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January-February, 1941

The Winter Council

By W. T. BARTLETT

ONCE again owing to war conditions our Winter Council assembled at Stanborough Park, Watford. The meeting was a brief one, running over three days, December 16th to 18th, and the only representatives present outside the Division committee itself were from the British Union, Nigeria, and Kenya Colony. Brother A. G. Rodgers, now attached to the Central European Division, Section II, was present by invitation.

The president, Brother W. E. Read, had gathered a comprehensive story from various parts of the Division and as he unfolded this our hearts were cheered with the conviction that God's hand was unmistakably controlling the march of events and safeguarding the interests of His own cause. While there is much to regret in the adverse conditions that now beset our work in many lands, there is also abundant cause for rejoicing over victories granted to the faith and efforts of our workers and membership.

Timely studies were given by Brethren W. E. Read and W. T. Bartlett. Seasons of earnest prayer followed these and our faith and courage were strong as we considered plans for the future. These were, of course, restricted under the circumstances; with a partial representation, the Division Council could not function as usual; statistics were incomplete; and few resolutions affecting the Division as a whole could be considered. We feel sure, however, that in the messages we sent out to the whole field, and in all the various steps we took at our council, we shall be in entire harmony with the sentiments of those of our brethren who were unable to meet with us in council.

Brother W. L. Emmerson, editor of the English paper, acted as our secretary and we give the following details from his report.

The membership report for 1939 revealed a gain of 1,528, bringing the total membership in the Division up to 39,401. This represented an increase in all the home fields of the Division except the Baltic Union and in all the mission fields except Sierra Leone.

The increase of membership in the missions during 1939 was one of the largest ever achieved, being 1,708 or 19.2 per cent. For the past four years the gain has been rather more than 58 per cent.

The financial report for 1939 was similarly heartening, for while some slight decreases were evident in certain departments, these were due, in almost every case, to the absence of reports from the Baltic States and Poland. Had these figures been available, the report of tithes and offerings would have been well ahead of 1938.

The evacuation of many church-members from the Karelian province in Finland, carried the truth to remote parts of the country, and the president of the Finnish conference had opportunity to preach the Gospel to Russian prisoners of war, who listened with the deepest emotion.

Skodsborg Sanitarium has been able to operate without interruption though with a reduced patronage. In the West Nordic Union the churches are able to meet freely, annual meetings have convened, evangelistic efforts are being conducted with success, and it was found possible to hold a young people's camp last summer.

Our Icelandic brethren went forward with their first all-Icelandic Ingathering magazine and had the best campaign in their history.

For the British Union, 1940 has been, in the words of its president, a

"unique year" both in its problems and in its triumphs.

Evangelistic work was seriously handicapped but in spite of difficulties 167 were received into membership during the first nine months. The publishing house shows an increase in colporteur sales during 1940, of almost £2,500, while the health food factory is prospering as never before, having had to increase its staff by nearly 90 per cent since the outbreak of war. The college continues normally, an increased enrolment from the British Union having entirely compensated for the absence of continental students. Tithes and offerings are well beyond the figures for 1939, and the ingathering total, the highest yet attained, was collected in a shorter time than ever before.

In Nigeria, evangelistic and colporteur activities are progressing strongly, and the new hospital, shortly to be opened, will prove a great boon to the field. Dr. Madgwick's arrival from East Africa is keenly anticipated.

In Kenya Colony the old-established stations are still growing, and four younger missions are becoming well established.

Every phase of the work in the homelands and the mission fields came under review during the council and the resolutions on "Soul-winning in Sabbath-school," "Missing Members," "Win One for Christ," "Greater Colporteur Evangelism," "Evangelism for Youth," and the like, indicated a disposition on the part of all to press on in spite of difficulties to loftier heights of experience and service.

Deep gratitude was expressed to the brethren of the General Conference for the generous financial aid so promptly offered to relieve some of the pressing problems of our war-shattered Division.

The manifest blessing of the Lord

upon the labours of the ministry, churches and institutions, in such a time of trouble, led all present to a

determination that in the coming year there must be a resolute advance on all fronts in the strength of the Lord.

Camps in Kenya

BY S. G. MAXWELL

(Letters written by S. G. Maxwell in October and November give the following interesting report.)

"We have finished our large camp meetings. These were blessed with exceptionally fine weather so that not a single meeting was spoiled by rain. The people turned out well, and the Luo gatherings were considerably larger than usual. Kisii was just a little smaller which was no doubt due to the worker being home on leave. Anyway, there were over 2,000 at this camp, 2,600 at the Kanyadoto meeting, and 3,000 at Gendia. The Kisii annual offering kept up well with Shs.4,500.00. Considering the rising prices which the Africans have to pay in the dukas these days and the comparative stability of prices for primary products, this was undoubtedly

a very commendable achievement."

"From Kavirondo I went to the coast where we had our first camp 100 miles north of Mombasa. It was an encouraging start for a new field. We were able to organize a new church and district, and put the ordained African evangelist in full charge. He will not only receive the church finances but also pay the workers under his care. This will relieve Brother Raitt of a considerable amount of difficult travelling. I am asking the brethren in the older fields to go ahead with laying more of this responsibility on the leading Africans. We may yet be faced with the need of leaving them to carry on their own work, and how much happier we shall then feel if they can carry on in the way they have been trained."

The Best Encouragement of the African Christian Teacher

BY D. B. THOMAS

OUR schools here in Sierra Leone are mixed schools of boys and girls. As varied as the subjects of the classes, so are the beliefs of the pupils sitting before the teacher. Some of the pupils are Seventh-Day Adventists; some are Mohammedans; many are apostates; very many are heathen devil worshippers. The Christian teacher has all these complicated beliefs to encounter in his daily Bible class. In a class of twenty students only five may be Seventh-Day Adventists.

The properly trained Christian teacher, who is always an evangelist, works patiently, day by day, for all members of his class. He takes pains to illustrate and explain, until every member of his Bible class is reached. He patiently answers all reasonable questions. This, and no other method, will bring joy to his heart in time to come. The writer's experience may illustrate this joy.

Returning home one evening from night duties in connection with the boys' boarding department of our Bo school, I happened to pass by the home of one of our day scholars, a girl of the Temni tribe. She is the

only one in that family of ten who understands English. This home is a heathen home, and when I approached it was full of noise, so I listened to know the cause. Suddenly all was quiet. After a short pause the stillness was broken by a voice—the voice of the student of our day school. She was reading to the family the Bible lesson which had been taught in school to her that day. It was a lesson on the resurrection of Lazarus. Verse after verse was read from the Bible, then translated into Temni and explained as she had been taught that day. At the end one member of the family exclaimed in Temni, "I wish it were myself, I never would sin again."

At this moment I knocked and the door of the house, which was full of smoke, was opened to me. I found the girl sitting nearest the fire with the open Bible in her hand. Around her sat the other members of the family.

The girl immediately closed the Bible and put it aside. All were anxious to know the cause of my visit. After the usual compliments were over, I quietly asked who said:

"I wish it were myself, I never would sin again." Up jumped the elder brother and said in the Temni language, "See me, father, see me, I really wish it."

Seizing this opportunity I spoke freely in Temni about the resurrection of the wicked, and also of the righteous. I also spoke of the state of the New Earth which knows no sin, neither pain nor death. Over and above all this I spoke of the possibility of every member of that family becoming a dweller in that New Earth through the same Christ who called Lazarus from the dead. Imagine the wonder which at that moment filled their hearts. After answering a few questions, I said good-night.

On my way home I thought, "What an encouragement to a teacher, to see a girl from a heathen home explaining the Bible lesson taught for the day to her heathen family." Joy filled my heart. On the following day I asked her in school how often she read the Bible to her family and she answered in Temni: "Tem oh tem (every day) papa."

This experience has taught me to open up the Bible lessons to each and every student alike, irrespective of sex, tribe, or belief. And if we, as teachers, do our part faithfully, the Lord will do His part for the pupils.

Faithfulness

BY A. S. TURAY

ONE of our members, Asumana by name, joined his relatives in farming. After harvesting, he asked them to take out the Lord's tithe. As they are not Christians they had not the faith to do this. However, he showed them God's love toward mankind in creation, and at last quoted Malachi 3:10.

These words touched their hearts deeply and they were willing to sacrifice, but a separation came in the following year between Asumana and his relatives over the farming. The non-believers made their own farm and Asumana made his not far away.

After a few months, the rice started bearing and then all were busy in scaring away the birds and monkeys. During the six working days, the young man and his own family would be hard at work. On Sabbaths they would go together to service and leave the farm in the Lord's care. As he trusted in the Lord, the promise was fulfilled to him which is found in Malachi 3:11. The Lord rebuked the devourers for his sake

and none of his rice was destroyed. On the farm of the non-believers nearly a third part was consumed by the birds and monkeys.

"The Wrath of Man Shall Praise Thee"

BY D. ATOLAGBE

EARLY in the year the mission workers of the Nigerian Union divided themselves into three groups for evangelistic effort. One group of five workers and a few school boys from our Awtun school went to Iasha.

At first we had successful meetings with large interested groups, but right in the middle of the effort, another mission in the town started open opposition. They warned members of their church not to attend our open-air services any more. The evening after this order, many children attended as usual, but only a few adults drew near. The rest were in scattered groups which seemed afraid to come closer, but were listening afar off.

As the meeting was going on, an officer of the same church came and ordered by-standers to retire. Nevertheless the preacher's voice grew louder. The opposer grew angry. Taking a stick for a whip he tried to drive away the children, but that was good fun for them. They ran away from him on one side but when he turned to the next, they were there again. He was embarrassed. Not only the people he was ordering away,

but others from the houses around came close to see the fun. The preacher seized his opportunity and the opposer himself was obliged to hear the message of the evening.

When we returned to our lodging the people still followed to hear more. For several days going to the open-air services was like going to the field of battle.

Seeing the victory was with us, the opponents turned round to attack Joel and his wife, our host and hostess, and threatened to drive them out from their house, but that served only as an incentive to compel them to make a quick decision and an open declaration that they were no more members of their old church but adherents of the new faith and members of the Advent Mission which they had formerly opposed. Immediately some others joined Brother and Sister Joel. Now we have in the town a Sabbath-school of eleven members. The chief of the town is very friendly and has granted us a piece of land for the church house.

"Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee; the remainder of wrath shalt Thou restrain."

Power of the Living Christ

BY A. O. KENNICK

A VISIT to Mabanta village while harvest ingathering led to serious reflection concerning my Christian experience. On entering the village, I introduced myself and my mission to the headman. After a little talk with the people, I was introduced to a medicine-man, who had spent a number of years in the practice and had travelled to different countries, as he told me. It seemed to give him great pleasure to tell me of his belief and to display his idols. Drawing aside two long mats used as curtains, there came into view two large, hand-carved, gilded images. These sleeping figures naturally led into conversation regarding heathenism.

After listening to the man for some time, I inquired if Foray, the name of the chief god, gave the power to

perform those good works of which he had been speaking. Without a moment's hesitation he frankly told me that Foray transmitted no power to anyone, and that no man had any power outside of himself. Then pointing to the Christian's belief in God, he said: "All God can do for you is to give you a law. You must obey that law; but there is no power bestowed whereby to obey the law of God. God has never given any man power."

How thankful I was that I had proved the fallacy of such statements, and that I was enabled to speak from personal experience concerning the reality of God's power and willingness to help, and to give freedom from evil habits.

For years I looked to the standard

which we as a people have set before us, and I struggled to live up to this standard, though I failed many times. When I came to realize that I was attempting to do that which Christ alone could accomplish, and which He was willing to do for me, I yielded my life into His hands for Him to work out His own righteousness in me. I praise God for the message of righteousness by faith. I rejoice in the Seventh-Day Adventist standard, the highest in the world; and I am thankful that God, through Christ, gives power to enable us to reach that standard, and to exalt the doctrines which we hold so dear by making Christ the centre and the circumference of all our teaching.

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Nearing the End

BY J. S. MYERS

IN our church at Mayepoh are Sabbath-school members who were once members of the Poro society but did not complete their ceremonies. The time came when these men were asked to return to the society bush for completion. This they refused to do; telling the heads of the society that they are now Christians and have given up Poro practices.

On hearing this a plan was laid to take them in by force. First they laid hands on Santigee Bangurah, who is a baptized member of our church. This brother told the people that in Christianity he had been taught that the great God has ten commandments; to take him back to the Poro bush would mean the breaking of the very first of these commandments, as he would surely be asked to worship stones, etc. This aroused the anger of the chief and the young man was handcuffed and flogged.

The superintendent, hearing this news, visited us with the intention of talking to the chief and his headmen, who when they saw him, and one of our native pastors, were terrified and asked pardon for what they had done. The matter ended on friendly terms, with a promise that these men would no longer be troubled.

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How a Backslider Returned

BY S. SAO-LAMINA

ONE Sabbath day a young man went to the blacksmith's shop to have his cutlass hammered and sharpened and then went to work with it. But he so seriously wounded his left hand that he was unable to stand on his

feet, and had to be brought to the town on a hammock.

His parents, brothers, and sisters were all lamenting over him; the father ran to me while I was at table having my morning meal, and cried, "Teacher, come to my help ere my son dies."

Not knowing why the demand was so urgent, I followed him without delay. Reaching the house I found the boy lying on the floor half dead through loss of blood. The sight was

so frightful that I wanted to urge them to take the young man at once to Bo for medical care, but the thought flashed into my mind, "Where is your faith in God?" So I took courage and tried to stop the bleeding, after which I was able to apply medicine.

Two months later the young man was recovered of his wound and began to attend our meetings again, together with his family who were not attending before.

The Blessing of Tithe-Paying

BY S. C. NICOL, SIERRA LEONE

"BECAUSE I have obeyed the message of faithful tithe-paying I have realized a special blessing in my farm work, my home, and all my undertakings. I shall, therefore, always urge my fellow-believers to be faithful tithe-payers." This is the testimony of one of our members who has proved God's promises and found them faithful.

In conversation with one brother he told of his own experience: "Since I became a Seventh-Day Adventist and learned to pay tithe on everything, I have not hesitated to do my duty. And because I have always endeavoured to be faithful I have realized the blessing of God. I used to be a debtor but now I am a lender. In my village very often people come to borrow rice, money, and other things from me. I believe the reason why I am able to give out and still have sufficient for the needs of my household is because I am paying my tithe."

Recently I visited the farm of a certain disfellowshipped member, and noticed that his rice did not grow well. There were large spaces in the farm that were absolutely bare, and walking around I could see that a number of bush cows had visited his farm. I called his attention to the fact that he had neglected tithe-paying for several years now, and that the curse of God was upon his farm. He answered, "O Pastor, I have seen my mistake, and I am sorry. I will begin to pay my tithe at the harvest season this year."

Another disfellowshipped member whom I visited told me of his experience in the following words: "Since my name was dropped from the church record and I stopped paying my tithe, I have suffered many things. My rice crop last year was very poor, my neighbours gave me a lot of worry, and I had a fire accident in which I lost all my clothing. I can see that all this has come upon me

because God loves me. I will begin to attend meetings the coming Sabbath and make my confession. Still pray for me, Pastor."

The Lord is working among His people to arouse them from their spiritual sleepiness.

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Guidance Through Prayer

BY D. ONYEODO

DURING the camp-meetings at Aba in February, 1939, Mr. Ekpauough, a clerk in Eastern Railway Stores, Enugu, who became an Adventist a few years ago, left his work by permission to attend the meetings with the hope of taking baptism.

To his surprise he was not numbered among the candidates who were baptized. He wanted to know why he was not accepted.

"You have not been keeping the Sabbath properly," I replied.

"Well, it was not my fault, for I am compelled to work on that day," said he.

"It was your fault," I replied, "and unless you refrain from doing it you will never be baptized."

He felt sad at my statement and decided to leave his work so that he might be baptized during the next year's camp-meetings.

We both took the matter to the Lord in prayer for a couple of months; and in May, 1939, the Lord answered our prayer.

In this way, not only Mr. Ekpauough, but all the clerks in that section had the Sabbath clearly presented to them. Mr. Ekpauough is determined to leave the work and to suffer hunger rather than labour on Saturday any more.

How true is our Lord's promise: "I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24.

What God's Word Wrought in a Family

BY J. N. VANDI

SOME years ago I knew a man in this chieftdom who was very mean in every respect. He used to put on filthy, ragged clothing and had a very dirty skin. He was foul in conversation, ate nearly anything, was usually drunk, and was also a grove worshipper. He scoffed at religion. He was never found in good company and kept himself mostly away from other people.

One day, how I cannot tell, one of our workers happened to meet him and spoke about the love of the great God and His Son Jesus. He accepted the message. As a result that man left all his former habits and became a chaste, pure man and a Christian. He is now a baptized member of our church, together with his wife and older son.

I heard a young man say to his friends while I was passing, referring to this man, "Ndomawa calls us every Friday evening to worship, and then tells us that God loves us and we ought to love Him and serve Him. He asks us to come to Christ and learn more of this great love."

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OUR South African Division has been greatly prospered during the past decade. In 1930 the baptized membership was 10,127. At the close of 1939 the total had risen to 32,018, a gain of almost 22,000. Their income also rises, and book sales for 1939 have broken previous records.

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Kenya Field Notes

RECENTLY at Kamagambo Training School an investiture service was held for our first class of Friends. They had been under instruction for a year. The successful ones at the examination included two Luos, two Kisii, a Kikuyu, a Kamba, and a Pare. Thus the honours were all distributed. This initial venture in the Progressive Classes of our Missionary Volunteer department has stimulated many of the other young people in training to fit themselves for a larger service. The above seven are now studying the requirements for the second order of Companions. At the above service Brother C. J. Hyde was invested with the insignia of Master Comrade.

SERGEANT MAURICE CUTHBERT writes, "I would like to thank you on behalf of some of my comrades for

the *Signs of the Times* which you have been sending to me at intervals ever since I was last in Nairobi. There are quite a few fine fellows who enjoy reading them.

THE new girls' schools opened at Changamwe and Karura are progressing nicely. They each have a permanent home and equipment. There are eight girls at Changamwe and six at Karura. Several girls at the coast have been saved from forced marriages with old men. The girls at Karura are knitting socks for the soldiers.

S. G. MAXWELL.

Good News from Finland

(From a letter written by Pastor Karlo Soisalo, we take the following extracts.)

"God has been wonderfully good to us here. All are well, and are grateful for the way our government is managing material things. We have full freedom as before, and our ministers are preaching the message as always. One of our younger ministers, Brother Parhankangas, will be free next March if not earlier. Brother Rouhe has been free since last summer.

"The literature work is progressing very well. We have now some forty colporteurs. Last year was the best in our literature work. We are getting out new books.

"Toivonlinna Mission School has now fifty-three students, more than any year before. We hope that we will be able to continue our work during the whole year.

"Brother Osola is now editor. Brother Unhola is in the field with Brother Arasola in Kotka. Brother Seljavaara is labouring here in Helsinki, and Brother Kohtanen in Forssa, near Tampere. I have two meetings a week in Hämeenlinna (Tavastehus). Brother O. Peltonen, the departmental secretary has also two meetings a week in Järvenpää near Helsinki.

"Many of our Karelian brethren have still many difficulties to face. We have given to the needy about Fmk.400,000. The Harvest Ingathering work has brought in up to date about Fmk.130,000. Part of this is going to the foreign missions, some to school work, some to evangelistic work, and fifty per cent of the total to the relief fund."

THE Division Office has received copies of some very attractive new literature published in Finland, including the *Morning Watch Calendar*

for 1941, a translation of *Sufferings of Christ* and a tract by K. V. Usola.

We have also received from Oslo a copy of *Tidens Tale*, the Norwegian paper, which looks exceedingly attractive. Brother Leif Kr. Tobiassen is now editing this periodical.

W.T.B.

Word from Roy Anderson

(Many of the SURVEY readers will be interested to read the following extracts taken from a letter written by Pastor R. A. Anderson to the Division president.)

"I WAS very interested in all the details you gave showing the courage of our people in danger. The splendid total in the Harvest Ingathering is a marvellous evidence of God's blessing, and I ask, Brother Read, that you give my Christian love to all our dear people when you see them, and tell them that their courageous effort is bringing great joy to the hearts of all. Then those thirty-five scholarships—here we have an enrolment of almost 550, and I don't think we have half a dozen scholarships. It is wonderful to think that one-third of the enrolment at Newbold is this year on the scholarship basis.

"Since I saw you, Brother Reeves has passed through, and spent a few days here in Southern California. His message brought great cheer to our

people, and wherever he went he was well received. The people in this land are kind and hospitable, and I think in many ways very responsive. At least I have found them that way.

"Of course, we have our problems here, with so many temporal blessings, and it is easy for folk living in these parts to forget their individual need of God's blessing. When everything comes so easy and there is no real sacrifice needed, it is difficult for our young people to grasp the meaning of the times in which we live.

"I am happy to have had a part in training them, and our department here is growing. I say this to the praise of God; that when I came into the school here there were not more than a dozen in the ministerial department, but now we have between fifty and sixty, and some of these young men show real promise as soul-winners. We have, too, a splendid group of young women who are taking the Bible Worker's course.

"I have used your letter with good results at several meetings. That church notice, "Our Church is down but our Spirits are Up," has emphasized the courage in the hearts of our British members. God bless them all—Greet them for me."

A New Move in Uganda

THE house here at Kireka was much overcrowded even before the arrival of Brother Gudmundsen, and we had for some time been looking for a house or an apartment for one of the families here. In Kampala rents are high, and it was thought useless for anyone to live there. Finally we were offered the house of the retiring government dentist, at Musale, near Masaka, for about half the usual rent, and the first of November the Mudererspachs moved down there. He can supervise his field just as well from there, and it gives us an opportunity to conduct some efforts in that part of Uganda to see whether a new centre can be worked up there while waiting to go farther south.

I am glad to be able to report that I have received three good letters from our children, and the Mudererspachs received printed notes through the Red Cross from theirs. They are all well and can visit each other and the relatives in other towns. The postal authorities even permitted Ingeborg Marie's photograph to go through. She is finishing her nurses' training about this time, but she expects to take postgraduate work. Robert is at the school again and plans to continue there. The children yearn to be out here in Africa.

V. E. TOPPENBERG.

Missionary Sailings, 1940

JANUARY

Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Thomas and their children, from England to Kenya Colony, East Africa (Returning).

Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Bannister, from England to Kenya Colony, East Africa.

Mr. G. Gudmundsen, from Norway to Uganda, East Africa.

FEBRUARY

Mr. and Mrs. J. Clifford, from England to Gold Coast, West Africa (Returning).

Mr. and Mrs. S. Broberg and their family, from Denmark to Sierra Leone, West Africa (Returning).

MARCH

Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Murdoch and their family, from England to Kenya Colony, East Africa (Returning).

Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Lind and their family, from Norway to Uganda, East Africa (Returning).

APRIL

Miss M. Crooks, from England to Nigeria, West Africa.

Messages and Resolutions

from the Winter Council

THANKSGIVING

IN this time of trouble which has brought so many trials to our Division we thank God for the great mercies which have marked the past year. Under divine protection the lives of our workers and people have been almost entirely preserved, and we have been able to carry on the work committed to us. The spirit of liberality and consecration has grown in our churches. Our youth take their stand loyally on the side of truth. The labours of the ministry are rewarded with fruit. Our Harvest Ingathering Campaign has been crowned with unusual success. Most of our training schools continue in action.

Because of these tokens of divine favour, and depending on the promises of God, we address ourselves with fresh faith and courage to the unfinished task. Though church properties may be destroyed, fields be deprived of their liberty, and war's worst consequences fall upon some parts of our Division, we lift up our heads unitedly in the confidence that our redemption is drawing nigh, and, in the name of the whole Division,

We do hereby re-dedicate ourselves, and all we possess to the proclamation and service of the Advent message; and further,

We do hereby pledge to our brethren who may find themselves in danger and distress our continual prayers on their behalf and such help and co-operation as God may enable us to render them.

GREETINGS TO MEMBERS OF DIVISION COMMITTEE

Voted, That the chairman send a letter of greeting to members of the Division Committee not present at the Council and also to other Division executives who were present a year ago but who have been unable to attend this year.

SOUL-WINNING IN THE SABBATH-SCHOOL

We recommend: That all union and local conference Sabbath-school secretaries give special attention to the development of soul-winning ideals and plans by personal work for unconverted pupils on the part of teachers and officers.

MISSING MEMBERS

WHEREAS, Many churchmembers are still "missing" from the Sabbath-school; which state of things results in spiritual declension which in many cases leads on to apostasy,

We recommend: That the following steps be taken to rectify this evil situation:

1. That all conference and institutional workers, together with church

officers, take personal interest in the Sabbath-school work and, by their own attendance and participation, encourage others to do likewise.

2. That we urge every Seventh-day Adventist churchmember who is not now attending to become a member of the Sabbath-school either through its class organization or the Home Division.

3. That the Thirteenth Sabbath of each quarter be considered as Sabbath-school enrolment day, and that every Sabbath-school put forth special efforts to enlist on that day every missing churchmember.

4. That we urge all Sabbath-school officers to continue to study ways and means of making their Sabbath-school a greater spiritual force in the church.

5. That we counsel our ministers when admitting new converts to the church to train them in regularly attending Sabbath-school.

6. That our churches study to provide adequate facilities for housing the various Sabbath-school divisions, giving particular attention to the children's needs.

7. That we call upon all Sabbath-school teachers to become more and more efficient in teaching the Sabbath-school lessons by enrolling in the Sabbath-School Reading Courses or the Sabbath-School Teachers' Training Course.

CIRCULATION OF "REVIEW AND HERALD"

The chairman drew attention to the special efforts being made in the United States for increasing the circulation of the *Review and Herald* among workers and suggested that some similar plan might be given publicity in the Northern European Division. After discussion it was,

Voted: That we give publicity among our workers to the offer of a year's subscription to the *Review and Herald* at a special price of \$2.50 (11s. 3d.) during the month of March, 1941, suggesting at the same time quantities of literature which might be sold to raise the necessary amount.

CIRCULATION OF "SELECTIONS FROM THE TESTIMONIES"

Voted: That we endorse the following adapted action taken at the Autumn Council held at St. Paul in October, 1940:

WHEREAS, God has spoken to us "in these last days" by the "Testimonies of His Spirit," (*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, page 661) "instructing, correcting, and leading the remnant church; and that none may fall short we have been admonished that *The Testimonies* should be introduced into every Sab-

bath-keeping family, and the brethren should know their value, and be urged to read them. . . . They should be in the library of every family"; (*Ibid.*, page 681) and

WHEREAS, In the statement of the servant of the Lord, "Many are going directly contrary to the light which God has given to His people, because they do not read the books which contain the light and knowledge in cautions, reproofs, and warnings" (*Ibid.*, page 681), we detect a contributing cause for the large losses sustained in our church membership; and

WHEREAS, We recognize that the earnest efforts of recent years have been fruitful in placing the Spirit of prophecy writings in thousands of homes formerly without them, yet the leadership of the church is still faced with the challenging situation of many of our members without access to the "Testimony" counsels vital to the spiritual welfare of the church; and

WHEREAS, To meet these needs of many of this large section of church membership, especially those of limited financial circumstances, *Selections from the Testimonies* in various languages have been provided; therefore

We recommend: That each union and local conference develop effective plans to introduce these "Testimony" counsels into the homes of our believers. In so doing, we suggest:

1. That pastors and evangelists, as shepherds of the flock, be urged not only to foster the placing of this counsel in homes now without it, but also to encourage its faithful study as a means of building up and safeguarding the spiritual interests of the members.

2. That this question be listed for study and action at conference workers' and church officers' meetings.

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Voted: That we acknowledge with gratitude that, in our time of sore need, our brethren at the General Conference have manifested a sympathetic and generous spirit in coming to our assistance and, as representatives of the Division, we return our sincere thanks to the Executive Committee of the General Conference for their brotherly response to our various appeals.

SPECIAL DAYS, 1942

Voted: That the Special Days for 1942 be as follow:

Sabbath-School Rally	Jan. 10th
Tithe Sabbath	Jan. 24th

Spirit of Prophecy Promotion	Jan. 31st
Missionary Volunteer Rally	Feb. 28th
Missionary Volunteer Week	Feb. 28th to March 7th
Big Week Rally	April 4th
Big Week	April 4th to 11th
Week of Sacrifice	May 2nd to 9th
Week of Sacrifice Offering	May 9th
Education Day	May 30th
Medical Day	June 27th
Christian Home Day	July 11th
Harvest Ingathering Rally	Aug. 22nd
Harvest Ingathering Campaign	Aug. 22nd to Oct. 25th
Religious Liberty Day	Oct. 3rd
Colporteur Day	Oct. 31st
Week of Prayer	Dec. 4th to 12th

WIN ONE FOR CHRIST

We recommend: That one regular missionary Sabbath during the year 1941 be designated "Win One for Christ" Sabbath.

SOUL-WINNING ENDEAVOUR

WHEREAS, Earth's teeming millions, who are now making their decision for eternal life or eternal death, present to us a compelling challenge, in this closing hour of human probation, for a more intensive soul-winning endeavour; and

WHEREAS, In this solemn hour of opportunity we who love Christ cannot, and dare not, ignore the challenge of these unwarned multitudes around us; and

RECOGNIZING the extreme urgency of the need for now utilizing every available facility for bringing souls to Christ,

We recommend: 1. That we call our ministers, departmental and institutional workers, colporteurs, and laity, old and young, to a concerted and co-ordinated advance in soul-winning that will meet the need of this mighty hour.

2. That local ministers who are not already fully engaged in public efforts be enlisted in holding cottage meetings for groups of interested people, especially in connection with the distribution of appropriate literature by selected lay members and young people, and that instruction on this plan of evangelism be given to our workers, church elders, missionary leaders, missionary volunteer leaders and lay preachers.

GREATER COLPORTEUR EVANGELISM

WHEREAS, Conditions in the world to-day proclaim, in no uncertain tones, that we are nearing the end of the days left for the finishing of the work committed to us, and that what we have to do in warning the world must be done quickly; and

RECOGNIZING the large place that colporteur evangelism is to occupy in

the closing work of the message; therefore,

We recommend: 1. That our union and local conference committees give special study to the colporteur work in their respective fields in its relation to the great task of evangelism.

2. That conference workers and church elders be requested to keep before our churches the importance of the literature ministry, through sermons and other public references to this work, and that they seek out and encourage suitable men and women to take up colporteur evangelism in order that throughout the field the number of workers engaged in this line of soul-winning endeavour may be quickly and greatly increased.

3. That each conference worker and church elder be requested to put forth special efforts during 1941 to secure at least one recruit for regular full-time colporteur work and others who can work part time, the names of those thus received to be placed with the conference field missionary secretaries.

EVANGELISM FOR YOUTH

WHEREAS, Evangelism for our unconverted children and youth is enjoined as "our first work," also "missionary work of the highest type,"

We recommend: That all ministers and church workers put forth continuous, concerted efforts to bring the "lambs of the flock" to a decision for Christ:

a. By arranging where possible for a separate children's meeting at the time of the regular Sabbath service, or alternatively, by including in every Sabbath service some message suited to the children.

b. By cultivating a personal interest in the youth, and engaging in individual work for them.

c. By encouraging and assisting the youth who "really love Jesus" to work for the conversion of their young companions.

d. By counselling and co-operating with the officers of the missionary volunteer society, thus helping them to make their society meetings and activities truly evangelistic in character and fruitful in results.

We further recommend: That the conference and mission committees so order the work of the missionary volunteer secretary that he may be able to devote a definite portion of his time to evangelistic efforts for the youth in his tours among the societies.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE

WHEREAS, The Sabbath has been given to man as the great sign of God's creatorship, in the keeping of which, by not doing his own work or finding his own pleasure in the holy day, guarding its edges, maintaining its spirit, and observing it as a day of spiritual rest and refreshing, is signified man's loyalty to God,

We therefore earnestly recommend: A renewed consecration on the part of our workers and people every-

where in the observance of God's holy day:

1. By sacredly guarding the edges of the Sabbath, making full preparation for its opening before the setting of the sun.

2. By welcoming the blessed day by worship around the family altar, and, at the setting of the sun, rededicating ourselves and our children to the Lord.

3. By putting aside all secular papers, and refraining from the use of the radio.

4. By refraining from journeys not in harmony with the proper observance of the Sabbath.

5. By jealously guarding the appointed hours of the Sabbath services, sacredly reserving them for divine worship.

6. By exercising great carefulness in the manner of raising money on the Sabbath, and disposing of literature during the Sabbath services, by reducing announcements and campaign instructions to the minimum so that the spiritual character of the Sabbath is kept ever before our churches, and by making all specific campaigns contribute to the upbuilding of spiritual life.

AN APPEAL TO OUR BELIEVERS

Voted: That we endorse the following earnest appeal for a greater soul-winning endeavour, as adopted at the St. Paul Autumn Council in October, 1940:

ARISE, O CHURCH, AND FINISH THY TASK!

"God has committed to the heralds of the third angel's message the stupendous task of giving Heaven's final message to man—a message presenting His last overtures of mercy to a world in revolt, a message that will decide the eternal destiny of each individual on earth. The climactic hour of human history, to which the church long has looked, is manifestly here, when, amid scenes of earthly turmoil and trouble, blended with celestial power and glory, such as the world has never before seen, the message is to close triumphantly.

"The hour has come for the sounding forth of the loud cry of the third angel, when divine power is to be united with consecrated human effort. As opposition to the claims of the message reaches its climax, the truth is to become the centre of world attention and decision, and will be heralded to all men everywhere.

"Time's hour is late. The days of trouble, long foretold, are upon us. Probation soon will close. The world is in a state of unprecedented upheaval. The conflict of the nations spreads throughout the earth. The old order is passing. What we fail to do in these times of comparative peace and prosperity, in lands still open to us, will soon have to be done under the most forbidding conditions.

"We have been ninety-six years in the time of the third angel's message. Truly the hour has come to arise and finish the work. We must read aright the lesson of those lands where to-

day public evangelism is seriously hindered. We must press into those doors of opportunity that are still open—in Europe, North, Inter and South America, Africa, India, the Orient, and Australasia—are they close and the opportunity be for ever past.

"The sands of time are sinking. Probation's hour is fast closing. What we do, must be done quickly. We must therefore catch a new vision of God's expectation of us, and of our duty to Him. We must understand His divine provision for this momentous hour. We must pray for the latter rain in this time of the latter rain. We must enlarge our plans, and proceed with our God-given task with increased rapidity.

"The time has come to put away all lethargy and self-complacency. We must address ourselves to the supreme goal of finishing our task. We must pray for a revival of true godliness in our own hearts.

"Public evangelism must now be pressed to the fullest degree possible. Men of God's appointment, with special evangelistic endowments, must enter the great cities, sounding forth the last message of mercy. We must capitalize present public interest and concern in current and impending events to proclaim the coming of Jesus.

"We must enter the unentered areas—the cities, towns, and country places—where as yet there are no representatives of the church. We must assign more workers for continuous public evangelism in our conferences and missions. We must train more young men for evangelistic ministry, holding them unswervingly to evangelistic endeavour.

"Every available resource should be drafted and employed to accomplish this great objective. Every worker should make soul-winning the supreme purpose of all his efforts. National and indigenous workers should be developed speedily and given increased responsibility. The world should be sown with the literature of the message. The consecrated efforts of our laity and church officers should be added with increasing endeavour quickly to finish our task. The latent talents of our great army of youth should be enlisted, trained, and led into this greater evangelism movement. The spirit of sacrifice and service in soul-winning must become our supreme passion. Emergency times demand emergency plans and action."

We, assembled in our 1940 Winter Council, earnestly appeal to our entire church and ministry in the Division to join in prayer and devoted consecration to God that the divine energy of the Holy Spirit may characterize our lives and service. We earnestly summon the remnant church to evangelistic action in harmony with the clear mandate of God for the times. Arise, O church, and finish thy commissioned task!

NORTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION,
WINTER COUNCIL OF S.D.A.

MESSAGE TO OUR BELIEVERS

The Council voted the following messages:

To our Brethren in all the fields of the Northern European Division of the General Conference:

Dear Brethren in Christ,

Our Winter Council in its reduced representation again illustrates the perils and perplexities that have in these last days fallen upon the church. Since we last met in Winter Council, further blows have been inflicted upon us as a Division. Could we have foreseen the present situation, as it affects ourselves, we might well have been afraid. Yet like Paul, we can say: "Having obtained help of God, we continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come."

We need not spend words, brethren, in trying to prove to you that the end of all things is at hand. In the ruins of some of our churches, in the spreading horrors of modern war, in the distress that has come upon homeless multitudes, you can read the signs of the times. To us their welcome message is that the day of full redemption draws nigh.

You know also what God expects of His people in this very time. Every soul is to become a loyal witness to the present truth; all we possess is to be devoted to the finishing of the Gospel message; sin is to be put out of our churches, our homes, our individual lives.

And you know what we may confidently expect from God in this closing hour. He will send the Holy Spirit in full measure to make our warfare against sin and our message to the world a complete and splendid triumph. Every angel is dedicated to the same great end that calls on us. Jesus, with all power in heaven and on earth, leads His church into and through the final struggle. He has never suffered defeat. Linked with Him, we need not experience it. Following Him wherever He may lead we shall find the flintiest rock yielding supplies of oil, and the waste wilderness abounding in manna.

We have but one word for you, brethren. It is the call that comes from our great Leader, stirring our own hearts: "Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward." Forgetting the forgiven sins that have in past days devastated and weakened our churches and ourselves, let us now, unanimously, press on toward the goal. That goal is almost in sight. The harvest of the earth is fully ripe. The Lord is at hand. Let us go forward.

Yours in the Blessed Hope,
NORTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION
WINTER COUNCIL.

MESSAGE TO OUR MISSIONARIES

Dear Fellow-workers,

You are always in the front in the interest and plans of a Winter Coun-

cil, and we write you once again with the assurance of our unwavering affection and purpose to support you in your service and self-sacrifice.

We are glad that, in spite of the adversities that have come to us in the past year, as a Division, we have been able to send the full appropriations voted to you a year ago, and even to supply you in advance of the usual periods. Whatever further ordeals the Division may be called upon to face, you may rest assured that you will receive first consideration as we discharge our stewardship.

The home churches have seen afflictions. Their loyalty to the cause of truth is being demonstrated under fiery trials. Proclaiming the Advent message has become in some fields difficult and perilous. You have no desire to escape the common lot and will, we know, study to make the very most of the means we are still able to send you. We trust that by the divine help you may succeed in raising the native believers to new levels of spiritual power, and discovering in them untapped supplies of possible co-operation.

We pray earnestly for your health that it may stand the extra strain now imposed upon you.

The home bases face fresh demands and the certainty of greater burdens. It may be that the strain will continue and intensify; that the destruction will grow fiercer and more relentless. God's resources will always be available for His people and His cause. Jesus, fasting in the wilderness, yet made more than equal to the most subtle and dangerous assaults of the enemy, is proof that the throne of grace is adequate to our utmost need. We may expect that our faith in that throne will be tested, but the throne will justify the boldest faith.

We are together embarked upon a venture of faith. Up to now our assets have usually been visible. But both you and we may be called upon to do our work on the strength of invisible assets. Our earnest prayer is that in such a case our faith and yours may not fail. That experience, difficult as it may be to flesh and blood, will bring the church's victory to pass and set the Advent people among the apostles and prophets of a great history.

Yours in full dedication,
NORTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION
WINTER COUNCIL.

The Advent Survey

Organ of
The Northern European Division of
the General Conference of S.D.A.

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