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MAGAZINE MINISTRY

J. W. NIXON

WE ARE LIVING in a magazine reading age. Life is so fast today that people are often too busy to read a book, but they will take time to read a magazine. It is up to us to take advantage of the possibilities thus involved and do everything in our power to utilize our magazines in the giving of the message.

Through His servant the Lord has given us this counsel: "The great and wonderful work of the last gospel message is to be carried on now as it has never been before. The world is to receive the light of truth through an evangelizing ministry of the world in our books and PERIODICALS. Our PUBLICATIONS are to show that the end of all things is at hand."—*Christian Education*, p. 100.

Periodicals have been ordained of God to assist in the finishing of His work on earth. A careful reading of the divine blue print reveals the fact that our journals have been brought forth from the presses under the Divine blessing of God to play a special part in the closing days of earth's history.

Back in the beginning of our work, the leaders realized the importance of scattering the truths through literature and simple plans were laid and carried out, but as the years have rolled by, our magazine work has grown and developed until in the year 1957 we were publishing 385 periodicals. This fine selection of journals is not for our people only, but many are specifically for the public.

We have literature, but our pro-

blem is to circulate it among the people. Through His servant the Lord challenges us to "let the leaflets and tracts, the PAPERS and books go in every direction." (E. G. White.) In carrying out this task of blanketing the earth with our literature, we must make the maximum use of our magazines, particularly those that carry the full message. They must receive a wider circulation.

At the autumn council in 1948 it was recommended that a group of men and women be recruited to specialize in the selling of periodicals. These workers need not be top ranking sales persons, but simply specialists in this respect that they concentrate on selling periodicals only—in our country particularly "Our Times" and "Herald of Health." It would seem to me that these speciality salesmen could be the solution to the problem.

Writing of the possibilities wrapped up in magazine circulation, Elder J. F. Kent, says:

"One big reason why the organization known as Jehovah's Witnesses is making progress throughout the world is their large and aggressive magazine programme. Only the other night while walking down the main street of one of our principal cities, I could stand and count fourteen people who were faithfully selling single copies of the "Watchtower". They were

not only on each street corner but also between corners. Those working ranged from six to sixty years. They are doing in this respect what Seventh-day Adventists could and should be doing with our various magazines in our cities throughout the world."

During a Big Week campaign one of our lady workers sold approximately Rs. 650.00 worth of single copies of our magazines. This demonstrates the possibilities which are wrapped up in this line of activity and that it is a very successful method of spreading the truth.

There must be many among the rank and file of our church membership who could take up this kind of work. I believe an organized attempt to recruit an auxiliary force of part-time magazine workers would yield surprisingly fruitful results. They would greatly increase the spread of our maga-

zines. Here is a line of work that would create a large amount of missionary activity among our church members. It would achieve three important objectives namely: the wider distribution of the truth; the improvement in the spiritual life of the church; and the increased circulation of our magazines to a financially satisfactory number.

Surely the time has come for a big forward drive in the sale of our magazines not only by our regular colporteurs, but by a large army of lay workers from every church throughout the Division. Women as well as men can engage in this important programme as will be seen from the following plan which is described under the title of *The Route Plan*. May God's people be willing in this day of opportunity and come forward to the assistance of the Lord in finishing of the work through magazine circulation.

The Route Plan

ONE OF THE most fruitful ways of doing missionary work is now made possible to our church members in Southern Asia. In other Divisions this has been done for many years with good results. It is estimated, that in some other countries 75% of our message journals are sold by single copy sales. This work is done very largely by ladies and lay workers. The sales are made on the streets as well as in the homes and offices. Why cannot we do something like that here?

The inauguration of "Our Times" has opened up a new avenue of missionary activity for every church member. I believe there is a plan that could be operated by our lay members with good results. This is known as the "Route Plan."

A definite section of territory is set aside by the church missionary secretary or the pastor of the church for each member. Then the church member visits each home

and office in that area, or as many as possible, in systematic order, and introduces "Our Times" to them. Those who buy are encouraged to read the journal and are then tactfully informed that a further call will be made on them in a month's time with the next issue. In this way a regular monthly visit can be established and the person's interest in spiritual things aroused or followed up as the case may indicate.

In working this plan the individual follows the same route every month. The number of people called on is determined by how much time the person has to work. If time allowed, a different route could be followed every day of the month. The idea is to establish a monthly contact, by selling single copies of "Our Times." On the first call, when a person buys a magazine, a note is made of the name and address, then another call is made in a month's time with the next issue of the journal.

If each church member made only one such contact each month, what a grand work could be done! Our subscription rate could be doubled. But why stop at one person. If you have a few hours each week to give to this work, you could have many monthly subscribers.

In this plan it is not intended that the person operating it take yearly subscriptions, but sells only single copies. However, yearly subscriptions could be taken if the person wishes to have the journal that way. Neither is it intended that single copies of the magazine should be given away. This defeats an important objective of the plan, which is to increase the subscription rate of the journal. However, there is no restriction on giving copies away, but every copy sold adds another effective weapon for the destruction of the forces of evil, because it enables the Publishing House to print another magazine.

The money received enables the church member to not only carry on this work without any drain on their personal finances, but adds to their private income. Besides, people are more likely to read that which they pay something for, and there is no drain on church expenses.

Why not join the growing army of part-time magazine workers around the world by operating the "route plan" right in your own neighbourhood, and spread the truth through the systematic circulation of our beautiful message filled paper, "Our Times."

This is a call to every church member to join this growing army, and to every church missionary secretary and pastor to organize the sale of single copies of "Our Times" through the "Route Plan," or any other method that will increase its circulation.

J. W. NIXON.

"Southern Asia Tidings"

Offerings

March 26

Saving Souls through Selling Magazines

I. H. IHRIG

NO GENUINE Christian will dispute the fact that the responsibility for seeking the lost belongs to him. Of all the avenues open for seeking the lost there is none more vital and effective than the literature ministry. This is emphasized in these words: "The world is to receive the light of truth through an evangelizing ministry of the word in our books and periodicals."—*Colporteur Ministry*, p. 5.

"When church members realize the importance of the circulation of our literature, they will devote more time to this work. Papers, tracts, and books will be placed in the homes of the people, to preach the gospel in their several lines. . . . The church must give her attention to the canvassing work. This is one way in which she is to shine in the world. Then will she go forth 'fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.'—*Ibid.*, p. 7.

Repeatedly the Spirit of prophecy makes reference to the use of papers and books, thereby emphasizing the importance of both. Other statements point out clearly that a definite work is to be done in reaching souls through our magazines: "Some would receive more benefit from papers and tracts than from books. Papers, tracts, and pamphlets that dwell upon Bible lessons all need attention in the canvassing work, for they are as little wedges that open the way for larger works."—*Ibid.*, p. 140. "Blessed soul-saving Bible truths are published in our papers. There are many who can help in the work of selling our periodicals."—*Ibid.*, p. 145. "We now have great facilities for spreading the truth; but our people are not coming up to the privileges given them. They do not in every church see and feel the necessity of using their abilities in saving souls. They do not realize their duty to obtain subscribers for our periodicals, in-

cluding our health journal."—*Ibid.*, pp. 64, 65.

From these quotations it can be readily seen that magazines are to have a significant part in the literature ministry. That other denominations and publishers recognize their value, is evident from the millions of magazines being sold today. Samuel Cardinal Stritch, archbishop of Chicago, said recently: "The printed word of the newspaper and other journals is more important than the radio or television. . . . However great the importance of the radio and television in our times, the printed word is more important."—*Tulsa Tribune*, May 14, 1954.

The magazine ministry is highly productive in soul-winning results as is indicated by the following experiences.

Mrs., of the Texas Conference, has been selling our journals for about thirty years. She has made a good living all this time and won many souls. Some time ago she was back in a town she had previously canvassed. She met a woman who asked her if she was not the one who had sold her husband a magazine contrary to her wishes. Mrs. admitted she was. The woman then said,

"You will be happy to know there are eight of us rejoicing in the truth, and we have joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church."

Two brothers have been working together in one of our conferences for about three years. It is not uncommon for them to sell more than one thousand rupees' worth each in single copies during a week. It is plain to see they have a good income, and are placing the truth with thousands who would possibly never be reached in any other way.

Another colporteur in a large Midwestern city is selling three to four thousand rupees' worth of single copies monthly. He is a successful businessman for God. His work is proving fruitful in souls won for the kingdom. He is building for eternity while God is prospering him here.

A young woman who is deaf frequently sells from one thousand to one thousand five hundred rupees' worth of single copies a week. She is a true gospel worker. God blesses her financially, and gives her success in sowing the gospel seed.

The magazine ministry is ordained of God as an integral part of the publishing work. This makes it a high and honourable calling. All who successfully engage in the work must recognize its sacredness and carry it on with dignity and earnestness. Truly they are walking in the footsteps of Jesus, who came to seek and to save the lost.

On Fire For God

Miss Betty Cring, a colporteur who is deaf but nevertheless is on fire for God, has created a record in the sale of single copies of our magazines. In four days of one week she sold 1,280 magazines. On one of those days she sold 450 copies which is the highest number magazine sales made by one worker on one day in the history of our work. Behold what God can do!

She has delivered Rs. 50,000

worth of magazines in one year. Here is what she has to say: "I am very happy that the Lord has called me out of the world and into His marvellous light, and has given me the opportunity to labour for Him. God has richly blessed me, and what I have done many others could do, too." Is there any excuse for those who have all their faculties? Where there is a will there is a way.

The Tither's Surprise

The Christian who begins to tithe will have at least six surprises. He will be surprised—

1. At the amount of money he has for the Lord's work.
2. At the deepening of his spiritual life in paying the tithe.
3. At the ease of meeting his own obligations with the nine-tenths.
4. At the ease in going from one-tenth to larger giving.
5. At the preparation this gives to be a faithful and wise steward over the nine-tenths that remain.
6. At himself in not adopting the plan sooner.

—The Glad Tidings

QUADRENNIAL COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

"OUR TIMES" PROMOTION

Whereas the "Our Times" magazine has proven itself to be an excellent evangelizing agency, it is VOTED That during the "Our Times" campaign

- 1) That the goal for "Our Times" subscriptions be set at 20,000 for 1960.
- 2) That adequate promotion be given in all churches to encourage the purchase of clubs for "Our Times" for missionary work by the members.
- 3) Every church be organized to sell the magazine to their English reading neighbours.
- 4) Colporteurs be requested to devote two days exclusively to canvassing for "Our Times" with a goal of twenty subscriptions each.
- 5) All workers be requested to devote at least one day to canvassing for "Our Times" with a goal of ten subscriptions each.
- 6) That students in our schools be trained by the colporteur leaders in the art of selling "Our Times" during their spare time.
- 7) That the Voice of Prophecy Commission be requested to study ways and means of soliciting subscriptions to "Our Times" from students showing special interest.

"I Was So Much Moved"

T. R. TORKELOSON

THUS ran the first line of a postcard recently received at the Oriental Watchman Publishing House. It is the kind of a remark one might expect to hear at the close of an inspirational church service just after a spirit-filled sermon has been preached. But this spontaneous appreciative message of the postcard went on to say, "I was moved so much by reading "Our Times."

According to the way statistics of this nature are usually interpreted, it is believed that for every such response expressed, there are hundreds more just like it unexpressed. It would therefore be accurate to state that this one reader has voiced the sentiments of a multitude, and this leads to the satisfying conclusion that thousands of people are being effectively reached through the magazine "Our Times."

These people might be living in places where there is no Adventist church to attend, or perhaps they might not be inclined to go inside

a church even if there were one near by, where under the ministry of some devoted worker they would be moved to repentance. But through another agency which God has also ordained, the printed page, their hearts are being touched.

This is the very result we had hoped and prayed for when the magazine "Our Times" was launched last year. Now throughout a whole year, it has been preaching sermons in thousands of homes, and people are being deeply moved.

Let's keep it up. Let more of our ministers share some of their most effective sermons with the readers of "Our Times." Let more of our believers take part in distributing the magazine. Let everyone subscribe for himself and for as many others as he possibly can. And then, let us all continue to pray for God's blessing upon this magazine, so that through its ministry month by month many more may be deeply moved.

"Our Times" - - A Journal With a Future

S. JAMES, *Division Temperance
Secretary.*

FOR A LONG time I have cherished the desire for a journal published right here in India, in Indian garb, contributed to largely by local talent, speaking to Indian minds and hearts, the mighty truths of God. My desire is abundantly fulfilled by "Our Times"—a worthy monument to the consecration and skill of the workers of our publishing house.

During the present Uplift Campaign in Delhi scores of "Our Times" were placed in the hands of leading business, industrial and

professional men and government officials. A few days ago I had to interview an officer in the Central Secretariat in connection with our temperance work. At an opportune time I gave him a copy of "Our Times." He looked on the masthead and said: "Is this the old Oriental Watchman and Herald of Health? I used to get that paper, but I do not know why I discontinued it. I must get it." I quickly suggested that I might put his name on the mailing list of the "Herald of Health." "Well," he re-

plied, "there is a local agent and I would like to renew it through him." This information was duly passed on to the men concerned who will follow through the interest.

As a professional temperance worker I greatly appreciate the pointed articles "Our Times" carries on alcohol and tobacco. Apart from providing me with scientific facts and figures for my lectures and much inspiration for my work in general, these articles serve as an easy introduction to place the journal in the hands of all types of people.

"Our Times" has appeared at a right time. These are days when the people appreciate and admire and support good things produced in their own land, and when so much effort is put forth to stimulate indigenous production. "Our Times" meets the aspirations of the people in the field of religious literature. This journal is going to be a great agency in carrying the truths of God to the intelligentsia of India. Many great men are going to point to "Our Times" as that which stirred the first ripple of interest in their hearts in the religion of Jesus Christ. Therefore, every Seventh-day Adventist must keep a zealous eye on the success of this journal and make every effort to place it in thousands of government offices, libraries, reading rooms, clubs, and homes.



Is it Worthwhile to
Distribute "Our Times?"

What Do Our Readers Say ?

ANDHRA PRADESH—

"I am glad to let you know that it was the first time for me to go through the magazine "Our Times" and I can't express with words how happy I felt while reading the magazine.

I am an ardent and fervent believer in the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. I wish to read the magazine regularly."

ANDHRA PRADESH—

"Very recently I have come across your monthly "Our Times" and I am glad to say that it is the most appropriate magazine for the present generation. And I shall be delighted, if you can regularly send a copy of it to my daddy to the address overleaf. It will be a great source of information for both the school and parish."

BURMA—

"Thank you ever so much for "Our Times" magazine which I started receiving some time back. . . . I am striving to practise the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist church with the view of finally being baptized into the church. . . . The articles in your magazine go a long way in helping me to strengthen my belief in the Advent message. I pray and thank God for the help your magazine is giving me. And I pray that you will be guided in having your magazine circulated to the multitudes who still do not believe."

BOMBAY STATE—

"I thank you very much for the copies of "Our Times". I hope and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ that this monthly periodical will definitely help humanity in guiding them from wrong to right path.

MADRAS STATE—

"I thank your agent for having introduced this booklet "Our Times" to me. 'Our Times' is full of blessing—nothing but blessings. I am fully enjoying it."

ASSAM—

"We want to congratulate you on the lovely and striking issue of 'Our Times' that we have just received. The article on the front is very timely and the picture is something that makes people wonder . . ."

MAHARASHTRA—

"I wish to pass on to you a word of appreciation for 'Our Times'. Readers say this is the best religious paper they have seen printed in India. I personally enjoy reading it. It is very attractive. . . ."

"OUR TIMES"

C A M P A I G N

April 3-15

How many subscriptions

will YOU get?

A Word of Greeting

C. L. TORREY.

I have now arrived back at the General Conference and I want to send through the pages of the "SOUTHERN ASIA TIDINGS" my greetings and best wishes to all of our workers and laity in the Southern Asia Division. As I have travelled about the Division visiting schools, hospitals, and mission stations, I thank God for the progress that has been made since I was last there in early 1956.

With such a dedicated corps of workers and laity, as I found wherever I visited, and their determination to press forward the work, we have nothing to fear regarding the finishing of the task. We can, therefore, continue to be

of good courage.

Sometimes the tempter besets us with trials and tribulations, and the future looks dark. The clouds hang low about us and storms and tempests beat hard against the heart. At such times let us bow low our ears and listen to the Master's voice saying, "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid."

When Moses laid down his leadership and placed his mantle upon Joshua, he commanded him "to be strong and of a good courage." Deut. 31:6. And after the death of Moses, the Lord spoke to Joshua and said, "Be strong and of good courage. . . . only be thou strong

and very courageous." Joshua 1:6, 7.

The ultimate goal of the Christian man or woman is perfection, and courage is the centre of the composite qualities constituting perfection. Courage enables us to overcome any hardships, brave any dangers, face any situation, with coolness and calmness and fearlessness. Our courage is confidence, and confidence is faith. Peter admonishes the believers to "add to your faith courage."

So I want to say to you dear workers, and laity alike, be of good courage. God is leading this great Advent Movement on to victory. If we are faithful in our respective tasks, God will bless us and His work and add to the church daily the honest in heart in Southern Asia.

I am especially thankful for the large number of baptisms that were

VICTORY D

March 5 will be a day of Joy and gladness. It

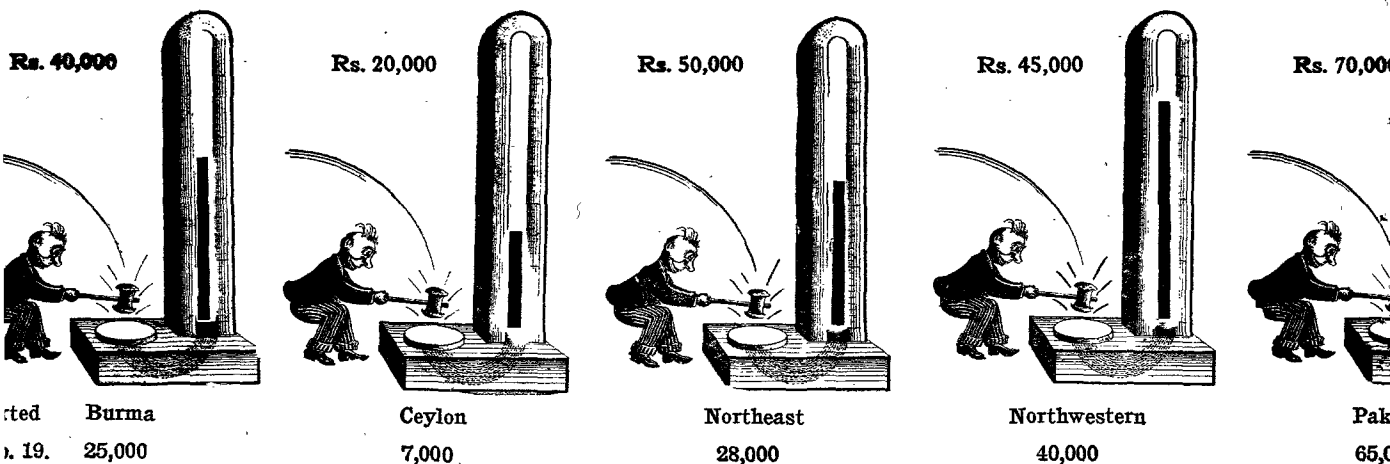
What rejoicing it brings!
What satisfaction comes to the heart of every
faithful man and woman!
What joy is felt by all the willing children
and youth!
How good God has been to His people!

Throughout the Campaign—

We have seen the hand of God leading His people;
We have heard the stately steppings of Israel's invisible
We have witnessed the providential movings of the
hearts of worldly men.

Shall we not praise His name for His goodness and mercy, for
we have enjoyed during the 1960 Ingathering Campaign?

In some places there may still be some work to be done
trust that it will not be neglected. Do not stop until you have
the 1960 Victory the best in your experience.



Ministerial Institute, Rangoon

KEITH R. MUNDT.

reported in 1958 and for those that will be reported for 1959, and for the more than 22,000 baptized church members, and for the thousands of others who are interested in our message as result of studying the Voice of Prophecy Bible Lessons and listening to the spoken word by our ministers as well as other important avenues of proclaiming the gospel.

May God bless each of you and give you good success in soul-winning.

W. L. Murrill Ordained

● W. L. Murrill, Acting President of the Burma Union, was ordained to the gospel ministry on the 23rd of January in the Rangoon church. The message was given by J. F. Ashlock, the prayer was offered by D. S. Johnson. R. A. Anderson delivered the charge, and U Kalee Paw welcomed Brother Murrill to the gospel ministry.

After almost nine years it was a privilege to attend the second Union ministerial institute since World War II. Pastor R. Allan Anderson, secretary of the Ministerial Association of the General Conference of SDA, in association with Pastor J. F. Ashlock, division MV and Ministerial Association secretary conducted the institute from January 24-27.

The four days of intensive study of pastoral and evangelistic subjects plus the evening meetings when Pastor Anderson spoke were of benefit not only to workers but also to the members of the Rangoon SDA Church. The meetings were well attended and many

friends came regularly.

On the last day of the institute the brethren clasped hands and pledged to go forth to preach a positive message and to uplift Christ before the masses of Burma.

New Recruits

● W. W. Christensen and Gordon A. Smedley are expected to arrive in Burma within the next several months. The Christensens are veteran missionaries and would be locating at Myaungmya to conduct in-service training programme for church and evangelistic workers from throughout the Burma Union. The Smedleys, of Canada, will locate in Maymyo for language study and pastoral work.

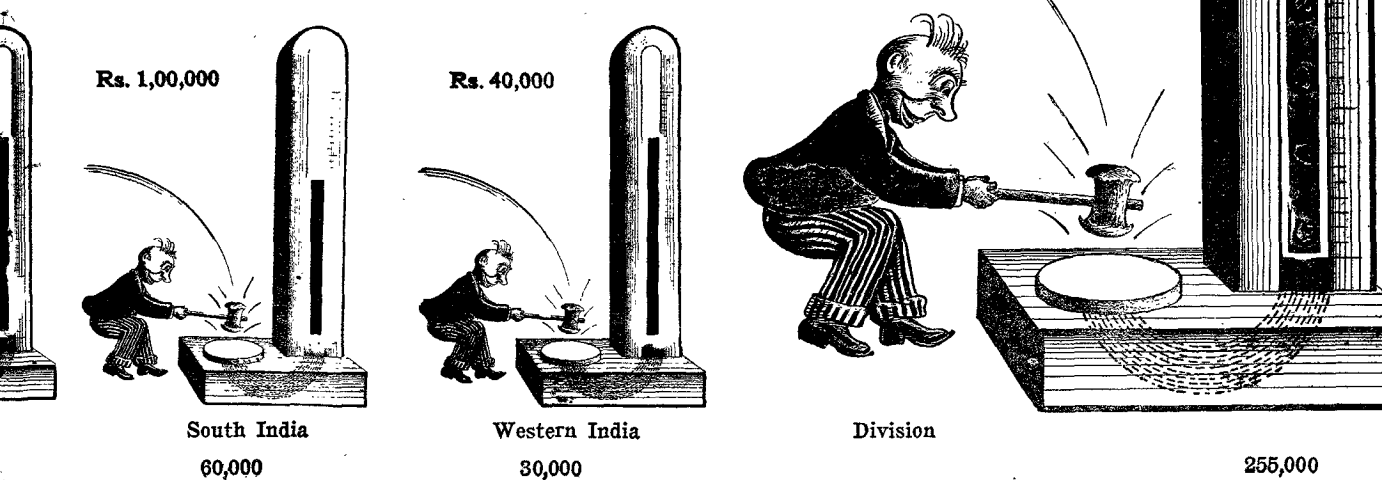
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Uplift Victory Day.

of God upon the
undant blessings
this is true we
your task. Make

REPORT:—The final blow is now being dealt to the Uplift challenge report your victory promptly. Watch this space. The grand totals will be shown here when all the reports are in from the field.

Division Super Goal
Rs. 4,50,000



Voice of Prophecy Rallies in Northeast Union

BEJOY NOWRANGI

It is certainly a thrilling experience to conduct Voice of Prophecy rallies in our large cities as this is a direct way of bringing Christ to the masses.

During the third week of January we had the privilege of holding two top-grade Voice of Prophecy rallies in the cities of Calcutta and Shillong. As soon as we were informed about the proposed visit of Elder J. E. Chase, Radio and TV Associate Secretary of the General Conference, together with Elder C. R. Bonney, Radio Secretary of the Southern Asia Division, we rented a very beautiful and spacious hall in the city of Calcutta.

Sunday, the 17th of January, 1960, was a high day for the members of the church. Over a dozen of our workers and church members volunteered to serve as ushers during the rally. Cards were kept ready and pencils were sharpened for the new enrollees. Long before the meeting started a record crowd filled the Calcutta University Institute Hall. Every seat in the hall was occupied and many people were standing in the corridors and on the balcony. A very good class of people attended this meeting and they were estimated to be over 800. At the close of the meeting one of the officials of the hall told us that this was one of the best attended lectures in that hall, with a very attentive audience.

The lecture on "BEHOLD THE MAN" was given by Elder Chase in such a simple, but effective and forceful way that a pin-drop silence was maintained throughout, which is very unusual for a crowd composed mostly of non-Christian youth in India.

Elder Bonney spoke on the extent of the work of the Voice of Prophecy throughout the world and the people were amazed to know just what is being accom-

plished. He also made the running commentary on Daniel II film when the machine failed to produce sound. His pleasant and impressive voice gave a sure proof of the fact that he is a successful Radio speaker. Throughout his talk he kept the full attention of the whole audience focused on the forty-minute film. After the showing of the film about 400 people enrolled for the Bible Courses.

One of the most impressive features of this Voice of Prophecy rally programme was the presentation of the diplomas to those who had satisfactorily completed one of the Voice of Prophecy courses. Altogether 83 certificates for the Bengali course and 31 certificates for the English course were presented. It was thrilling to see men and women from every religion and every walk of life receiving diplomas for finishing this brief study of the Bible.

This rally made an indelible impression on the minds of the people who attended it; here they saw the true beauty of Christ and Christianity through the lecture and the film. At the close of the meeting Elder Chase stated that the Calcutta rally was one of the best rallies he had ever conducted in the whole of Southern Asia Division, up to that time, and even in the whole world field.

We were very happy to have Pastors N. G. Mookerjee and H. T. Burr with us, for they were kept fully occupied in making personal contacts with the graduates and the new students, and did much towards the success of the meeting.

The rally in Calcutta gave further evidence to the fact that Voice of Prophecy rallies are Evangelistic campaigns of the highest order. Space does not permit me to write more about the Calcutta rally.

But much more can be said about the Shillong (Assam) Voice

of Prophecy rally conducted on the 19th of January. This rally was held in the State Central Library Hall of Shillong which is more spacious and more beautifully designed and up-to-date than the one in Calcutta. Over one thousand people listened to the stirring message presented by Elders Chase and Bonney while over two hundred people stood outside the hall in the frosty air of Shillong. The whole programme went off very smoothly and turned out to be a great success.

Earlier in the day the Lushai Voice of Prophecy School was opened and during the meeting it was promoted among the audience. This new school, under the leadership of Hmingliana, will fill a great need for the peoples in the Lushai Hills. There were almost one thousand applications to be processed on the opening day. There are good prospects for the future of this school.

We praise the Lord for His guiding hand over the whole programme of rallies in these big cities of the Northeast. From what we saw and experienced we are more than convinced that this is one of God's ways of taking the message to the thousands.

We thank Elders Chase and Bonney in a special way for their ministry. The Lord is using them mightily in bringing the gospel message to the sin-sick hungry souls, who are groping in darkness in these last days. Only eternity will reveal the true results of these rallies. Let us pray to the Lord of harvest, that the way may be opened to hold more of such Voice of Prophecy rallies in many more cities and towns of this Union, so that, before that great day, all the inhabitants of this great Union field may be warned of the coming judgment. Let us continue to go "FORWARD IN FAITH."

[This report of the Voice of Prophecy rallies in the Northeast Union gives only a partial picture of the rallies around the Division. Three other reports have come to the editor's office but we do not have room for them all. Pastor Bonney is writing a report of the Division V. O. P. work for an early issue of the "TIDINGS."—Ed.]

The fellow who watches the clock doesn't need to worry about his future; he hasn't any.

Baptisms in NW

● A. J. Johanson reports the baptism of 13 persons at Amroha, U. P. Brother Johanson visited Lucknow and Amroha in company with I. M. Chand recently. There will soon be others ready for baptism and a farmer at Amroha has offered a half acre of land for a workers quarters and a church. They are at present running a church school with 23 students.

69 Efforts in NE

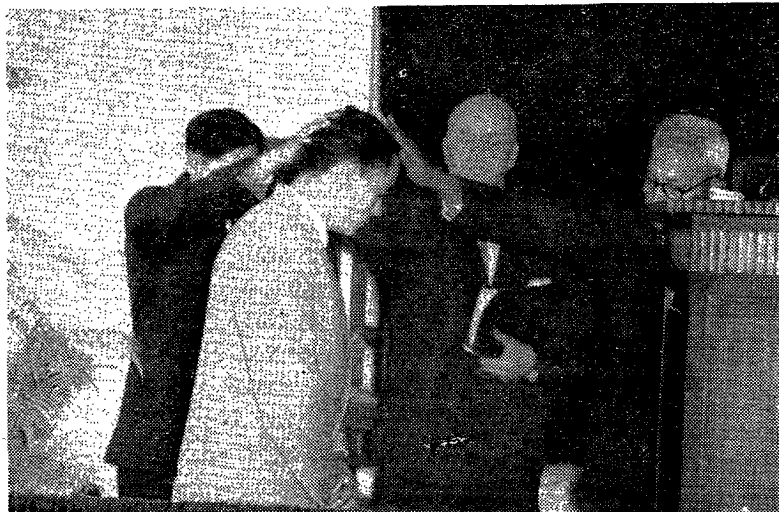
● A total of 69 city, village, lay and youth efforts have been planned for the Northeast Union during 1960. The goal for Sabbath School membership by the end of 1960 is 5,520 in 129 Sabbath Schools and 73 Branch Sabbath Schools.

Malcolm Stanley Ordained

● December 19 was a day of rejoicing in the Lucknow church when Brother Malcolm Stanley was ordained to the Gospel Ministry. Brother Stanley has done faithful and consecrated labour for the Lord for the past nine years, and at the present time he is serving as pastor of the Lucknow church.

Present to perform the ordination were Pastors A. J. Johanson, I. M. Chand, and B. A. Howard, shown in the accompanying picture.

On the same day Brother and Sister Stanley's youngest child was dedicated to the Lord, and one person, Brother Benjamin, was baptized.



The company of believers at Arkonam with Pastor V. D. Edwards, V. O. P. Secretary, North Tamil Section, in the centre and local worker, S. Isaacs to his right.

Arkonam

V. D. EDWARDS

"For who hath despised the day of small things." Zech. 4:10.

Arkonam is a small town in the district of North Arcot, about 50 miles from Madras. It is important as a railway junction and has a large railway workshop where several thousand people are employed.

A few years ago, among those who enrolled for Voice of Prophecy lessons, was a young man who became intensely interested and studied earnestly. As he studied God opened his eyes to the truths of the Bible and after two years he and his wife were baptised. But there were no other Adventists in the town and often they travelled 50 miles to attend an Adventist church.

They began telling their friends of the Voice of Prophecy Courses and several became interested. In the meantime an Adventist family from Delhi moved to the town and the two families began a home Sabbath school and invited their Voice of Prophecy friends.

Then Pastors S. Thomas and N. Y. Chelliah held a spearhead meeting, and in that week a rousing interest was created and many more were enrolled in the V.O.P. courses.

Two years later (in 1958) a full fledged-effort was held in Arkonam and another in 1959. As a result of the two efforts 19 were added to the believers in Arkonam.

At present S. Isaac is the local worker and some 40 people are in regular attendance.

May I earnestly solicit the prayers of the Tidings family in behalf of the work in this section of Tamil Nad.

Inspired Counsel on Church Attendance

JAMES TERZO

1. What are some reasons why God wants His people to have church buildings?

To dwell with His people. "That I may dwell among them" (Ex. 25:8). "That we may behold Him in faith. 'I saw also the Lord' (Isa. 6:1). 'The house of God on earth is the gate of heaven.'"—*Testimonies*, vol. 3, p. 491.

2. Why does God instruct us to attend church?

To pray. "My house shall be called the house of prayer" (Matt. 21:13).
To worship. "O come, let us worship and bow down" (Ps. 95:6).
To sing and thank God. "O come, let us sing unto the Lord" (verse 1).
To give Him glory. "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name" (Ps. 96:8).
To bring our offerings. "Bring an offering, and come into His courts (Ps. 96:8).
To assemble with His people. "Holy convocation" (Lev. 23:3).
To exhort one another. "Assembling of ourselves . . . exhorting one another" (Heb. 10:25).
To be united and have success in God's work. "All continued with one accord in prayer" (Acts 1:14). "They, continuing daily with one accord in the temple . . . did eat . . . with gladness . . . praising God. . . . The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:46, 47).
To confess our sins and be forgiven. "Woe is me" (Isa. 6:5). Said the angel, "Thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged" (verse 7).
To hear the voice of God. "I heard the voice of the Lord" (Isa. 6:8).

3. What blessings do we receive by attending church?

Our souls become fat and flourishing. "Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish. . . . They shall be fat and flourishing" (Ps. 92:13, 14).
Our souls receive joy and guidance. "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in Thy presence is fulness of joy" (Ps. 16:11).
Our souls receive help. "Send thee help from the sanctuary" (Ps. 20:2).
Our souls shall be satisfied. "We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Thy house" (Ps. 65:4).
Our understanding increases. "Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end" (Ps. 73:17).
We learn the way of God. "Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary" (Ps. 77:13).
We increase in strength. "They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God" (Ps. 84:7).

4. If relatives come on Sabbath and interrupt my going to church, should I stay home?

Usually not. Advise them before time or take them to church. "He that loveth father or mother . . . son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me" (Matt. 10:37).

5. If I have something I consider important to do, am I wrong in remaining away from church?

Yes, if it is not in harmony with Sabbath-keeping. Take care of all your matters during the week. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

6. May I absent myself from church for a personal trip?

"Turn . . . from doing thy pleasure on My holy day" (Isa. 58:13).
"When starting on a journey we should make every possible effort to plan so as to avoid reaching our destination on the Sabbath."—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 360.

7. What relation is there between religion and health?

"They go from strength to strength" (Ps. 84:7).
"Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases" (Ps. 103:3).
"If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God . . . I will put none of these diseases upon thee, . . . for I am the Lord that healeth thee" (Ex. 15:26).

8. If there are only a few members in a small church, would I receive greater blessing if I attend a large church instead?

Not necessarily. The small church may need your help. This strengthens you. "Where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20).
"Ye were the fewest of all people" (Deut. 7:7).
"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).
God meets with His people and blesses them although they be few.

9. Should I go to church even if it means a sacrifice?

Yes, and God will bless you for it. "No earthly ties, no earthly considerations, should weigh one moment in the scale against duty to the cause and work of God. Jesus severed His connection from everything to save a lost world, and He requires of us a full and entire consecration. There are sacrifices to be made for the interests of God's cause."—*Testimonies*, vol. 3, p. 500.

10. Should I go to church when the weather is inclement?

If you can go to work, to shop, or see friends in bad weather, you can go to church too.
"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matt. 22:37).

11. Is it a good thing to go to church early to meditate?

Yes. "In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength" (Isa. 30:15).
"If some have to wait a few minutes before the meeting begins, let them maintain a true spirit of devotion by silent meditation, keeping the heart uplifted to God in prayer that the service may be of special benefit to their own hearts, and lead to the conviction and conversion of other souls."—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 492.

12. Does it matter if I am late to church?

Yes, God wants us to plan well in advance so that we reach church in time. "Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Cor. 14:40).
"God is not the author of confusion" (1 Cor. 14:33).
David delayed not (Ps. 119:60).
"That ye be not slothful" (Heb. 6:12).
"My brother, you need to cultivate promptness. Away with your hesitating manner."—*Testimonies*, vol. 3, p. 498.
"This defect (the habit of hesitation and delay), unless overcome, will prove, in instances of great crises, disastrous to the cause and fatal to your own soul."—*Ibid.*, p. 499.
"The Lord has shown me . . . these sluggish movements on your part have greatly hindered the work of God."—*Ibid.*
"Punctuality and decision in the work and cause of God are highly essential."—*Ibid.*, p. 500.

13. Does it matter if I do not attend church services at all?

Yes. The church is more important than a thousand other places (Ps. 84:10).
"Why is the house of God forsaken? And I gathered them together, and set them in their place" (Neh. 13:11).
"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Heb. 10:25).
"Thou shalt have no other gods before Me" (Ex. 20:3). Any thing or person we love more than God is an idol.

14. Should I continue to attend when there are hypocrites in the church?

Yes. "Judge not" (Matt. 7:1).
The wheat and the tares grow together until the harvest. This means that the weak and the strong will be together in the church until Jesus' coming (Matt. 13:30).
We should forgive our brethren repeatedly (Matt. 18:21, 22).
Jesus came to call sinners to repentance, not the righteous (Mark 2:17).
Sinners should not be avoided when we can help them (Matt. 9:11, 13).
We should not despise others (Matt. 18:10).
We should forgive others if we expect God to forgive us (Matt. 6:14, 15).

15. If a member offends me, is it wrong to stay away from church?

Yes. We should forgive and forget the same day before the sun goes down. (Eph. 4:26).
"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy" (Matt. 5:7).
If we forgive, God forgives us; if we do not forgive, God will not forgive us (Matt. 6:14, 15).
"Be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32).

16. If things do not go right in church, is it wrong to remain away for a while?

The Public Relations Department of the S.D.A. was privileged to present some of the departments of our work at the exhibition held by the Western India Athletic Association on their grounds near the Moor Market and the Central Railway Station in Madras, in December and January.

Many business firms installed booths and advertised their commodities. We were given a most central and prominent place on the grounds to pitch our charming "silver hall" (which is well known in Madras) and hundreds of people came to see the displays for the Temperance, Voice of Prophecy, Home Missionary, and Publishing Departments and a fine array of Lowry Memorial products.

Each week-day evening we showed the film "One in Twenty

Thousand"; Friday evenings we showed religious films. The average attendance at these showings was 3,600 people. As the people were impressed with the messages of the films they desired that their relatives and friends might see them also, and enquired if we would show them again. Many brought their family members again and again. Quite a few came to the counter to ask questions and enquired earnestly if there is any way of getting over the evil habits of tobacco smoking and liquor drinking.

Members of the Madras church were in attendance daily to distribute literature and enrol V. O. P students. Some of us had the privilege of preaching a second sermon to those who came to the counter with various questions. We pointed them to Christ and His saving power and told them that He can give them deliverance from their evil habits. A few promised that they would—by God's help—overcome their craving for tobacco and liquor. Some people came forward to express their appreciation for what we are doing in uplifting humanity. A few asked

how they could be enlisted into a Christian society.

About 4,000 men and women have given their names for the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence Course. Several thousands of pieces of truth-filled literature such as "Seventh-day Adventists—Your Friends in the Community" (specially prepared for the exhibition), Temperance tracts, and others were distributed. About one lakh of people have seen the picture "One in Twenty Thousand" and various religious films. Many in Madras city became acquainted with the work of Seventh-day Adventists during the month we spent there and we hope many in the near future will give their hearts to God as truth is presented to them by our evangelists.

Teachers Arrive

● Brother and Sister W. G. Johnsson arrived in Bombay on the 28th of January, 1960. Both have completed their education at Avondale, and come to the field as qualified teachers. Brother Johnsson has prepared for Bible teaching and Mrs. Johnsson is an elementary teacher and also well qualified in music.

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I, Duane S. Johnson, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: March 1, 1960.

Signature of the Publisher: Duane S. Johnson.

Yes. We should do what we can to help the situation. There should be no division in the church (1 Cor. 12:25, 26). We should suffer or rejoice together and help the weak members (1 Cor. 12:21-26). When one of your fingers gets hurt, you treat it. So when a member of the church is weak, other members should help him because we are all members of the same body (verse 12). Peter was told to strengthen his brethren after his weakness was removed. So we should correct our weakness and then help others (Luke 22:31, 32). Instead of avoiding the weak brother or sister, tell him his fault privately and help him out (Matt. 18:15).

17. Are church members important to each other?

Yes. We are members of Christ's body and have need of each other. "Ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular" (1 Cor. 12:27).

18. If I do not like a certain member, is it wrong to avoid him when I come to church?

Yes. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. We should help and sympathize and not be divided.

"Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door" (James 5:9). "Be ye also patient" (verse 8). Love never fails to win others (1 Cor. 13:8).

A true friend loves at all times, and if you want friendship, you must be friendly (Prov. 17:17; 18:24).

19. Did Jesus attend church faithfully?

Yes. It was His custom to go every Sabbath (Luke 4:16).

20. Will the saved attend church services regularly in heaven?

Yes. From Sabbath to Sabbath all flesh will come together to worship God (Isa. 66:22, 23).

—Review & Herald.

Miscellany

● Funds have been set aside and work will soon begin on a three-story workers quarters located behind the Moulmein church in Burma. Moulmein is the centre for the Tenasserim Section of the Burma Union. The Paan School is already functioning in some of the new buildings on the edge of the city.

● K. S. Brown reports excellent results from the opening days of the Uplift Campaign in Dacca. Rs. 5,500.00 was received and many donors expressed a definite interest in the service of a medical launch on the waterways of East Pakistan. The population of East Pakistan is approximately 45 million people. Three new workers are returning to East Pakistan from the Chuaharkana Training School at the end of March. Three nursing students from East Pakistan are now in training at the Karachi Hospital and one will complete the course this summer.

● Pastor L. J. Tessier reports that the Week of Prayer held in Jalirpar during the week of January 17-23 was a great blessing to the staff and student body of the school. The Spirit of the Lord brought the whole group together through the spirit of love and many victories were won.

● On the final Sabbath, January 23, a group of 14 from the village of Askor, near Jalirpar, were baptized. One young man who had delayed his baptism for eight years made a final decision and joined the remnant church.

● Pastor and Mrs. L. J. Tessier have also visited the villages of Askor, Sitpur and Bethkachhia where they had the privilege of baptizing 10 souls and 2 others came into church fellowship on profession of faith. One member who had fallen away because of a rebellious spirit and had been disfellowshipped was touched by the loving spirit of his fellow believers, and has returned to the fold.

● Some offers are being received to make club subscriptions of "Our Times" available to churches and YPMV societies who can use them effectively in their missionary work. Naturally, when such an offer comes in the magazines are channelled to a society whose needs have already been registered at the Oriental Watchman Publishing House. It becomes a case of "first come, first served." So if your church or society could use more "Our Times" in its literature distribution programme, write at once to the

Editor of "Our Times"
Box 35.
Poona

● R. H. Woolsey of Myaungmyo was called to Rangoon for pastoral and evangelistic work at the time of the year-end committee meeting in Burma.

● Over 6,000 have been enrolled for Voice of Prophecy courses in Karachi during the past two years and as a result an intensive follow-up programme is being planned to care for the large group of interests.

● Six regional meetings are being conducted by union and local section workers in the North India section. This will give opportunity for spiritual meetings and instruction of the laymen as well as for evangelistic work.

● Spicer Memorial College, Salisbury Park and the City church in Poona report a lively Uplift field day on Wednesday, February 10. Total receipts to date from this area are nearing Rs. 10,000.00.

● Rapid progress has been made on the construction of the boys hostel at Mailapitiya school. Brother Robinson also reports a good yield of coconuts and rice this year.

● C. R. Bonney reports the personal distribution of 700 Voice of Prophecy certificates at graduation exercises conducted by J. E. Chase and Brother Bonney during their tour of the Division. The

meetings were largely attended by non-Christians and thousands were enrolled in the Bible Schools. Personal contacts were made between the Voice of Prophecy students, the leaders from the schools, and local church leaders. The tempo of V. O. P. soul-winning has been greatly accelerated.

● T. R. Potts is leading in a series of public meetings in Bangalore which opened on the evening of 14th February. Brother Potts is drawing heavily on his knowledge of Archaeology in presenting the Bible message to the large crowd attending these meetings in the Silver Hall. The Silver Hall has been moved from Madras to Bangalore for these meetings in which Elder R. A. Anderson will take services on the 19th and 21st evenings.

● Twenty-one families have been housed in new homes built by the Rangoon Hospital on the Yankin property about five miles from the hospital. A church is being organized for these workers and members who live in the Yankin area.

Southern Asia Tidings

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