

BRITISH ADVENT MESSIENGER



Organ of the Seventh-Day
Adventist Church in
Britain.

Editorial Offices: The Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts.
Vol. 45. No. 24. November 22, 1940

The Mysteries of God

By H. W. LOWE

HOSTS of questions to-day assail our minds and leave us mystified. The apparent triumph of evil, the defiance of God, the sufferings of humanity in general, and of God's elect in particular, the suspense due to the problematical outcome of present hostilities—these are only a fractional part of the problems that puzzle the mind.

The revelator has a phrase which is apt to our study: "In the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as He hath declared to His servants the prophets." Rev. 10:7.

To begin with, God is a great mystery. Sacred story begins with the great God moving mysteriously about His vast creative work. It continues throughout with God's mysterious ways among His people, whom it is His object to save from all their sins. It ends with the great "I" who assures His anxious and waiting people that He comes quickly to remove the temporary hindrances to the fulfilment of His great purpose. We must never forget that, however much we may fail to understand the divine ways, they are nevertheless unerringly fulfilling some phase of God's eternal purpose.

"He treasures up His bright designs,
And works His sovereign will."

—Cowper.

Our text indicates that the expression "the mystery of God" does not refer to an insoluble mystery, but that, whatever "the mystery" may mean, it will be finished. The Revised Version reads, "When he is about to

sound, then is finished the mystery of God."

Reading Revelation 7:1-3 together with chapter 11:14, 15, it seems that the mystery referred to is finished *before* the winds of total war are loosed on earth. Then in Revelation 16:12-16 we see: (1) probation for sinners ceases, (2) all restraints of God are removed, (3) the last trumpet sounds and Armageddon is fought under the sixth plague. So far do we have the final movements in broad outline, and there it is better to leave things than to try to particularize on present issues.

Paul speaks of "the mystery of the Gospel" (Eph. 6:19), and, taken with other New Testament statements, this work of saving men through the Gospel of Christ seems to be the "mystery of God." Many of the causes, agents, and processes in the work of the Gospel are mysteries.

"The word of God, like the character of its divine Author, presents mysteries which can never be comprehended by finite beings. The entrance of sin into the world, the incarnation of Christ, regeneration, the resurrection, and many other subjects presented in the Bible are mysteries too deep for the human mind to explain."—"Testimonies," Vol. 5, pages 699, 700.

"Man may tax every mental power in the endeavour to fathom this mystery [Christ's work on earth], but his mind will become faint and weary. The most diligent searcher

will see before him a boundless, shoreless sea."—"Christ's Object Lessons," page 129.

The Gospel is referred to as the "mystery of Godliness" (1 Tim. 3:16), and Christians are "stewards of the mysteries of God." 1 Cor. 4:1.

The Master's explanation of His use of parables was, "Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God; but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables." Mark 4:11.

How can we know a mystery? If we apply the word "secret" to the work of the Gospel we shall get near the true meaning, which is that of something unknown until it becomes revealed. Those too wise to learn of God (1 Cor. 1:20-29) remain in the dark, those who approach the mystery of God in the right spirit (Matt. 11:25) pass into enlightened understanding. God's secrets become revealed progressively. We can say that the secrets of God are revealed to the righteous in proportion to their faith and spiritual discernment. (1 Cor. 2:14-16.)

The greatest of the secrets of the Gospel centres around the first advent and the crucifixion. "Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to My Gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest, and by the Scriptures of the prophets according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith." Rom. 16:25, 26.

We must not allow the events preceding the second advent to persuade us into the idea that they are any more mysterious than were those preceding the first advent. The devout then were waiting by faith in a dark period for "the consolation of Israel." We are in exactly the same position as regards the necessity of faith—faith to believe in God, though the way lead through the gloom, to be loyal to our fellows and to the movement they constitute. It is not faith to talk discouragement, to fall out when the enemy presses problems on us thick and fast, to grow cold because human weakness and depravity become more apparent on every side.

"At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason. . . . To stand in defence of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when the champions are few—this will be our test."—"Testimonies," Vol. 5, page 136.

The children of faith follow the divine guidance step by step, not demanding to know the end in detail. Yet they are the "wise" who "shall understand" the interplay of godliness and wickedness in the last days.

What if the way be difficult, the mighty movements of nations puzzling, the sovereign Ruler's purpose sometimes hid from our eyes! Sufficient for us to know His mysteries shall be finished, His rule established, and that meanwhile the Holy Spirit continues His work of leading into all truth those to whom it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.

♦ ♦ ♦

A "Scrap of Paper" Which Brought Blessing

A FEW days ago the following letter came to the editor, recounting the wonderful blessing several torn pages of *Present Truth* brought to their finder. It provides another example of the unusual ways in which the truth may come to seeking souls:

To Editor of *Present Truth*.

Dear Sir,

One day this week I picked up in the street a few torn pages of your paper and read with great interest portions of matter by W. T. Bartlett, and one on the meaning of the "Coming Age," of which the central picture was a fine reproduction of the scene of the "Handwriting on the Wall."

There was nothing of the cover or title pages left and in fact the whole was in such a ragged condition that I picked it up off the waste corner outside my garage to place it in the sack I keep for waste paper for the town's collecting lorry; but I was arrested by the picture of the "handwriting" and its wonderful detail which in the mind of the artist must have been more approximate to the truth and reality of Daniel's day than I had ever conceived. The picture, too, of our Lord's temptation was to me new and real.

Fortunately a fragment of the last page just revealed your notice of title and volume (No. 20. Vol. 56). I enclose stamps value 6d. and shall be glad if you could possibly send me a spare copy of this issue and one of last week's or the current week. If you have a few back numbers I shall be pleased to peruse and pass on to our service men and others and so widen the circle for truth.

As a word of encouragement in your work, may I say that that evening as my sister and I read the torn pages we were arrested and strengthened in our life-long faith by the wonderful logic and revelation of the truth as it is in Jesus and the Bible—God's two great words of truth. Seeds were sown in our hearts over fifty years ago by our faithful mother and our Sunday-school teachers—as Methodists of that day. We are ever grateful for the seed sown and life's experiences, but rather saddened these days by the modern drift from God and real religion. But we know and have faith that if rightly understood, the tragedy of to-day is the result of this drift, but, too, it is being used by God as a final and urgent call to return to Him before a worse catastrophe overtakes the world—before its redemption.

I feel you will pardon my letting my thoughts so run on, but it is good to so commune with one's own heart and another in tune with truth.

Hence a scrap of paper, torn and soiled, thought fit only for the dump and the factory, may be the means in God's way, if rightly used, of being redeemed from the incidental and accidental to be providential. This is true and not merely trite. Believe me and allow me to be,

Yours faithfully in His name,
Jabez Whitford.

"Our Church is Down, but Our Spirits Are Up!"

I HAVE never attended a meeting quite like the one held on Sabbath, November 9th, in our Wimbledon church. I had heard that during the week a bomb had fallen on this building, and I went over for the Sabbath services. On arrival I saw a pile of ruins, but in front of them a blackboard on which was chalked the notice, "Come Right In, Use Other Gate, Tread Carefully." I went round, walking over bricks from the building which had been arranged in steps over the piles of debris. At the back I found that the little prayer-meeting room had been left in a usable condition, and that it was packed with our believers, many of whom had arrived that morning, only to find their church in ruins.

I listened at the keyhole and could hear people saying very earnest "Amen." A. C. Vine, the worker in charge, was asking the people what sort of notice they should now put up on the board outside the ruined church, and he thought it might be good to use the motto, "Our church is down, but our spirits are up." Everybody agreed, and at that point I felt I wanted to walk into the meeting, which I did. Their faces were bright and their courage was remarkable. They did not understand the tragedy which had come to their place of worship, but they did know that they still had a faith in God that could not be shaken by such events.

Two bombs had fallen on one corner of the building and three of the four walls were absolutely shattered, and the roof caved in. The whole building will have to be rebuilt. It was a providence that the little room at the rear, being under a separate roof, is left to our people to use.

This is the worst experience of its kind we have had anywhere, and is the second London church to suffer in this way. We are among those who must take joyfully the despoiling of their goods. The spirit of the Advent people will survive these grave problems, and we must fight on, work on, pray on, knowing that faith is given us for just such occasions as these.

H. W. Lowe.

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SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

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Notes from the President

WEEK OF PRAYER

By the time these notes appear, plans will have been made for the most important week in the Adventist church calendar—the Week of Prayer. Our church calendar is always a full one. We have our regular “weeks” and campaigns—Big Week, Week of Sacrifice, Missionary Volunteer Week, Harvest Ingathering, Tract Campaign, and several others. All are important and all receive careful organization and promotion. But, surely, of them all, this traditional Week of Prayer which has been with us so long is the most important. This being so in normal times, how much more so now! As never before we need this time of spiritual meditation and refreshing. We look back upon eleven months of 1940 and realize that “hitherto hath the Lord helped us,” and in the assurance of His continued sustenance we “go forward” with Him into reconsecrated service.

Let every minister and Bible-worker, every church officer and every member make this a week of renewed, intimate relationship with God. In some places not so many services will be held as normally, but strong plans for group meetings should be made, and the sick and isolated visited as much as possible.

At the close of the Week of Prayer, December 7th to 14th, the Annual Offering will be taken. This should be a consecrated offering to God's cause and in itself should be part of our spiritual worship, constituting a real sacrifice unto the Lord. This year our Annual Offering should be the best we have ever given, for we have so much for which to be thankful.

EVANGELISM

ALREADY our evangelists are beginning their autumn campaigns. Halls are hard to get and blackout conditions make it difficult to secure large audiences, but plans are being courageously made for a good year in

evangelism. New methods are being explored, and more personal work with Bible studies will be done. A hundred thousand inquiry cards will be distributed throughout the field in a new house-to-house approach and we shall prayerfully await the response to this new experiment. Conference workers and churchmembers are co-operating to make the most of this opportunity of arousing and following up interest in the message. If you have heard nothing of this witness campaign, ask your local minister about it.

COLPORTEUR SALES

It is with great joy that we report a gain in colporteur sales in South England of over £600. This figure does not include the sales of home missionary societies in the churches, but is the actual increase achieved by the regular and student colporteurs in the field this year. Truly in a year of crisis such as 1940 has been, our colporteurs are standing by their God-given task in a noble and inspiring way. We rejoice with them and Brother Cook in this glorious success in Christian salesmanship.

NEW OFFICERS FOR 1941

At this time full attention should be given to church nominating committee work. It is increasingly evident that we are moving into a time when the programme of the church can only be maintained by fully consecrated men and women. These days of strain reveal our weaknesses, and more and more we must receive strength from the inexhaustible resources at our command. Excellent counsel has already been given us on the work of the nominating committee.

This cause owes much to the loyal and faithful service of local church organizations, for it is there that the real work of the church is accomplished. May this spirit of loyalty and consecration ever be found in our midst.

G. D. KING.

Bucks. and Berks. in Conference Session

“LIVE a day at a time,” how true! that's just what we have to do these days—but, don't leave out the planning!

Even in the midst of an uncertain, stormy world, red with danger, the work of God goes on and on and on. It must still keep going on, so do not stop; just plan the work and, well, let God work the plan.

Such was the spirit of the brethren in the north-western district as they appointed a time and place for the believers of Bucks. and Berks. to meet in fellowship.

No doubts, no fears, with just the hope gleaming bright of a full Sabbath-day's refreshing in store—scattered folk, together with a goodly number from Slough and High Wycombe, wended their way to the Reading church.

With such a glorious morning, a flower-decked church, a welcome smile, a warm hand-shake—who couldn't enter into the spirit of the motto which met our gaze: Surrender Everything to Christ? Oh! it was good to feel part of one large whole once more. And now for the happenings of the day.

Picture if you can the famous barrage balloon; it is unique, it is peculiar, different from any other object, and as it rests upon the surface of the earth it is eager, expectant, restless, longing to rise higher, still higher into the vast unknown; content to leave this world in search for new and loftier heights.

This was our experience. Like the barrage balloon our sole desire to attain new spiritual heights intensified as the Sabbath-school continued in prayer, praise, and study. Our minds were awakened and led into new channels of thought as Pastor C. R. Bonney conducted the lesson review. “It is expedient for you that I go away,” said Jesus; and with the parting promise came the commission, “Share with people the secret of the cross; the secret that to you means sanctification, redemption, and eternal victory.”

Brother R. Bainbridge, in his lesson talk, led us still higher, away from the material things of this sin-stricken world and we realized afresh the power that is behind us. The

(Continued on page 6.)

Statement of Tithes and Offerings for British Union

SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

NAME OF CHURCH OR COMPANY	Mem-ber-ship	Tithe	Tithe per Capita	Sabbath-School Offerings Inc. 13th S.	Young People's Offering	Harvest Ingathering	Annual Offerings	Miscellaneous	Week of Sacrifice	Big Week	Total Offerings	Offer-ings per Capita
Bath	21	32 8 0	1 10 10	4 17 9		11 14 5					16 12 2	15 9
Bournemouth	88	133 1 7	1 10 3	22 10 10	5 3	159 4 7					182 0 8	2 1 4
Brighton	58	113 4 3	1 19 1	21 1 1		56 10 7			3 18 0		81 9 8	1 8 1
Bristol	103	126 5 11	1 4 6	20 12 3	8 11	73 4 11					94 6 1	17 1
Cambridge	38	48 3 7	1 5 4	5 19 4		15 5 10			7 6		21 12 8	11 4
Chiswick	98	128 19 10	1 6 3	23 19 1	10 6	95 19 6					120 9 1	1 4 7
Clacton	24	8 2 0	6 9	10 0		16 10 9			1 10 0		18 10 9	15 5
Clapham	67	31 15 6	9 6	6 13 10		53 15 8			16 6		61 6 0	18 4
Colchester	30	17 2 10	11 5	3 14 6		25 3 8					28 18 2	19 4
Croscombe	27	30 15 4	1 2 9	5 18 0	16 0	20 0 7					26 14 7	19 9
Croydon	45	12 10 3	5 6	3 16 2		41 8 4				3 0	45 7 6	1 0 2
Ealing	51	75 14 2	1 9 8	8 11 5	5 1	40 5 7					49 2 1	19 3
Edmonton	47	30 5 5	12 10	6 19 10	1 1 9	34 16 11			1 2 6		44 1 0	18 9
Enfield Wash.	21	20 10 9	19 6	3 9 5		22 1 6					25 10 11	1 4 4
Exeter	33	40 15 9	1 4 8	7 1 3		14 8 10					21 10 1	13 0
Folkestone	36	24 1 11	13 4	2 13 9	3 5	26 17 0			17 3		30 11 5	17 0
Forest Gate	39	39 8 9	1 0 2	7 3 8		30 3 5					37 7 1	19 2
Gillingham	30	50 2 6	1 13 5	4 2 7	9	20 7 7					24 10 11	16 4
Harlesden	34	31 18 11	18 9	5 7 8		35 10 6					40 18 2	1 4 0
Hastings	20	37 9 4	1 17 6	5 13 9		7 1 6					12 15 3	12 9
H. Wycombe	19	28 15 5	1 10 3	5 3 0	8 3	51 14 8					57 5 11	3 0 3
Holloway	196	215 14 8	1 2 0	35 19 0	1 3	79 0 10			6 0 0		121 1 1	12 4
Ilford	60	103 14 11	1 14 7	15 4 4	16 6	42 14 5					58 15 3	19 7
Ipswich	38	23 14 11	12 6	3 18 4	4 1	5 16 2			1 7 0		11 5 7	5 11
Lewisham	60	121 7 2	2 0 5	10 4 10		53 1 10					63 6 8	1 1 1
Lowestoft	52	30 15 9	11 10	1 15 6	7 10	21 1 2					23 4 6	8 11
Luton	28	33 14 3	1 4 1	7 12 4		32 19 0			17 0		41 8 4	1 9 7
Norwich	51	54 17 1	1 1 6	8 6 5	1 0 8	19 5 2					28 12 3	11 3
Plymouth	90	165 4 11	1 16 9	27 2 0	12 11	80 4 6			1 2 11		109 2 4	1 4 3
Portsmouth	52	82 12 0	1 11 9	10 6 5	1 14 7	47 14 9					59 15 9	1 3 0
Reading	49	57 0 0	1 3 3	24 8 6		21 2 3				18 0 0	63 10 9	1 5 11
Romford	34	37 6 9	1 1 11	6 1 4		28 8 6				5 0	34 14 10	1 0 5
Southampton	57	83 17 4	1 9 0	13 15 4	14 7	50 9 11			1 10 0		66 9 10	1 3 4
Southend	53	51 11 5	19 5	10 0 0		17 7 10					27 7 10	10 4
Southstoke	9	15 4 2	1 13 10	10 15 10		31 11 3					42 7 1	4 14 2
Stanbor'h Park	377	754 8 10	2 0 5	114 2 8		178 5 6			6 14 7		299 2 9	15 10
Torquay	40	34 8 6	17 3	7 14 2		46 1 2					53 15 4	1 6 10
Walthamstow	62	190 15 9	3 1 6	30 0 0	8 11	97 17 1		1 0 0	26 13 0		155 19 0	2 10 3
Watford	69	96 11 9	1 8 0	17 17 7	1 12 0	43 14 0			1 1 9		64 5 4	18 8
Wimbledon	102	151 17 4	1 9 9	20 17 3	15 8	73 9 10			1 6 6	2 6	96 11 9	18 11
Wood Green	64	126 12 5	1 19 6	10 14 6	17 6	40 1 8				1 10	51 15 6	16 2
Yarmouth	47	28 11 5	12 2	7 4 2		17 5 4					24 9 6	10 5
Bedford	10	6 17 6	13 9	9 2		3 15 0			7 6		4 11 8	9 2
Bromley	11	4 19 6	9 0	1 13 8		8 14 4					10 8 0	18 11
Carlton Col.	9	16 0	1 9			5 0 0					5 0 0	11 2
Chelmsford	16	37 10 0	2 6 10	3 2 10		24 7 1					27 9 11	1 14 4
Cheltenham	22	30 19 1	1 8 1	6 3 11	17 6	47 16 6			1 19 9		56 17 8	2 11 9
Dereham	6	8 15 9	1 9 3	1 5 6		8 7 11					9 13 5	1 12 8
Eastbourne	10	12 3 6	1 4 4	5 6		19 9					1 5 3	2 6
Ferndown	6	6 4 2	1 0 8	1 9 1		24 5 10					25 14 11	4 5 9
Gloucester	12	20 13 6	1 14 6	3 5 5		7 7 11					10 13 4	17 9
Harrow	12	17 1 2	1 8 5	6 5 7		19 5 5			1 10 0		27 1 0	2 5 1
I. of Wight	9	8 6 3	18 6	1 13 6		5 15 0					7 8 6	16 6
Medstead	11	20 12 10	1 17 6	6 2 5		21 7 8			7 0	19 0	28 16 1	2 12 5
Poole	13	8 7 0	12 10	2 2 8		11 3 3					13 5 11	1 0 5
Salisbury	14	13 2 0	18 9	4 11 10		13 15 6					18 7 4	1 6 3
Slough	10	17 10 2	1 15 0	4 16 9		1 3 11					6 0 8	12 0
St. Austell	7	7 11 6	1 1 7	2 2 0		18 10 8					20 12 8	2 18 11
Swindon	8	12 6 0	1 10 9	4 8 9		12 19 0					17 7 9	2 3 7
W.S. Mare	8	25 3 1	3 2 10	14 4 4		13 6 5					27 10 9	3 8 10
Weymouth	17	17 3 11	1 0 3	1 18 7	10 0	19 10 4					21 18 11	1 5 9
Isolated	415	682 9 8	1 12 1	104 9 3		132 13 6			6 4 6		273 8 5	13 2
Totals 1940	3174	4480 5 11	1 8 2	740 10 5	14 13 11	2280 3 6		1 0 0	65 13 3	19 12 6	3121 13 7	19 8
Totals 1939	3199	4873 3 0	1 10 6	811 0 3	28 9 8	2467 13 10	1 0 0	6 10 0	384 3 6	23 13 9	3722 11 0	1 3 3
Increase	- 25	-392 17 1	-2 4	-70 9 10	-13 15 9	-187 10 4	-1 0 0	-5 10 0	-318 10 3	-4 1 3	-600 17 5	-3 7

SCOTTISH MISSION

Aberdeen	33	22 4 7	13 6	5 13 3	3 3	69 4 9			1 10 6		76 11 9	2 6 5
Edinburgh	65	62 12 0	19 3	11 2 4		118 10 9					129 13 1	1 19 11
Glasgow	93	151 1 1	1 12 6	25 19 2	1 14 0	203 7 3					231 0 5	2 9 8
Kirkcaldy	10	16 15 0	1 13 6	6 5 3		17 17 9					24 3 0	2 8 4
Dundee	18											
Stirling	8	21 2 7	2 12 10	4 1 3		12 5 3					16 6 6	2 0 10
Uddingston	8			3 15 0		14 10 6					18 5 6	2 5 8
Isolated	61	91 15 10	1 10 1	10 2 9		37 16 8		2 0 0	1 0 0		50 19 5	16 9
Totals 1940	296	365 11 1	1 2 8	66 19 0	1 17 3	473 12 11		2 0 0	2 10 6		546 19 8	1 17 0
Totals 1939	302	336 18 8	1 2 4	71 8 0	5 9	321 4 7		4 1 0	23 2 10	5 18 0	426 0 2	1 8 3
Increase	-6	28 12 5	4	-4 9 0	1 11 6	152 8 4		-2 1 0	-20 12 4	-5 18 0	120 19 6	8 9

IRISH MISSION

Belfast	54	81 16 11	1 10 4	19 3 8		73 5 3		3 0 0			95 8 11	1 15 4
Dublin	36	65 13 11	1 16 6	12 19 9	8 3			5 0			13 13 0	7 7
Kilmoye	13	8 17 0	13 7	1 17 0	8 0						2 5 0	3 6
Larne	7	3 5 6	9 4			20 18 3		15 0			21 13 3	3 1 11
Lisburn	7	16 12 8	2 7 6	7 2 2	6 6	34 4 10					41 13 6	5 19 1
Londonderry	6	5 2 0	17 0	2 8 6		22 0 0					24 8 6	4 1 5
Shankill	35	26 15 3	15 4	8 1 11		75 14 4		5 10 0			89 6 3	2 11 0
Isolated	52	52 7 0	1 0 2	19 3		38 0 0		4 4 0			43 3 3	16 7
Totals 1940	210	260 10 3	1 4 10	52 12 3	1 2 9	264 2 8		13 14 0			331 11 8	1 11 7
Totals 1939	197	185 10 1	18 10	56 12 2	1 8 7	345 7 0	5 0 0	13 0 11		12 9	422 1 5	2 2 10
Increase	13	75 0 2	6 0	-3 19 11	-5 10	-81 4 4	-5 0 0	13 1	-12 9		-90 9 9	-11 3

Conference for the Quarter ended Sept. 30, 1940

WELSH MISSION

NAME OF CHURCH OR COMPANY	Mem-ship	Tithe	Tithe per Capita	Sabbath School Offerings Inc. 13th S.	Young People's Offering	Harvest Ingathering's	Annual Offerings	Miscellaneous	Week of Sacrifice	Big Week	Total Offerings	Offerings per Capita
Barry Dock	26	50 4 10	1 18 8	9 4 3		6 6 8					15 10 9	11 11
Blaenavon	8	3 1 7	7 8			3 12 8					3 12 8	9 1
Cardiff	65	70 12 11	1 1 9	21 9 8		48 15 0					70 4 8	1 1 7
Hereford	11	24 15 6	2 5 1	6 16 2		14 11 1					21 7 3	1 18 10
Milford Haven	5	8 0 6	1 12 1	3 17 0		8 8 6					12 5 6	2 9 1
Newport Mon.	101	94 15 8	18 9	13 16 2	5 3	157 2 1					171 3 6	1 13 11
Porth	9	4 3 2	9 3	1 5 11		10 2 0					11 7 11	1 5 4
Swansea	37	33 4 0	17 11	12 14 5		55 15 9					68 10 2	1 17 0
Aberdare	10	13 9 1	1 6 11	4 0 6		7 0 0			2 0		4 2 6	8 3
Abertillery	7	18 0	2 7	6 2		4 7 8					4 13 11	13 5
Dowlais	5	18 6	7 8	15 0		7 0 0					7 15 0	1 11 0
Henllan	5	6 5 0	1 5 9	1 8 11		15 14 4					17 13 3	3 10 8
Llanelli	8					7 0 0					7 0 0	17 6
Rhos	9	9 4 6	1 0 6	2 5 2		2 10 8					4 17 0	10 9
Rhyl	25	46 9 2	17 2	8 15 0		73 8 10				1 2	82 3 10	3 5 9
Risca	4	4 18 9	1 4 8			6 5 0					6 5 0	1 11 3
Shotton	7	8 4 8	1 3 6	1 15 8		5 7 0					7 2 8	1 0 5
Shrewsbury	13	16 15 4	1 5 10	3 11 5		10 10 0					14 1 5	1 1 7
Isolated	111	143 19 6	1 5 11	12 16 11		255 0 6					277 17 5	2 10 1
Totals 1940	484	541 0 8	1 3 3	105 8 4	5 3	701 17 8			2 0	1 2	807 14 5	1 14 8
Totals 1939	456	453 6 8	19 11	97 18 11	16 8	496 6 0			18 12 7	5 0	613 19 2	1 6 11
Increase	10	88 14 0	3 4	7 9 5	-11 5	205 11 8			-18 10 7	-3 10	193 15 3	7 9

NORTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

Birmingham S.	48	68 18 0	1 8 8	13 7 2	8 0	71 18 1			15 0		86 8 3	1 16 0
Blackburn	10	4 17 0	9 8	1 10 5		6 10 11					8 1 4	16 1
Bolton	8	1 19 0	4 10	1 18 5		10 13 6					12 11 11	1 11 6
Bradford	33	55 2 4	1 13 5	6 19 6	3 10	36 16 9					44 0 1	1 6 8
Coventry	58	97 1 11	1 13 6	18 2 8	1 5 9	23 8 8			4 9		43 1 10	14 10
Darlington	41	22 14 0	11 0	3 16 6	10 9	89 15 0					94 2 3	2 5 11
Derby	47	70 17 4	1 10 2	10 18 5	1 1 8	133 16 2					145 16 3	3 2 0
Grimsby	15	30 19 8	2 1 3	3 12 10		59 18 6					63 11 4	4 4 9
Handsworth	64	106 9 7	1 13 3	12 16 7	2 8	48 0 3					60 19 6	19 0
Hull	106	133 9 7	1 5 2	24 0 1		89 8 8		1 0 0			114 8 5	1 1 7
Kettering	39	61 11 3	1 11 7	13 6 7	8 6	44 10 3					58 5 4	1 9 10
Leeds	73	122 7 11	1 13 6	16 13 7		86 11 0			1 7 7		104 12 2	1 8 8
Leicester	35	47 0 10	1 6 10	10 16 10		58 15 2					69 12 0	1 19 9
Lincoln	16	26 6 1	1 12 10	6 3 6		6 16 9					13 0 3	15 7
Liverpool	88	106 19 9	1 4 4	11 14 10	14 0	76 17 7			1 18 0		91 4 5	1 0 9
Manchester	88	100 19 11	1 2 11	23 5 4	1 5 11	55 6 4					79 17 7	18 1
Mid'brough	45	30 13 6	13 7	15 5 0	4 4	23 0 2					38 11 4	17 2
Newbold	126	158 11 6	1 5 2	25 8 7	1 15 3	88 11 1			10 0		116 4 11	18 5
Newcastle	69	90 3 1	1 6 2	18 7 1		171 7 0					189 14 1	2 15 0
N. Shields	20	24 5 0	1 4 3	1 18 1		35 14 9					37 12 10	1 17 8
Nottingham	69	114 12 6	1 13 3	18 14 4	1 3 9	66 16 4					86 14 5	1 5 2
Rotherham	31	29 12 2	19 1	5 10 11		18 2 1					23 13 0	15 3
Rushden	13	26 6 0	2 0 5	2 10 6	3 6	21 4 3					23 18 3	1 16 9
Sheffield	54	51 0 1	18 11	6 1 5		50 16 3					56 17 8	1 1 1
S. Shields	9	4 12 6	10 3	2 12 2		22 0 0					24 12 2	2 14 8
Stockport	29	40 7 9	1 7 10	4 19 4	11 2	26 17 6					32 8 0	1 2 4
Stoke	34	60 2 3	1 15 4	8 12 5	1 0 9	75 10 0			1 0 1		86 3 3	2 10 8
Stretford	54	56 1 1	1 0 9	8 1 5		53 8 2					61 9 7	1 2 9
Wakefield	29	30 17 11	1 1 4	4 5 4		11 12 4					15 17 8	10 11
Wellingboro	13	22 0 3	1 13 10	4 17 1		18 4 3					23 1 4	1 15 6
Wolverhampton	15	33 1 7	2 4 1	4 16 8		31 17 5			3 0 0		39 14 1	2 12 11
Worcester	25	28 6 3	1 4 3	7 16 2		24 12 7					32 8 9	1 5 11
York	36	42 19 0	1 3 10	24 12 6		75 9 9					100 2 3	2 15 7
Barnsley	16	13 18 2	17 4	2 3 11		18 4 10			6		18 19 3	1 3 8
Bromsgrove	7	11 19 10	1 14 3	2 1 0	1 11	13 6 8					15 9 7	2 4 2
Doncaster	11	8 18 7	16 3	1 6 10		8 8 3					9 15 1	17 10
Kid'minstr.	6	5 3 6	17 3	1 8 0		9 19 1					11 7 1	1 17 10
Killamarsh	14	21 15 1	1 11 1	4 11 10	9 3	29 5 4					34 6 5	2 9 0
Mansfield	11	26 6 2	2 7 10	6 18 8		16 0 7					22 19 3	2 1 10
Scarb'ro'	13	23 1 3	1 15 6	15 9 0		32 10 2					47 19 2	3 13 9
Skegness	9	10 19 8	1 4 5	3 16 8		10 1 9					13 18 5	1 10 11
Sutton	17	27 10 6	1 12 4	3 0 0		10 19 10					13 19 10	16 5
Ulverston	8	28 5 1	3 10 8	2 8 7		4 5 8					6 14 3	16 9
Wallasey	14	19 7 6	1 7 8	5 6 10		20 3 7					25 10 5	1 16 5
Isolated	263	495 9 4	1 17 8	50 0 1		184 18 3			16 5 9	5 0	251 9 1	19 2
Totals 1940	1829	2594 1 3	1 8 4	442 3 8	11 11 0	2071 3 0			22 4 3	4 2 5	2551 4 4	1 7 11
Totals 1939	1876	2509 14 7	1 6 9	423 3 1	10 4 7	1382 5 1			125 2 7	11 12 9	1952 8 1	1 0 10
Increase	-47	84 6 8	1 7	19 0 7	1 6 5	688 17 11			-102 18 4	-7 10 4	598 16 3	7 1

UNION TOTALS

B.U.C.		3 10 0										
Grand Totals	5975	8244 19 2	1 7 7	1407 13 8	29 10 2	5790 19 9					7359 3 8	1 4 8
Grand Tot. 1939	6030	8358 13 0	1 7 9	1460 2 5	41 5 3	5012 16 6	6 0 0	10 11 0	564 2 5	42 2 3	7136 19 10	1 3 8
Increase	-55	113 13 10	-2	-52 8 9	-11 15 1	778 3 3	-6 0 0	-7 11 0	-459 18 5	-18 6 2	222 3 10	1 0

Bucks. and Berks. in Conference Session

(Continued from page 3.)

Holy Spirit of God awaits our demand and reception.

We were indeed glad to have with us a real, live missionary, Pastor G. Lewis, who will soon return to his post of duty—the once dark continent of Africa. He told us a little of the girls' school work in Kisii. Surely the harvest is great but the funds are small for reaping. Yes, the balloon is still rising—the Spirit of God was present—somehow it made us the more sympathetic toward those wee heathen girlies. The Sabbath-school offering plate could have told a remarkable tale.

We were more than pleased to welcome Pastor G. D. King. In his discourse we were led to search our own hearts. Let's be honest with ourselves. Where do we stand? There were once ten virgins; five were wise, five foolish. All ten had the Advent knowledge—only five the Advent faith. Ah! the Advent faith makes all the difference. Faith changes things; faith looks up; faith rises higher and higher until it grasps in reality the things of God.

It was good to be present. We were enjoying a rich spiritual blessing but, like the balloon still slowly

ascending, our zeal for the Master must increase. There were new heights yet to attain.

Of course we were all, both young and old, glad to see Pastor E. R. Warland once again and addressing us he said, "There are two words in God's Book that we all know. They are possibly the first words we ever spoke—wonderful words. Can you guess?" Here they are, "Our Father." We studied together the various attributes of our heavenly Father; what a blessed thing it is to know and realize that with Him there is no variableness neither shadow of turning. He knoweth what things we have need of. He is our Comforter. He is our Sympathizer. Can we measure our Father's love? Why, it is higher than the heavens above, deeper than the deepest sea—as far as the east is from the west.

In the Young People's Rally we once again listened to experiences illustrating the mighty power of the Gospel in far-away Africa. We enjoyed, too, a little insight into the daily routine work of our missionary visitor. Surely the work of God knows no bounds.

All the services throughout the day were interspersed with various items of inspiring music. The solo-gem rendered by Mrs. Bonney in the morning session was indeed "A song of praise." We would like to say "Thank you" to the two visitors from Watford, Miss Grace Tamblin and Miss Janet Hyde. They came with a song in their hearts and the message of their duet remains with us still, "To do Thy will is all I need." The septette and male quartette were supplied by the Reading church and the mixed quartette rendered by Mr. and Mrs. J. Mason together with Pastor and Mrs. Bonney represented the churches of High Wycombe and Slough. The special song service gave us all the happy privilege of mingling our voices in praise to the Lord.

We would thank God for the blessed hours we so much enjoyed in fellowship with those of like precious faith. The members of this district, under the leadership of Pastor Bonney and Brother Bainbridge, rejoice, as they continue their search for still new and loftier heights, until they reach the heavenly shores.

EUNICE POWELL.

"Real Pleasure" for Isolated Members

MONTH by month we have posted our new youth paper, *The Progressive Volunteer*, to over thirty members of our isolated church. Many of these are older members who are trying to keep as young as possible, as well as encouraging us in our efforts for youth, by having this little paper each month. A number have already renewed their subscription for the new year—a sure token of appreciation of its helpfulness.

A letter received to-day from a sister in Essex reads, "I have real pleasure in enclosing another year's subscription for the enlightening little paper, *Progressive Volunteer*. The November number, I think, has excelled many others, and who composed the poem, 'Take Cover,' by F. A. F.? I hope to make copies of it and pass around to one or two acquaintances in my new surroundings."

Other isolated members in our conference would enjoy this monthly magazine full of inspiring messages, "enlightening" information, and news of our missionary volunteer society work in the British Union. The cost, including postage, is only 2/6 for the whole year. To those who send cash now we will send, without extra charge, copies for the last three months of the year—that is, fifteen months for the price of one year! But you must act without delay, so write to-day.

A year's subscription for the *Progressive Volunteer* would be a splendid Christmas present for any young person who may be in the services, or evacuated to a place where normal contact with the church is not possible. We will be glad to post it for you regularly to any address from now till the end of 1941. Just send a postal order for 2s. 6d. to Pastor E. R. Warland, 780 St. Albans Road, Watford, Herts.

E. R. WARLAND.

♦ ♦ ♦

Baptism in Bristol

ON Sabbath afternoon, November 2nd, a further baptismal service was held in our church at Bristol when twelve believers were added to the membership. There is still considerable interest which we trust will lead to further fruit.

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It was encouraging to see two men and their wives go forward together. One of these was first found by our colporteur-evangelist, Brother H. Nicholls. We thank God for this manifestation of His saving grace.

MISS E. GUNTRIP.

O. M. DORLAND.

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Baptisms at Southampton

Two baptismal services have been held in our Southampton church building during the present year. The first was held in the late spring when one sister followed her Lord. She has since been a source of strength and encouragement to her fellow-members.

The second baptism took place on Sabbath, November 2nd. At this time three brethren united with the church. We believe that they, too, will prove a blessing to their brethren and sisters in Christ. We were glad

to have with us Pastor W. J. Young on the first occasion, and Brother J. H. Parkin on the second. The services of these workers were greatly appreciated.

It is interesting to record that all four candidates came into touch with the Advent cause, in part at least, through home missionary endeavours. One had relatives in the faith, and had known the truth for many years before taking her stand. Another learned of the message through *Present Truth*, which had been faithfully delivered by a lay-member. Another developed a sincere love for the truth through correspondence. And the last of the group received some instruction from a lay-member before receiving studies by the minister of the church. We are grateful for the splendid help we receive from our lay-workers. May God continue to bless them in their efforts to win souls for the kingdom.

F. A. SPEARING.

NORTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

President: Pastor R. S. Joyce

Office Address: 22 Zulla Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham

Telephone: Nottingham 66312

Coventry Clippings

THE tithe for the nine months ended September 30th this year was £258. For the same period of 1939 it was £104.

The Sabbath-school contributed to the work overseas, the sum of £52. In 1939 the figure was £36. Of the eighty-three members, thirty gained perfect record cards for last quarter, and forty others missed by only *one* failure. The teachers' meeting is held after the mid-week service. This gives the teachers time before classes meet to adjust their thoughts to the instruction received.

The Missionary Volunteer societies show a gain of £4. 6s. 5d. over last year.

The Harvest Ingathering Campaign, in which fifty collectors took part in spite of the age limits, totalled over £170. In 1939, the total reached was £72, while in 1938 it was £23.

The majority of the members attend the weekly prayer meeting regularly. It is one of our best meetings.

Another baptism is on the way.

We sincerely thank God for His blessing and help as we consider the way He has blessed the church so far this year.

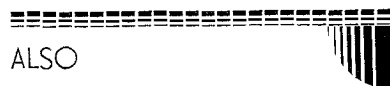
S. G. JOYCE.

◆ ◆ ◆

Stockton-on-Tees

GOSPEL evangelism under unique conditions can well describe our 1940 effort. We arrived here in a time of cold and snow. Our Bible-worker, Miss Mitchell, arrived a few weeks later in a blizzard, and it seemed that "winter's chilling blast" would entirely frustrate our Gospel campaign in this new town. War conditions also provided us with many obstacles. Police permission had to be obtained before we could hold a public service in the local theatre. Our handbills carried a warning—bring your gas-masks—and at the door a "spotter" was on the alert lest the enemy appear over our heads.

Three well-attended services were held in the Stockton Hippodrome, and afterward nine meetings were conducted in the Temperance Hall. We then rented a well-appointed



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hall in the High Street and gave it the name of Bible Institute. Since the beginning of May we have held services here on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Sabbaths. They have been enthusiastic gatherings and the message has been well received. All the testing truths have been faithfully presented, both by myself from the platform and by Miss Mitchell in the homes. On Sabbath, October 26th, we held our first baptism. Then fourteen new people joined the cause, eleven by baptism and three by vote. These are only the first-fruits, as many more will undoubtedly identify themselves with us later.

The people of the Apostolic Church very kindly loaned us their church and baptistery for the occasion. Many of our members from Middlesbrough gave unstinted service in the early days of our campaign. They staffed our hall and liberally distributed the handbills and contributed many sacred musical items. We are but at the beginning of a new and strong work in this north-eastern town and we believe the prospects for the future are as bright as the promises of God.

W. R. MAUDSLEY.

Notes from the Union President

SOUL-WINNING IN WAR TIME

WE are asking our members everywhere, prayerfully to remember the men and women whose duty is wholly concerned with the winning of souls for Christ's kingdom. Public evangelism has taken on new difficulties under war conditions, but it must not stop. Everywhere our workers are planning to continue their evangelistic campaigns, and they will make a much larger use of door to door literature efforts in connection with their public meetings. One of the problems has to do with night meetings under blackout and raid conditions, and this can probably be met by afternoon meetings, which are possible everywhere though they may be smaller than the former night meetings. Another problem is due to increased costs of maintaining evangelistic work, whether it be by public effort, or by the wider use of literature. What we should like our people to remember is that everywhere evangelism of an aggressive soul-winning type is possible and imperative. Gifts for the work of evangelism throughout the winter months are sorely needed, and will be welcomed from any source.

CHANGES IN PERSONS

C. A. REEVES, who went to Canada for the benefit of his health some months ago, has decided to accept an invitation to take up evangelistic work there for the duration of the war. We are glad he has made a good recovery, and wish him the Lord's blessing in that needy land.

F. W. Coppock is leaving the work in North England to join the Granose factory, and R. A. Freeth, also from North England, joins the workers at the Press. We wish both these men the blessing of God also.

WEDDED TO THE CAUSE OF GOD

It has been said on the authority of long experience that many apostasies commence when people forsake tithe-paying. It is certainly true that the staunchest Adventists are wedded to the cause by their practice of tithing.

"Great objects are accomplished by this system. If one and all would accept it, each would be made a vigilant and faithful treasurer for God; and there would be no want of means with which to carry forward the great work of sounding the last message of warning to the world. The treasury will be full if all accept this system, and the contributors will not be left the poorer. Through every investment made, they will become more wedded to the cause of present truth. They will be 'laying up in store' for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."—"Testimonies," Vol. 3, page 389.

H. W. LOWE.

Nominating Committees, Please Note!

THE 1939 House-to-House Collections Act which governs all our Ingathering work, requires that a local agent be appointed in every church and group. A recent British Union Committee Action makes provision for the selecting of these agents along with the other church officers when the annual nominating committees do their work. It is requested that leaders and nominating committees take note of the new ruling:

WHEREAS, The Harvest Ingathering work as it is now conducted calls for the careful selection of capable men and women to act as local agents,

Resolved, That the nominating committees be counselled to give consideration to the appointing of local agents for the Harvest Ingathering work along with the regular officers of the church.

In order that committees might have guidance as to the kind of person who should be sought after to take over this work, we are outlining some of the duties which go with the office.

1. The local agent should, as in the case of all other church officers, work in close co-operation with the church committee.

2. He should receive and become responsible for all the official paraphernalia sent from headquarters for the church use. This includes certificates, badges, box labels, receipt books, and the two books which are to contain a complete record of all the collecting material issued, and cash received.

3. He should have some experience

in the keeping of records and the handling of cash, particularly in the case of large churches. The two books mentioned must be kept in a condition fit for inspection at any time.

The work done by the local agent should not in any respect interfere with that of the home missionary leader or home missionary secretary. These two officers will work together as before, in the general promotion of the campaign. Territory must be carefully assigned and literature given out. There is also the care of the goal chart and many other duties incident to the collecting work.

Complete instructions will be sent out to local agents and others carrying responsibilities in connection with the collecting work immediately preceding the campaign period.

J. HARKER.

"Great Controversy" Reading Plan

Assignment for December

December 1st-7th	Review Chapters 26-29
December 8th-14th	Review Chapters 30-33
December 15th-21st	Review Chapters 34-38
December 22nd-28th	Review Chapters 39-42

THE Editor acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following for the Distress Fund: 10s., P.O.W.; £2, Mrs. B.; 5s., C.; £1, Anon.

PRINTING.—C. Russell, Newton Street, Macclesfield.

MAN wanted immediately for Slough food factory. Must be mechanically minded. Also girl for packing. Sabbath privileges. Write or apply: Maeline Food Factory, Ltd., Trading Estate, Slough.

WANTED.—Bed-sitting room and attendance or board near Stanborough Park. Write c/o Editor, The Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts.

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SUNSET CALENDAR

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	Lon'n	Not'm	Car'ff	Edin	Bel't
Nov. 29th	4.56	4.53	5.09	4.46	5.04
Dec. 6th	4.52	4.48	5.05	4.41	4.59

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—Nov. 28th

EDITOR: W. L. EMMERSON