

# BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

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## Providences in War Time

By H. W. LOWE

WE are on the threshold of the third year of war. Two full years of war-time conditions lie behind us. Peculiar problems have become our lot, but God is leading us onward through our perplexities in no uncertain manner. There is danger that some of us dwell upon problems until we fail to see Providence at work in multitudes of ways.

Last year when we sent our student colporteurs out into the field we gave particular attention to their work because we felt they would be up against some tremendous difficulties, but to our surprise almost thirty-five of them gained scholarships, and we had a record year to report. This year, however, in the second year of war, with tightening of restrictions and increasing problems, our young people have sold forty-six per cent more literature than last year, and it looks as though about forty of them will have scholarships to report. There are some amazing things to report from their work. One man, who has a family to support while he is earning his way through school, went into the city of Coventry, which has been talked about a good deal in the newspapers, and after concentrated work in that city sold literature to the value of over £302 in a few weeks. It really is a marvellous achievement to which we should not close our eyes in times like these. This certainly is the Lord's doing.

When we looked at our Ingathering for missions there was no lowering of our goal, although we had, of

course, wondered what this year would have in store for us with multitudes of collections being made and appeals of various kinds. In some fields the churches chose their own goals which was an unusual procedure. These churches have all exceeded their goals. Everywhere the work went ahead steadily and it really looks as though, at the moment, we shall have at least £12,500 to report. That includes £300 which has been accepted as the College goal, but the students never let us down, so that amount is certain. It seems as though we shall have a per capita considerably over £2 per member, which may be about the world's highest. To collect the highest aggregate amount and to reach the highest per capita in our history in the second year of war surely is something for which we should praise God. Here are actual figures for the various fields:

	Goal	Amount Reached
South England	4,800	6,100
North England	3,400	4,200
Wales	850	1,100
Scotland	600	800
Ireland	350	350

Our thanks are due to a courageous loyal body of laymen and women, colporteurs, Bible-workers, and ministers, as well as our institutional workers throughout the Union.

If we take a glance at our tithe figures we find the same story. Every field has a splendid increase and for the whole Union for the half year the income is £3,600 more than it was for the first half year of 1940.

All our mission offerings figures are not compiled, but those that we have also indicate that we are reaching the highest missions offerings figures that we have ever reached. We do not glory in figures, but provided statistics are honest they are some index to the faithful service of God's people.

We see the Lord at work in many other ways. For instance, our College has just opened at Newbold with the largest English enrolment for many years. The work of that institution has gone forward unhindered, although it has had some perplexities, and it is surely gratifying that the education of ministers, missionaries, Bible-workers, and others can go forward uninterruptedly during the present grave crisis.

At our Secondary School here at our headquarters the enrolment has

## The Week of Sacrifice Offering

will be taken up on Sabbath,  
October 25th

jumped until it has left the Newbold enrolment behind. One hundred and fifty pupils are now enrolled and, despite the fact that we keep adding to the accommodation, we always seem to be overcrowded.

We recently had an urgent need for the sum of £100 to provide classroom equipment at Newbold, and when the principal intimated this need we were not in a position to supply the money. A few hours afterward one of our laymen casually inquired if we had any need for £100. Surely that was the work of Providence in providing the money to fit out with desks and chairs the classroom that will be used by our old friend Brother Bartlett who, as stated elsewhere, is rendering splendid help at our educational institution just now. Another friend of Christian education made a donation of nearly £100 worth of farm equipment. Others have come forward and provided gifts for the Science Department at the Secondary School. And so the good work goes on. The needs arise, Providence steps in and provides what the cause of God needs.

It surely is an evidence of providential guidance that our publishing house, despite paper restrictions and terrible shortage of labour, is turning out more truth-filled literature than ever before in its history. Big news of a new book may come to us soon. Think of it, a new book in wartime! That is the spirit of the Advent movement.

We are also convinced, surely, that God has guided in keeping open our food factory under multitudes of difficulties. Labour, supplies, materials of all kinds, and a hundred and one other things have conspired at times to make us wonder what might happen, but the institution goes on as a part of the Lord's work, producing more goods than ever before in its history. Surely we must thank God for these things.

Our health work seems, on the surface, to have suffered a little, but, on the other hand, the war has given lots of our young people splendid opportunities for service and training, and we should not think in terms that this work has stopped. Heavy financial burdens that might have crippled other departments of the work have temporarily been re-

moved from us, and we feel that the Lord has guided in everything connected with this department of the work, which will grow and fulfil its destiny.

We thank God that it is possible for us to gather all our evangelistic workers together for a Council, September 22nd to 25th. Never before have these workers had such heavy

problems, but God has a way through them and we invite all our people to join us in earnest prayer as the workers gather for study and devotion during the few days mentioned.

We must lift up our hearts, we must exercise our faith, we must see God at work, and we must follow where He leads.

## Notes from the Union President

### COLLEGE CHANGES

WE are glad to announce that by special arrangement with the Northern European Division, Pastor W. T. Bartlett will, for the current school year, take over the main responsibilities of the Bible department at our College. His mature experience and scholarship will bring to the College a great deal of help, and we are sure that his work will be greatly blessed of God. Pastor Bartlett continues his work as Field Secretary of the Northern European Division, teaching at Newbold certain days in the week.

Miss Eyre who has served us well for three years in the domestic department at Newbold has left to take up other employment, and we have rearranged the work so that we revert to our former plan and Miss Howard becomes the matron of the school. She had been preceptress during the past school year and has done faithful service. We are glad that Mrs. Minnie Standen is now joining the school in charge of the very important kitchen department, and she will no doubt be a source of strength to the institution. Two student-teachers are also joining the staff in the persons of Miss Myrtle Dorland and Miss Kathleen Baird. Each has obtained the B.A. degree recently and they now plan to take certain denominational studies at our college. Their services will be utilized in the English department. It looks as though we have one of the strongest faculties in our history and we prayerfully hope for a good scholastic year.

### COLLEGE GRADUATES

WE are glad to announce that the majority of the young people who graduated from Newbold in 1941 have been called into the work, although there are still a few who,

owing to war conditions, have not yet found an opportunity. We hope to carry forward a vigorous evangelistic programme, and these young people will be placed as opportunities arise.

### FAREWELL

PASTOR AND MRS. W. E. READ are expecting to leave for America in a few days. The work of the Northern European Division has dwindled and become somewhat difficult from here under war conditions. It will be handled from Washington for the duration of the war. The mission fields of Kenya and Tanganyika will be cared for from South Africa for the same time and reasons. We wish Pastor and Mrs. Read God's blessing in their journey and work in days to come.

### A REQUEST

I SHOULD like to gather up authentic providential experiences which our people have passed through under war conditions. Stories of deliverances in air raids, experiences in the services, should be written out briefly and sent to the writer. We should be careful to avoid exaggeration and misstatement of every kind. Please take this request seriously and let us hear of anything we should preserve for future use to the glory of God.

Also people who have had remarkable experiences with Ingathering or in the colporteur work should write these things out and pass them into our hands.

H. W. LOWE.



ALL power is given to Him. Not to us, for we could neither receive it nor use it. But to Him for us. Joined to Him by faith, we change our weakness into strength, for His power flows into us, and rests upon us. His strength is made perfect in our weakness.—*Frances R. Havergal.*

## SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

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### We Soar to New Heights

NEVER before has there been such excitement in the conference office during a Harvest Ingathering campaign as we have experienced in the past two weeks. As the postman and telephone brought us the latest news from the churches one new height after another was passed. We reached our goal of £4,800. We climbed to £5,000. Then last year's record figure of £5,300 came into view. We reached it—with cheers!

Never content while a needy world calls for increasing self-sacrifice from the Lord's people, we began to hope we might even reach an *overflow of one thousand pounds for missions!* One good report after another came to our hands, until every church and company had reached its goal. The overflow began to mount. Yes, we had gained the height of £5,800! Surely, this must be the summit! No, another rose above us, enticing us onward—the figure of £6,000.

The time came to print our bulletin. That £6,000 had just eluded us! Our bulletin nearly completed, a few more figures came to hand. Yes, there it was, the grand total of £6,024. Joyfully we destroyed the stencil and began again. Such a record must be passed on to the churches without delay. Think of it, over £6,000 this year! *An overflow of £1,200—more than £700 above the record achievement of last year!* When the still unrecorded amounts of the London churches come to hand we are sure there will be a per capita collection of £2 for the whole conference membership. "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes."

What shall we say? Let us express our gratitude to God for the loyal co-operation of the members and for the generosity of the public. Let us also take this opportunity to thank you all for the part you have taken in active service and in prayer to make such an achievement possible. We are particularly grateful to the Home Missionary officers and to

the agents who have so painstakingly cared for the many details of the campaign. Already several churches have returned to us every badge and permit, with not one missing. We appreciate such co-operation on the part of the collectors.

As we put our canisters away, as we store for use another year the remaining magazines and leaflets, shall we not gratefully promise the Lord that should He spare us to see another campaign, we will, by His grace, take part in it with even greater enthusiasm and devotion to the speedy closing of His work in the world. E. R. WARLAND.



### V for Victory

THE Sunbeams of Bournemouth

## NORTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

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### Coventry Hands It On!

"If you bring the one next to you and I bring the one next to me . . . we will win them all."

We are reminded of these words from an old-time chorus as we review the good interest in Coventry. Three of the new believers baptized in 1939 were not content to hide their light under a bushel, but determined to let it shine so brightly that it would attract others. One of these new members introduced her friend and neighbour to the meetings and Bible studies were arranged, with the result that in 1940 she had the joy of seeing the "one next to her" baptized into the truth we love, along with two others, a married couple who had first been contacted in a similar way. Two members recently baptized invited this couple to their home for Bible studies. The interest

grew, the gentleman asked for the Sabbath free, and although working in a firm engaged on government work seven days a week, he got it. Now they are faithful churchmembers.

Nor did the good influence finish there. The lady first mentioned as being baptized in 1940 brought someone else, who told some more friends. Now there are ten interested people having weekly Bible studies in Coventry—some of whom are keeping the Sabbath. All this good seed was sown in spite of blitzes and hardships unknown to many.

Although resident in Leicester, we are happy and privileged to keep in touch with Coventry and to do our part in aiding the grand work first begun by members filled with that "first love."

E. A. BUCK.

## Leicester's Lamp is Burning!

LEICESTER is a city that has been termed "the evangelists' nightmare!" For generations the people of Leicester have been concerned for the most part with machines until, it has been said, they have become like those machines, hard to stir from their ordinary, unemotional, materialistic lives.

With this in mind we wondered just how they would respond as we planned for our evangelistic campaign in the spring of this year. The usual problem of a suitable hall was emphasized by all cinemas being open on Sundays and the occupation of secondary halls by the government. But God was leading and on the very day that Pastor S. G. Joyce applied for the commodious, attractive hall in which we eventually held our large meetings, it was vacated by the military.

The advertising was started, the faithful members nobly helped in the distribution of handbills, and we eagerly awaited the first meeting. How would these Leicester people respond, for added to their natural characteristics were now the problems of black-out conditions, sirens, bombing, and seven-days-a-week work. But on the opening night the large hall was full, and on each of the successive five Sundays, the attendance was splendid.

During these meetings we were privileged to have the presidents of the British Union and North England Conferences, the superintendent of the Scottish Mission and the principal of Newbold College, support us with their attendance. Brother L. Meredith came over from Newbold each week and helped us with his musical abilities. The College choir also rendered us good service on one occasion, which was much appreciated.

With the presentation of the Sabbath at the close of the six weeks the meetings were transferred to a smaller hall in the same building and the Sabbath afternoon meetings were launched for the new people. Again we wondered how the people would overcome all their difficulties; how would they respond? But there were twenty non-members at that first Sabbath meeting which, with the members, made a large attendance. It has since increased.

As usual, the devil was angry!

The Spiritualists went to the expense of hiring the big hall we had vacated to vindicate Spiritualism and attack Pastor Joyce. They also devoted a whole column in their national paper to the same purpose. But nothing was gained. Their prestige was lowered in many eyes and our work hindered not at all.

The lamp of truth first lighted many years ago in Leicester has been rekindled. Faithful souls who have accepted the new light which has come to them are endeavouring to put it into practice. Please pray with us that they may be able to overcome all obstacles and come right into the fold, that the light may be "set on a hill" in a world where gross darkness has covered the people.

E. A. BUCK.

## LITERATURE MINISTRY

### An Open Letter to Our Colporteurs

Dear Brother and Sister Colporteur,

HAVE you ever had a notion that our large bound books are too dear? "No —"

No, of course, I knew you would say that. Other folk outside of our own denomination are of the same mind.

I was asked a little while ago for a leather copy of that lovely work, *Our Wonderful Bible*, and at the time of delivery I knew that to request payment from my prospect would produce no little embarrassment; so I decided to call later for the money.

On the day appointed I made my call, when 25/6 was handed to me.

"What is the extra for?" I asked.

"Extra," said my prospect, "that is the price of the book, isn't it? Anyhow if it is not, that is what I am prepared to pay for it, because it is worth it."

Well, you have had such an experience, haven't you?

Yes, of course you have. Then you will be interested in my mentioning another similar one, won't you? It was just an ordinary case such as you often get yourself. I had demonstrated in my very poor way, *This Mighty Hour*.

"How much for a leather one?" says my customer. "Just one guinea, madam."

"Is that all? It is worth every penny. Let me have two copies as soon as you can."

Nothing out of the ordinary, my brother, my sister, but I just thought I would remind you of that encouraging fact.

F. J. KINMAN.

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"THE soul that turns to God for its help, its support, its power, by daily, earnest prayer, will have noble aspirations, clear perceptions of truth and duty, lofty purposes of action, and a continual hungering and thirsting after righteousness."—*"Mount of Blessing,"* page 127.

## At Rest

EDWARDS.—On August 19, 1941, the Torquay church sustained a loss by the death of Mrs. Ethel Maud Edwards at the age of seventy, after a prolonged illness. She accepted the truth under the labours of Pastor Leslie G. Hardinge, and was baptized in 1937. Some time previous to her death she had acted in the capacity of church clerk. A short service, held at the house, previous to interment, and the committal service at the graveside were conducted by Pastor A. J. Mustard. Our sister awaits the resurrection morn.

CHURCH CLERK.

BRITTEN.—Sister Britten passed away at her home in Bromsgrove on Wednesday, July 30, 1941. She accepted the third angel's message under the ministry of Pastor F. C. Bailey about seventeen years ago and remained a faithful member of the Bromsgrove company. She died in the full assurance of the blessed hope and leaves to mourn her husband and son. A short service was conducted at her home by the writer. There were present some friends and a number of the Bromsgrove company. We laid our sister to rest in the Bromsgrove Cemetery on August 4th and look forward to meeting her when Jesus shall call those that sleep in Him from their dusty beds. We extend to those that mourn our heartfelt sympathy and would exclaim, "Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus."

E. R. WELLS.

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## SUNSET CALENDAR

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	Lon'n	Not'm	Car'ff	Edin	Bel't
Sept. 19th	7.07	7.12	7.19	7.22	7.32
Sept. 26th	6.51	6.54	7.04	7.03	7.14

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