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The Discovery of Sabbath-Keeping Lapps

By Aksel Hogganvik

THE MEAGRE-ISLE" is the suggestive name of the island which bears the well-known rock of North Cape. Its neighbouring mainland is just as "meagre" and deserted. The Sea-Lapps who live here are a needy people, despised by their nomadic race-mates as well as by the governing Norwegians. But Jesus has said that in the kingdom of heaven they will be called great for the keeping and teaching of His commandments. Here I will tell you how they got the first and second angels' messages entirely by trusting God and the Bible.



A hundred years ago the Laestodian church arrived from Finland. It is a religious movement known for its boisterous manner of confessing sins one to the other. A newly converted girl called Beret sat by the little window of the family dug-out, eagerly reading her Bible. She was impressed that God would judge His people according to His law. Harmonizing her life with the Ten Commandments, she began to observe the seventh day as the Sabbath.

Mattis Hendriksen, the young Laestodian preacher from Snowfjord, married this well-read woman, and soon afterwards accepted her view on all points.

This young couple thought themselves to be the first, however not the last, Sabbath-keepers in their time. They had the right missionary spirit, and by earnest

work for their relatives they won some for the truth. THE LAPPS live on the plains of the comparatively low-lying northern reaches of Norway, Sweden, Finland, and the Kola Peninsula of Russia. There are about 33,000 of them. No-one knows where they came from and probably most of them have lived there from time immemorial in close association with the reindeer, which there finds its habitat. With the advance of civilization they have been pushed more and more to the lichen-covered fells of the far north. They maintain a civilization entirely their own and are almost Lilliputian in size, seldom being above five feet tall. There are the Sea Lapps occupied in sea-fishing and the River Lapps farther inland.

The Lapp above was encountered by the editor in a restaurant in Hammerfest. He was gaily decorated and of most regal bearing, and looked particularly well fed. Above he is seen comfortably ensconced at home. We are happy to report that work has now been started among this quaint little nomadic people.

work for their relatives they won some for the truth.

Such a work was, however, bound to meet with opposition and even persecution. One fine Sunday afternoon in August, Beret was making hay at the sea-side. Two men came ashore from a rowing boat. She had seen them before. It was the rural mayor and his adjutant. Making a curtsy she inquired why these noble lords had come to visit her. As his reply, the officer caught her by the arm declaring: "You are arrested in the name of King Oscar II."

"You can't," she protested.

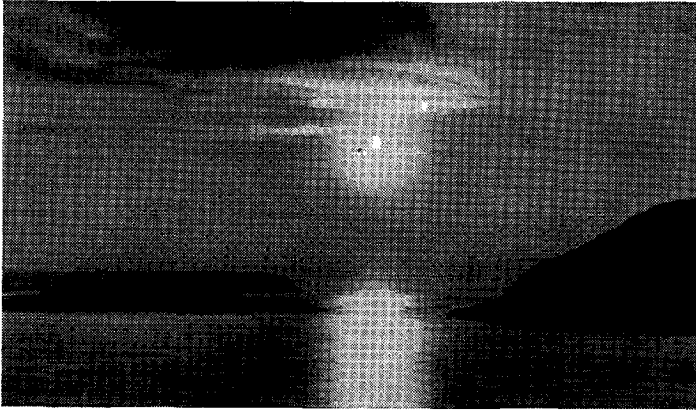
"I have done nothing wrong."

"Well," said he, "your brother has reported your profanation of the Sunday, and we two are here to bear evidence. I have a shipping passage booked for you, to Hammerfest to-night."

"You can't take me!" she complained, "my husband is far away fishing, and I have cattle to care for."

"That won't help you." This cold remark caused her to become resigned, and she asked if she might change her dress. But she received this coarse reply: "Don't bother, the prison ward will give you a suitable dress; jump into the boat."

Almost like two woman hunters these men of authority rowed vigorously while their prey shouted across the fjord that someone milk her cows and send for her husband. Loaded and with sails hoisted, the



A beautiful scene of the midnight sun taken in Hammerfest where the sun never sets between May 17th and July 28th.



The writer with young people of Lapland.

ship lay ready at Honningsvag, only waiting for the prisoner.

In a mood to be alone, she soon left the passenger-room at the stern of the boat. Feeling almost hysterical, she sat on the deck cargo when an elderly gentleman quietly came up to her. Her first impression was that he was a good man, for he did not seem to notice her condition or her worn, even ragged, Lapp-dress. He stayed with her on deck throughout the night journey, and proved by his many gentle acts to be just like an angel of God. She told him her story and explained how she understood her Bible. He listened with interest, and in turn comforted her by telling her that the Norwegian constitution guaranteed religious freedom, and even if it did not, no authority would succeed in an action against God. "What a brilliant advocate he is!" she thought.

Monday morning the ship anchored in the harbour of Hammerfest. A boatman came out and brought the passengers on shore, but the stranger remained with Beret. When the boat returned with two policemen, the stranger made them take him to the mayor before carrying out their order. He had promised Beret that she would return with the same ship that same day, and he kept his promise.

Just like the great apostle, she astounded her friends by an unexpected return with the story of a wonderful deliverance.

After this, they enlarged their efforts as they pointed out the right Sabbath to their own race. Every settlement for many miles around was visited. She played the part of Moses, the leader, and her husband spoke like Aaron. Among the converted was one J. W. Wringsted, a man of Finnish descent. He had had a successful career in the law-court, but from now on he was to be a devoted advocate for Christ.

When Mrs. Beret Hendriksen died he became the leader. Being single he lived

half a year in each settlement. In good weather he joined the men in the fishing boat, but when the sea became rough he taught from the Bible in the boat-shed or in a home. He had some new ideas which they protested against. For instance, he said that it was wrong to baptize infants, and to be a member of the churches which were called Babel.

For those fishermen it was a rich time. The Bible was always at hand. They called it their Pocket-book.

Each Sabbath was celebrated as a feast. From the various fjords the people came in companies. Some of them had taken four hours to cross the mountains. One had to be early in order to secure a seat on the floor of the earth-hut, and one had to prepare oneself for a meeting that lasted for hours. In the singing everybody took part, but no two used the same air. It sounded false, but not heart-false. In his sermon, Wringsted charged the believers to go forth in the path of obedience, and reminded the unconverted of the terrible hell.

After him the other men delivered

speeches with much fire and brimstone. Then came the confession of sin. The repentant ones embraced one another, and jumping on the floor, both of them cried into the ear of the other all his bad sins, or the graceful forgiving thereof. More than ten couples danced in this noisy way. Driven to the corners, the rest sang loudly perhaps in order to make music for the dancers. Being there one suddenly knew what the word grotesque meant.

In the evening three men went away to a small lake. Here they undressed and went into the water as the Bible says, but they found no further instruction. Therefore the elder one poured a handful of water on the head of the others for each Person of the Trinity.

Wringsted had advised that they put off the baptism until they had an organized church, and special baptismal clothes. He had to retire to an old people's home in 1919. One year later he died. His church was never organized. Between forty and fifty adults kept the Sabbath, and including the children about sixty had left the other churches in response to the second angel's message.



Hammerfest, the most northerly town in the world, rebuilt after its total destruction during the last war. The new Advent chapel is marked by a cross.

The following years showed material progress. Their dug-outs were exchanged for wooden cottages, but spiritually it has meant decay.

However, when my father-in-law came with his little motor-boat last summer, he found a group still faithful to the Bible as

they understood it. It has been my privilege to teach them more about God's wonderful Gospel. Some of them are already Sabbath-school members. All of them have a firm trust in the Bible, and I am sure that God who has begun the good work will fulfil it in His own way.

The educated classes have been interested in the Advent message, and I have had some calls from the officials of the county government. The treasurer of a big joint stock company and his wife have started to keep Sabbath. Their faith has been sorely tried, for their firm had given them a large suite of rooms in which to live, and there is the possibility that they will lose both the suite and their job because of the Sabbath.

One business man has taken his stand for the Sabbath. He told me that for twenty years he had been concerned about the Sabbath and baptism. He had been longing for light and guidance, and now the light had come to him.

We have also become very friendly with a shoemaker and his wife. The shoemaker lost his leg while in a prison-camp in Russia. One day I put my hand on his shoulder and said: "In the new earth you and I shall run a race." From that day he has been a faithful hearer.

There are a number of Sabbath-keepers who have not as yet taken a definite stand for the truth.

The people in this place ought to have the courage of heroes for they have such powers of resistance. Once we had a meeting in the neighbourhood of the market town. When we arrived at the hall we found the door closed with padlocks and thick iron bars. We turned to the organist of the village for assistance. When he learned what had happened he took an axe and broke the locks. He told us he would take the responsibility for this act, and we started our meeting.

There are now altogether twenty persons in the Polar Circle who are keeping Sabbath. We expect the number will grow. The Northern Lights of the Advent message have appeared in the skies of Lapland.

Work in Finnish Lapland

By S. Halminen, *Evangelist*



THE most northerly county in Finland is the county of Lapland, with its centre in Rovaniemi, a market town, which the Germans burned during the last war. With proverbial Finnish *sisu* (energy) it has been rebuilt, and winter sports are now held there each year.

Lapland is a very picturesque yet eccentric place. One can see the northern lights flashing abroad in all the colours of the rainbow. The fells with their white drifts of snow glittering in the sunshine call tourists and ski-jumpers from afar. There are a large number of motley-dressed Laplanders with their grey reindeer. The main wealth of Lapland lies in its reindeer, log transport, and forestry.

The people of Lapland still live in great spiritual darkness. The women smoke as much as the men and spirituous liquors are used freely. However, magic spells are not indulged in any more, and conditions are improving.

The only church which has met with any success in Lapland is the Laestodian church, which is an offshoot of the Lutheran Church.

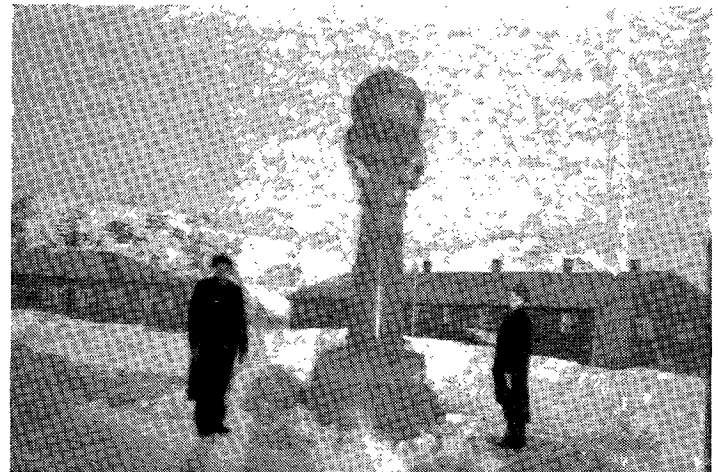
I was sent by the West Finnish Conference as a preacher to Rovaniemi in the autumn of 1951. My Bible-worker is Sister Elina Beeg. At the beginning the work seemed very difficult. People would not come out to our meetings even though we had very fine advertisements and handbills. I soon learned that advertising about spiritual or revival meetings did not interest the people. So in December I called on the editors of two of the popular newspapers and asked them if they would accept an article on the work of Seventh-day

Adventists. They agreed, and the articles were published with large headlines in a good position in the papers. Now the people knew who I was and what we were doing in the Polar Circle. Immediately they began attending our meetings. They were especially interested in the questions dealing with the state of the dead.

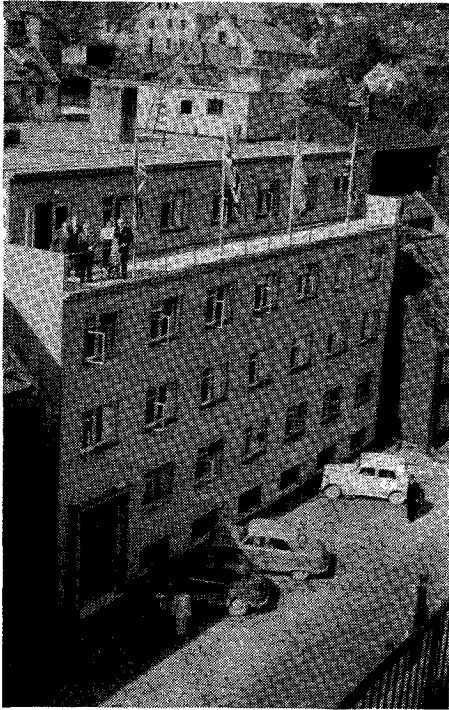
It did not take very long before we began to see the results of our work. I received an invitation to the house of the parson. In his home people would gather to study the Bible. The parson asked me to give a Bible reading about the state of the dead. His wife, too, was very interested and we became very friendly with these two persons. Together we studied the Advent message. The servant-maid of the house has started to keep the Sabbath, so the cleaning of the rooms is now done on Friday. Thus we are gradually making headway.

On Sabbath we visit in the parson's home, or he and his wife visit us. The church people in Rovaniemi do not approve of their parson's friendliness with us. When the local church held a three days' convention, the parson was not asked to speak. This was hard discipline for him.

On the left is Konrad Breivik, of Hammerfest, who sent warm greetings from the most northerly town in the world to the rest of the Division. He is shown standing by the Meridian Column erected in 1852.



Around the Conferences — III. NORWAY



The Tromsø clinic, dedicated on June 29th before a large gathering of prominent citizens of Tromsø and many of our believers.

NORWAY was to be the final lap of our tour through the northern conferences. Having completed our visits to the Netherlands, Denmark, Finland, and Sweden, we were now eager to see the progress of our work along the route of the great North Road which would lead us finally to the most northerly town in the world.

As we travelled, the evenings grew longer and lighter, and we found an extended day a wonderful help in an already full programme. The sun was high in the heavens at this time of the year, and the occasional breeze we encountered had just sufficient bite in it to remind us that we were very near the Arctic Circle.

After months of snow and a sunless sky, everyone seemed to be in gay holiday mood. The young folk with their lovely complexions outvying the rosy apples, cycled along the winding roads, their flaxen curls tossed about by the friendly breeze. A spirit of *camaraderie* enlivened the highway, and one was always assured of a hearty wave from the women and children as one drove along.

Oslo, the capital of Norway, was our first stop after leaving Sweden. Here the East Norwegian Conference was to convene. The week-day meetings were held in

the fine Oslo church, situated in the same large building as the Kurbadet (treatment rooms), restaurant, and conference offices. Pastor T. Asheim presided over the session, which was characterized by a spirit of courage and confidence. The music rendered by the Oslo church choir was a great treat and we were happy to learn that this choir had the previous year celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. On the Friday evening of the session in the downtown Volketshus, the Sabbath-school Department, in conjunction with the choir, presented a very fine centennial programme to a packed hall.

A hurried visit was made to the headquarters of the West Nordic Union where Pastor and Mrs. Alf Lohne were our gracious host and hostess.

The ministry of Pastor W. B. Ochs on the Sabbath was greatly blessed of God and it was thrilling to see that large congregation which overflowed the hall, rise to its feet in an act of deep and earnest consecration.

Oslo, with its 435,000 inhabitants, is situated at the head of the Oslo Fjord and is surrounded by lovely hills and deep forests. Although founded in 1048 by King Harald the Hard, it has progressed with the times and is to-day a very modern city in both design and art, with large, streamlined blocks of buildings well constructed of steel and concrete. There are reminders, however, that this was once the home of the old Vikings, and relics of their quaint old timber houses and ships, all exceedingly well preserved, bear testimony to the industry and stout qualities of this hardy people.

After a week in Oslo, we started our journey north, first spending a night in Lillehammer, where our Skogli Sanitarium is situated. We were happy to find this sanitarium filled to capacity and everywhere there pervaded a happy, kindly spirit. On the return journey a longer time was spent here investigating the possibilities of this delightful spot and others in the neighbourhood as sites for the Norwegian mission school of the future. The Norwegian students this year are attending Vejlefjord mission school in Denmark. Onsrud, their old school, has now been sold.

Much could be said of the interesting trip from Lillehammer up to Tromsø in the north. Never in all the long journey

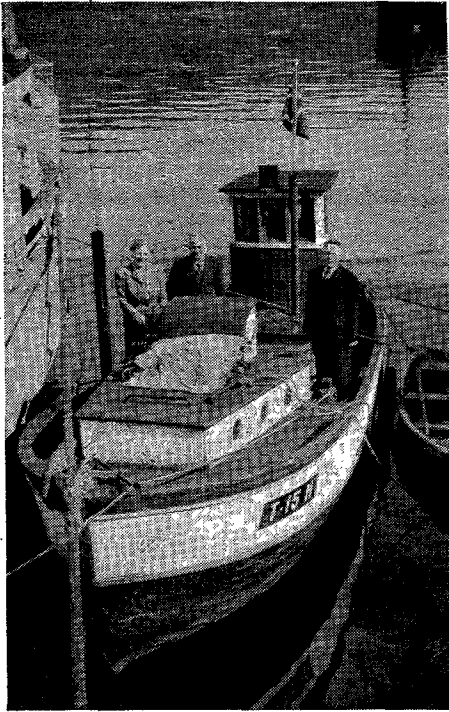
did we strike a dull patch, and few industrial areas marred the everchanging panorama that constantly met our eyes.

Along the fjords and lakes, across the mountain ranges and the highlands, through valleys and forests, past rivers and waterfalls, northward, ever northward we travelled, with always "the best to come," as Brother and Sister Odd Jordahl, our travelling companions, assured us.

Our first night after Skogli Sanitarium was spent at Trondheim, the ancient capital of Norway, founded in 997 and at present the third largest city in the country. The town is famous for its wide streets, but its chief attraction is the magnificent cathedral, one of the proudest architectural treasures of the North, dating from the twelfth century. The kings of Norway are crowned in this imposing Gothic edifice. Close by lies the thousand-year-old Archbishop's palace, and the Governor's Residence (Stiftsgaarden), built in 1770, and now used as a royal palace, is Norway's largest timber building. During our short stay here we visited another of our health institutes.

Early next morning we renewed our journey toward the Land of the Midnight Sun. We travelled along the fjord through rich farming country. Steinkjer, seventy-six miles beyond Trondheim, was a good sample of the fine modern towns which have sprung up following their almost total destruction in the bombing raids of 1940. Some two hundred miles beyond Trondheim we entered what is properly called Northern Norway, travelling along the great North Road which gave Norway its name.

As we climbed the high mountains, the farmsteads became scattered, the trees diminished in size until the beeches, all that were left of the thick forest land, were mere pigmies of their real selves. Finally they, too, disappeared altogether. Rain began to fall heavily, sheets of ice lay unmelted in sheltered spots, herds of reindeer could be seen grazing on the mountainside across the valley, when suddenly, right ahead of us, appeared the beacon announcing that we had reached the Polar Circle! Stopping just long enough to take a picture of the large globe constructed of iron bands, we hurried on, for the weather was bitterly cold and certainly worthy of the passing of such an auspicious landmark! Around us everywhere were the re-



A. F. Tarr and Mrs. Tarr with sailing colporteur H. M. Hansen on board the "Kjell" in Tromsø harbour.

mains of deserted camps where Russian prisoners had once been employed in keeping open the railway which crosses this cold, desolate spot on the top of the mountain range. Thousands, we were told, had perished in this bleak, exposed stretch. For long distances the railway line is covered by wooden canopies to protect it from the driving snow, and mighty tree trunks lay scattered around in the great struggle to keep back the packs of snow from the lines of communication—so important to an invading enemy.

This stretch of road was soon passed and the trees began to reappear. As we rapidly descended to a lower altitude, we were once more made conscious of the extraordinarily mild climate due to the influence of the Gulf Stream—"a permanent Marshall aid," as one man put it, to this otherwise cold country.

At last we reached Tromsø, the capital of the Arctic, beautifully situated on an island with a magnificent view of ice-covered mountains and peaks. The Northern Lights Observatory, the Arctic Museum, the remains of the old battleship *Tirpitz* which still lies in the fjord where it was shelled, and a nearby Lapp camp are among the many interesting sights here. Both in Finland and here we

found workers who have been preaching the message among the Lapps, a very picturesque little people.

In Tromsø the North Norway Conference was in session and, over the week-end, the new health clinic was to be dedicated. Before entering fully into these engagements, we took the boat overnight to Hammerfest, returning the following day. Remaining on deck of the little steamship, *Nordlys* ("Northern Light"), until after midnight, we watched the sun shining brightly throughout the night.

On landing in Hammerfest, the most northerly town in the world, our hearts thrilled again as we sought out even in this far-flung spot our little Advent chapel and possibly some of our faithful believers. And we were not long searching before we located our new little church, the first to be rebuilt after the total destruction of Hammerfest in 1944 by the Germans before leaving. As we were gazing up at the church, one of our believers spotted us as he was passing by. When he learned who we were, his greeting was overwhelming in warmth. He showed us proudly through the chapel, which included room for a church school, and gave us his photograph taken by the meridian column. (See picture on page 3.)

Returning to Tromsø, we enjoyed some splendid services. Pastor Torkelson is the president of this conference. As we mingled with the great audience, we met men and women from the Russian border, from the far-flung islands along the coast, from many isolated farms and communities. Brother Hansen, our sailing colporteur, arrived with his little mission boat, the *Kjell*, and we were thrilled to go down to the wharf and climb into this little publishing house on water. We learned of

the many dangers which he had encountered and the story of God's protecting hand in time of storm and danger. Yes, there are many brave men in the cause of God!

On Sunday, June 29th, the dedication of the Tromsø clinic took place. It was attended by many leading citizens, including the mayor of Tromsø, a judge of the Appeal Court, the district surgeon, representatives of the press and radio, the architect, and the workers who had laboured so tirelessly for its erection and success. All wished it God-speed as it set out to bring physical as well as spiritual healing to the many who would come under its influence.

So much could be said of our happy stay here in Tromsø and of our fellowship with the believers, but the time for parting came once again, and one of the first groups to leave was one that had come to the session in a rented fishing boat. Many were down at the wharf to see this company off, and as their boat pulled away on the stroke of sunny midnight, the strains of the happy songs of Zion reached our ears from across the waters, growing fainter as the boat gradually sailed out of sight toward their homes in the far-flung regions of the north.

Then came the retracing of our own steps homeward again. Travelling through Sweden, Denmark, Germany, and Holland, we arrived back in Edgware greatly strengthened and encouraged by the loyalty and devotion to the blessed Advent hope of our stalwart, courageous membership in the northern conferences of the Northern European Division. May God keep this spirit aflame in their lives and in their service for Him until the day of His coming.

THE EDITOR.

Farewell, Godspeed and good sailing! In Tromsø the little boat pulls out to sea at midnight, taking home a group of believers who have attended the North Norway Conference session.



The Lion of the Tribe of Judah

By Lois Bowen, R.N.

ETHIOPIA, a mixture of ancient and modern, is a land of many contrasts. Down the streets of the capital, Addis Ababa (meaning New Flower), you may see the latest Buick making way for the camels and donkeys of the East, cattle, sheep, goats, ragged and dirty children, school boys on bicycles, or the gharrys which are horse-drawn carts, two-wheeled and two-passenger.

Even the calendar and clock tell you a different story, for it is the year 1945 here and New Year's festivities were last September. At noon the hour hand of the clock stands at six (*sedist saat*), and one rises at twelve instead of six a.m., however the Amharic characters are different. Yes, it is Bible time—of which the Ethiopians are very proud, as they also are of the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. "The Lion of the Tribe of Judah" is actually part of the Emperor's title, for he is believed to have descended from King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Anyway, he is an exceedingly kind ruler with a charming and interesting personality, though one knows all the while his searching eyes are not missing any detail of what is going on around him.

Though there are many Mohammedans, with some heathen out in the interior, the main or state religion is Coptic Orthodox, a close relative of the Greek Orthodox Church. Technically speaking, they have religious liberty here, but our Ethiopian believers have opposition and persecution, imprisonment with loss of work and possessions, mostly in local areas where the Coptic priests, local chiefs, or officials are specially bitter.

But as David wrote, "Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God," and we believe that that time has arrived, for even in the two-and-a-half years since my arrival one can notice a big difference in the willingness of the people to study the Bible and the number who come seeking a better way of life. Anyone who has worked in a Mohammedan or Catholic country will know just how self-satisfied the people are—they feel no need of a Saviour. But Ethiopia *is* stretching out her hands to God, and there is a big work to be done in helping her.

The medical work is really the opening

wedge in Ethiopia, as well, perhaps as the wedge which keeps the door open. Before the Italian invasion we had a mission hospital in Dessie, but it was bombed in 1936. In the early part of the Italian-Ethiopian war there were many border raids from Eritrea and our hospital was often filled with casualties. The Emperor, who was on the front lines, always came there to visit the wounded. He has been acquainted with our work from the start, and has always been very favourable, co-operating as well as he could, considering the antagonism of the powerful, influential Coptic priests. Dr. and Mrs. Stadin were in Addis Ababa when the Italians, bombing heavily, entered Dessie. Everything, hospital equipment and personal property, was lost except for one microscope, and Sister Margit Halvorsen was fortunate to get out with her life.

This property had never been returned to us since the Emperor returned to this country. Almost three years ago the Empress asked if we would staff a hospital again at Dessie if she built and equipped it. Again about a year ago the same offer was made. Dessie, the second largest city in Ethiopia, is about 250 miles north of Addis Ababa, on the road to Asmara, Eritrea, and also on the new road to Assab, which is to be the new port for Ethiopia. We are the only mission which has permission to work in this province, and it was felt that unless we took advantage of the opportunity, it might go to some other mission and be a closed door to us instead

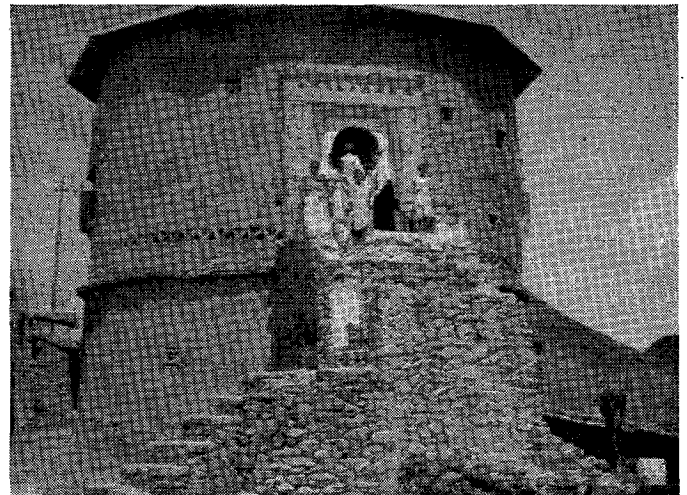
of the present open one. Consequently negotiations began about ten months ago, when the Division committee voted to accept the offer. The Crown Prince, who is governor of that province, has been most anxious to see our hospital started there. The land has been given with a building, and he will help equip it. It is to be a twenty-five bed institution at the start, with future expansion as necessary. Most of the people are Mohammedan, with many Coptics, and in the outlying areas, heathen. Dr. F. L. Artress has been placed in charge of the institution and has already made several trips to Dessie to start the repairing of the building.

We have been asked to start a boarding school there as soon as possible. However, the written contract for permission to do evangelistic and educational work as well as medical, must be in the hands of the mission first of all before we actually open the hospital. Otherwise there is danger of persecution and the stopping of our work later when schools, churches, and evangelistic efforts are opened. We hope that the interest of the royal family will hurry these legalities through the various Government ministries.

Plans have already been made for two out-clinics. When the local people heard that it was the Adventist mission which might come, they offered land for not only the clinic, but also for a school and mission.

Ato Gobusie, the Director of Education for the province, is a churchmember, and every Sabbath in his home in Dessie he holds Sabbath-school, with about twenty interested persons attending. Here is a nucleus for our future church in Dessie.

Visiting the castle of the chief in Arissa, Eritrea.



We hope that the rays of healing and of truth will spread out far and wide from this hospital set on a hill within the circle of mountains looking down on Dessie.

It is also the plan to start other clinics, where a team of our national workers consisting of a trained dresser and an evangelistic worker can create an interest which later can be followed up. The medical work does play an important part in the winning of souls. At the close of the Italian occupation, our workers as well as the Government, had to face the fact that it would be necessary to start all over again, as the progress made before the war had ended in chaos and destruction. So, over six years ago, Elder W. H. Anderson and Ato Adam Ali, our faithful Ethiopian who has charge of the operating room here at our hospital in Addis Ababa, went to start the work over again in Gimbie, some 300 miles west of Addis Ababa, where we had a hospital before the war. Adam held daily clinics. One never-to-be-forgotten morning a patient was brought to him who had been severely gored by a bull, and whose intestines were lying loose outside his abdomen. Adam prayed and sewed him up, knowing that that man's recovery would decide their future work and influence to quite a large degree. The patient recovered, and went home to sound the praises of the mission. From that time the patients came to the clinic in large numbers, and showed real confidence in our work and in our missionaries. The work has grown year by year, our fifty-bed hospital is full to overflowing, there is a large boarding school, also day schools, and companies of baptismal classes organized in the villages around. We have now started work among the Skankilla tribe, many of whom had never seen a white man, much less a missionary. Recently an effort was held in Gimbie by Elder Herman Davis, and in connection with it a school of evangelism, for one of our biggest needs is trained national workers.

This year, Elder Davis is to hold an effort in Asmara, Eritrea. One of our Eritrean girls, who has been a fine worker in our hospital here for five years, finished the Secondary Dressers' Course which we taught here last year. Now Desta has gone to Asmara to start a clinic there. Dr. M. G. Andersen was there on his vacation to give her some help, and Mrs. Herman Davis, R.N., will guide and assist in the clinic work as a valuable adjunct to the evangelistic effort. Thus the "right arm of the message" pushes open the doors in the advancement of the Lord's work.

Publishing House officials and conference workers with W. B. Ochs, A. F. Tarr, and the editor while visiting one of the proposed sites for the New Finnish Publishing House.



The Publishing Work in Finland

By Y. Mietinnen

DURING the fifty-five years of her existence, the work of the Finland Publishing House has been snowballing ahead, the statistical beauty of her even growth being marred only by a few depressing years. Our present army of 150 to 170 valiant colporteurs who, during the summer, every single week, secure 3,500 to 6,000 subscriptions for our books and periodicals, surely will not keep our publishing personnel recumbent, and an imaginary pedometer devised to make tracks for our publishing secretaries would certainly find its overmatch in them, as they are leading this great group of workers. The issues of the large and medium books amount this year to more than 120,000 copies. In addition to these, there are numerous small books and tracts as well as our six monthly periodicals, among which our health paper leads the field with a monthly circulation of around 47,000.

With a result of 64,510,734 marks (about \$250,000), our literature sales in 1951 surpassed those of 1950 in Finland by about 83 per cent. It seems likely that this year will prove to be the best sales year in our history so far. The exceptionally good results of last and this year are largely due to the relative easiness with which a book by L. Muderspach, *Koti (Home)*, has been placed by colporteurs into so many Finnish homes during these two years. Yet we realize, of course, that the progressive and even growth of the work can be explained only as a memorable manifestation of God's guidance and blessing, using as He has the self-sacrificing labours of our colporteurs, the smooth co-operation between the various branches of our work,

the great victories won in the field of Gospel ministry, and the untiring endeavours of the publishing house personnel.

Despite the fact that Finland is a country exporting paper, we have suffered during many years from a paper shortage just as many other countries have. Unfortunately we do not have our own denominational printing plant. As can be imagined, our dependence for the printing on outside printing houses meant handicap and hardship in more ways than one, especially during the war and soon after it.

Now paper can be obtained sufficiently, but our printing plant, though eagerly expected, is still far from materializing. Having already sought the counsel of our leading brethren, we are hopefully relying upon divine guidance in this great and important matter.

Our prayers for future blessings are mingled with deep gratitude to God for the success with which He has crowned our humble efforts in the past, and our only desire is to serve Him acceptably while fostering the publishing work in Finland.

London

(Concluded from back page.)

crises in a full-message presentation.

"There is far more being done by the universe of Heaven than we have any idea of, in preparing the way so that souls shall be converted. We want to work in harmony with the messengers of Heaven. We want more of God; we do not want to feel that it is our talking and our sermonizing that is to do the work; we want to feel that unless the people are reached through God, they never will be reached."—*Evangelism*, pages 127, 128.

T. J. BRADLEY.

NEWS FLASH

LONDON

G. A. LINDSAY and A. F. Tarr returned to headquarters on the night of October 27th, after attending the Fall Council and other meetings in the States.

W. R. Beach, president of the Southern European Division, was a very welcome visitor to the Northern European Division on his way to Berne after attending the Fall Council in the States. Brother Beach found time to attend a meeting of the Division Committee, and also to visit in the homes of some of our workers.

R. H. Adair, assistant treasurer of the General Conference, called in England on November 5th to 7th on his way to the Continent. Brother Adair attended a meeting of the Division Committee, and also paid a short visit to Stanborough Park. He also will be attending the Division Council in Skodsborg, December 11th to 18th.

A cordial welcome to Dr. Wayne McFarland, who arrived in England on Wednesday night, November 5th. Dr. McFarland will spend months in England, both in association with Pastor Vandeman's meetings and also with work among the churches. Sister McFarland and the children are due to arrive later.

Encouraging word comes from Pastor K. Tilstra, president of the Netherlands Union, who is in the midst of an evangelistic campaign in the Hague. The meetings are held on Wednesday nights and are enjoying an attendance of approximately 300, of which about 250 are not members of our church. We wish Pastor Tilstra much blessing in the great work he has undertaken.

The young people of the Betel church, Oslo, are planning to conduct their own effort in the outskirts of the city. They have been granted permission by the conference executive committee. These young people have in an effective and excellent way taken part in two years' previous efforts and are well able to take the responsibility of an effort of their own.

The Seventh-day Adventist church of Sauherad, East Norway, has been granted permission to erect a church building in the county of Telemark. This is the first building permission for an Adventist church in this country given by the

Government, except in the war-stricken territories.

THE London campaign being led by Pastor G. E. Vandeman of the General Conference Ministerial Association is still moving strongly forward. On Sunday, November 9th, which was the eighth Sunday of the series, and incidentally Remembrance Sunday, a large gathering of some 2,500 people crowded into the Coliseum for the regular two addresses. The usual interesting features were all present. Brother Glanzer, also of the General Conference Ministerial Association, led out in a song service sympathetically arranged for the occasion, and as the beloved words and historic melodies of, "O God Our Help in Ages Past," and, "Abide With Me," filled the vast auditorium, the audience seemed lifted up on the wings of praise and prepared for the message to follow based on the theme, "The Other Side of Death."

Through the weeks, people have become noticeably more friendly and the Bible instructors, neatly uniformed in navy blue dress and cape with gold-tinted satin lining, are reporting an increasing number of people, who, recognizing them from their weekly visiting, edge their way through the knots of people in the theatre foyer to ask a question or give a happy greeting. An inspiring sight is the queue of people who wait each Sunday evening to exchange their Voice of Prophecy correspondence lessons for the next adventure in Bible study, thus adding weight to the spoken word from the theatre platform.

Commencing with the week November 10th to 14th, the suburban week-night meetings (or Bible study groups may be a better description of them) commence. In four different centres it is planned to gather the local interests and then build more strongly the doctrinal structure of Bible truth, because we can come closer to the people. Dr. W. McFarland of the General Conference has arrived to add an interesting twenty-minute health talk to the week-night programmes. And as he plans to remain with us some few months, we would like to say a big "welcome" to him through the columns of the NORTHERN LIGHT.

We would also like to report back to Holland, Sweden, and Finland to tell them how happy we are to have some of their evangelists working shoulder to shoulder with us in this great endeavour for God. Also from the Southern European Division some visitors have "looked in" and this international aspect of our London campaign is one of the unique experiences of evangelism in Britain to-day.

Greetings to our whole Division and thanks for your interest and prayers. Keep on praying for us! The battle is increasing in tempo as we approach the real tests and
(Continued on page 7.)

According to a recommendation from the General Conference, revival seasons are being planned for throughout the East Norwegian Conference during this coming winter. Much of Heaven's blessing is expected and prayed for to the strengthening and upbuilding of all our churches.

N. H. Knight, who has ministered so ably to workers passing through Great Britain, has been invited to take the secretary-treasurership of the British Union. The seasoned counsel and help of Brother A. Carey since the time of Brother A. H. Thompson's decease has been invaluable to the British Union. Brother Knight's place in the London transportation office will be taken by Brother H. Benwell, who for many years has served as sales manager of Granose Foods Limited.

Recent reports from the Gold Coast Mission indicate the ingathering of a splendid harvest of souls in that field. On September 6th, 422 souls were baptized, making a total of 855 for the first nine months of this year. It is expected by the close of 1952 that 1,200 new members will have been added to the roll of this mission.

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