turned away. There were 150 requests for literature in spite of the fact that facilities for making requests were only prepared for half the number present. May this campaign prove to be Swansea's "best ever."

WE had a surprise visit from Pastor J. I. Robison, the Division secretary, last Sabbath. Newport benefited, but before the end of the year we hope to have Brother Robison in Wales for a week-end so that others may meet him.

WILL the isolated members please remember to send their gift toward the cost of printing and sending the Messenger? Everybody must take a share in this just as we like to share its fortnightly visitation. And don't forget the "little brown box" please, the contents of which strengthen our meagre evangelistic funds.

THANK you, "anonymous friend," for that £25 gift toward the Cardiff Ingathering Fund. It came just at the right time. The Lord bless you.

For some time we have had the Week of Prayer Reviews in the office. But soon, very soon, we shall be sending them to you, with the plan for the special meetings. Brethren J. Harker, A. Carey, and W. G. Baldry are to help us this year. May the Lord help us in our preparations for this annual prayer season.

S. G. HYDE.

#### Parcels for Wales—Please Note

WILL the friends who remember the needs of our poorer members in Wales and whose remembrance we so much appreciate, kindly take notice that it will save expense and trouble if, before sending parcels to me, you write for an address to which you can send your gift direct.

Please do not send any parcels to Cardiff unless by arrangement.

Perhaps I should also suggest that we be more careful in what we send, for some of the "clothing" has not been suitable for distribution. Thank you!

S. G. Hyde.

## Wedding Bells

Balderstone-Pinch.—On Sunday afternoon, August 27, 1939, in the loveliest weather imaginable, a very pretty wedding ceremony was held at Stanborough Park church, when Brother Albert Edward Balderstone and Sister Emma Bate Pinch were united in marriage. The service, which was very well attended, was brightly interspersed with hymns and music, and the responses were firm and clear.

After the ceremony the wedding party repaired to the bride's home where a delectable wedding breakfast was served after which the happy couple left for the honeymoon in

Cornwall. We are sure the prayers of the Messenger family will ascend that God will bless with happiness Brother and Sister Balderstone in the new Christian home which they have established.

Those concerned desire to express sincere thanks to both pastor and officers of the Stanborough Park church, not forgetting Sister Till the caretaker, nor Brother A. H. Thompson, the organist, for all the kind preparations which assisted and beautified the ceremony. The service was conducted by the writer.

F. S. JACKSON.

#### Advertisements

Young lady, aged 22, desires situation as cook-general. Sabbath privileges. Write: Phillips, 9 West View, Burnopfield, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Wanted immediately. Young girl as assistant nurse (age 16-25). No experience necessary. Also young domestic help wanted. Apply: Superintendent, 39 Wickham Avenue, Bexhill, Sussex.

A WIDOWED sister in North Wales is willing to share her home with a sister who might wish to live in a safer environment without being too isolated. Apply, in first instance: S. G. Hyde, "Ventnor," Ty-glas Road, Llanishen, Cardiff.

URGENT. Keen Adventist youth between 14 and 17 required to assist and learn trade—carpentry and joinery. Phone, write, or call evenings except Wednesdays and Fridays: Basil H. Hyatt, 35 Prestbury Road, Cheltenham. Phone 52156.

MRS. BRIDGEWATER is free to have another Adventist to share her home with her. Write: 6 Beechwood Avenue, Frome, Somerset.

THE South England Conference acknowledges with thanks receipt of the Lord's tithe, £1. (Salisbury).

#### At Rest

Dixon.—Sister Harriot Dixon fell asleep in Jesus on July 14, 1939, in St. Pancras Hospital after some months of illness. Of her it can truly be said, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth." She accepted the truth under Miss Bray (now Mrs. W. T. Bartlett) over forty years ago and rejoiced in it to the end. She would often say to visitors and nurses, "He is a long time coming." She lived to see over fourscore years.

J. Hyde (Sen.).

#### SUNSET CALENDAR

Reproduced from the Nautical Almanac by permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.

 Dec.
 1st Dec.
 3.55 3.52 4.08 3.45 4.01

 Dec.
 8th
 3.51 3.48 4.04 3.40 4.00

#### BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

Published fortnightly on Friday for the British Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists by The Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts.

Copy for next issue.—November 30th.

EDITOR: . . . W. L. EMMERSON



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Reported to Per Cap. Nov. 16th South 4,113 1 5 North 2.886 1 14 *0* \*Wales 932 2 3 \*Scotland 633 2 \*Ireland 541 2 13 -3 UNION 9,106 1 10 9

#### Mountain Ash

- Dowlais Buckley Cardiff
- Swansea Barry Dock
- \*Aberdare \*Blaenavon

\*Rhyl

- \*Henllan \*Rhos
- \*Greenock \*Dundee
- \*Aberdeen \*Glasgow
- \*Edinburgh \*Kirkcaldy \*Stirling \*Uddingston
- \*Londonderry \*Dublin \*Lisburn
- \*Shankill \*Larne \*Belfast

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Accrington







Wallasey



Skegness



CHURCHES AND COMPANIES OF SOUTH ENGLAND



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Poole



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