

Union Conference Record

"Be strong all ye people, saith the Lord, and work; for I am with you."

VOL. II.

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No. 5.

THE AUSTRALASIAN UNION CONFERENCE.

Its Work, and Its Needs.

To all true believers in Jesus, the Lord says: "Ye are labourers together with God." (I. Cor. iii., 9.) And so He says: "Go work to day in my vineyard." (Matt. xxi., 28.) And, again: "Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord negligently" (Jer. xlviii., 10, margin.)

To be thus exalted to the position of a co-worker with God in the accomplishment of His eternal purpose is the highest honour that can be conferred upon a human being. And to do that work aright will bring to the worker the greatest joy that can come to the human heart. "Steps to Christ."

We can only do the Lord's work acceptably as He works in us both to will and to do His good pleasure. (Phil. ii., 13.) Without Him we can do nothing. (John xv., 5.) But with Him we can do all things. (Phil. iv., 13.) As all things are possible with God (Mark x., 27), so all things are possible with those who believe God. (Mark ix., 23.)

The Lord's co-workers must see His work as He sees it. Then they will have right views of His work. Without this they cannot co-operate with Him. This means that the workers must give the territory, with all its details, the most earnest, prayerful study. Let us, then, look at that portion of the field allotted to us, and which is known as the

Australasian Union Conference.

The territory of this Conference includes Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand.

This territory is divided into organised conferences and mission fields. There are three conferences and

two mission fields. The conferences are Central Australia, New Zealand, and New South Wales. Queensland and West Australia are the two mission fields.

The New Zealand Conference.

This Conference embraces all that pertains to that colony. The territory stretches a distance of 1,000 miles from north to south. It has a population of 800,000. This population is wisely distributed over the entire area of the colony. There are many towns of medium size dotted over a well-settled agricultural country.

We entered that field to give the people the message for this time, twelve years ago. There is now an organised Conference, with twelve churches and about 450 members. The staff of labourers who devote all their time to the work consists of four ordained ministers, one licensed preacher, three Bible workers, eight canvassers, and two or three medical missionary nurses. The Conference Tract Society, and medical work are all placed on a self-supporting basis.

During the last year the churches have paid £871 18s. 2d. in tithes, £81 15s. 10d. in Sabbath School offerings, and £74 18s. 2d. in donations to missions. The canvassers have sold £3,621 worth of publications. An average of 1,768 copies of the *Bible Echo* have been distributed weekly in the Conference.

We sincerely thank the Lord for what has been done in that field since it was entered with the message. But oh, how little has been accomplished compared with what remains to be done. Scores of towns must yet be entered, and thousands of people must hear the message. The staff of workers must be greatly enlarged, church schools must be established, and the medical work must be built up.

A Plea for the New Zealand Maories.

There are 40,000 Maories in that Conference who must have this message proclaimed to them. The most of them can read the native language. They are well supplied with Bibles in the native tongue. A couple of our small tracts have been translated into their language, but up to the present time very little has been done by us for that bright, fine race of people. The Mormons have sent many missionaries to them from Utah, and they are working very energetically among the natives. Has not the time fully come for us to make an earnest effort among the Maories? Our dear Sister Nicholas, from Raratonga, speaks and writes the Maori language readily, and can correctly and rapidly translate our literature into that tongue. Consecrated workers are needed to go among the Maories, to distribute small illustrated tracts and booklets, and to teach them the Bible. Is there not at least one person in our ranks in Australasia who has a burden from the Lord to work for these people? One of the first duties that fell to me, on my arrival in New Zealand in 1886, was to baptize a Maori sister. The signal blessing of God was present. She lived a consistent Christian life until death cut her down. We have every assurance that we shall meet her at the resurrection of the saints.

Undoubtedly there are many dear souls among that people, who will embrace the truth and rejoice in it, when someone with a burden for them shall go among them and work for their salvation. We ought to have begun this work for them years ago. Shall we delay longer? May the Lord lay the burden heavily upon some hearts without delay.

New South Wales Conference.

This Conference embraces the colony of New South Wales. The colony is 900 miles long, and 500 wide. It has an area of three hundred thousand square miles, and a population of one and a quarter millions. The area being so vast, the population is very scattered in some parts. It has 2,700 miles of railway, and a sea coast 800 miles long, which makes most parts quite accessible.

The first public effort that was made to establish our work in this colony was by Brother David Steed

in 1890. Since then the cause has gradually but firmly taken root and developed. The Conference has 6 churches, 450 members, 4 ordained ministers, 4 licensed preachers, 3 Bible workers, and 20 canvassers.

In addition to the Conference with its regular features, it has the Avondale School with its staff of teachers, the Summer Hill Sanitarium with its staff of workers, and the Health Food Factory with its employees.

During the last year the tithes amounted to £788 1s. 4½d, Sabbath School offerings £22 15s. 5½d. miscellaneous gifts £53 3s. 7d., and the sales of the canvassers £3,123 17s. 2d. An average of 1,363 copies of the *Bible Echo* were distributed weekly by the members.

At the beginning of the year a successful camp meeting was held at Newcastle, which has been followed by a successful series of tent-meetings. Land has been purchased for a church building which it is expected will be erected soon.

A good preparation has been made in this Conference to do the great work which has scarcely been touched. A great many fine towns, and hundreds of excellent settlements all over the colony stand ready for the consecrated worker.

The Central Australian Conference.

This Conference embraces the colonies of Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania. Either one of these colonies is large enough in area and population for a Conference, but our work has not advanced enough in each one to organize a Conference in each. The territory covered by this Conference is something like 1,016,000 square miles, with a population of about 1,700,000.

The membership of the Conference is 800, with 1 Churches, 3 ordained ministers, 9 licensed preachers, 3 Bible workers, and 8 canvassers. The tithes for the last year were £1,672 os. 4½d., the Sabbath School donations £77 14s. 2d., the miscellaneous gifts £180 6s. 4d., and the book sales £1,852 3s. 5d. An average of 1,915 *Bible Echoes* were distributed weekly.

The *Echo* Publishing Company, which does our printing for Australasia, is located in this Conference. This institution has grown to large proportions since its small beginning twelve years ago. It now employs about 70 hands, and all are kept busy the year round. This institution is a strong factor in the cause in Australasia. But it could be of much greater use, and exercise a more powerful influence if all our people would work as they should for the circulation of the books, tracts, and papers it turns out. The distribution of this literature is one of the most important questions before us to-day. What is required is a true missionary spirit.

During the last year a Helping Hand Mission for men has been opened in Melbourne. Like all new enterprises, this has been surrounded with difficulties, but these are gradually being overcome, and the Mission is doing a good work. We believe that it will yet exert a mighty influence for good. It will give the last call to the Supper with that compelling power that hundreds will be unable to resist. God bless the Mission, and all the allied missions working along similar lines.

As we look over the three colonies included in this Conference, and think of the thousands who are waiting for the message, and then look at the little company of workers, we feel to pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers into the field. The Central Australian Conference needs its labourers and funds multiplied tenfold—yes, a hundredfold. Every member of that Conference should become an enthusiastic worker.

Queensland.

This is what may be termed mission territory. We have not felt that the membership was large enough, nor the work sufficiently developed in that colony, to warrant organising a Conference, and placing the work on a wholly self-supporting basis. But we are hoping to do so in the near future.

Queensland is an expensive field to work. Its area is about 700,000 square miles, twice as large as New South Wales, and eight times as large as Victoria. But its population is only about 500,000, a little less than half the population of Victoria.

But the importance of a field does not rest altogether with the question of population. Both politically and commercially Queensland is an important piece of Australian territory. We have been impressed, ever since we began our work in that colony, that it was a very promising and important field. Bro. Tenney, who has recently taken charge of the work there, writes that "No country presents a more encouraging outlook for the work of the Third Angel's Message than this."

We began public work in Queensland in 1894, when Brethren Starr and Hickox held a series of tent-meetings in Rockhampton. The Lord blessed the labours of His servants, and gave them a church of half a hundred souls. This pioneer church has been a blessing in many ways to the cause in that new field. May God bless and keep the Rockhampton church.

In other parts of the colony the workers have met with great encouragement. In Brisbane many excellent homes have been opened to our Bible workers. The camp-meeting in that city last year was one of the most delightful we have held in the colonies. The mission work that followed, under the direction of Brother and Sister Haskell, has been signally blessed of God. The workers have come in contact with hundreds of souls whom they have been able to help in some way. Fifty or more have embraced the truth, and many more are investigating. A church has been organised, and a neat house of worship has been erected within a few blocks of where the camp-meeting was held. And, glory be to God, this building was dedicated free from debt. What a grand memorial of the South Brisbane camp-meeting of September, 1898. The meetings in the new church are well attended, for there is still a good interest in that part of the city.

Brother and Sister Haskell have left Queensland, but Brother and Sister Tenney have taken their places and are carrying the good work right along, being assisted by a number of the workers who have been connected with the mission since the camp-meeting.

There are now above two hundred Sabbath-keepers scattered over this large colony. They need to be

visited, instructed, and built up in the truth. There are many towns and country villages where our canvassers have been successful in selling our publications, that should be worked by the ministers and Bible workers. A church school should be opened in Brisbane, and the Medical Missionary work should be started there and at Rockhampton.

Our staff of public workers in Queensland consists of one ordained minister, one licensed preacher, five Bible workers, and seven canvassers. The regular financial receipts from the members last year were as follows: Tithes £326, Sabbath School donations £7 10s. 1½d., miscellaneous offerings £57 2s. 9d. The book sales for the year amounted to £1,812 19s. 4d.

The expenses above the receipts since our last settlement amount to £362 17s. 3d. The greater portion of this was incurred by the camp-meeting and the work that followed. At present the expenses are not as heavy as they have been for the past six months. It is hoped that by the increased receipts from the new members the work will be more nearly self-supporting in the future. We regret that, owing to the lack of funds we cannot supply the field with the labourers it really needs.

West Australia.

This colony, like Queensland, is a mission field. It was the last of the colonies in Australasia in which we began mission work. Some of our canvassers entered that field five years ago, but it has been only three years since our ministers first went to that colony. Under all the circumstances the canvassers have done a great work in the West. But, owing to all the conditions connected with a gold-mining population, it has been a difficult field in which to carry on evangelical work. We have met with perplexities and obstacles from the first, but we have not abandoned the field for one day, nor taken a single backward step. The Lord has given the labourers a few firm friends from the first, and now the work is planted to stay.

Great changes have taken place in the West during the last three years. The gold rush has ceased, the population is more settled, the towns are improved,

living is better and less expensive, money is not circulated so freely, and the masses are more ready to consider something besides mining. In Perth and Fremantle there are many unemployed. This calls for unselfish Christian effort on the part of those who are working for the uplifting of a suffering humanity. During the last year our workers have been doing earnest work for this class. They have cared for the sick, supplied the needs of the suffering, and have done all they have known how to secure work for the unemployed. They have established a Helping Hand Laundry, by which they have been able to furnish work for women who were struggling to help support their families. These efforts have brought blessings to the workers, as well as to those for whom the work has been done.

The Gold Fields.

The gold fields of West Australia present most urgent and encouraging openings for Christian service. They are not like the gold fields of Australia half a century ago. Many of them are reached by railways. Flourishing towns are built up, and are lighted by electricity. Every commodity in commercial lines can be obtained at reasonable prices. Vegetables, fresh fruits, and other food, are sent to the towns daily in cold storage cars.

The greatest lack is the meagre provision made for the spiritual and intellectual requirements of the miners and their families. Churches, schools, public libraries and good literature are greatly needed. It is this condition that makes it so important that we should enter the field at once, and gives promise of such excellent results from proper efforts. When in Kalgoorlie a year ago my heart burned within me to stay and work for the thousands of people there, who seemed more like sheep without a shepherd than any class I have ever met. Oh! Where *are* the labourers for such fields? Are there none on whom the Lord can lay the burden for such places, even though they have never visited them personally?

Well, dear brethren and sisters, these are a few glimpses of the field which the Lord has allotted to us. Much more might be pointed out, but space will not permit. Does it not seem that we should

take up this long-neglected work at once? The Union Conference is to meet in July. During the session plans will be laid to enlarge the border of our tent, to lengthen our cords, and strengthen our stakes. Should we not plan to at least step into the openings the Lord has so providentially made for us in the different colonies?

I know you will all say yes, and to this I say amen. Let us then do it. Let us seek God with all our hearts to know just how much of our service and money He wants for these new lines of work. Then let him who receives evidence that God wants His service, his personal labour, in any one of these places, answer "Here am I, Lord, send me." And let him who is impressed that God calls for his money, say, "Here it is, Lord, take it even to the last farthing that you call for." Oh, brethren, can we do any less for Jesus, who shed his last drop of blood for us? He was terribly in earnest. He gave all. He drank the very dregs of the bitter cup. Can we be His disciples unless we cheerfully give up all?

On the last Sabbath of the Week of Prayer, collections will be taken in all our churches in behalf of the mission work in Australasia. Language cannot tell how pressingly we need funds. The situation alone can tell this, and the Holy Spirit alone can reveal to us the situation as it is. Therefore, we should earnestly pray for the Holy Spirit that we may be made to sense the needs of our Father's cause, and, sensing it, be strengthened to do for it what the Lord requires. *Requires!* Bless His name, it is not a *requirement only*; it is a *glorious privilege*.

The resources of the Union Conference are tithes and offerings. It receives from each Conference a share of the tithes which the conference receives from the churches. It receives whatever portion of the Sabbath School offerings the schools and conferences choose to turn over to it. And it receives all the first day and Week of Prayer donations that are made by all the brethren and sisters. Therefore every offering you contribute to the Week of Prayer offerings will help the Union Conference to push on with the important lines of work referred to in this letter.

I cannot do better, in closing this letter, than to present the following stirring message from the Spirit of Prophecy. It is entitled—

"How to Secure Necessary Funds."

From the beginning of our missionary work we have been much perplexed to know how we could secure funds adequate to the support of missionary enterprises in the fields which Providence has opened before us. Missionary work is to be widely extended, and those who believe the truth should avoid using their means in purchasing that which is unnecessary. We are not to study our convenience, but rather our necessities. We shall have to bind about our wants in order that there shall be means in the treasury to raise the standard of truth in new territory. Seek God, believe in Him who has infinite resources. If we move wisely, putting our ability into the work, the good hand of God will be upon us. *We must push forward the work, not waiting to see the funds in the treasury before we undertake it. God forbid that when His Providence summons us to enter the fields white already to the harvest, that our steps should be retarded by the cry, "Our treasury is exhausted. We have no means to sustain the workers that are already in the field, and it is impossible for us to enlarge our operations."*

We thank God that our Sabbath Schools have contributed enough to advance many a precious enterprise. Children and youth have given their pennies, that like little rivulets have supplied a stream of beneficence. Children should be educated in such a way that they may perform unselfish acts which heaven will rejoice to see. When the dew of youth is upon them, children should be trained how to do service for Christ. They should be taught self-denial.

The fields nigh and afar off belong to God; for the world is His. Usurpers have taken possession of God's earthly property, but he will make a way so that the truth may be presented in the dark corners of the earth. If men will only follow the leadings of the Holy Spirit they will find ways and means by which the message may go forth and gain a glorious victory. The servants of God who live in obedience

to His requirements, who speak the truth in humility, will carry an influence with them which will work for the salvation of many souls. But we must not allow the people to hang helplessly upon us. We are human and finite. We must direct them to Christ, saying, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." Jesus pleads the case of His co-labourers, but every hour they need to feel humble dependence upon the Captain of their Salvation, and through the intercession of Christ, our Advocate, many souls will be saved unto eternal life. The Lord has provided for the descent of the Holy Spirit upon His workers, and every one who sincerely seeks God will find Him.

PERSONAL.

THERE is an occasion and an opportunity in life when it would be cowardly and unjust to withhold the voice of the pen when their service would set wrong right and place a wrong doing in its true setting. The knowledge and the conviction that such a work now lies to my lot is my reason for writing the following in the interests of truth and righteousness.

The large majority of the brethren in Australasia are acquainted with the part which I took in the work for many years; and they are also aware of the painfully determined and unreasonable methods adopted in the unfortunate break-away from the cause which occurred about two years ago.

In His own way and time, and by His mercy, God has revealed to me my error. Under searching reflection and much solicitude I have come to see that the source of all the trouble did not lie in the message, nor in the defects of my brethren, but the real cause lay down deep in my own heart. My

experience in Christ was not deep enough. The whole soul and body and mind were not under absolute surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ. In consequence of this I began to view the work through the eyes of human wisdom and natural instinct. I thought I knew my own heart, and was well satisfied in my mental powers of judgment. Hence, *everything* connected with the message lost its true colour, shape and size in my mind. No soul is safe who views God's work thus. When a man judges the work of God by the mere letter and appearances, and fails to discern the true spirit of it, he is blind and cannot see afar off. May the Lord deliver such a one! He has delivered me.

Brethren, my faith in the message was never so intelligently strong as it is to-day. My confidence is unbounded in the incomparable spirituality of the truth. This great message is holy, pure, just, and good in its aims, operations and consequences. It is now no marvel to me why so many refuse it. It is this, the message in all its parts can only be discerned spiritually. Human wisdom did not devise it, neither can human wisdom overthrow or sustain it.

My public statement that the "movement" of the Seventh Day Adventists consisted more in the enthusiasm for sectarian recognition and distinction than for the true work of the Gospel was wrong. The mighty works now being carried forward and sustained by this people in rescuing the perishing, housing the aged, the infirm and the orphan, educating the ignorant, and in preaching the pure and holy Gospel to the world, all of which (with little exception) irrespective of creed, class or colour, is a divine guarantee and seal that the message is born of heaven.

It was Mrs. E. G. White's position in connection with the work which formed the basis of the work feature of my attack. I stated that her leadership

was an ecclesiastical tyranny. I now say that such a statement showed an abstruseness of spiritual discernment. Very searching reproof had come from her pen to myself and family, which instead of meekly accepting I repudiated, resisted, and finally opposed. Had I humbly received those testimonies, much sorrow to many others beside myself might have been saved. The Spirit of Prophecy can only be fully appreciated by those who are spiritually minded, and who are willing to be led by the Spirit of God. Her gift is one of the most unique that could come to the Church. Her position is not self-appointed, neither does she hold office by the appointment of man, nor by Conference vote. But in God's own way—by experience in divine things, by success in Gospel work, and by the prophetic gift of insight into, and foresight by, the Word of God. He has given the Spirit of Prophecy a standing in the Church which is after the New Testament order of the gifts of the Holy Ghost in their individual operation.

Everyone who will be honest with himself must surely see that ungodliness and selfish instincts, working through its multitudinous progeny, are ruining the professed Churches of God to-day. The Lord has ordained that the gifts of the Spirit should operate in individual manifestations to keep the Church pure, and in the unity of the faith. Personal rebuke, born of God, in exposing sin, false theories and worldly policies, is a divine work sorely needed by every Church. And if the Church were awake to her condition and true need, she would be on her knees pleading for such a gift of prophecy that would boldly and authoritatively speak out in divine thunder tones to purify God's people from unholy aspirations and workings. Room must be given to God's prophets. We must allow them to speak to our hearts and to the Church. Such work is gloriously spiritual—and blessed is the man, and greatly blessed is the Church that will suffer God's rebuke unto the reformation of the soul and its temple.

My experiences I cannot put into language. I can barely touch them with words. This I do know, that it is no marvel that one endowed with this gift of foresight in God's work in the earth should be subjected to misjudgment and misapprehension. The Spirit of Prophecy in the work has been progressive. No backward step has ever characterised it, nor has its moral tone ever been lowered to accommodate the rich or poor, the famous or the obscure, friends or foes. It bears the seal of the Living God.

In this city of Ballarat there is a famous piece of statuary—"The Flight from Pompeii." It is truly the work of a genius. How much easier it would be to mar and to destroy it, than it was to execute it from a huge, ugly block of marble. Yes, and so it is—it requires no genius to find fault, to mar, to pull down, to break and scatter in pieces God's work, but it requires a master hand to carve out, beautify, and restore God's image in the soul. Do not mistake my meaning—God works through humanity to save humanity. It is an awful thing to hinder God's work. Brethren, as one who knows by experience, let me ask you to be watchful lest any little pebble or great rock of selfishness trip you over into the precipice of darkness, sorrow, and ruin. No room in God's house must be locked to Him—whose house we are.

I offer nothing whatever as a justification for my insane move. The forgiving love in which my brethren have received me to their hearts has overwhelmed me with joy. I was never more happy in my life than I am now, in the Lord. I feel the blessedness of Heaven in proclaiming this Message which is destined to purify men in body, soul, and spirit, to preserve them blameless unto the greatest of all triumphs, the deliverance that will soon come, at the revelation of our Lord in the clouds of heaven. My strong consolation is that by God's grace, I will triumph with you.

S. McCULLAGH.

Ballarat, Victoria, April 14th, 1899.

NOTES AND PERSONALS.

Will you kindly read this number of the *Record* through at once? Please do not lay it away for a more convenient time. We send it to you free, with the request that you read it before the Week of Prayer closes.

DR. BRAUCHT, of Samoa, writes that he has decided to attend the Union Conference in July. He will bring his family. As the International Medical Association has granted our request that he be transferred to New Zealand, the doctor may come to stay.

THIS number of the *Record* tells you something about the Union Conference of Australasia. It tells of the beginning of our work in the different colonies, of a little of the progress that has been made, and of some of its present needs. Much, very much, more might have been said, but space would not permit.

WE are pleased to receive word from Pastor E. Hilliard, of Tonga, that he has decided to come to the Conference. We also learn that Bro. E. H. Gates, who is just now touring the islands with the Pitcairn, is likely to be with us at the Conference. We sincerely hope Bro. Gates will succeed in reaching us.

THE third biennial session of the Australasian Union Conference is hereby appointed to be held at Avondale School, Cooranbong, N.S.W., July 6th to 25th, 1899. Each local Conference is entitled to one delegate for every fifty members of its Conference. The Conferences should be fully represented by delegates.

A. G. DANIELLS,
President.

AFTER reading this number of the *Record* you will say that our cause really needs workers and money. Well, we are preparing workers as fast as we can in the School, Sanitarium, Tract Society offices, and printing house. We are straining every nerve along this line. Now we ask every lover of this cause to help us with means. Give us money, friends, to help us carry forward this great work. In doing this you become workers together with God.

THE donations made during the Week of Prayer will go to the Union Conference to help meet the expenses that have been incurred in Queensland and West Australia during the past year. Think of the thousands of perishing souls in those colonies where there are as yet but few of like faith with you to give them the message. Think of them and then give for them in proportion as you love their souls and your Saviour who gave *Himself* for them.

WE are supplying each member with an envelope in which to place the offering he desires to make to the cause at the close of the Week of Prayer. This offering will be taken Sabbath, May 27th, at the close of the morning service. During the week each member should select the text of Scripture that impresses him as most suitable for the occasion, and write it on the envelope. The offering should be placed in the envelope, which should be sealed and handed to those who collect the offerings at the close of the service.

WE have just received a letter from Pastor Geo. A. Irwin, President of the General Conference, telling us that he had accepted our invitation to attend the next session of the Australasian Union Conference. This session is appointed to be held at the Avondale School, July 6th to 25th. Bro. Irwin had planned to sail from Vancouver in the s.s. "Aorangi." The boat is due in Sydney about the 1st of June. We are pleased to learn that Bro. Irwin is coming, and shall try to have him visit as many of our churches as possible. Pray for him, that his visit to Australasia may be richly blessed of God.

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