

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

Organ of the Seventh-Day
Adventist Church in
Britain.

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Memories for the Old Year, Hopes for the New

By H. W. LOWE

THIS age is ruthless in almost everything. It spurns the old-fashioned, it laughs at yesterday's ideas, it sneers at spiritual standards and moral values, and it forsakes the God of its fathers.

We must not rush forward into the New Year without a backward glance, as though we were afraid of something in a darkened past. We are exhorted, as were Israel of old, to "remember *all* the way" by which the Lord has led us in the past days. (Deut. 8:2.) "God's mercy, His sustaining providence, His never-to-be-forgotten deliverances, are to be recounted, step by step."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, page 210. We are to learn even from the mistakes of the past, according to the Bible and also the *Testimonies*. (See also Deut. 9:7.)

VIVID MEMORIES

My backward glance leaves many indelible memories, numerous causes of gratitude to God, and many reasons for regret and for earnest re-searching after God.

It was a bad old year politically, but it began to teach us many lessons. I shall not soon forget some of the prayer meetings of the Week of Prayer. In early mornings before the "spring of the day" (1 Sam. 9:26) we had several times an almost crowded church at Watford, and the vision of the church at prayer should remind us that just there lies the solution of all problems. Not drive, not energy,

not personal ambition, not organization will finish the work, but prayer-sought power.

We had other bright records in 1940. Our Ingathering Campaign was one. We could do nothing in Eire, our youth under eighteen in London and under sixteen elsewhere, were unable to help, every city required special police permission which made heaps of work for our faithful secretaries, and there were other irritating difficulties. But God's people rose to the occasion and eclipsed all previous accomplishments.

It was not a good year, humanly speaking, to start to enlarge our school facilities, and, truth to tell, there was more than one doubting Jonah! But God saved us from our doubts and He sent a stream of children and He found a team of heart-whole teachers, with the result that money also came and the Secondary School is still running ahead of us.

Then here comes our struggling health food work. At times an ailing patient, at others a hopeful invalid, it might have been expected to fade away under war conditions with restrictions on imports, with rationing complexes, purchasing licences, and many other annoyances. But lo! we have never had such a work. To refuse one thousand pounds' worth of

business a week, to have a big chain stores running after us for business, to find it difficult to get enough Adventist labour, to have to work the plant night and day, and incidentally, to verge on over-working the staff—all this looks like a new day. We shall not retain all this business after the war, but surely we shall hold some and we have a vision of a work that will grow to larger factory facilities and that will become a strong financial pillar in the work of God.

And how our colporteurs have amazed us. Who thought they might be beaten by forbidding conditions? As in other things, there was a slight initial timidity in a few worthy souls, but then our doughty bookmen took second wind, and how they charged ahead! Sales went up and up and they finished the year £2,500 beyond the previous year's. One colporteur said recently that it had never been so easy to sell books. Others found, like our Ingatherers, that half bombed-out areas yielded amazing results. Both our Press and our Granoose factory have given liberally for our field evangelism, between them maintaining seven or eight evangelistic campaigns, thus binding up together the commercial with the soul-saving phases of our work.

THE SPIRIT THAT AMAZES

Our laymen and ministers now crowd into the story. The general unsettlement since September, 1938,

led to just a suspicion of perplexity. But, like the general public, our people soon settled to the situation with fine spirit. There was very little moving into or out of the country by timid souls, and practically all took the view that if God called us to live and work in a certain place in times of peace, it was for us to stay in the place of His choosing and to realize that God is greater than our human situations.

The result was that our church life went on, and our tithes and offerings went up. Tithes are up by £2,500 and offerings to missions were up by £1,600 compared with last year. Harvest Ingathering which goes to missions, was £811 above the amount for 1939. There is progress in every field in both tithes and offerings. Altogether it was a grand achievement for which God must be praised.

Our Newbold college went peacefully through its normal school work with a good enrolment, and in contrast to the last war, all our ministers were allowed to remain at their work. With very few exceptions (and those mostly attributable to lack of care on the part of certain people) our laymen have been allowed either to remain in present work or to find nationally important work where they could serve God conscientiously.

Our medical institutions which would otherwise have become exceedingly burdensome financially, even had we been able to keep them, or very troublesome had they been requisitioned for any other purpose, are now operated by the Ministry of Health. Such problems as we have had there have been minor and not nearly as numerous as we had expected under war conditions.

FACING OUR DIFFICULTIES SQUARELY

We must fearlessly face a few less encouraging features as we look back though 1940. Until the end of 1939 we had maintained our average gain in membership, which has been about one hundred per year for many years. That was small enough. But with war came a new problem for our evangelists. Blackouts and air raids made it very difficult to gather audiences. People became more "stay-at-home" than ever. Preachers who loved large crowds had a sore trial. Our churchmembers also encountered new problems in soul-winning. The

result has been a distinct slowing down in membership additions (exact figures for the year not available on going to press).

Thus what was always the greatest problem in this field becomes aggravated. We *must* find God's way through this situation. Ministry and laity alike need to seek God for power to lead men to Christ. The only possible explanation of continued unfruitfulness is that implied in this statement: "Those who accept the one principle of making the service and honour of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet."—*"Desire of Ages,"* page 330. It was in this connection that the Lord's servant reminded us that "our heavenly Father has a thousand ways" out of our

burdens which we know nothing about.

We certainly must find God's way out of this situation which has brought us almost to a static membership. Our existence as a people is justified only by the fact that we are saving souls for the kingdom of God, both in the ministry and among the laity.

It would be a glorious thing if 1941 should bring us to larger growth in membership to accompany the gratifying progress we have to record in so many other directions.

If the prospect looks dark, let us remember that in Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, and that God will break through with men and women whose lives are wholly His.

Stanboroughs Secondary School

By E. E. WHITE

"This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes." We can truly say that this has been true of the progress of the Stanborough Park Secondary School during the past few months. It was with some trepidation last June that "we took up our carriages and went to Jerusalem" and began to plan for the establishment of this school at headquarters.

We were greatly encouraged by the immediate increase in enrolment—from 84 to 110—which upset our carefully prepared budgets and made us increase our staff. The South England Conference kindly loaned us the services of Mr. R. Vine for the first term until we could appoint a permanent fifth teacher. We have just opened our second term with Mr. Woodfield as our fifth teacher, and again we have an increased enrolment. We registered 133 children whose ages range from five to fifteen.

We are encouraged in our work here by the keen interest shown by our brethren in all parts of the field. From Brother Elliott of the Review and Herald Publishing Assoc. came a welcome gift of £20 worth of books for the school library, from two sisters came the gift of some school text-books which are being used in the school, from another friend came a very pleasant surprise of £5 to purchase library books. An anonymous donor has founded a scholar-

ship of £12 value yearly, to be awarded to one of the senior pupils each January. The first grant of this far-seeing gift has been made to one of the senior girls. We appreciate greatly all the help that comes from these sources, for they give us greater incentive and tangible help in establishing our secondary school on a solid basis.

We still have needs, of course. We cannot start our science work until we get more room and equipment. But here again we owe our thanks to several brethren who are gathering funds for this purpose. These many offers of help for our various projects are a tremendous encouragement as we confront our daily tasks. We are hoping that these unsolicited offers will be a stimulus to other individuals to make an investment of books or money in our young people, an investment which reaps a rich harvest not only in the life to come, but also in this life, as we see the young people under our care blossoming out into young men and women of Christlike character, youth of sterling quality and calibre "who will stand for the right though the heavens fall."

From an academic standpoint we are glad to record eleven successes in the recent College of Preceptors examination, 1 Senior, 4 Junior, 4 Preliminary, and 2 Lower Forms. As

time goes on we hope to send our pupils in for Oxford school examinations; our successes in this will be a measure of the denomination's ability to carry on a secondary school.

God has verily blessed our venture of faith. Begun during war, at a time when many schools were in the throes of evacuation and lost time

through air raids, nevertheless our school hours, 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m., have not been changed. In all things we have had evidences of divine guidance throughout, so we begin the second term with confidence that "He who has begun a good work" will also complete it.

a gift of walking sticks for wounded soldiers. It does not sound like an exciting gift, but once more it provided the opportunity for the press to carry an interesting write-up concerning the Pitcairn Islanders and their religious beliefs. The island is a poor community, but we are glad they felt it necessary to do what they could to help in the dreadful struggle that is taking place to-day.

Notes from the Union President

SECONDARY SCHOOL PROGRESS

OUR members will read with interest the report in this issue from the headmaster of our Secondary School. This school is growing almost beyond our ability to cope with it. Brother White's article mentions one very interesting way in which some of our people throughout the field could help this department of our work. There must be a number of our members who would like to provide an annual scholarship for a worthy or a needy child. (It is not, of course, our plan to provide *free* education.) Others might be glad to remember a project of this kind by some form of endowment, or otherwise, in their wills. These are the days when we should realize that the time has come to utilize to the full the means God has given us. Once again we commend this school to the prayerful remembrance of our membership.

WAR AND THE REVIVAL OF CHRISTIAN SENTIMENT

WHILE there are no outstanding evidences of a nation-wide revival of religion, there are indications of a return to serious thinking about the Christian way of life. A rather remarkable document was recently published by four leaders of three great sections of the Christian church: The Church of England, the Free Churches, and the Roman Catholic Church in England. A ten-point statement on peace aims was published, including two sets of five, the first dealing with:

1. The nation's right to independence.
2. The necessity of progressive disarmament.
3. A revision of agreed conditions and the formation of a body to enforce them.
4. The just demands of nations and

minorities to be treated with sympathy.

5. The development of universal love.

The second five points are of rather more interest to us, and are as follows:

1. Extreme inequalities in wealth and possessions should be abolished.
2. All children should have equal opportunities of education.
3. The family as a social unit must be safeguarded.
4. The sense of a divine vocation must be restored to man's daily work.
5. Earth's resources should be used as God's gift to the whole human race.

How shall we as Adventists relate ourselves to these deep stirrings in the souls of men? We can, of course, see in them the embryonic forces that will ultimately lead to some form of spiritual union and domination, but it would be faithless to dismiss the matter thus. Surely we should rather pray most earnestly that God will guide, by His Holy Spirit, those sincere men, still left in the world, who are striving to recall mankind back to the spiritual way of life. The Advent movement is intensely concerned with the reformatory movements that will sweep the world in the last days. We have a part to play in that work, and it is to seize the souls of men while movements for reform are at the flood-tide, and to lead many into the last message of mercy and into preparation for Christ's kingdom.

There is an immense field for prayer to-day.

PITCAIRN PLAYS ITS PART

DOUBTLESS we were all much interested in the news which reached us at the close of the year that the Adventist Pitcairn Islanders, who number about 200, have made a contribution to the war effort in the form of

ADVENTIST BRAVERY

A FIRE-BOMB recently struck an Adventist home and gave the opportunity for the Adventist children of the family to display rather creditable bravery. They dashed out and smothered the bomb with earth, exactly according to their pre-arranged plans, and avoided what might have been something of a disaster. Another young man assisted in smothering thirty-five incendiaries in one night. We are proud of Adventist youth who conduct themselves in this way.

NEWS FROM OUR MISSIONS

BROTHER CLIFFORD, in charge of the Gold Coast Mission recently sent us a cordial letter, incidentally showing practical interest in the work at home, in which he indicates that their work is making steady progress in every direction. He states:

"We are now working on our In-gathering campaign and though conditions are a little more difficult we expect that by putting in longer hours we shall pass our goals. . . . We are fortunate in that though petrol is rationed, we are able to get sufficient to visit the churches and to do evangelistic work much as in peace time."

We also received a practical expression of interest from the other side of Africa where Brother Spencer Maxwell is in charge. Our work over there, we hear from various sources, is progressing satisfactorily, despite conditions which naturally cut off these missionaries a little more from the homeland. Prayerfully we remember all those faithful servants in lands afar.

MISSIONARY FINANCE

REPORTS in a number of religious journals lately indicate that many missionary societies face a financial situation of the utmost gravity. One of the great missionary societies has

reported that the position is "so serious as to be almost desperate."

Among the reasons given are a number due almost entirely to war conditions such as the immigration of churchmembers from London and other large cities, the cancellation of hundreds of meetings on account of blackout conditions, the calling up of young men due for military service, reduced incomes, appeals for sundry war projects, etc.

Apparently, unless the situation changes, not only will new recruits not be sent, but other missionaries with long years of creditable service will have to withdraw, etc.

One editor comments that "if world evangelization was the supreme task of the church in peace, it is not less urgent in war. . . . The truth is that any weakening of direct evangelization will inevitably react detrimentally upon the national effort. . . . To neglect to give full support to overseas missions will be to fail in

the one way in which we as Christian believers, can render our distinctive and best service to our nation's cause."

What a great joy to think that in the Advent movement we have seen no slackening off in gifts to missions. In this Union our total offerings for 1940 were £1,600 higher than in 1939.

CONGRATULATIONS

DR. BRUCE WILLIAMSON, formerly of The Stanboroughs, and now on the staff of a large London County Council hospital, recently obtained his Diploma of Psychological Medicine.

Another examination success has come to an Adventist medical student, F. G. Strong, of London, who has now qualified for medical practice.

We are glad for these successes and wish the blessing of God to rest on the men concerned.

H. W. LOWE.

This task was successfully undertaken by Brother Paul Cumings.

We commend this team-work method to all our members. Let us have many more similar cases, for surely there are friends and neighbours that our lay-members can interest in the message for these last days for whose salvation the ministry will gladly co-operate.

HEREFORD LAY-SUCCESSSES

WHILE thinking of successful work by the laity, mention must be made of the work done by Miss Stanton, of Hereford. On two occasions, this sister has brought a convert—a trophy of grace—to one of our public baptisms, one in 1939 and one in 1940. Would that we all could bring one soul to Jesus year by year. These thoughts remind us of an action taken at the last Autumn Council of the General Conference. The destiny of "earth's teeming millions presents to us a compelling challenge . . . for a more intensive soul-winning endeavour." Who will accept the challenge?

PUBLIC EVANGELISM

THE year 1940 proved a disappointing one in the field of public evangelism. Please pray systematically for the men and women in the ministry that they may be especially empowered by the Holy Ghost.

Pray for Pastor F. S. Jackson who is now conducting work in Llanelly. Pray for Pastor H. K. Munson and Miss Mason as they continue their task in Wrexham. Results will be forthcoming soon, but the task has not been easy in this gate-way town to north Wales. Brethren Conroy and Cumings continue their activities in Newport and Barry Dock respectively, but plans are being considered for them to open up new interests. Pastor Cooper, who has been resting from public work, hopes to be able to resume almost immediately.

When the final figures for 1940 are available, we feel confident that they will reveal increased faithfulness and liberality on the part of our membership. These will be published in the next issue, if at all possible.

LITERATURE SALES BY COLPORTEURS

THE final figure for colporteur sales is already available; £1,691 worth of truth-filled books were sold in the territory of the Welsh Mission

WELSH MISSION

Superintendent: Pastor S. George Hyde
Office Address: "Ventnor," Ty-glas Road, Llanishen, Cardiff
Telephone: Llanishen 600

Notes from the Superintendent

AS was reported recently, Cardiff has had a real "blitz," after having many smaller "blitzes" since the fall of France. We are glad to report that though the total havoc was severe, the members and their homes escaped damage. Relatives of members have suffered in various ways. As in other towns, the Cardiff people stood up to their ordeal wonderfully, remaining calm and ready to help in whatever way was deemed best. We are grateful to the Lord for His watchcare over His people. More than ever, we are thankful for "the angel of His presence," and all that that means to the people of God.

NEWLY-ORGANIZED COMPANIES

ELSEWHERE in this issue, the story is told of the organizing of the two companies at Caerphilly and Gelligaer. We know that Welsh members will be encouraged by this news. By common consent, the name, Gelligaer, was adopted for the new company that has for Ingathering

purposes, hitherto been known as Ystrad Mynach.

LAY SOUL-WINNING

TWO of the new members recently baptized and now members of the Caerphilly company, were brought into the Advent fellowship by Brother and Sister Rees. Moreover, these two members, a husband and his wife, were won from Roman Catholicism. We rejoice with Brother and Sister Rees in their successful endeavour. May their zeal not only continue with resultant fruitage, but also encourage many of their brethren in the Welsh Mission to join the soul-winning movement.

TEAM-WORK IN SOUL-WINNING

THIS good result further illustrates the team-work which is possible with the laity and the ministry. After bringing their converts into the fellowship of the remnant people, Brother and Sister Rees were able to call in the ministry to help prepare them for membership and baptism.

in 1940. Several students from our college contributed to this total, of course. It is a total to encourage us, especially when we recall that Brother Smart has been almost out of action. In spite of this, we show a gain in the Welsh field of no less than £739. Miss Green, one of our regular col-porteurs—we have only two—has made great progress, so much so that our committee agreed to improve her status and, instead of a Colporteur's Licence grant her Colporteur's Credentials. Our prayer is that the truth-laden literature delivered into the homes of so many, may be instrumental in leading many a soul to make preparation to meet the soon-coming Saviour.

S. G. HYDE.

Two Newly-Organized Companies

Caerphilly and Gelligaer

THE first Sabbath in the New Year was one of no little importance to the members of the two groups located in the Caerphilly and Gelligaer areas. For on that Sabbath we were able to organize them into two companies, taking the names "Caerphilly company" and "Gelligaer company" respectively.

In the case of Gelligaer, there is a membership of seventeen and sufficient brethren to lead the various departments. For the first leader, Brother Soanes was chosen. Brother Soanes is the senior brother and it was fitting that he should be asked by all concerned to accept the leadership in the first year of the company's history.

The list of officers for the year is: Leader, Brother Soanes.

Treasurer and clerk, Brother Matthews.

Sabbath-school superintendent, Brother Lewis.

Sabbath-school secretary, Brother Keith Reynolds.

H. M. leader, Brother Soanes.

H. M. secretary, Sister Stewart.

Y. P. leader, Sister Stewart.

It will be observed that there are officers and members of sufficient number and calibre to meet the requirements of a church organization and we hope to effect this before the year passes.

The way the members of this new company have co-operated with us

has been a source of great satisfaction. Their faithfulness, too, has been very encouraging. We look forward to the day, not far-distant we hope, when Gelligaer can be admitted into the sisterhood of churches within the confines of the British Union.

CAERPHILLY

The same sentiments apply to our brethren and sisters in Caerphilly. A co-operative spirit and a high degree of faithfulness have manifested themselves and given us great pleasure and satisfaction. There are nineteen members here—sufficient to organize a church. Certainly the time was overdue for organization into a company and we are glad that this step has been taken, preparatory to the not far-distant day, when Caerphilly, too, is admitted into the sisterhood of churches.

Just before the organization was effected, Brother F. Hall, the treasurer, presented us with a comparative table of the members' finances—for though not an organized company, these friends have maintained the departments just as though they were.

Here are items covering 1939 and 1940:

	1939	1940
Tithe	£48 6 3	£75 6 6
S. School ...	7 12 0	11 13 11
Har. Ing. ...	17 10 1	21 8 6
Annual Off'g	4 6	1 7 0
Messenger Off'g	7 0	1 5 0

These figures show encouraging and substantial progress. The same would apply to Gelligaer.

We rejoice that the activities and the systematic benevolence of these two companies will now find their place in the field tabulars.

The one chosen to lead the Caerphilly company during this year, 1941, is Brother Rundle, a member of many year's standing in the Advent cause. The list of officers is as follows:

Leader, Brother Rundle.

Asst. leader, Brother Rees.

Treasurer, Brother Hall.

Clerk, Sister Mary Phillips.

Sabbath-school superintendent, Sister Mrs. Phillips.

Asst. suptd, Brother Glyn Rees.

H. M. leader, Brother Nash.

H. M. secretary, Sister Mrs. Morgan.

Y. P. leaders, Sister Meyrick, Brother Dirana.

Y. P. secretary, Sister Phyllis Meyrick.

Organist, Sister Mrs. Rees.

We sincerely trust that the soul-winning urge will come upon the members of these two new companies and that their numbers will grow and that the future for them, will be as bright as the promises of God. May the Lord bless the work and members both in Caerphilly and Gelligaer is the prayer of all members of the Advent fellowship.

S. G. HYDE.

SCOTTISH MISSION

Superintendent: Pastor J. C. McMillan

Address: 75 Durham Road, Portobello, Midlothian

Telephone: Portobello 82653

Retrospection!

ANOTHER year gone! Can it be possible? Yes, here we are taking stock of twelve months of work.

The uppermost thought is that once again our blessings have been manifold and what success may have accrued is due to our heavenly Father; to Him be all the praise and glory.

To us, Scotland was a new country, with its own dialect and customs, kindly but "dour." However, the message we had to deliver was the same, the glad tidings of a victorious Christ and so we faced the task. Two precious souls have testified of their

faith in Jesus and belief in the third angel's message and there are others who, we trust, will step out.

Once again we had a demonstration that the promise of Matthew 6: 33, "Seek first the kingdom and all the temporal blessings are assured," was true. One young person lost her situation, because of her desire to keep the Sabbath and believing that the promise was for her, set about seeking a new position. Hardly had a week passed before her faith was rewarded for not only was she successful in securing employment but as lunch-time on the first Friday in this new establishment came round the

supervisor approached our sister telling her she could leave at the time most suitable to her, so that she might cease work before Sabbath. Truly, "To him that believeth all things are possible." Yes, and more, the pay is better.

We have acquired a very acceptable meeting-place in the main street of Dundee, and thanks to the kindly help and practical gifts of God's people, have been able to furnish it tastefully and make it comfortable. A welcome awaits you at the Nethergate Assembly Hall should you be visiting bonnie Dundee.

Our Sabbath-school is not 100 per cent, as the majority of our members are aged. We have not, however, come behind in our gifts to missions—our offering for the year shows an increase of £7 over 1939.

Handicapped by delayed permission to collect, we set out to reach our goal of £36 for Harvest Ingathering and closed with a total of £53.

Our company of believers took hold of the "Tract and Paper" Campaign willingly and from No. 19 issue of *Present Truth* to the end of the year we have taken an extra 100 copies, our order for "Greetings" reaching a total of 390. Already, as a result, we have a number of regular readers.

In addition, eighty to one hundred homes are visited each week with a personal invitation to our meetings, and given a copy of the very appropriate tract "Will God Intervene?"

We should like to assure our many friends in England and Wales, that we are not unmindful of their peculiar problems, and that morning and evening we remember them before the throne of grace.

Our courage and faith is strong in the Lord, as we face the unknown and believe that as we press on unitedly with our sacred trust, God will bless our efforts and give the increase.

H. T. JOHNSON.

where he can be fed on the manna from heaven.

May all the seven be light-bearers of heaven and may we see before the year is very old another such occasion as a result of the present evangelistic effort in Grimsby.

E. M. B., *Church Clerk.*

Annual Legal Meetings

British Advent Missions Ltd. Thirty-Sixth Annual General Meeting

NOTICE is hereby given that the Thirty-sixth Annual General Meeting of British Advent Missions Limited will be held on Wednesday, February 26, 1941, at 10.00 a.m., at the offices of the British Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, A. CAREY, *Secretary.*

Granose Foods Ltd. Forty-Third Annual General Meeting

NOTICE is hereby given that the Forty-third Annual General Meeting of Granose Foods Limited will be held on Wednesday, February 26, 1941, at 11.00 a.m., in the offices of the British Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, JOHN RIGBY, *Secretary.*

Good Health Association Ltd. Thirty-Eighth Annual General Meeting

NOTICE is hereby given that the Thirty-eighth Annual General Meeting of the Constituency of the Good Health Association Limited will be held on Wednesday, February 26, 1941, at 2.00 p.m. in the offices of the British Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, A. H. THOMPSON, *Secretary.*

The Stanborough Press Ltd. Forty-Seventh Annual General Meeting

NOTICE is hereby given that the Forty-seventh Ordinary Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of The Stanborough Press Limited will be held in the offices of the British Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists at Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, on Wednesday, February 26, 1941, at 2.30 p.m.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, J. C. CRAVEN, *Secretary.*

NORTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

President: Pastor R. S. Joyce

Office Address: 22 Zulla Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham

Telephone: Nottingham 66312

Baptism at Grimsby

SABBATH afternoon, October 5, 1940, was an auspicious day for seven candidates who were buried in the waters of baptism at the Baptist Tabernacle, Victoria Street, Grimsby. This was their public confession of their faith in Christ and their desire to walk in obedience to the commandments of God.

Two of the candidates, mother and daughter, came from the Louth district and rejoiced at this great opportunity after some years of waiting. The winning over of these souls is the result of our Fotherby sisters' work and studies.

Two others came from Hull and two Grimsby young people nurtured and taught by Godly parents, and who had grown up into the truth, truly enjoyed this wonderful experience. Nine years previously, their parents had also passed through the watery grave in the same beautiful church.

One sister, well over sixty-five years of age, who had been studying our literature, and receiving personal

letters from one of the Grimsby members also took her stand. A remark was made afterwards by this candidate to the officiating pastor to the effect that that day was the happiest day spent in her life.

Pastor L. Murdoch performed the ceremony with the help of Brother Sparrow. Many friends and relatives were present. Adding to the inspiring service, Mr. P. Thompson gave us music from the lovely organ the beautiful strains of which made our hearts glad. One of his pupils contributed also by rendering most feelingly the solo, "Into Thy Hands, O Lord, I Come." These words were most appropriate for so solemn a service.

May the great family of the MESSENGER remember these dear souls in daily prayer, and especially one who is isolated in the country thirteen miles from the nearest church and who has also to bear the opposition of members of the church from which she came out.

Newbold college has claimed the young man to train for God's work,

South England Conference

President: Pastor G. D. King
Office Address: 780 St. Albans
Road, Watford
Telephone: Garston (Watford)
2213-4

Colchester's Happy Day

FOR several weeks we had been looking forward to a visit from Pastor Warland, and Sabbath morning, January 4th, found us all in one big class listening to him.

We hold our young people's service

at 11 a.m. here and we were very happy to have six young people ready for "investiture" as friends.

Sister Havel, who has just been baptized, recited Psalm 23, and Brother Coles, John 13:1-3. Sister Haug gave a most interesting talk on the meaning of these scriptures and Sister McGougan gave an original talk on "knots." After repeating the law and pledge they received their badges.

Pastor Warland in his talk reminded us of the things we must forget as well as the things we should remember in the New Year.

In the afternoon we all enjoyed a most interesting lantern lecture on

Africa. This was divided into two parts: first, the life of a native, and second, the work of a native.

In the evening there was a social held in our church schoolroom. In planning for this we had rather wondered how we should manage with rationing and blackout! But we all had a good time and there were refreshments provided by the ingenuity and careful planning of our good deaconesses and helpers.

Pastor Warland showed us several lovely films which were a great treat. One film of African jungle life was particularly enjoyed. We would all like to see that one again!

The singing of the vesper closed our happy day. Everything had gone well—even the siren did not trouble us until we were all home safe and sound!

A. W. TAYLOR, Church Clerk.

"BRING YE ALL THE TITHE —"

Questions on Christian Benevolence Answered

Do you think the tithe laws were easier to obey under the Levitical system than they are under our present complicated manner of life, and do we teach law or faith in this matter?

Part one of this question suggests the idea that Israelite farmers found tithing easier from an accounting point of view than do modern business men. Is that correct? A Methodist layman and accountant, P. W. Thompson, M.A., in his book *The Whole Tithe*, page 87, says: "The Jews being agriculturalists could only ascertain their financial position annually, and their tithes were an annual levy. St. Paul's Gentile converts came from the professional, trading, and artisan classes of big cities, carrying on their occupations under conditions not dissimilar from those now prevailing. With reasonable accuracy they could ascertain their profits weekly. Modern business may not permit of weekly tithing by proprietors, but there seems no reason why it is any more difficult to honour God with our substance to-day than it was in the days of old."

Part two indicates the old difficulty of compulsion versus free will. Two comments of Mrs. White's will answer adequately.

No compulsion: "Systematic bene-

volence should not be made systematic compulsion. It . . . springs from the principle of grateful love."—*"Testimonies," Vol. 3, page 396.*

A well-grounded obligation: "He who gives men power to get wealth has with the gift bound up an obligation. Of all that we acquire He claims a specified portion. The tithe is the Lord's. . . . The pledge made by Jacob at Bethel shows the extent of the obligation. 'Of all that Thou shalt give me,' he said, 'I will surely give the tenth unto Thee.' 'Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse,' is God's command. No appeal is made to gratitude or to generosity. This is a matter of simple honesty. The tithe is the Lord's; and He bids us return to Him that which is His own. . . . If honesty is an essential principle of business life, must we not recognize our obligation to God—the obligation that underlies every other."—*"Education," pages 138, 139.*

Living under the reign of grace, we shall surely do more rather than less for God than did those who lived under the Levitical law.

The answer to all such questions is largely wrapped up in two words which explain all great deeds done for God—"By faith" (Heb. 11). Anything and everything can be done "By faith!"

H.W.L.

At Rest

TRISTRAM.—Sister Esther Tristram entered the Worcester church some thirty years ago under the ministry of Pastor Rodd, and has never permitted declining years or physical weariness to hinder her church activities. A weakening heart called her suddenly to sleep on December 5, 1940, at the age of sixty-one years. She was laid to rest by the side of her husband in Astwood Cemetery to await the call of the Master she loved so well. She left a daughter, to whom our deepest sympathies are extended, to mourn the loss of a good Christian mother. The writer conducted the funeral service in the presence of many members and friends. J. R. LEWIS.

THE Editor acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following: Distress Fund, 4/6., Mrs. B.; the Lord's tithe, £2. 10s., "Grateful."

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	Lon'n	Not'm	Car'ff	Edin	Bel't
Jan. 24th	5.35	5.32	5.48	5.28	5.45
Jan. 31st	5.47	5.45	6.00	5.43	5.59

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

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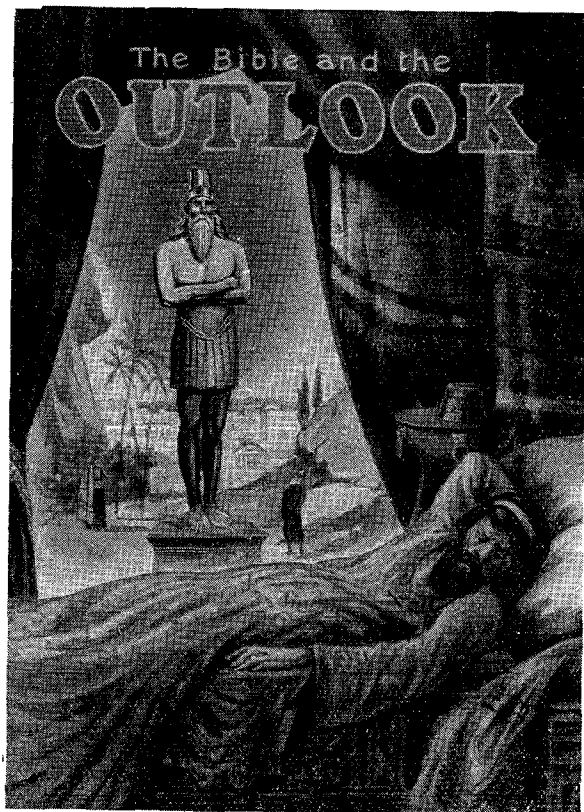
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