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## The East Nordic Union Conference

By G. A. Lindsay

WHILE the people in Finland and Sweden—the two countries comprising the East Nordic Union Conference—are naturally very conservative in religious matters, and do not easily change their belief in spiritual things, we are glad that we find many who quite readily respond to the message. During the past year we were happy that we could add 418 new members. This is the result of a splendid co-operation between the ministry and churchmembers in the Home Missionary Department endeavours. While we rejoice over every new soul that joins the ranks of the Advent movement, we are by no means satisfied with past achievements, but are hoping, praying, and planning for still greater things. The north must “give up” more of God’s children who are held in bondage, and, by the grace of God, we are determined to bend every effort possible to liberate those who are still captives. The times before us are serious indeed, and the feeling takes possession of us that the day is near at hand when God “will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness.”

The evangelistic force in our Union is altogether inadequate for the widespread field that we represent. Those in conference employ, including office workers in the four conferences and the Union, number but sixty-six persons. Still we can say we have spread out over the length and breadth of the field. One of our evangelists is preaching in a town in east Finland very near the Russian border—about an hour’s ride by train from Lenin-grad. Another worker is located

within the arctic circle in the north. Workers are also stationed in the extreme south and in the west, and here and there between, all of whom are faithfully heralding the Advent message to thousands of souls who come to the meetings.

The department activities during the past year have brought good returns. A ready response is found in the churches to every promotion of missionary work, both at home and for the mission fields. The Home Missionary Secretary reported that the churchmembers had distributed 48,000 more missionary papers in 1938 than in 1937, or a total in all of 205,000 copies. The number of Bible readings given had increased from 13,500 to 16,500. The Harvest Ingathering receipts showed a gain over 1937 of nearly fourteen per cent, or Kr.13,300.

God has prospered our people in many ways and has given us splendid increases both in tithes and in offerings. The total tithes for the four conferences for the year 1938 amounted to Kr.280,309, a gain of Kr.32,500, or 13.2 per cent over the previous year. The offerings to missions reached the sum of Kr.220,334, which is an increase of 16.3 per cent.

Beside the force of workers that the conferences employ, we have about 250 more brothers and sisters giving themselves to denominational work. There are about fifty engaged in the colporteur work and they are doing well indeed, sowing precious seeds everywhere. Then about 200 are engaged in the various institutions in the Union. It is a pleasure to see these workers, young and old, throwing their influence and energy on the Lord’s side.

The prospects for the present year are very promising. The evangelists are reporting new Sabbath-keepers. The income in tithes and mission offerings is keeping up to our expectations. The colporteurs are doing well; and with new books both in Finland and in Sweden we hope to reach higher attainments in literature sales than hitherto. Our two sanitariums in Sweden are full with patients, and many are on the waiting lists.

We pray that God may command the winds of strife to be held in check a little longer, in order that we may have time to reach many more with the message for these tremendous times.

*East Nordic  
Union  
Number*

## Forging Ahead in South Sweden

BY ADOLF BLOMSTEDT

As 1938 passed into history there was great cause for rejoicing in the South Swedish Conference. God had turned the financial tide in our favour, and in soul-winning He had given us a banner year. Looking back now we feel that the Lord has been good to us and strengthened us for renewed efforts.

Consider, for instance, that our tithe advanced Kr.14,300 over 1937 to Kr.101,000, or 16½ per cent. Sabbath-school gifts increased 12 per cent, the Week of Prayer offering 22 per cent, and the Week of Sacrifice returns about 58 per cent. Our Harvest Ingathering gave us almost Kr.46,000, an increase in two years of 44 per cent. We cannot but praise God for such cheering advance.

Home missionary activities also took a real leap during 1938. The different lines of missionary endeavour show increases from 50 per cent to 130 per cent over the previous year. This is one of the best omens for the speedy triumph of the work. Another is the part played by the young people in the missionary activities of the church. They gathered one-seventh of all funds in Harvest Ingathering, made more than one-fifth of the missionary visits, and distributed a good deal more than one-fifth of the literature used by the churches. Besides that they sold about 60 per cent of the literature handled by the colporteurs. Yet they number

less than 12 per cent of the membership when the juniors are included in their numbers. Their progressive spirit in preparing for greater usefulness to the cause of truth is evident by the fact that 164 progressive courses were mastered last year and a goodly number attended our missionary school at Ekebyholm.

Most of all, however, we thank God for the 128 new believers who were added to our ranks during 1938. Thus we could start the new year with 1,317 members. Our accessions last year were the largest for several years.

But we must now start advancing with greater strides. We need more able evangelists, more musical talent, and a greatly increased budget for evangelistic campaigns. Our greatest problem, perhaps, is to get suitable halls. In many places there are none at all that we may rent, and where such may be had, the price is prohibitive. Besides, we are labouring among a people who are spiritually satisfied. However, ten evangelistic efforts are now in progress, and the attendance is, in some cases, better than last year.

If any country in the world needs the outpouring of the latter rain it is Sweden. Our only hope for a mighty work here is in the outpouring of the Spirit of God upon us in such measure that every Seventh-Day Adventist becomes a missionary for the truth.

followed us to the minister's home. Here they showed their dissatisfaction, but they did not touch any of us. In a nearby place another of our workers has a very good interest this winter. Seventeen have begun to keep the Sabbath.

We feel very grateful to our membership for the way they have sustained the cause with their tithes and offerings. The tithe income for 1938 reached the sum of Kr.90,697, or Kr.5,275 more than in 1937. The mission offerings amounted to Kr.69,594. This is an increase of Kr.7,128 over the previous year's figures. The Harvest Ingathering amounted to Kr.36,502—an increase of Kr.3,071. We now feel we can begin to plan for more workers in our conference. This is an urgent need if we are to give this last message of warning to the people living in our widespread territory.

There has been a very good attendance in every place where our workers are stationed this winter. Reports show that many have begun to keep the Sabbath, so we hope that the membership, which now stands at 1,477, will soon pass the 1,500 mark. In one place Satan has tried to make public war with the "remnant" through other churches, but more people attend our brother's meetings than ever before. We expect a good harvest in that field.

Our Home Missionary Secretary has worked very hard to "hunt up" all our lost Sabbath-school members during the past year. God has blessed his work so that we can now report ninety-three members found, and an increase in average attendance of not less than 246.

## The North Swedish Conference

BY ALFRED ANDERSSON

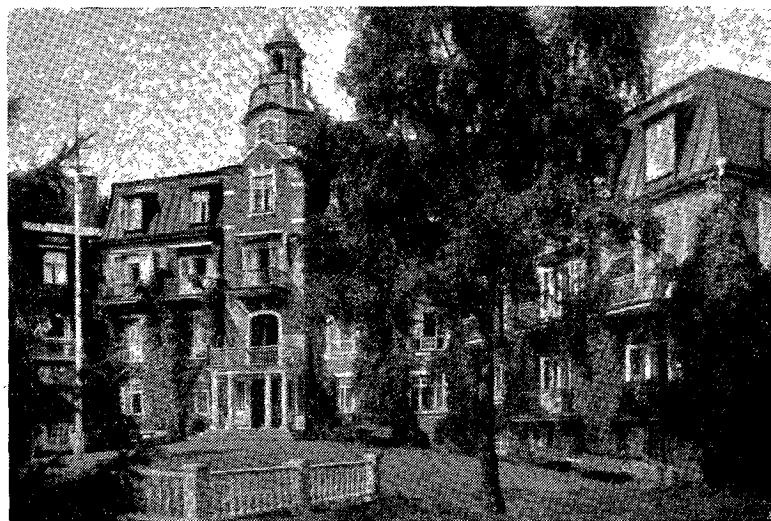
LOOKING back over the past year we have every reason to be thankful to our heavenly Father for His mercy toward us and for His good hand that has been seen directing the work.

There are eight ministers working in this conference. They are labouring very faithfully, and God has blessed their endeavours with 105 new members added to our churches. Two of the workers held short efforts last fall from October to the middle of December.

One of our workers has had a

great deal of opposition in one of the places where he was holding an effort. For baptism we had to find a secluded place, last summer, away from everybody, for many had said that they would come to the baptism in order to disturb us. At the close of the day, when all the meetings were ended, we were going to the minister's home. We learned that near by about twenty persons were waiting for us. We rode in a motor-car belonging to one of the churchmembers. When the mob saw us in the car they

A GOOD deal of our fret and worry comes from wrong estimates of life and what is worth while in it. We lose our money perhaps, or have little to lose. We work hard and other people get the rewards. Little of what we call success or position may come to us. We feel that life is unjust and that we have not been fairly treated. But these are not the real things. The true gold of life is character. The true prize is a good conscience, the joy of honest work, and communion with God.—James Reid, D.D.



*Hultafors Sanatorium, Sweden.*

## *Hultafors Sanatorium*

BY NILS ZERNE

"HULTAFORS is a wonderful place: there is no other like it!" This sentiment was expressed to me only the other day by an old patron of the sanatorium. He continued: "Why don't you take over Helsingborg also (another institution not far from here), in order to make room for all who need help? There they allow twenty per cent discount, and yet have only a comparatively few patients, while here you have patients standing in a queue. I had to wait a fortnight before you had room for me, and it just about proved fatal. When I finally arrived, the doctor just shook his head. I had to remain in bed for a couple of weeks—partly unconscious—but what can't be done anywhere else can be done here, and now I am up again."

At the Friday night worship last week, a sea captain from a neighbouring country gave the following testimony: "It is true that some people have a hell on earth, but it is also possible to have a paradise. Here at Hultafors you get a foretaste of heaven. I have travelled all over the world, but have never found anything like it. The staff are like angels. What I have got in three weeks here I did not experience in all my life before."

"I never believed in the existence of real Christians before I

came to Hultafors" was the confession of a third. "I have been in contact with many so-called Christians, and through them I have taken a dislike for religion. Here I have received much that I shall never forget."

From the above statements, which could easily be multiplied many times, you can understand first, that we are fully occupied—we have continually to turn away a number of patients as our rooming facilities are too limited; and second, that we have a splendid staff. This is true. The majority, both young and old, have a real missionary spirit. They are filled with enthusiasm not only for the

work in the sanatorium, but also for active missionary endeavours in the neighbourhood. During last year's Harvest Ingathering, for instance, they accomplished an exceptionally good work, and passed the highest goal ever reached. With the Harvest Ingathering work finished, the Young People's Society commenced a public campaign in a neighbouring village, where an excellent interest has been maintained the whole winter. We look forward to a good harvest. Our sanatorium workers are indeed engaged in a holy warfare, and they enjoy it.

Apart from our feeble efforts, we are constantly conscious of our heavenly Leader's benevolence to this institution. It is true that a considerable amount has been put into it, but it certainly pays good interest in more than one way. Its spiritual influence all over the country can hardly be overestimated. Certainly it is an "opening wedge" as the Spirit of prophecy has pointed out regarding our health work.

Financially it turns over considerable sums in cash for mission use. During 1938, for instance, a sum of Kr.18,739 was turned over to the conference treasurer as tithes, and Kr.12,004 as offerings for foreign missions. This makes together an amount of Kr.30,743 in one year.

"A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." We humbly pray the Lord to make this place a truly shining light to the glory of His name and a blessing to all those who come here.

## *Ekebyholm Missionary School*

BY A. GIDLUND

"EXCEPT the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." True as these words are in their application to every effort made on behalf of the kingdom of God, they have most special significance for our educational work. The school has the great responsibility of educating and training the men and women who are to be ambassadors for Christ and the proclaimers of His divine will, the responsibility of thus building the very foundation of our cause. It

has been the great endeavour of our missionary school at Ekebyholm during the past school year to acquit itself of this high charge, and it may truly be said of our teaching staff, and most of the students, that they have entered into the spirit of it and laboured with this aim in view.

At the commencement of the school year we enrolled sixty-eight students, of whom seven were from the Swedish Conference in Finland, two from the Finnish

Conference, and one from North America. Thus Ekebyholm is quite a Union school, or at least it serves as such, having every year students from each of the four conferences within our Union.

In order that the school might better be able to fulfil its purpose, the school board has, in accordance with plans laid some time ago to extend the Theological Course, resolved to add one more year to this five-year course, a move acclaimed with approval by teachers and students alike. The group of promising young men now preparing to graduate from the five-year course have all enrolled for the new sixth year already. We trust that this progressive step will be of great benefit to our students in their future work.

During the year the three most momentous incidents for the school family have been the Harvest Ingathering, the Week of Prayer, and the campaign for our Young People's paper. The Harvest Ingathering was an unprecedented success, for we reached a higher goal within a shorter time than any past year, the result being Kr.6,000. The enthusiasm for this annual campaign seems to increase every year. The same might be said of our young people's monthly paper, which has now attained an edition of 1,500 copies, and is sent regularly to four of the five continents. It is like a sunbeam radiating from a group of happy students. The rich blessing of the Week of Prayer came as an answer to many fervent petitions. It was a season of spiritual refreshing for all, and the occasion of the surrender of several young hearts to our Redeemer. Following this experience, twelve young people are now preparing for baptism at the close of the term. Praise be to God!

The summer sanitarium has also been a source of blessing. Besides the golden opportunity it provides our youth to reveal the "mind which was in Christ Jesus" in their service for the patients, it has brought in a net income of Kr.3,700 during the summer months. In this way we try to make the best use of the time and sow beside all waters, spreading a knowledge of the peace and secur-

ity which our Saviour alone can give.

The greatest encouragement a teacher can derive from his work is the fact that most of the students who graduate from our Theological Course year after year enter the ranks of our workers at home and in foreign fields.

An inspiring factor in each year's school work is the enthusiasm which grows during the winter for the canvassing field. Last summer no fewer than thirty-three students earned full scholarships, the total sum of scholarship money amounting to Kr.3,298. Surely this is a unique achievement, and yet it is being repeated year after year. These figures show what a splendid opportunity the colportage provides for every enterprising young man and woman to earn their school fees. We have quite a number of students here who have gained a scholarship each summer of the five-year course. They stand as examples of what faith and inspiration can do.

## The Publishing Work in Sweden

BY E. H. LARSSON

DURING the year 1938 our message-filled books, papers, and tracts have been scattered in the Swedish section of our Union to the value of Kr.302,000. This means a quarter of a million copies of papers, about 25,000 tracts, and 34,000 books. What light from heaven has thus been radiated to the homes of our six and a half million people in Sweden, and the Swedish-speaking sections in Finland! We pray and believe that these hundreds of thousands of truth-filled pages will prove to be seed that will bear fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty for the kingdom of God.

On an average, forty-three colporteurs have visited the homes in Sweden, verbally bearing witness of our dear Saviour and His soul-saving message. The main subscription book has been one by our editor, *Great Events in a Small World*, of which about 23,000 copies were sold last year. We are now printing the sixth edition, running up to 45,000 copies. We began selling it in the spring of 1937. Last year we translated and

The Junior Missionary Volunteer work has aroused great interest among the students. During the winter ten groups have studied the J.M.V. courses, and on Saturday evening, March 25th, our second great Junior Investiture took place. Nineteen received the badge of the Friend class, thirty-eight were promoted to Companions, and nineteen became Comrades. Besides these insignia, 180 vocational honours were conferred, representing thirty-five different subjects. One young sister had spent considerable time on J.M.V. work during the summer, and broke all records by acquiring no fewer than eighteen vocational emblems. At our next investiture we are hoping to have a group of Master Comrades ready for decoration with the golden badge. Thus in the course of a few years there will be young people in our churches and institutions prepared to assume the responsibility of working among the children and juniors.

printed the *Junior Handbook* by C. Lester Bond. A pamphlet entitled, *The Art of Teaching Children*, written by one of our teachers at the mission school, has been published, and also a new edition of *The Marked Bible*. The English book, *Home Health Happiness and Beauty*, has been translated and printed, and is one of the booklets to be distributed during Big Week. In addition we have printed some new tracts, and twelve different numbers of our new paper, *Messages in Advent Times*.

We are now preparing to publish Brother A. S. Maxwell's book, *Our Wonderful Bible*. It will be ready for our student-colporteur institute at the close of the school early in May. The State Church of Sweden has just this year started a campaign for making the Bible more known and read by the people, and we are sure it will help our colporteurs in selling this new book. The financial result of the year's work was also good, for which we thank God.

Surely the colporteurs have done

a good work, and we give the glory to God for this also. Recently a prospect said to one of them: "What a beautiful work you are doing in distributing such literature, when the harvest of the world is ripening, and the signs of Christ's coming are seen on all sides!" Last summer two of our student-colporteurs decided that they would take every opportunity possible to testify of and uplift Jesus before the people while canvassing. You will be interested to know that they sold more literature than any of the other students. One sister colporteur says emphatically: "There is no work in the world on higher standing than that of the colporteur." And her actions and results confirm her words. Another sister visited an official in a community, and after receiving an order she had to stay there for three hours giving Bible studies and answering

questions. One student-colporteur called upon the rector of a State Church and spoke to him about the work. He finally received an order. The rector then took his prospectus from him and went out. When he returned, he had taken an order from another person. The colporteur thanked him and when preparing to go, the rector said: "May the blessing of God rest upon you always in this heavenly work. Never fail to present such books to the people."

We find progress comes in the literature ministry when we uplift Jesus above all else. It is our earnest wish that it will always be He who directs us not only when we meet with difficulties, but also when success illumines the way. We earnestly pray that the Lord may send forth more labourers, and that more souls will be won for the kingdom of God through the literature ministry.

great need is to get more evangelists who are whole-hearted and humble. We are therefore looking for such young men and are planning to give them more thorough education and heart preparation for Gospel work.

As to the finances, we can tell our readers, that there has been an increase almost in every line of work during last year, as is shown by the following:

	Increased by	
Tithes	Mks. 108,500	or 16.2%
S.S. Offerings	21,333	" 22.4%
13th Sabbath Offering	4,150	" 13.9%
Week of Sacrifice	12,850	" 53%
Big Week	4,066	" 18.7%
Annual Offerings	11,630	" 33.8%
Harvest Ingathering	26,000	" 14.2%
Offerings to Foreign Missions	88,250	" 22.4%

We have four church buildings in our four largest cities, with a seating capacity of 1,250. Until a few months ago they were all more or less in debt, but now two of them are without liability, and the debts in all are reduced by 600,000 marks, without having taken any further loans. We are determined, with God's help, to relieve our other two church buildings from their debts as soon as possible.

But the best of all is that God is working in a mighty way in our churches and believers, awakening and deepening their Christian experience. Revivals are seen in many places. We pray earnestly that the promised blessed reformation among the remnant church will be a fulfilled fact very soon.

The Finnish Conference sends through the SURVEY hearty Christian greetings to all believers throughout our Division.

## The Finnish Conference

BY KAARLO SOISALO

THE Advent movement was born in Finland through O. Johnson, who came to Helsinki (Helsingfors), the capital city, in 1892. Two years later he founded the first Adventist church here. After six years Brother Johnson left Finland, and Brother J. Hoffman from America took over his work as leader. The conference was organized in 1909, with Brother Fred Anderson as its first president. The membership was at that time 160. The next four presidents were: L. Muderspach from Denmark, C. O. Carlstjerna from Sweden, W. Sucksdorff and A. Rintala as our own men.

The new era in our history begins with 1929, when the field was divided into two—the Finnish and Finland-Swedish Conferences. During these past ten years the membership of the Finnish Conference has increased approximately by one thousand people, standing at the end of 1938 at 2,064, divided between twenty-nine churches in every part of the country.

We have seventy Sabbath-schools and nine Young People's societies with 250 members. Our course for lay workers, with 175

partakers, is making very good progress, and the interest is of the very best. We hope that in the near future, if time lasts, we shall have many lay preachers. One or two brethren are holding regular meetings this winter.

Four ordained ministers and eleven Bible-workers are labouring in seventeen different places. The soul-winning possibilities are quite encouraging. Their meetings are visited by 500 or less people. Our

## Publishing the Message in Finland

BY YRJÖ MIETTINEN

ON the working days of every week during the past year, forty literature evangelists on the average were to be seen in Finland, faithfully on their way along the endless highways, among many thousands of lakes, and rivers innumerable, through the shadowy forests, over the roadless hills and mountains of Lapland, or in the noisy streets of cities and towns—carrying from home to home some knowledge of the great Advent message. Every one of these forty

workers bears a responsibility of bringing the message to about 100,000 souls in need. While bearing this great responsibility, we have experienced the aid and guidance of the hand of our God.

After the years of depression the literature sales in our country have increased continuously year by year, and last year all previous results were surpassed. The total literature sales in Finland in 1938 reached Mks. 1,695,976 (about £7,500). Economically the past

year was likewise, for the publishing house, better than ever before.

All our periodicals in 1938 surpassed the sale of the previous year. The circulation of our two-year-old health paper especially was increased unexpectedly. Toward the end of the year the subscribers of the paper numbered over 24,000. Single copies included, the circulation of the paper was every month at least 27,000.

Finland is a country whose people show a great interest in literature. In our capital is found the largest book-store in Europe. Freedom for our working is also unlimited. Yet, even in such con-

ditions, certain difficulties are to be met. People grow indifferent so far as the Word of God and religious literature are concerned. This Laodicean self-sufficiency is overcome only with much difficulty, but with God nothing is impossible.

We have now laid plans for the strengthening of our book sales. Three new books of 150-500 pages will be published in the near future. We hope that God will bless the literature work in the land of many thousand lakes with even a greater success, and will use it as a means for leading many souls to the new earth.

God's work. Several other students (this year twenty-five out of thirty-seven) are working during the summer either in the colporteur field or in our institutions. Our school has experienced the blessing of God even economically. Financial aid has been received through agriculture, cattle-breeding, and especially progressive gardening, as well as through the sanitary work done within the school buildings in summer.

Last summer at Toivonlinna we had 232 patients, and gave 4,860 treatments. We employed a doctor, six nurses, and more than thirty workers for other duties.

Both the school and the sanatorium have met with some difficulty in operating within a very limited space. We hope soon to be able to erect a new school building with classrooms and dormitories. Some students in winter, and some guests in summer, have had to lodge outside the school house. Last summer twenty-three out of our fifty-six patients' rooms were hired from neighbours at a high rent. Obviously such circumstances are quite discomforting both economically and in other ways.

Despite some shortcomings of this kind, we look forward to the future. God has given us gladdening experiences in our work, and we believe He will continue to bless us richly as we endeavour to render more efficient service for Him.

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"ALL preaching and witnessing for Christ is relating an experience of His power. We must be able to say, 'It happened to me!'"

## Toivonlinna Mission School

BY AARNE RINTALA

THE name "Toivonlinna" echoes well in Finnish. "The Castle of Hope" might be an acceptable translation of it into English. Our institution meets this name well in that it seeks to shield young people and educate the Advent youth, who enjoy the trust and hope of our people, to become valiant workers in the Lord's fields that are white already unto harvest. Even the location of the estate, with hills in the immediate background, and a stretch of the sea in front, symbolizes the purpose of our institution, which is to guide young people to seek shelter under the wings of our Saviour against the windy storms of this world.

The company of Advent people in Finland is still small, consequently that is true of her mission school. The two years previous to the last school year were the best in attendance, when we had nearly fifty students. Last year we had only thirty-seven, the decrease being mostly due to the increase in fees. The greatest obstacle in the way of students coming to school is the lack of means. It is often touching to see how, yearning after an education, they seek their way to our own school through many hindrances and difficulties.

At Toivonlinna the soul-winning purpose set for our schools has become a reality year in and year out. As a result of the persevering efforts of the school family, the first soul in the neighbourhood

has now been won. This has brought us exceeding great joy, and we believe that new victories are forthcoming in this nearest locality.

In regard to spiritual life, the past year has been to many a student one of beautiful victories. Some students have experienced in a special way the wonderful workings of the Lord, of which they bear record with much joy. Such experiences bring warmth and kindle a holy flame among the youth.

The members of the school family took part with enthusiasm in the Harvest Ingathering Campaign. Their efforts were blessed by God with a success surpassing all previous results by one hundred per cent.

This year we had six graduates, all but one of whom are now in



Toivonlinna Mission School, Finland.

## What is Happening in Vaasa?

BY ARVO ARASOLA

VAASA, a little town in Finland, is unknown to most of the readers of the ADVENT SURVEY, but it is not unknown to our Lord. We have here a Swedish church, but no Finnish church as yet. The population is 30,000, and about half are Finnish. We have prayed and laboured in faith this winter that God would give us a Finnish church in this place.

The Advent message has created new life as well as excitement in this spiritually dead town. We can testify of its transforming power. There are many churches in the town, but they have had no revivals during recent years. God has led us to this town and caused a revival, and with it changed hearts. There is fierce opposition, and all religious bodies are against us. The priests warn the people, who have been forbidden by radio to visit our meetings. The leader of the Finnish Baptist denomination was here for several days, and spoke against the law and the Sabbath, even before I had referred to these subjects. Some of the Baptist churchmembers began

to study God's Word and are now keeping the Lord's Sabbath.

This opposition has but increased the attendance. I have not preached against other denominations. We have a message to proclaim. Our Saviour is coming: the world is to end. It is a revival message. A revival is always accompanied by a real reformation. We have seen its power, for sinners are converted to God, and many are rejoicing in Christ.

A week ago we spoke of the Sabbath and many have taken their stand, keeping their first Sabbath the very same week. One of them is a daughter of a priest. What the result of the work will be is still unknown, but we hope for the best—a Finnish church in this town.

We are happy in this message. It has been said concerning the new ideas of to-day that the age of a truth is about twenty years. Thank God it is not so with the Advent message. It is an "everlasting Gospel." We can live, and live for ever by it.

our sisters collected up to Fmk.11,-000. It is a great achievement considering the financial conditions in Finland.

The prospects for 1939 are bright. In spite of much opposition that two of our brethren are working against, they are of good courage. In a village in northern Finland, where an apothecary shop has been opened in which to preach the message, the minister of the State Church tried to make it very hard for our brethren. Our brother writes: "The minister has strictly forbidden the village people to allow the children to visit us, not even when pictures are shown. The candidates for confirmation are not allowed to take the holy communion, if they attend the meetings." Our brother writes further about the evening when the Sabbath truth was to be presented. "It was near the time to go to the meeting. Just as we were sitting at home, the church bells began to ring at 7 o'clock in the evening. This has not happened here within the memory of man." The minister invited his people to worship.

But we also have good and encouraging experiences. At my public meetings in southern Finland an atheist has very frequently attended. The message has touched him very deeply and a remarkable change is already to be noticed in his life. His earnest wish is to be a really true child of God and to be a member of the Advent church. The other day his horse trod on his left foot and bruised the great toe. But he was not missing from the next meeting. He was sleighed the long way from his home to the meeting place and upon arriving, and supported by some men, he stepped out of the carriage. Then he hopped on one leg supported by a crutch, and his other foot tied up in a bandage made of a large blanket. He couldn't stay at home and miss the meeting, in spite of the ache and pain in his injured foot. The whole experience shows hunger after the bread of life.

Thus we are working and are of good comfort, trusting in God's mighty strength, and praying that He will send us His Spirit richly and make us able to hasten the finishing of God's work. Pray for us and our work in Finland.

## The Finland-Swedish Conference

BY JOHN LARSSON

WITH the Advent people in Finland the current year is a great jubilee. It is now thirty years since the first conference was established with Swedish- and Finnish-speaking members. The Lord has blessed His people in this country so that we can say with Jacob, "Now I am become two bands."

In 1929 the conference was divided for practical reasons, the Swedish-speaking members being separated in a conference of their own. Our conference has thus had a ten-year period of activity, but our whole field is seeing a forty-fifth anniversary, for the first Swedish church was organized forty-five years ago.

Our working field is large, although we have only about 300,000 inhabitants within our territory. The field consists of almost the

whole stretch of coast, including the islands.

Here we have a faithful membership of 452. They are zealous for the truth and the success of the work here at home as well as in the heathen world. This has been made evident in tithes and offerings as well as in all missionary activity. During 1938 the tithes showed an increase of Fmk.42,612, and the offerings showed an increase of Fmk.40,036. With willing hearts and great enthusiasm the brethren and sisters took part in the Harvest Ingathering Campaign. The Lord granted them much strength and boldness.

The result was far better than we had expected. The increase was Fmk.30,894. The goal per capita for the workers, which is Fmk.4,500, was reached by all, and many passed far beyond. One of



## Colporteur Work in North Lapland

BY OTTO HÖGLUND

THE most northern part of both Finland and Sweden alike is called Lapland. It was my pleasure to work in Finnish Lapland with our literature for nearly a year.

The first thing that strikes the colporteur when he comes to Finnish Lapland and to the Arctic Ocean, is the peculiar scenery. Beyond the arctic timber line and toward the coast, the mountains—although but 300-700 metres high—are snow-covered until late in the summer. The midnight sun shining on this snow makes a most wonderful picture. For eight weeks in the summer the sun shines day and night. That is why this part of the world is called the land of the midnight sun. Of course clouds occasionally hide the sun from view for a time, and so do sometimes the thick clouds of mosquitoes that are so plentiful here in the summer. These pests are a scourge in the arctics both to people and animals. During the days when the sun is high, they do not seem to be about, but on cloudy days and at night one must ever be armed with a bottle of medicated oil and frequently apply it to the face and hands.

Thunderstorms with snow-falls are very frequent during the summer months.

If it is light and beautiful in Lapland during the summer months, it certainly is dark and dreary there for about eight weeks in the winter. While there I had time to get acquainted both with the "midnight sun" and the "midnight darkness." For a whole month around New Year one never sees the sun at all.

The customs of the Laplanders differ much in the different districts. In Utsjoki, in the north-west corner of Finland, the Laplanders dress in their old-time peculiar fashion. The clothes worn in winter are usually made of deer-skin, and socks and stockings are made of grass. In Inari and Petsamo they dress like other people.

Most Laplanders have left off living in their tents and now build themselves houses. Of course the so-called nomad Laplanders, who

wander with their deer-herds, do have to live in tents when they go with the herds to the mountains.

As a general rule, the Laplanders are clean and orderly, but the colporteur finds also among them those that are dirty and disorderly. They do not use knives and forks generally when they eat, but carry the food to the mouth in their hands. They are heavy coffee drinkers, and as soon as the coffee-pot is empty they make more. They do not have regular hours for meals, but whenever a member of the family is hungry, he goes to the pantry and helps himself to what he can get. Before he has finished eating, perhaps another sets in. In a big family it often happens that there is someone in the pantry eating all the time.

The chief means of earning a livelihood in Northern Lapland are fishing, deer-raising, and in some places, the raising of common stock. Farming is also done in districts. In the southern part of Lapland forestry brings in good income. The animal life in Lapland is much the same as in other parts of the nordic countries, except that wolves and bears are plentiful.

Outwardly the Laplanders are very religious, as I experienced in my canvassing among them. It was seldom that I showed a religious book without taking an order. This gave me quite good success, in spite of the sparsely populated territory. Often it was from ten to twenty, thirty, and even forty-five kilometres, or from seven to thirty miles between the homes. In a territory of 31,527 square kilometres, or about 12,125 square miles, with a population of 6,000, I was able to sell over 500 large books. The people were very appreciative for what I had done for them, and asked me to come back again soon. Often I was asked to take greetings to other colporteurs who had been there before me.

Here among the mountains and rocks it was a pleasure to seek God in prayer and meditation. One

feels so small when out amid such majestic surroundings.

It was not always easy to find one's way in this wild country. There were large wet swamps to pass through. There were brooks and rivulets to ford without any bridges, and hills and mountains to be crossed with no visible roads anywhere. In many places the only means of finding one's way was by the aid of a map and compass.

During the winter months it is, humanly speaking, dangerous health-wise to do colporteur work in Lapland. The bedclothes that the people offer you, when stopping with them overnight, are either fetched from storage outside where they were snow-covered, or else taken directly from their own beds, and may then be full of vermin. It is, however, a real thrill to ride in a pulkha (a Laplander's travelling sledge) drawn by reindeer.

I am glad that I could work for these needy people, bringing them the Advent message. As I travelled afoot over the mountains of Lapland, the words of the prophet came to me: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace."

♦ ♦ ♦

It seems to belong to the constitution of our human nature that we must see the truth somewhere before we can see it everywhere. The disciples saw the heavenly nature of their Lord on the mountain of Transfiguration; only after that could they realize that what He was then He had been all along. So God chose one family and one people that all families on earth might be blessed, became incarnate in one Man that we all might reach "the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ," hallowed one day that all our days might be holy.—*Alexander Findlay.*

### The Advent Survey

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