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“Thy Kingdom Come”

Report of the GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION—1958

D. S. JOHNSON

MONTHS OF planning and thousands of miles of travel had brought our 28 delegates and many friends representing the Southern Asia Division together at the 48th Session of the General Conference which opened at 8 p.m. on June 19, 1958 in the Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio.

As I looked across the section in which our delegation was seated I was immediately aware of the many places and phases of the work represented. Though our Division is on the other side of the world our national delegation was the largest ever. At the first meeting 28 delegates were seated but at a subsequent meeting additional delegates were appointed under a special provision of the General Conference Constitution permitting representatives from general institutions and in the general interest of the work. Those in attendance from Southern Asia and seated as delegates were as follows:

O. O. Mattison, D. S. Johnson, M. E. Kemmerer, L. F. Hardin, W. F. Storz, J. B. Oliver, R. S. Lowry, Kalee Paw, M. D. Moses, M. Amirtham, S. Koilpillai, Mrs. Tse Fah, S. T. Gomer, H. R. Hooper, A. E. Anderson, P. A.

Parker, H. T. Burr, N. A. Buxton, C. H. Tidwell, W. G. Jenson, John Parobek, J. A. Soule, W. F. Zill, Ella May Stoneburner, Emma Binder, G. G. Hadley, K. S. Brown, C. H. Berger, Ada E. Warhurst, Mrs. F. E. Spiess, Leila Baird, Carrie Robbins, Hallie Thomas, O. A. Skau, Johnina White.

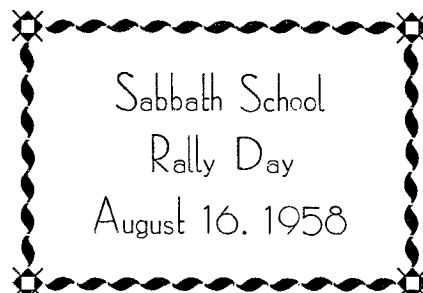
The wives of two of our national workers Mrs. S. T. Gomer and Mrs. S. Koilpillai also attended all of the Session and were a great help at the booth and on the programme. It was a special privilege to have three single ladies and one family of newly appointed missionaries to the Southern Asia Division in attendance with us for a portion of the meetings. These include Miss Petra Sukau, a nurse from the U. S. A., who is going to

Burma, Miss Evelyn Irvine, a nurse-teacher from Australia, who has been assigned to Vincent Hill School, Miss Hillary Cooper, a nurse also from Australia, who will soon be coming out to Nuzvid, and Dr. and Mrs. Philip Nelson who will soon be arriving in India. Dr. & Mrs. Nelson have been located in Seattle, Washington and he is now joining the South India Union as Medical Director of the Giffard Memorial Hospital.

WELCOME AND GREETINGS

V. G. Anderson, the President of the Columbia Union Conference and D. W. Hunter, President of the Ohio Conference in which Cleveland is situated, warmly welcomed the 1,100 delegates and approximately 7,000 visitors at the first meeting. Elder Hunter, formerly of Southern Asia, mentioned that they now have 7,500 baptized believers in 88 churches in the Ohio Conference. He enthusiastically reported that 1,000 members had been baptized in the Conference during the past 18 months.

We were thrilled at words of greetings from Elders C. H. Watson, J. L. McElhany and W. H.



Branson, former Presidents of the General Conference. Elder Branson was present at the Session and said, "In the world situation we see clearly that Jesus must come soon; there is no other way. It could be during the new quadrennium. The time is at hand. It comes as a whirlwind. It is with these considerations before us that this Conference gathers. We must prepare for the end. The harvest is ripe. We should plan at this session for the finishing of the work, and our task is urgent. Jesus expects everyone of our million members to work while it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work."

Early in the Session personal messages and greetings were presented from Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States and John G. Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada. Their messages stress the urgency of the task in which Seventh-day Adventists are engaged.

Many messages of greetings came in from the world field and we were thrilled at those read before the session from N. O. Dahlsten in Ceylon, C. B. Guild in Burma, L. C. Shepard from the Division at Poona, and M. S. Prasada Rao from Bezwada.

PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE

The Lord's messenger wrote, "As we near the close of time . . . order must be observed and there must be union in maintaining order, or Satan will take the advantage." *Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 210. Again she wrote, "I have been instructed that it is Satan's special effort to lead men to feel that God is pleased to have them choose their own course, independent of the counsel of the brethren." *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 489. Sister White then writes, "We want to hold the lines evenly, that there should be no breaking down of the system of organization and order that has been built up . . . this people must draw together. . . . Unless they do this, their activity will work at the wrong time and in the wrong way. They will often

work counter to that which God would have done, and thus their labour is worse than wasted." *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 490.

In accordance with this counsel, 1,100 delegates gathered from 99 different countries of the world, representing the church and all phases of God's work, being the highest body of the church on earth.

Years ago in addressing a General Conference, Mrs. White exhorted the brethren to cherish a spirit of hopefulness and courage as they contemplated the Saviour's love and guidance. She then wrote, "Let His love take possession of mind and heart. . . . It is your privilege to be endowed, from day to day, with a rich measure of His

tions, numerous secondary matters come under consideration.

UNITY MANIFESTED

Despite various languages, nations, cultures, and changes in positions of those in leadership a wonderful spirit of Christian unity was an outstanding feature of the Conference. Elder W. B. Ochs in his first devotional hour spoke on the subject "The Blessedness of Unity," using the words of Jesus, "That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that Thou has sent Me." John 17: 21. The proceedings of the Conference moved on in that spirit

TITHE COVENANT DAY— SEPTEMBER 20

Holy Spirit, and to have broadened views of the importance and scope of the message we are proclaiming to the world. The Lord is willing to reveal to you wondrous things out of His law. Wait before Him with humility of heart. Pray more earnestly for an understanding of the times in which we live, for a fuller conception of His purpose, and for increased efficiency in soul saving." *Testimonies to Ministers*, pp. 513, 514.

All who attended the Session will cherish the deep experience in spiritual things during the meetings. As prayers of rededication and reconsecration were offered a sense of the presence of heavenly beings was felt.

Main items of business transacted include the election of officers and departmental secretaries of the General Conference and the Divisions of the world field; presentation of reports of the work from the various Divisions and departments representing every phase of the church programme; and an opportunity to discuss and vote plans and policies affecting the world work. In addition to these three primary func-

through the devotional periods, sub-committee meetings and periods of reporting.

The tender fellowship of all was shown as T. Zigmund of Czechoslovakia and G. Baron and J. Zielinski of Poland brought greetings from their respective fields. These countries had not been represented at a General Conference for 25 years. Now as they were introduced the thousands of delegates sat in solemn silence, and then responded with spontaneous applause to greet these representatives from churches long separated from the close fellowship such a meeting affords.

Brother and Sister Juan Valdez from the Philippine Islands who had come to the United States for graduate study had also included attendance at the General Conference in their programme. Brother Valdez had put most of their savings, amounting to \$1,000.00, into a \$1,000.00 note carefully carried in his pocket. This was accidentally lost and an announcement was made that fellow delegates might help this couple to further their education by calling at the cashier's window

with contributions for them. Within a short period of time \$1,200.00 had been turned in for them. Fortunately the \$1,000.00 bill was later found by a lorry driver and the contributions were made available to special work in the Philippine Islands at Mountain View College.

The great missions pageant on the afternoon of June 21 and the

pageant of evangelism on the afternoon of June 28 emphasized the note of unity in soul winning. Following the missions pageant one of the laymen came forward to the desk and made an appeal for greater sacrifice indicating that he and his good wife had been impressed to contribute \$10,000.00 toward the great evangelistic offering, which was ten times the

amount they had first decided to give. He appealed to others to join in a real sacrifice that some of the needs of the world field might be met. A spontaneous response brought in thousands of dollars in united sacrifice from many who desired to share in this united effort.

Certainly the great spirit of unity was spelled out as the world-wide Million Dollar Offering was taken during the service on the morning of June 21st. One conference after another could report they had exceeded their goal with a healthy overflow. This made possible a large overflow of nearly a quarter of a million dollars for this one offering. We were reminded of the experience of Israel found in Exodus 36 where such a spirit of liberality was manifested that the treasurer spoke to Moses saying, "The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the Lord commanded to make."

The unity of mind of the whole Conference seemed expressed as 14,000 persons attending the Sabbath evening meeting sang in chorus,

'Blest be the tie that binds,
Our hearts in Christian love'

All the music for the entire Conference had been planned by one committee and the fervent amens spoken from hundreds of hearts breathed the deep feelings of our people who could be present to enjoy the many musical feasts.

GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

On the evening of June 19 as the General Conference opened Elder Figuhr presented a brief report. He noted that 19 persons attended the first Session of the General Conference held in 1863 representing 3,500 baptized members. Our hearts thrilled to learn that during the past quadrennium 314,439 new members were baptized and received into church fellowship. Now the entire church membership has grown to 1,102,910. Brother Figuhr drew our minds to the picture of faith, sacrifice, and love for God and His truth represented by thousands who took their stand for the

Contributing to the "Review"

A statement made at the thirteenth meeting, held 3:00 p.m., June 26.

F. D. NICHOL

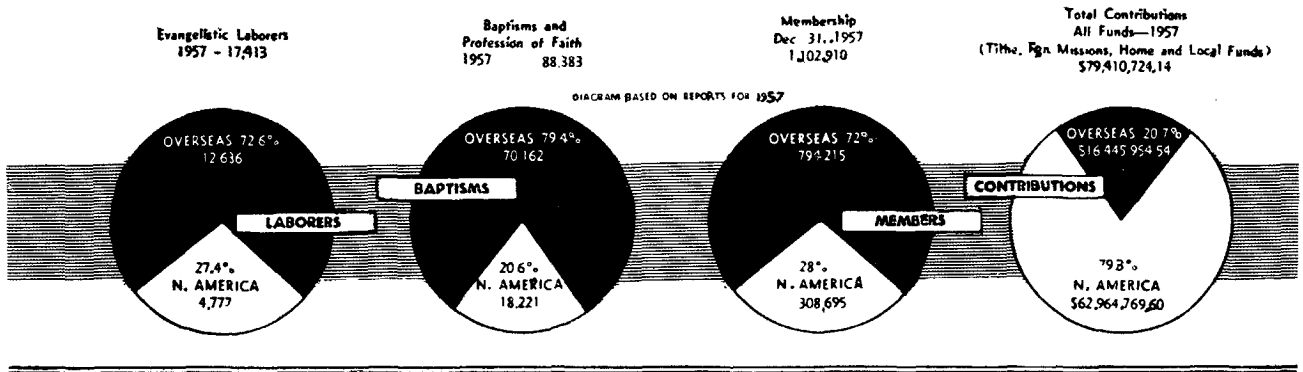
INCREASINGLY during the years one of the great objectives of the church paper has been to bind the home field to the great overseas fields where more than 70 per cent of our membership now resides. I think it imperative that we be thus bound together if we are to maintain unity and to secure from the home base a constantly increasing liberality. Now, we feel that the church paper, the REVIEW AND HERALD, can today be of distinct service in holding our people together, even as it has been in the days gone by. Actually, that service is rendered in no small degree by our overseas missionaries and other leaders who send in to the REVIEW a continual stream of reports. These reports enable our people in the home base ever to have vividly before them a picture of just what is taking place out in the far corners of the earth. That means that they can see how their mission offerings, their liberality, their sacrifice have been translated into great victories for the Advent Movement. And to the extent that the hearts of our people in the homeland are kept sensitive to the fact that the Advent Movement is growing and gaining greater victories all the while, to that extent will offerings grow to expand the work overseas.

And so I appeal to you to send in to us ever and anon heart-warming, human-interest stories of the growth of the message in all the corners of the earth. I don't care if you are up in Eskimoland, down

at the lowest tip of South America, or over in the South Pacific, Africa, or elsewhere. We are interested in what is happening in the Advent Movement in every corner of the earth.

You don't have to write a long story. You don't have to be a literary light of the first order to be able to write something good. If your story has real merit, if there is something heartwarming about it, we might be able to help you a bit with a split infinitive and a few dangling participles. If you are thinking of sending us something of length, drop us a line ahead of time, and we will write you, to help you shape it in such a way that it will accomplish the maximum. Don't fail to send us good pictures, if possible, and always use airmail. We like promptness. It is the essence, always, of good journalism.

One last thought. Don't send to us dry, formal reports of a conference session, or anything akin to it. It's not that we don't think that conference sessions are important, but a formal report of them is generally as dry as the hills of Gilboa of dew and rain. Tell us what happened as a *result* of that conference meeting—the new work that began, the new developments, the souls saved. Give us something that pulsates, that has warmth, that has colour, that will burn into the hearts of the souls of men and women and into their pocket books as well, that the treasury of God may be filled to overflowing.



Master in the face of great opposition.

W. R. Beach, who was re-elected Secretary of the General Conference painted an exciting picture of unparalleled growth in the overseas fields. Since the Conference met four years ago 78,238 new members have joined the Remnant Church by baptism in the Southern African Division. This brings their total membership to 165,906 with 106,178 new adherents attending the preparatory Bible classes. Brother Beach reported that membership in the Inter American Division now stood at 120,624 and that membership in the Southern European Division, Far Eastern Division and the South American Division had reached approximately 100,000 in each field.

Twenty-five years ago there was one Seventh-day Adventist for every 5,732 people in the world but today there is one Seventh-day Adventist to every 2,522 people. Over in North America there is one Seventh-day Adventist to every 610 people but here in India there is one Seventh-day Adventist to every 20,000 people. Only in Italy and Japan is the proportion greater. Facts like these were a tremendous challenge to the various delegations faced with the great task of evangelism in their home fields.

There are 45,930 persons who devote their full time to denominational endeavour—17,162 in the North American Division and 28,768 in the Divisions overseas. Of this group 17,413 are engaged in evangelistic and literature ministry and 27,517 are reported in activi-

ties of the various institutions. The accompanying graphs show the relationship in North America and overseas field in the matter of labourers, baptisms, members and contributions. The tremendous growth in overseas membership should stimulate to far greater effort in establishing the church on a solid basis.

INCREASING FINANCIAL SUPPORT

C. L. Torrey reported on the faithfulness of God's people in giving their tithes and offerings. The plan of systematic giving has blessed the church and the members when faithfully followed. Brother Torrey pointed out that on May 12, 1865, the General Conference had \$1,765.00 on hand and from May 12, 1865 to May 12, 1866 \$1,301.00 was received, making a total of \$3,066.00. The brethren had disbursed during the year \$2,760.00 leaving on hand on May 12, 1866, \$306.00.

In those days there were many among us who had not accepted or were not following the plan of systematic giving. Our membership was small and the resources of our people were meagre. Through the united efforts and sacrificial giving of our people tithes and offerings amounted to \$223,457,254.65 for the past four year period. The Harvest Ingathering or Uplift receipts during the past four years amounted to \$23,768,333.69.

As we studied these figures we could note with satisfaction some financial gains over the past four years in Southern Asia which have helped make the above figures possible. This led us to rededicate ourselves to the task of promoting this

phase of the work more faithfully than ever before.

MORE EVIDENCES OF ADVANCE

Though we feel insignificant with a membership of 1,102,910, our representatives and church organizations reach into countries and political divisions representing 98.64% of the population of the earth. At the close of 1957, 212,736 students were studying in our elementary schools and 43,598 students were studying in our secondary schools and colleges.

A total of \$21,547,157.67 worth of literature was sold during 1957 by our 43 publishing houses located in strategic places around the world. Literature evangelists now total 3,483 and they are selling literature in 214 different languages.

Around the world 220,496 persons spent time as in-patients in our medical institutions. These now number 102 sanitariums and hospitals, 85 clinics and dispensaries, and 10 medical launches. There were 2,569,090 treatments and other medical services administered to out-patients. We were deeply grateful for the sacrifices which have made possible our own medical institutions in Southern Asia, realizing the large contribution they are making in the work of our field.

Following the General Conference Session in 1954 the Sabbath School Department Advisory Committee set three goals for the coming quadrennium. The first was to bring the number of our Sabbath schools up to 22,000; the second was to reach a membership

of 2,000,000; the third was to bring in \$25,000,000.00 for missions from Sabbath school offerings.

The brethren reported that the third objective had been reached with a total Sabbath school offering of \$25,340,586.02. The number of Sabbath schools increased from 18,448 to 20,730, a gain of 2,282 Sabbath schools; and the membership increased from 1,187,883 to 1,435,161. Most phenomenal growth of the Sabbath school is reported from the Southern African Division where we now have 388,871 members, which is 27% greater than the membership in the North American Division.

As the General Conference Sabbath School Secretaries reported on the world Sabbath School on June 21, as it met during all 24 hours of the sacred day around the circle of the earth, we were thrilled to envision 1½ million worshippers of the God of creation praising Him and studying His word.

WITNESSING FOR CHRIST

Space does not permit us to retell wonderful experiences of personal witnessing. One of our faithful members was employed in a concern which was forced to lay off men, and the only position available for our brother required Sabbath work. A non-Adventist friend of his wrote to one of our ministers regarding him, "Reverend Sir, You have here a member of your church who has done the most outstanding thing of its kind that I have ever seen. What did he do? The one thing that one in a million would do, outside of, I now know and believe, Seventh-day Adventists. He quit his job before he would break his Sabbath. Any man who is as true to his faith as that, comes under the head of an Abraham."

Remarkable soul-winning experiences were reported by our literature evangelists. Down in Africa, in 1951, the teacher of another mission society had a dream. In this dream an angel told him that some day an African of another tribe would come to him with a certain book bearing the symbol of a sword on the yellow cover. When this happened he was

to buy that book. This man waited five years.

Finally an Adventist colporteur from another tribe approached him with some books. He showed him one book and then another book. "No, no," said the teacher.

"Don't you have a book with sword on the cover?"

"Yes, I do," replied the colporteur and he reached into his brief case and brought out the book. "Here it is, Vita Kuu" (*The Great Controversy* last chapters only).

This book was printed in 1954—three years after the dream. The African eagerly took the book and said, "This is it. This is the book I saw in my dream. I will buy this book regardless of the price."

He did purchase the book and read it immediately. Four days later he announced to his religious leaders that he had found the truth and must observe the Sabbath day. God had brought the truth of a soon coming Jesus to another earnest seeker for truth.

One of our launch men on the

San Francisco River in Southern America reports that in the first year on the river he travelled 4,000 miles in 500 hours of sailing. He treated 3,220 cases of malaria, 2,900 cases of parasites, 111 cases of diarrhoea, extracted 3,100 teeth and performed 18 minor operations. In all of his work he has treated a total of 21,341 persons. During the year he and his group held 225 river-side gospel meetings with an attendance of 16,000. Twenty-nine persons have been baptized as a result of their ministry.

On the Island of Jamaica where we have such a large church membership a woman told one of our ministers, "Every Adventist thinks he is a preacher. You always see the Adventists go around with Bibles. They preach under trees. They preach in booths. They preach on the street. They preach in the homes. And the peculiar thing—would you believe it?—is that the people listen to them."

Public Auditorium
Cleveland, Ohio
June 25, 1958

Dear Brother Johnson:

This is to acknowledge your letter dated June 19 in which you pass on to us a message of greetings to the session from Pastor L. C. Shepard. The delegates to the Forty-eighth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists assembled in Cleveland, Ohio, by duly recorded vote wish to thank you for the greetings in behalf of the twenty thousand workers and believers in Southern Asia.

It is with swelling hearts that we have heard of the progress of the message; it is with humble hearts that we realize the extent of the unfinished task. We see more clearly the hastening end of all things, and with you we pledge renewed faithfulness to God and to the task of finishing His work—to the task of bringing the gospel to every heart and to every land. We shall not slacken our support of this great Advent movement until God provides the answer He has in store to our petition "Thy Kingdom Come."

We thank you for conveying to us the greetings received from Pastor L. C. Shepard, in behalf of the workers and believers in Southern Asia.

With a very good wish, I am

*Very sincerely yours,
W. R. Beach, Secretary*

THEME OF THE CONFERENCE

The word of hope which went out from the Conference by the "Review and Herald," "Youth's Instructor," public press, television, radio and the witness of each meeting was the theme, 'Thy Kingdom Come.' Throughout the meetings thousands of voices echoed the praises of a soon coming Jesus as they sang the chorus:

My Lord will come again,
Yes, He will come again;
I will meet Him on high,
In the clouds of the sky,
For Christ, the risen Saviour,
will come again.

Our task is to share the gospel with more than 500 million people in Southern Asia. Through our 315 churches, 828 Sabbath schools, 20,000 laymen, and many agencies for witnessing the task will be accomplished. God has set His hand to finish the work. It will soon be finished for He will cut it short in righteousness.

 TRY ME—PROVE ME

HOW seldom we really trust God!

Brother David Skau told the following experience. It occurred while he was principal of Lowry Memorial High School.

The school had started sericulture as an industry. It takes experience to produce cocoons. The first crop was fair.

The second crop seemed to be growing well. The silk worms had developed to full maturity but they began to spin on a Friday afternoon. When spinning begins the real work starts for the boys because the silk worms that are ready to spin must be quickly separated from those not fully mature. The job requires two or three days of constant work.

Now it was Friday afternoon, only a few hours before Sabbath. Would the boys work on Sabbath or would the school lose the crop? The principal discussed it with the students responsible. They read God's promise and His challenge to "prove Him." They decided to

do all they could before the Sabbath. Then they planned. They removed all food from the maturing silk worms before the Sabbath with the hope that without food the maturity process would be slowed down until after sunset the next day. Then they prayed and left their business in God's care.

After Sabbath the principal and workers went to see the result. They found that some cocoons had been spun and were spoiled, but most of the silk worms had waited over. Realizing that God had blessed them, the students went to work with the remaining silk worms and a good harvest resulted.

But a great surprise was still in store for those who had honoured God by obedience.

When the cocoons were delivered to the factory the inspector remarked at the excellence of their quality. When they were fully appraised, the Lowry Memorial silk harvest was rated the best in the whole of Mysore State and the school received a 'premium price' for the silk which netted them much more than they had ever anticipated. God kept His promise, "I will pour out a blessing."

God never fails His people. If God's people will fully consecrate themselves to Him and His work, and obey His word, He will make them the head and not the tail.

Why not open your door to receive the blessings of God by faithful obedience in commandment keeping, in tithe-paying and in witnessing?

—O. W. LANGE.

 VOICE OF PROPHECY
IMPARTS NEW LIFE

J. PANDIT

RECENTLY, my eye caught a statement in *Christ's Object Lessons*. It reads, "Every seed has in itself a germinating principle. In it the life of the plant is enfolded." Yes, when placed under right conditions the seed has power not only to germinate and grow, but to perpetuate life itself.

Some years ago, the *Rain Drop* magazine carried a story

which might further illustrate this point. In West Lebanon, Mr. Eugene LeBrun, a layman, accepted the Seed, the Word of God. This in turn he began to sow in the hearts of others. As a result, many took their stand for Christ and they in turn are now sowing the seed.

The Voice of Prophecy imparts life to perpetuate life. Our Voice of Prophecy lessons have reached the homes of thousands in India and abroad to accomplish this very purpose.

Let me pass on to you a little report of what the Hindi Voice of Prophecy has accomplished during the last six months from January to June, 1958.

Applicants	7,154
Test Papers Received	55,658
Lessons Sent Out	70,818
Graduates	1,182

No doubt the seed is sown in different kinds of soil, but we are confident that, where it has fallen in good ground, good results will be inevitable.

A representative writes about a Hindu young man as follows—"He believes that the Christian religion is the only true religion and the way to salvation. He found this through the Voice of Prophecy lessons. He is anxious to accept this salvation."

Another representative gives us this heartening report of a young lady: "She is deeply moved by Christianity, though she is still a Hindu. Through her influence, five others in the family are enrolled in the Bible School, and are favourable towards Christianity."

A short while ago, while delivering our lessons to VOP students, a postman became curious and began to study the Bible Course regularly. On completion of the lessons, our representative contacted him and found him to be genuinely interested. He desires further Bible studies but, unfortunately, there are none to help him there.

Sometime back a middle aged man completed the Bible Course and, after a lapse of several months, the report suddenly reached us that he now is a baptized member of our church.

(Continued on p. 10.)

A PRAYER FOR PREPARATION DAY

DOREEN FOX

Dear Lord above, this is our preparation day;
Time's moving hands towards the sunset speed,
And still there's much to do. Yet Thou dost
Understand a worker's day.

There's work to see to, clothes to press, and shoes to shine,
A lesson needing final preparation,
And washing swinging still upon the line.

Do help me plan my time aright and give
My weary fingers skill and strength anew.
Perhaps someone has more than she can do;
O give me eyes awake that I may see
And lend a hand to help her through.
O Father, give me care and sober thought
To walk aright before Thee, this I pray;

If I should careless be in word or deed,
I may spoil another's Sabbath day.
Do grant when the bell to worship calls,
That I, kneeling with Thy dear ones to pray,
May hear Thy voice in soft tones sweetly tell:
"Welcome, welcome to My Sabbath rest—
Thou hast made thy preparation well."

—*Australasian Record.*

GUJERATI VOICE OF PROPHECY SCHOOL OPENS

F. E. SPIESS

JUNE 29, 1958 will go down in the annals of the Western India Union and the Gujerati section as a never-to-be-forgotten red-letter day. This was the day of the opening of the Gujerati branch of the Voice of Prophecy Bible school.

It was a grand occasion. The Voice of Prophecy veranda around the green garden court was lined with folding chairs which were occupied with Voice of Prophecy workers, friends and neighbours. A table and speaker was placed near Pastor Rawson's office and seated there were Pastor A. E. Rawson, Voice of Prophecy secretary and Bible School principal; Pastor N. G. Mookerjee, Union Voice of Prophecy Secretary; Pastor W. M. Moses, Western India Union Voice of Prophecy secretary; Pastor

P. E. Wolfe, Director and Evangelist of the Gujerat; Mr. Chhotubhai K. Rathod, chief operator of the Gujerati branch of the school; Pastor L. C. Shepard representing the Division and the Oriental Watchman Publishing House; and the writer. Each in turn spoke with reference to the occasion and the greatness of the blessings of God that made the occasion possible.

With Pastor N. G. Mookerjee offering the opening prayer, the programme got under way. Pastor A. E. Rawson told us of the considerable progress the Voice of Prophecy had made during the past eleven years of its existence. This Gujerati school, believe it or not, is the 17th branch Bible school to come into existence since the

inception of this correspondence school programme. Requests for lessons in these 17 schools are now creeping close to the million mark; lessons are turned out by the thousands; and our graduates are coming off the end of the line in real mass-production style. One of the best parts of the story is the realization that we have now found a God-blessed and God-prospered plan to reach all classes of influence in the Southern Asia Division, and that hundreds of baptisms have occurred directly or indirectly due to the influence of this institution of God's establishment.

Western India's position is unique in relation to the Voice of Prophecy, because, having the head office in our field and having such large cosmopolitan centers as Bombay, Ahmedabad, Nagpur, Poona and others, nearly every one of these 17 schools serves this union to some extent. Though the Marathi language school was one of the last to be started by the Voice of Prophecy, we note with satisfaction that it already ranks 8th from the top in number of students. We have faith to believe the Gujerati school will make similar strides.

The Gujerati field has been one of the most challenging fields in Western India and possibly in Southern Asia, because of its resistance to every type of missionary endeavour attempted by Seventh-day Adventists and by most other Christian missions. But we have already had a first fruit of promise because of the work of the English Voice of Prophecy in the area.

The seed thus sown has been for sometime springing up all over the Gujerat. We are pleased to report that souls are responding to the gospel call to the feast from every section of the Gujerat—from the areas around Surat, and all along the line and side lines toward Ahmedabad, among the people of old Kutch and Kathiwar, and from every other area. So now with the added facility of a Bible school in the language of the people we predict a new day dawning for the peoples of the Gujerat.

JOURNEYS IN AFGHANISTAN

PASTOR AND MRS. D. K. DOWN

Sharad,
Iran

[The Downs are on their way overland to England. The following is a condensed account of the two reports received so far of their progress—the first written from Kabul, Afghanistan, and the second from Sharad, Iran. We begin the narrative from Peshawar, Pakistan. Ed.]

JUST a mile or two from Peshawar we met bands of roving Pushtanis. These women are not veiled and wear very gay clothing and ornaments with their long hair done in a number of tiny braids at the sides and a fringe across the forehead. They carried the babies and other loads whilst the men carried rifles and drove camels and donkeys. The whole company were rather a wild-looking lot—we would not be camping out in the open that night!

Actually we reached the Khyber Pass by 6 p.m.—just too late to go through any border crossing process then. It took us till midday next day to get clear of the Pakistan border, but only a few minutes to obtain entry into Afghanistan.

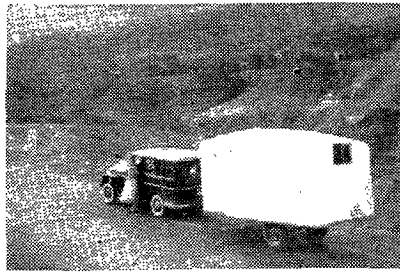
There was a petrol pump a few yards away from the border post and uncertain of the way ahead, we decided to fill the tank. No one spoke English or Urdu, but after much excited gesticulating the proprietor finally convinced us that he could not give us even a drop of petrol unless we had a coupon—he'd have his hands cut off if he gave us petrol without coupons!

The road was reasonably good despite the hundreds of heavy trucks that ply incessantly between the two countries. We had not gone more than a mile or so when some of these great trucks came bearing down on us, on their wrong side. We wondered just what sort of drivers these Afghanis could be; but as one of them approached he signalled furiously to us—and then we woke up. We were in a drive-on-the-right country for the first time in our lives! There was no sign or indication of the change over and it has taken us a little time to become accustomed to it. There are no mile posts and very few road signs of any kind.

In the afternoon we came to a

town called Jalalabad where after quite a deal of trouble, we obtained petrol coupons. English is scarcely spoken at all; French seems to be the most commonly used, though German is also common because of the Germans who have been engaged in huge dam-building projects at Sarobi.

In five hours we drove 105 miles. The road was full of diversions where new roads are being built with the most modern road building machinery—the machinery belongs to the Afghan government, and the road gangs are conscripts



The car and caravan in which the Down family set out overland for England last April. This tiny house on wheels provides a place to cook, eat, and sleep. They must also carry with them an adequate supply of petrol, drinking water, spare parts, and an *ingenuity* to meet many an unexpected emergency.

(all young men on reaching the age of 21 have to enter either the army or the road construction corps). The road is really a triumph of engineering, going around, under or through the solid rocks of these seemingly impassable mountains.

The rainfall in Afghanistan is surprisingly sparse, but in every plain and watered spot there are verdant fields and farms. We were also amazed at the number of ancient, and some more recent, castles, walls, fortresses and battlements guarding almost every hill.

At Sarobi, two-thirds of the way from the frontier to Kabul, we pulled up for the night in a quiet side street. A man who went to get us some water apparently informed his master that some foreigners had

come. Seconds later we saw an Afghan gentleman literally running toward our caravan. He took us to his home and we had a nice talk together. He appeared deeply impressed with our presentation of the Advent message.

Kabul is an amazing city. The wide streets, the modern cars, and the huge new buildings seem strangely out of place against a backdrop of snowclad hills and rugged mountain tops. At this time of the year the Kabul valley is very beautiful. Unfortunately we are too early to taste the luscious fruits and vegetables for which the district is famous.

The women and girls from about 11 years upward wear burkas. But it amuses us greatly because they all lift their burkas high for easier walking, and as their skirts underneath are only knee-level, it seems rather incongruous to keep the head and shoulders so closely veiled whilst their long stockinged legs are anything but covered.

All the men wear some head covering, and the heads of a lot of little boys are shaven except for a large fringe which hangs over the forehead. Bangs are also popular with the small girls. We are amazed at the fair complexion of most of the population.

Through the recently established tourist office we were directed to a secluded shady compound nearby where we parked the caravan and lived for the next eight days. We soon found that this compound and building belonged to the nation-wide news agency which flashed the news of our coming to the various newspapers of the country. Everyone we met there was very friendly and they naturally wanted to know who we were; where we came from; and what work we did.

(Continued on p. 10.)

BURMA UNION*President: C. B. Guild**Secretary-Treasurer: W. L. Murrill**Office Address: 68 U Wisara Road, Rangoon***GROWTH IN NORTH BURMA**

BAW DEE

“**S**A YA Baw Dee, please go to my village which is called Saimhun and baptize five women who belong to my family. My mother, sixty years old, wishes to be a member of the peculiar people before she dies.” This request was made a few months ago by a young man named Tual Cung, a sixth standard student at Myaungmya middle school.

I was surprised not knowing where this village is. Then I remembered. This young man was a soldier who became interested through reading tracts. The Holy Spirit worked on his heart. He was converted, left his job, and was baptized on May 18, 1956 at Sin-u-nau by Pastor Parker. He planned to attend school at Myaungmya that year but could not support himself there. He said, “I shall go home and sell my farm and then go to Myaungmya.” Later, we found his village, but could not understand the language, however his wife was quite well versed in Tiddim Chin. Phung Kai, Lian Khup and I asked her how she had received this message. She replied, “Through my husband.” Examination proved them to be very familiar with our message, but they were still wearing bracelets made of lead, weighing about a quarter viss (one pound) each and necklaces. As we presented to them the Bible standard concerning dress, they immediately put away all these things. Three were baptized. But the poor mother, sixty years old, was still using her pipe which she thought was indispensable.

This young man, Tual Cung is now at Myaungmya school. He brought almost his whole family into the Truth before going to school. We need men and women like this to be workers.

B r e t h r e n Lalkhuma and Zakhuma conducted an effort at

Varpui two miles from Tahan and the meeting was well attended by Lushai people. Many asked questions in regard to Daniel and Revelation. Ten people stood for the truth. Tahan Sabbath School attendance increased to more than fifty. They also held an effort at

Pinkhung and four were baptized later.

Brother Ngul Khaw Thang also conducted a cottage meeting at Sin-u-nau, and a retired captain accepted our message. He was especially impressed by Daniel 7: 25 and parts of Revelation.

Since Brother Ngul Khaw Pau moved down to the Siying Valley he has encountered much opposition. All the villages in every direction opposed him. One retired Chief-soldier used to call at every house asking them not to even be



TEMPERANCE WITTERS

PREMIER U NU FELICITATES THE BURMA TEMPERANCE SOCIETY

THE BURMA TEMPERANCE SOCIETY. Thus read the eighteen inch gold letters on a background of dark blue. The characters were in Burmese script and the sign hung over the entrance of the temperance booth at the recent Mon Cultural Exhibition held in Moulmein, Burma.

Months of cordial correspondence with the Mon Cultural Affairs Committee resulted in a twenty by twenty foot pandal being assigned to the Burma Temperance Society for its work at this large annual exhibition. During the four days the booth was open thousands of the citizens of the area visited the booth to study the posters on Alcohol and Tobacco. They were each given temperance literature in Burmese or English, and an opportunity to guess the number of beer bottle caps in a large prominently displayed glass bottle. Evenings found films and filmstrips being shown to hundreds as they passed by the booth. As an added attraction temperance slogans in Burmese were written in “blacklite” chalk as the crowd looked on. Something so mysterious and wonderful as this rivetted in the mind of the onlooker a message he will not soon forget.

On the third evening of the exhibition the booth was graced by the visit of U Nu, the Premier of the Union of Burma. During his brief visit, he was presented with a selected packet of temperance literature published by the Burma Temperance Society and the International Temperance Association. He expressed his appreciation for the work of the Society and wished it the best of success.

It is hoped that the message of the posters, the literature and the visual aids may have left their mark for good on the thinking of those who visited the booth. It was very evident that the twin evils of tobacco and liquor are prevalent in the beautiful land of Burma.

—FRANK C. WYMAN, *Executive Secretary, The Burma Temperance Society.*

sociable with us. Ngul Khaw Pau held his meeting; 12 were baptized including this man and his wife.

Phung Kai, Lian Khup and I conducted two efforts, one at Kaptel and the other at Lunmual four miles from Kaptel. At the Kaptel effort two were baptized and some others are preparing. Three other families are planning to join.

Lunmual effort was also well attended by Christians and non-Christians. As we studied on the Mark of the Beast some among the Christians opposed and interfered with the meeting in various ways, but the attendance continued. Four were baptized.

Khampar area lies between Tamu and Kalemyo. Its area is about 400 square miles, with 5,000 people, mostly Burmese and Lushai. A very small portion of this area has been visited or heard our message. But every place visited seemed to have bright prospects. The mission station is located at Khampat and we now have a number of members, and a very good number of visitors every Sabbath. The hearts of the people seem to be open. The Truth has pierced their hearts. The Lord is leading the work in this area. But they are poor in means and clothing, and badly lack medicine and education. With proper and careful teaching surely many souls will be harvested.

CRITICISM

A preacher kept on his desk a special notebook, labelled, "Complaints of members against other members." When someone called to tell him the faults of another he would say, "Here's my complaint book. I'll write down what you say, and you can sign it. Then when I have to take the matter up officially I shall know what I may expect you to testify to." The sight of the open book and ready pen had its effect. "Oh, no, I couldn't sign anything like that." And no entry was made. The preacher says he kept the book for forty years, opened it probably a thousand times, and never wrote a line in it. —W. Wallace Downes.

NORTHEAST INDIA UNION

President: W. F. Storz
Secretary-Treasurer:
A. R. Appel
Office Address: Karmatar
P. O., Santal Parganas,
Bihar

NUXSALBARI

PERHAPS you do not know about Nuxsalbari in the Himalayan section near the Nepal border, but I am happy to tell you that God is working here.

In June of 1956 we had only ten members, now there are more than thirty. There have been 3 baptismal services in the past two years and at the present time nine more are studying in the baptismal class.

We have a small hut for our Sabbath school, given by one of our members, but it is not large enough and sometimes we worship out under the bamboo trees.

On June 8 of this year Pastor R. N. Dass came up from Ranchi and baptized two new members. There are many souls who are thirsty and hungry for God's Truth.

Many are requesting that we come to visit and study with them. Please remember these precious souls in your prayers.

—P. SUREN.

VOICE OF PROPHECY

(Continued from p. 6.)

A few days ago, a young man, an M. A. in English, as well as an M. A. in Hindi, wrote me saying that, as a result of studying the lessons, he is now fully convinced that Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He has expressed a sincere desire to study more deeply into this saving message.

Many similar experiences of conversions could be recounted. The seed falling in good ground must germinate, grow and bear fruit. This is an unchangeable law in both the temporal and spiritual spheres. May we anticipate your continued prayers for these precious souls and the labourers in God's Vineyard.

JOURNEYS

(Continued from p. 8.)

We were particularly happy to be invited by the press photographer to visit his home for an evening meal. Afghanistan being a practically 100 per cent Muslim country, we did not expect to see anything of our host's wife. But we were surprised and delighted to be welcomed by a charming Afghan lady in smart European dress. Our host also had a number of relatives with him in his modern well-furnished home. All were astonished that we neither ate meat nor drank tea. They naturally wanted to know why. We started right at the beginning, telling them of the Creation and the fall and how meat-eating commenced and then unfolded to them the plan of salvation and God's plan for a new creation, where no life shall be taken, and righteousness dwells for evermore. They all seemed intensely interested in what, to them, was a completely new concept of the origin and destiny of the human race. No

Calendar of Special Days and Offerings 1958

August 2	Home Missionary Day and Offering
August 16	Sabbath School Rally Day
August 23	Bible Society Offering
September 6	Home Missionary Day and Offering
September 20	Tithe Covenant Day
October 4	Home Missionary Day and Offering
October 4-11	"Review and Herald" Campaign
October 18	Colporteur Rally Day
October 25	Temperance Day and Offering
November 1	Lay Witnessing Day, H. M. Offering
November 8	Voice of Prophecy
November 22-29	Evangelism Day and Offering Week of Prayer and Sacrifice
November 29	Week of Sacrifice Offering
December 6	Home Missionary Day and Offering

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

September 27	Inter-American Division
December 27	South American Division

Christian missions are established in Afghanistan—the only Christian workers in the country being a priest and two Roman Catholic nursing nuns attached to the Italian Embassy.

We had only planned on spending four or five days in this country, but sickness held us up in Kabul and repeated breaks in a faultily welded towbar lengthened our stay to three weeks.

Sabbath school in Afghanistan! We wonder, are we the first Seventh-day Adventists ever to hold Sabbath school in this mountainlocked city of Kabul? Alas, we had only our own family to praise the Lord on His holy day; for in all this land of 13 million people there are certainly no other Seventh-day Adventists. As we spent three Sabbaths in Afghanistan we were called upon by many people to explain why we rested on Saturday. Those to whom we spoke about God's Sabbath seemed extremely interested to learn of the Lord's great work of Creation and His holy rest day.

Our next stop was at Ghazni. Apparently the police and press had been alerted of our coming by the Kabul news agency, for they literally swooped on us the moment we arrived and triumphantly escorted us to the grounds of Ghazni's only hotel. The police kept a vigilant all-night guard over us and in the morning could not do enough to help us with some welding that needed to be done. None of them spoke any English but we have the address of the police officer to whom we will send some Persian literature from Teheran.

At Kandahar in the southeast we were held up two days for further repairs. Here we had many excellent opportunities for witnessing. One young man with whom I spoke the first evening returned the next morning with three companions to question me further about the things we had talked about. We urged them to enrol in the Bible school.

At Farah, in the southeast, we called on two hospitable Americans who were engaged in bridge building for the Afghan government.

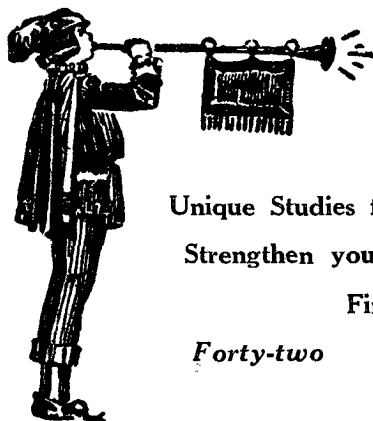
One was a Southern Baptist and the other a Roman Catholic. They helped us with our welding. While the welding was in progress we had an earnest discussion on spiritual matters and were able to clarify many questions, which had long troubled them about the Bible.

Due to our unexpected delays, our transit visa was one week overdue, when we reached Herat near the northwest frontier. But though it was a Muslim public holiday, helpful officials quickly arranged our exit visa and the next day we crossed the border into Persia.

We leave Afghanistan with many happy memories of its generous and happy people, who seemed ready to listen to the gospel

story and plan of salvation. We rejoice that we were able to sow some seed along the 900 miles of our journey, but are deeply conscious that what we have done is but a drop in the ocean. There is still a large work to be done by the church of God and it does not behoove us to congratulate ourselves on what has been accomplished while unwarned souls stumble along in heathen darkness. We need to plead earnestly for the outpouring of the latter rains to send God's last day message sweeping across the world to prepare the way for the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Pastor Down's next letter tells of their trip through Persia.



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Miscellany

● PASTOR and Mrs. C. B. Guild have been touring in the Chin Hills of Burma with Pastor Baw Dee and Brother Lin Khup. Our workers have been carrying on a steady programme in these hills around Kalemyo and Tiddim. Calls are coming for workers at Hakka and Falam. Twenty-one candidates prepared by Pastors Baw Dee and Woolsey from the Lushai and Chin speaking groups were baptized. These people are much impressed by the wonderful counsel given in the Spirit of prophecy, especially on the matter of how to live cleaner, healthier and happier lives.

● PASTOR M. S. Prasada Rao reports that Pastor B. S. Moses opened his effort in the city of Bezwada on Sunday night, March 23. A good class of people are in attendance at these meetings. Pas-

tor E. S. Eswar Rao, also, opened meetings in the city of Bobbili on Sunday night, March 23. Prayers of our people around the field are solicited for these efforts.

● Pastor A. M. Akbar writes that both day and evening meetings were held at the Bheri Mela in the District of Gujranwala and that during the time of the Mela 8,000 tracts were distributed and a number of small books were sold to those who attended the meetings.

● During the time of the school vacation at Chuharkana the work on the new tube well for the school is progressing. Plans are also being laid for a new administration building. A number of the students are remaining to work during the summer at the school and in the school press.

● Brother Bairagee reports that a heavy storm tore off all of the roof of the school administration building at Monosapara. This is being repaired as quickly as possible as the rains have begun in that area.

● Pastor and Mrs. M. G. Champion conducted an elementary school teachers' institute at Gopalganj during May and June. In spite of intense heat—up to 117 degrees in Gopalganj—the teachers studied hard to prepare for the coming school year.

● Pastor L. J. Tessier is now able to use his new boat which is designed for work on the waterways in the Gopalganj area. It is powered by a 35 horsepower Sea Horse outboard motor and will be a great help in carrying on the work at the mission station since land transportation is so poor.

● Miss Lilly Lucas was accepted at the Christian Medical College, Vellore, to begin her medical studies this term. Miss Leah Crussiah also has received word of her acceptance for the medical course at the Christian Medical College, Ludhiana.

● Pastors M. E. Kemmerer and D. S. Johnson have returned to Southern Asia from the General Conference. The Lowry children, LyVerne and Buddy accompanied

TOUCH AND LIVE:

“Touch and Live” is the title of a book of radio and television sermons by Elder Geo. Vandeman on such subjects as Heaven, Human Suffering, Death, The Bible, Marriage and Our Times.

There are thirteen sermons, one hundred twenty-eight pages, printed on heavy antique paper, bound in cloth with dust cover. We have no information about the price. Judging by other books it will be between \$1.50 and \$2.50.

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Pastor Kemmerer via Delhi and up to Vincent Hill. The two Anderson boys, David and Leslie, are booked to leave New York on July 14. They will also be attending Vincent Hill School.

● The P. A. Parker family have just returned to Burma by air. We welcome them back to Southern Asia.

● Miss A. L. Gifford has spent several weeks at Spicer College en route to the States. Several students who accompanied her from Burma are now enrolled for the school term.

● The C. W. Stout family who were reported to have arrived in Madras during the early part of June were delayed in the mouth of the Hoogli River by dock strikes and finally disembarked on July 6 or 7 in Calcutta. They will locate in Nuzvid where Brother Stout will lead out in the Laboratory training programme.

Southern Asia Tidings

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