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Thrilling Introductions

AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION

● Extracts from a Report by MERWIN R. THURBER

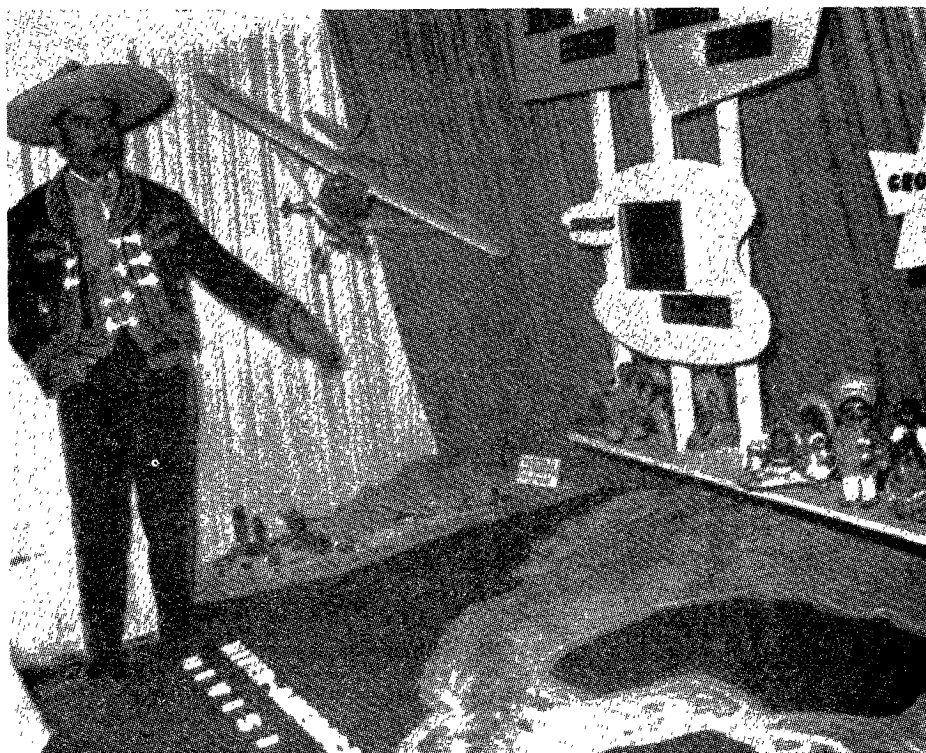
TWO empty chairs draped with flags captured the interest and curiosity of the audience as the Monday evening service of music got under way. There they stood at the left end of the front row of seats on the platform, inviting speculation as to their meaning.

Now the brethren from Northern Europe and Inter-America march onto the platform with measured tread as the congregation stands in silent meditation. Apparently we'll not be held long in suspense regarding those flag-draped chairs. Preliminaries over, Pastor A. F. Tarr electrifies his listeners with his very first words:

"At the last General Conference a vacant chair stood on our platform draped with the Polish flag. Two of our sisters knelt at the chair as a song was sung and prayer was offered in behalf of our absent church in Poland. Tonight we have two vacant chairs, but they will not be vacant long. During the past year personal contact was again made with Poland, and thanks to the goodwill of the Polish and American governments, two delegates have been permitted to attend this session. We now invite the president of the Polish Union, Pastor J. Zielinski, and the vice-president, Pastor Gustaf Baron, to take these vacant chairs. We present these brethren to you as representatives of more than 3,000 stalwart members of the advent faith in Poland."

As our Polish brethren in red-trimmed national costumes stepped onto the platform and strode in tall leather boots to the pulpit, the audience broke into spontaneous applause, which was repeated when Pastor Tarr had shaken hands with them and directed them to the two empty chairs.

To me it was a spine-tingling experience. I thought of how it might be in heaven as groups from various races and countries and eras of earth's history march in through the gates of the city of gold announced by angel heralds, perhaps with the fanfare of trumpets.



Inside the Inter-American booth Preciado Hipolito points at the relief map of the division territory, while in the background a model airstrip illustrates the effective air ambulance work originating at Montemorelos, Mexico.

As I write this, Pastor Tarr is introducing Pastor Tebedge Gudaye. In an interview I had with him, Pastor Gudaye, of the North-west Ethiopian Mission, had an interesting story to tell. Heart-stirring was his simple account of his decision to decline the offer of employment tendered by the emperor, Haile Selassie. Already serving the mission as a minister and receiving in American money \$250 a month, he was offered by the emperor \$550 a month with a house and a car free, if he would enter the employ of his monarch.

Pastor Gudaye is the father of eight children so the offer was obviously appealing. From the casual way he mentioned it, however, one would not gather the impression that he had the slightest hesitation in making his decision.

Pastor Gudaye was born into a Seventh-day Adventist family. His mother is still living, but his father and an uncle lost their lives as the result of religious persecution. After being persecuted in one community they fled to another. Word of the persecution followed them, and a mob

robbers raised as a result, murdered them in cold blood. It is usual in Ethiopia for the next of kin to avenge a murder by seeking out the criminal and killing him. Of course, as a Christian, Pastor Gudaye could not consider such a course. Later a girl relative of the murderer of his father applied for entrance to the Christian school our brother was conducting. Although he was advised against it because of possible danger to his own life, he accepted the girl, and after five years he had the privilege of baptizing her into the church. Her two brothers and a sister also attended the school.

Now I am introduced to two ladies from Finland, dressed in white. These two ladies have a remarkable record in evangelism. Miss A. Lehtoluoto and Miss E. Luukkanen, Bible instructors, modestly admit to the baptism of more than 500 as a result of their public and private ministry.

Pastor Roth introduces a Mexican preacher by the name of Jose de la Paz Matus. When Pastor Matus was a baby, Pastor G. W. Caviness, while on a missionary tour, visited a company of new believers in the village of Ixtaltepec. From the neighbouring village of Espinal, Felix Matus, a recent convert, came over to hear the pastor. After the meeting he invited him home to bless the new baby—nine weeks old. Pastor Caviness, happy to come, held the infant in his arms as he prayed, then said, "I am going to make a prophecy: This child some day will be a minister of the gospel of Christ. Mother, you train him for the service of God."

Jose grew up to be a minister, as predicted—first a lay worker talking the truth with his neighbours, then lay preacher, colporteur, district leader, and ordained minister. He is now pastor of one of the largest churches in Mexico. He has had eleven district pastorates, has preached in eighteen states in Mexico, has been a departmental secretary, and has held many evangelistic efforts. He estimates conservatively that he has baptized more than 700 people in his ministry thus far. Surely God has wonderfully fulfilled the prediction made by Pastor Caviness many years ago!—"Review and Herald."

Newsogrammes from the General Conference

In his telegram to the delegates, President Eisenhower said: "Please give my greetings to all attending the 48th Quadrennial World Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

"Representing many countries but united in one faith, your delegates will find strength and inspiration in their meeting together. Dedicated to the truth that sets men free, their ministry contributes much to the lives of many around the world.

"Best wishes for a splendid conference."

Never has there been a more international conference, with 1,000-1,100 delegates from ninety-nine countries. The first



The story of Pitcairn Island has many facets. Mrs. Alma Wiles, who has given many years of devoted missionary service in the New Hebrides and Papua, and Mrs. Alta Hilliard Christensen standing with Parkin Christian, who was a boy on Pitcairn Island when John I. Tay first visited there. The ship is a model of the Pitcairn on which both Mrs. Wiles and Mrs. Christensen were, at one time, passengers.

to register at the desk was Pastor Kila Galama of Papua, whose grandfather was a head-hunting cannibal. Unique among the delegates was Brother Parkin Christian of Pitcairn, who reminded Sister Alma Wiles that as a boy he ran around the hills of Pitcairn to catch a goat so that she would be provided with milk.

On the first Sabbath there were 14,000 people present. "I never saw so many people at one meeting in my life before," wrote an Australian visitor. "The seats in the gallery go up so high they make us dizzy. It was worth all the effort to come here."

One Sabbath, fifty missionary appointees knelt on the platform and were dedicated to service. This, with the missionary pageant in the afternoon, so impressed a doctor who had given \$1,000 in the morning that he took his cheque back and gave \$10,000 instead.

During the quadrennium, which division do you think made the largest gains in membership? South Africa. They added 78,000 members, which is more than the entire world membership was in 1900.

The Million Dollar offering amounted to one and a half million dollars. Incidentally, Australasia's total was 50 per cent above the goal of £17,000.

I would be virtuous for my own sake, though nobody were to know it; as I would be clean for my own sake, though nobody were to see me.—Shaftesbury.

Around forty stalls, representing world divisions and institutions, made a grand display. Among these was one by our Jewish Department and the newest was the Potomac University. Eleven and a half tons of books and two and a half tons of periodicals were shipped to Cleveland for sale and exhibition.

The civic fathers gave their public address system a complete overhaul at a cost of \$25,000. The city improved its lighting system and thoroughly air-conditioned the auditoriums with the most modern equipment. One group of deaf mutes had the proceedings interpreted to them by the sign system.

In the city, 1,600 homes offered accommodation to the delegates, and one elite guesthouse that usually charged \$25 a day requested that they be permitted to entertain six delegates at \$1.50 per day. They wanted to fellowship with Seventh-day Adventists.

In the first Sabbath morning sermon, Pastor R. R. Figuhr, the re-elected president, was said to be at his best on the subject, "The Faith Once Delivered to the Saints." We expect to share with our readers a resume of some of the soul-searching and soul-stirring addresses appearing in the special numbers of the "Review and Herald" reporting General Conference Session proceedings.

"The best part of the session has been the spiritual," writes one of the General Conference staff. "Yesterday [the first Sabbath], I believe, was my best day in the thirty-odd years I have been an Adventist."—"Review and Herald."

"There Is No Other Place Like Hong Kong"

Dear "Record" Readers,

So says the old song, and travellers we met in many places extolled its beauty and fascination. "You must see Hong Kong," they exclaimed enthusiastically.

At Bangkok we boarded a freighter of 2,800 tons, loaded with rice and beef buffaloes, and sailed down the river as the sun was brilliantly saluting at the western edge of the horizon. The passenger list was composed of eight persons: two Japanese girls, four Americans, my sister and me. A calm passage of six pleasant days brought us to the realization of our excited anticipation in a charming cluster of hilly islands.

Entering Hong Kong (Fragrant Harbour), the tourist finds it encircled by steep, green-clad hills rising as high as 1,809 feet, almost directly from the water's edge. There being so little flat land, the city of Victoria must soar, and the general view is a forest of tall white buildings gradually thinning out as they cling decoratively to the almost perpendicular hillsides. The sight of fifteen small verandas one above the other, jutting nonchalantly out into space, rather unnerves one. The lack of colour at first disappointed me a little, but green and white are always attractive.

A few minutes across the harbour by ferry is Kowloon, a part of the Crown Colony situated on the mainland of China. The harbour is full of ships from all parts of the world, bustling little ferries, hurrying water taxis, and slow-moving junks. The sight from The Peak at night when the hillsides and harbour are a-glitter with vari-coloured lights, is breath-taking, the lights climbing up meet the stars coming down.

For certain information and description, I borrow because of haste, from tourist guides:

"By the Convention of Peking in 1860 concluded between Britain and the then

Chinese Empire, the tip of the Kowloon Peninsula was ceded to Britain. However, by far the greater part is the Leased Territory known as the New Territories which, occupying the entire rear portion of the peninsula, extends 16-19 miles northward to the Chinese border. The circuit around the perimeter of the peninsula covers a distance of about fifty-six miles and traverses an area which in scenic splendour rivals the Mediterranean coast."

The population of Hong Kong is 2,677,000, of whom it is estimated 1,000,000 are refugees from across the border. The small colony has become uncomfortably congested. The shacks of these poor people blotch the hillsides and even a pavement in the city. The Government has undertaken a huge resettlement scheme, and we saw rows upon rows of very long six-storey structures providing apartments for homeless people, but the need remains immense. One feels a robust admiration for these seekers after liberty and their efforts to gain a livelihood. On footpaths and any unoccupied space they set up business, often without walls or roof, and proceed to manufacture and sell.

Red China trades freely in Hong Kong and the largest bank, a towering structure, is Communist owned. Opinions on the colony's future are somewhat varied: (1) It is too useful a port to the Communists for them to think of taking it from Britain; (2) "It is a plump canary on the cat's shoulder" (statement of a recent governor); (3) Foundations for costly buildings are everywhere being gouged out of the hillsides and later Hong Kong will be a much more valuable prize.

Chinese residents in Hong Kong for five years may obtain a British passport. Possessed of this precious document conferring freedom and as great a measure of security as some may hope for in this world, many are emigrating to such places

as the United Kingdom and South America.

"Hong Kong is considered by regular world travellers to be the best shopping centre in the whole trip around the globe. Here the shops are really Chinese in atmosphere and merchandise, with bargains in ivories, silks, brocades, linens, porcelains, and antiques not apt to be found again on a world trip. Hong Kong is a free port. There are no duties levied except on liquor, tobacco, cosmetics, and cars." That means you can buy goods from all parts of the world cheaper than where they are made.

Several years ago it was reported that some 1,000 registered factories in the colony were manufacturing silk and cotton goods, and that around 100,000 needleworkers had migrated there from Swatow in China. The figures must have risen considerably since then.

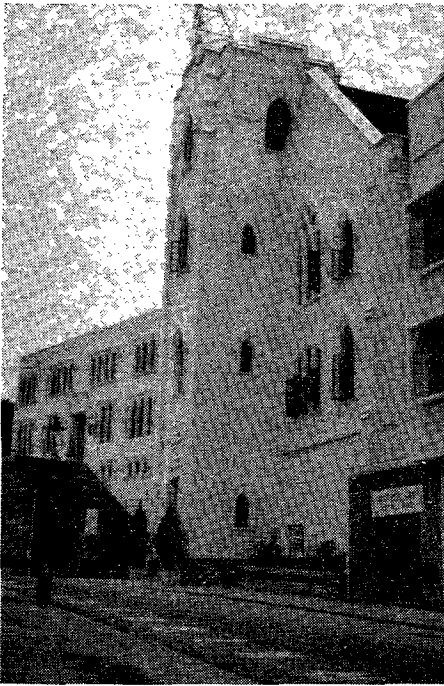
"Hong Kong is a thoroughly modern city in natural settings of surpassing beauty; but what will perhaps impress you even more is the fascinating spectacle of two civilizations—the timeless East and the progressive West—living side by side in peace and harmony, blending themselves into one unforgettable pageantry of colour, charm, and grace."

Perhaps what a traveller in a far land remembers with most delight is the unexpected kindness and confidence expressed by a total stranger. Fortunately, we had collected shopping lists from some of the missionaries along the way, and combined with what we had to spend, these largely satisfied what an American friend referred to as "the urge to splurge." At the address to which we had been directed we met a very pleasant Chinese gentleman who told us they were a Christian firm and gave discounts to all missionaries. To my astonishment he added: "If you can't pay till you get back to Australia it won't matter. We Christians must trust each other."

In this shop we met by chance Mrs. Hilliard, whose husband is the president of the Hong Kong-Macao local mission. She graciously invited us to stay in their home, an offer which we accepted with alacrity. A most happy week we spent in



LEFT: Looking over Hong Kong to Kowloon and the hills of the mainland of China. RIGHT: Seagoing fishing junks in colourful sail, return home to their harbour, Hong Kong.



Hong Kong Mission office, church, and section of high school.

their apartment, one of four comprising the two-storey mission home on the heights appropriately named "La Rue Villa," after the pioneer Adventist missionary to this colony. For meals we were shared around with the other families, and benefited greatly by the happy association.

Missionary Operations

The membership of the Hong Kong-Macao Mission stands at 1,400. Numbers baptized in the last two or three years have fallen a little, but 200 were added in 1957. Whereas in Thailand our emissaries present Christ mainly in His role of healer, through four hospitals, in Hong Kong-Macao He is expressed principally through evangelism and schools. There are ten churches and companies. Primary and high schools and college work are being started. The schools are self-supporting, with sixty teachers for 1,600 students, and they account for fifty or sixty baptisms annually.

An evangelistic mission has been in progress, from which thirty-two are expected to be brought into church membership. A "Quiet Hour" is held all the year round on Sunday evenings in the leading hotel. It is intended primarily to attract Europeans, and as a first step in spiritual education, those who attend are invited to enrol for the Bible Correspondence Course. Results from this experiment are accumulating.

On our only Sabbath in Hong Kong we attended the large Happy Valley church and listened to a good sermon most effectively translated in word, spirit, and gesture by a Chinese pastor. It is the custom here for the deaconesses to collect the offering, for which purpose they use velvet bags attached to rods about four feet long.

The church adjoins the mission office, and living quarters on one side and the Sam Tak (three principles—physical, mental, and spiritual) school on the other side. The three substantial and attractive buildings embedded in the hill form a solid base of operations.

Miss Ella Chung and her sister, Mrs. Chow, whose husband is a teacher at the Clearwater Bay College (most beautiful for situation), bestowed much kindness upon us, taking us on a circuit of Hong Kong and the New Territories, where every curve in the winding roads revealed some new vista of charming hills, seascape, rice fields, and gardens in vivid green. Miss Chung is highly respected for her ability and devotion, and her family is well known in Australia.

Making the acquaintance of the parents of some Chinese young people continuing their education in Australia gave us considerable pleasure. Learning something of the conditions and food to which they are accustomed here helps us to understand the big adjustment they must make when they go abroad. Their families are very grateful for kindness shown to them by our church members.

A Visit to Macao

It was our good fortune to take a boat trip to the Portuguese Colony of Macao, some fifty miles due west of Hong Kong, connected by a string of emerald isles. In the words of our guidebook:

"Macao remains a bit of sunny Europe in China, the oldest foreign settlement in the Far East. All aspects of the city remind one of Southern Europe curiously blended with the East. The early adventurers spoke of Macao as 'a land of wonders where the palaces of the Mandarins were covered with gold, where even the common people wore silk, where temples were built of silver, and coffins made of precious metals studded with pearls, rubies, diamonds, and topazes.'"

The peninsula is five square miles in area and the population of 300,000 is 80 per cent Chinese, 5 per cent Portuguese, and 15 per cent mixed blood. The territory is bounded by the Pearl and Canton Rivers and the Chinese frontier. Among the numerous islands embellishing the Pearl River sailed the junk fishing fleets, and on both sides of Macao one views Chinese territory. From a distance we looked through the Barrier Gate and saw a Chinese soldier on guard. Here wave the Portuguese and Chinese flags, and through the gate only Chinese with visas may enter and return. Macao depends on her neighbour for supplies of vegetables.

In this small colony the tourist sees the hoary facade of the ancient Church of St. Paul (all that remains of the edifice) erected over 300 years ago, still surmounted by the cross which inspired Sir John Bowring to compose the well-loved hymn:

"In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time."

Here also in a walled lawn graveyard among the trees are the tombs of the noted missionary to China, Robert Mor-

ison, and his wife Mary, as well as those of British naval officers and others who were mostly cut down prematurely with the dreaded disease cholera.

Of greatest interest to us was a two-storey building within a high wall which was once the home of a wealthy Chinese but is now our mission base in this peninsula. Double metal gates were opened to our ring, and Pastor Lee showed us around. In this small protected area we have a school with 150 pupils, a playground, a chapel on the ground floor, and upstairs living quarters. The church membership is only thirty-eight as people are constantly moving away in search of employment.

Reluctantly we sailed away from Hong Kong, trying, as we did so, to fix indelibly in our minds every feature of the landscape between Hong Kong and Singapore. Our British ship of the P. & O. Line, is unusually accommodating in that it caters for the varying tastes of the passengers. Along with the Indians, we enjoyed good vegetarian meals, while at other tables the Chinese ate their national dishes with chopsticks.

My three months' leave is almost over, but the exhilaration of my tour will ever remain. Even when I am back in my little office in Wahroonga I know I shall never again be all there. A part of me will be for ever roving through the East.

I'll walk again the narrow pavements, staring greedily in the windows of the small shops. The owners will smile invitingly from within or stand in the doorways courteously urging me to enter. I will stroll with the colourful, cosmopolitan crowds through the streets in the balmy evenings and see them eating at the stalls and small mobile cafes. I'll loiter where the fragrance of spices floats on the air, and inhale the incense from the temples. The Singapore City Hall will charm me often with its long row of tall ribbed columns gleaming white against the foyer glowing softly red. Sweet mangoes and luscious mangosteens will excite my palate. The Malayan and Thai countryside will race past the windows of the train. I'll gaze and gasp endlessly among the fantastic glories of the fabulous Bangkok temples, and chug through the muddy canals thick with traffic of quaint craft. The panorama of river and forbidden green hills viewed from the grounds of the Bishop's Palace in Macao will enthrall me again, and in Hong Kong I shall want to sit and absorb all the beauty. I'll watch the missionaries ministering to the sick in hospitals, teaching the children in schools, building up the flock in the churches, holding the lines of communication in the offices. And everywhere I'll meet again the attractive strangers who became instantly my friends—British, American, Indian, Malay, Chinese, Japanese, and Thai.

What will it be like, I wonder, to wing our tireless flight to worlds afar in the life to come? Ranging through illimitable space, gazing upon suns, stars, and systems of infinite variety of colour and form and musical sound, being welcome guests

at every stop? My imagination stalls, but a craving wells up to be among those highly favoured travellers.

As my sister and I review our journeyings we see plain evidence of the Lord's gracious direction and care, and we were recipients of innumerable kindnesses from friends, and we like to think that at least a few of our fellow travellers will set their feet in the highway to heaven because of their brief association with us. We have returned rich in memories and full of gratitude.

Constance M. Greive.



Mrs. Bye

"Signs" Breaks Down Prejudice

Mrs. Bye, of Devonport, Tasmania, was first visited over twenty-four years ago by one of our faithful literature-evangelists who had a Bible study with her. Friends and relatives tried to place Adventists and their teachings in a bad light, and so sought to prevent her from becoming ensnared with such a fanatical group. Almost four years after this initial contact, the "Signs" began to come to Mrs. Bye, and little by little the prejudice was broken down. In 1953 she was visiting her daughter's home when our minister called for a Bible study and, learning of Mrs. Bye's previous contact with Adventists through the "Signs," he arranged to have studies in her home. The "Signs" sent twenty years ago by one of our literature-evangelists finally bore fruit in 1954 when Mrs. Bye was baptized.

This experience is but one of the many chapters of conversions, changed lives, and baptisms that could be written as a direct result of printed truth through the "Signs." Our great "silent evangelist" is doing a special work in assisting us to complete the task to which we have been committed. Remember that August is "Signs" month, and this year you will be having another opportunity of continuing to follow up your lists of interested people who are the burden of your prayers with the weekly visit of the "Signs."

More "Signs" will, with the blessing of God, win more souls.

"Out of My Weakness, Into Thy Might"

VIOLA M. ROGERS

As I leave Wahroonga to return home to the North N.S.W. Conference, I wish to say thank you to the many kind friends who welcomed me back to my old position, this time as acting editor of the "Record" for three and a half months while the editors were away, Pastor Naden in America and Miss Greive in the Far East. I appreciate the letters, good will, and assurance of your prayers. "This is a good family to belong to." I have also much enjoyed the association with our good co-workers in the Signs Publishing Company, Warburton. After all the "Record" copy has been prepared in the editor's office at the division headquarters it has to travel more than 600 miles by post to Warburton. When it has been linotyped, Miss Marian Hay skilfully arranges the pages of the "Record" and makes them beautiful with extra pictures.

This week we are happy to welcome Miss Greive back to the division office after her journeys in far lands. We rejoice to see her looking refreshed in health and full of enthusiasm.

Before signing off, I feel impressed to relate a few experiences for the encouragement of timid people.

A few days ago I was chatting with one of our Sabbath school superintendents who was speaking of the difficulty experienced in getting people to speak in public. "We can sympathize with them," I said. "In a large church it takes much courage to stand before several hundred people. Happy are those who can begin in a small school first."

We think of the hundreds and hundreds of people whom God has called into active service for Him in this way. We think also of the hundreds more who would be willing to help but who think they never could; they are frightened at the thought. The Lord delights to choose those who feel their own nothingness and depend wholly upon Him. He asks only that you will not tie His hands by saying, "I can't."

When you accept this wonderful message and consecrate yourself to God you never know what you will be doing before you finish. You cannot know all the tasks the Master will assign you. Be willing, and keep humble. You may be afraid to start as was Moses at the burning bush, but if you do, you will find, sooner or later, a calmness and joy in doing things for His sake that you never deemed possible.

May we give you four steps that will bring you assurance and power from above to lift you out of all nervousness and fear?

First, when given a message to deliver in public, meditate upon that message until its importance grips you so fully that you want it to be made known to others. Second, pray hard. Remember God's promises, "I will not fail you." "I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say" Ex. 4:12. "Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee. . . . Then

the Lord put forth His hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put My words in thy mouth." Jer. 1:8, 9. Jesus Himself said, "The words that I speak unto you I speak not of Myself." John 14:10.

The third rule will give you very practical help: breathe deeply. Deep breathing allays nervousness. Fourth, stand firmly on your feet; with one foot a little forward, place pressure on that, to give you a grip of yourself. These four rules are guaranteed to cure the worst cases.

Shall I tell you about the shyest person I ever knew? The shyness did not pass away with childhood. In youth and young womanhood, when she saw an acquaintance approaching, she panicked at the thought of having to stop and speak, and could scarcely resist the temptation to disappear. Since dedicating her life to God, that very person has knocked upon the doors of thousands of homes to bring the people out so that she could talk to them, with a smile, about this message. God is in this movement, dear friend, with a miracle-working power that lifts a person out of himself, takes away the fear of man, and brings deep joy in fellowship with Christ that you may taste and experience for yourself. Christ says, "My strength is made perfect in weakness." "It is not the capabilities you now possess, or ever will have, but it is what Christ can do for you."

I think of the most nervous person I knew in college. When asked a question in class, her whole frame trembled for minutes afterward and her heart beat like a sledge hammer. You would not expect to see that person later occupying a church pulpit at the eleven o'clock service, speaking with perfect composure, would you? But it was even so.

One more story, this one for those who think they could never write for the press, as a public relations worker or press bureau secretary.

One day in school the teacher gave this assignment: "All in the fifth class, I want you to write a letter to the teacher. At the end of this period, the letters will be read aloud to the class." Now to write a letter to a popular teacher was all right, but the publicity of hearing your own words read aloud to the whole school—for the other children will listen in a one-room school—that was a different matter! As one girl tried to write, every sentence she could construct seemed too foolish to write down for "the crowd" to hear. Have you ever felt that way about anything you have tried to compose for a special occasion? In this case, the terrifying thought froze all the springs of inspiration. After the half hour's hard work, along came the teacher to gather up her letters. From this desk she received a blank page.

"I hoped you would tell me about this, and this, and this," said the teacher, Mrs.

G. E. Marriott. "But all the school would have listened," was the dismayed protest. The marks for that letter were nil. Stupidity? An innate hatred of publicity? Perhaps a little of both. Shall I tell you the sequel to this story?

The person who could not write one letter to be publicly read that day, has for the past three and a half months written all the news she could find for the last page of the "Record" for about 20,000 readers, and prepared the contents of all the other pages of this paper for the love of the task.

To you Sabbath school leaders who

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON HELP

HARRY W. LOWE

Associate Secretary, General Conference Sabbath School Department

For Sabbath, August 23, 1958

(Please preserve for reference)

find it hard to get teachers, I would say, I owe much to the superintendent who was prepared to take time to talk to me kindly and persuasively, from the Bible and the Spirit of prophecy, until I was finally convinced that I should, and could, and would take up the work of Sabbath school teaching, and dig deeply into each subject.

"There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God."—"Desire of Ages," page 250.



THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES

The final judgments upon evil men are not allowed to fall on the world without advance warning from God. An omniscient God of love seeks to save as many as possible from the final judgment. Hence it is that the messages of Revelation 14 swell to a crescendo, and the everlasting gospel becomes a powerful redemptive force on earth.

1. **The Heavenly Overture.** Rev. 15: 1-4. "Another sign." We have seen in chapter 12 the sign of the sun-crowned woman, and the sign of the great red dragon; this is the sign of the coming wrath of God.

"Seven angels having the seven last plagues." (a) Certain reasons are seen for the seven last plagues, though the details are not all explained. Jesus spoke of a well-nigh universal delusion prior to His second coming (Matt. 24: 24). Paul spoke of the coming "activity of Satan . . . with all wicked deception for those who are to perish" (2 Thess. 2: 9-11, R.S.V.); (b) Paul also warned of Satan "transformed into an angel of light," in 2 Cor. 11: 14. "As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ." ("The Great Controversy," page 624.) He will be accepted as Christ. He will use Christ's words, perform miracles. "This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion." (Ibid.) Now the protecting hand of God is withdrawn, and the plagues unmingled with mercy fall upon a sin-hardened world.

"A sea of glass mingled with fire." That is, the one before the throne in Rev. 4: 6. There it was "like unto crystal"; here it is "mingled with fire."

"The song of Moses." (a) On the glassy sea John saw "those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name" (R.S.V.), and saved by the

blood of the Lamb (ch. 12: 11), they break into "the most beautiful song of faith of the ancient dispensation, the song of Moses, the song of victory (Exodus 15). . . . in honour of the heavenly Lord." (Lilje, "The Last Book of the Bible," page 210.) (b) This verse is quoted in "Patriarchs and Prophets," page 79: "When the prince of this world shall be judged, and all who have united with him shall share his fate, the whole universe as witnesses to the sentence will declare, 'Just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints.'" Compare Jer. 10: 7; Ps. 86: 9.

2. **The Seven Angels Go Forth with Their Vials.** Rev. 15: 5 to 16: 1.

"The temple of the tent of witness in heaven was opened" (R.S.V.). (a) Various names are used to describe the heavenly temple from which comes the striking angel procession. The most holy place is vacated by Jesus, which event creates the awful circumstances to follow. (b) "When He leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor. The restraint which has been upon the wicked is removed, and Satan has entire control of the finally impenitent."—"The Great Controversy," page 614.

Wicked Are Punished

3. **The Seven Plagues.** Revelation 16.

"There fell a . . . grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast." Men are divided into those having either the seal of God or the mark of the beast. Now is poured out "the unmingled wrath threatened against those who worship the beast."—"The Great Controversy," page 627.

"The second angel poured his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a dead man. . . . The third angel poured his

bowl into the rivers and the fountains of water, and they became blood" (R.S.V.). What a fearful judgment upon those who so freely shed "the blood of saints and prophets." This condition is beyond imagination, but lack of water and the accompanying inconveniences must involve intense suffering and world disruption. Other promises of the Word will now be fulfilled to the saints: "He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him: his waters shall be sure." Isa. 33: 16. "When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, . . . I the Lord will hear them." Isa 41: 17.

"The fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun, and power was given . . . to scorch men with fire." In "The Great Controversy," page 628, the following scriptures are applied to this time: Joel 1: 10-12, 17-20; Amos 8: 3. Despite the world's worst drought and famine, the wicked only blaspheme God. There is now a "famine . . . of hearing the words of the Lord" (Amos 8: 11), but there is no repentance because God's Spirit has been withdrawn.

"The fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness." "Seat" is rendered "throne" (R.S.V.), indicating the centre of the dominant world power. "While men grope unrepentantly for light in a spiritually dark world (see ch. [Rev.] 16: 8, 9) God sends upon them literal darkness, symbolic of the deeper spiritual night that is yet to enshroud the earth (see on verses 13, 14)."—The S.D.A. Bible Commentary, on Rev. 16: 10.

"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates." A discussion of the meaning of this act and the preparation of "the way of the kings of the east" can be found in The S.D.A. Bible Commentary, Volume 7, pages 842-844.

"Three unclean spirits . . . working miracles . . . gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Compare this evil trio with "the dragon," "the beast," and "the false prophet." The Great Controversy," page 588, speaks of a sinister resurgence of spiritism in decadent religious circles, culminating in the satanic personation of Christ as the answer to the frantic prayers of a plague-stricken world. Then the demon spirits throw the nations into the great last struggle against God and His people. On Armageddon see The S.D.A. Commentary, on Rev. 16: 16.

"It is done." "A great voice out of the temple" utters words similar to those voiced by Jesus on the cross (John 19: 30). They are used again in Rev. 21: 6 at the re-creation of the world. In Rev. 16: 7 they indicate the end of the mystery of iniquity, and they come as the destruction of the saints appears inevitable. ("The Great Controversy," page 631.)

For the comfort of the faithful in those times we have this word in "The Great Controversy," page 631: "None can pass the mighty guardians stationed about every faithful soul."

WEDDINGS



PASCO-ALFORD. On June 2, 1958, Paul Ian Pasco and Audrey Alford met under a beautiful floral arch in the Kaitaia church, North New Zealand, to become partners for life. Many friends gathered at the divine service and later at the reception. Paul and Audrey are for the present settling in Christchurch, and as they set up a Christian home we wish them the rich blessings of Heaven.

Ian E. Trevena.

HORT-WEBB. On June 16, 1958, in the Perth church, W.A., a very pretty wedding was celebrated between Eric David Hort and Joy Webb. Eric is a valued member of the Perth Advent Band and organist for the Midland church, while Joy, who has faithfully served in the S.H.F. cafe and milk bar, is loved because of her cheerful nature. As this happy pair set up their home in Helena Valley we wish them Heaven's richest blessing.

Donald E. G. Mitchell.

THORESEN-WILKINSON. In the evening of May 8, 1958, in the home of Brother and Sister F. O. B. Thoresen at Tuakau, New Zealand, Reuben Dale Thoresen and Nolene Rosemary Wilkinson were joined together in the sacred bonds of matrimony. The home was filled with relatives and friends who gathered to witness the ceremony and to extend their congratulations. May the joy and peace of Eden ever abide in the new Christian home.

E. F. Giblett.

ADAMS-KIRK. The Stanmore church, N.S.W., was the setting for a charming bridal scene in the evening of June 16, 1958, the contracting parties being Eric Milton Adams of Padstow, and Margaret Doreen Kirk of Marrickville. A large company of relatives and friends gathered to witness the sacred ceremony as these dear young people pledged themselves to lifelong fidelity. May the Lord sanctify the home they have established at Alice Springs, and make it a centre of light and blessing to all who know them, is the prayer of the celebrant.

W. Morris.



UNTIL THE DAY BREAK

ESCREET. Mrs. Eva Ann Escreet, wife of the late Thomas Escreet of Warburton, fell asleep in the Lord during the night of June 19, 1958, at the age of almost eighty-one years. Sister Escreet was well known and much loved by the Adventist people, having given many years of consecrated service to the cause of God. She will long be remembered for her cheerfulness and her Christian love and charity. Her sorrowing loved ones and friends were reminded of the certainty of the Christian hope as Pastor C. F. L. Ulrich and the writer laid her tenderly to rest in the Wesburn cemetery.

T. F. Judd.

NICHOLSON. Sister Fanny Nicholson of Oamaru passed quietly to her rest on May 31, 1958. Our sister had been failing for some time and it was with deep sorrow we learned of her passing. With her husband, Brother Herbert Nicholson, she accepted the third angel's message away back in 1914. She leaves her husband, a son Herbert and daughter Gladys (Mrs. Dickson) to mourn their loss while they look forward to the glad reunion on the resurrection morning.

E. C. Rosendahl.

IRVINE. Sister Annie Irvine, beloved wife of the late Thomas Charles Irvine, of Casino, North N.S.W., passed to her rest May 22, 1958, at the age of seventy-one years. With her passing another link with pioneer days in the north is removed. Our late Sister Irvine embraced the advent message many years ago, and with her husband was one of the charter members of the McKee's Hill company, via Lismore. She retained a calm confidence in the Lord till the last and rests till He comes to call His sleeping saints to life eternal. We extend our sincere sympathy to her two sons and two daughters and their loved ones who remain to mourn their loss.

T. R. Kent.

RECKLESS. James Reckless of Marrickville, N.S.W., passed quietly to rest on June 22, 1958, at the advanced age of eighty-six years. It is only two years since our late brother first heard of the Adventist teachings through a devoted couple who came to his home to care for him. Their gracious influence and kindness made it easy for the writer to study the grand truths with Brother Reckless. The Adventist faith and hope were very precious to him. God's words of consolation were conveyed to the six surviving children and other relatives as we tenderly laid this trusting one to rest in the Rookwood cemetery to await Jesus' coming and His call to immortal life.

Ralph Tudor.

BALLARD. A noble Christian wife and mother, Sister Marjorie Ellen Ballard, went to her last rest on June 1, 1958. Her passing came as a great shock to her husband, three sons, and mother, Sister Nagal, but they "sorrow not as others which have no hope." As an indication of the esteem in which Sister Ballard was held, the church at South Brisbane was packed for the farewell service. The words of the great Apostle Paul, "Your life is hid with Christ in God," seemed especially appropriate and cheering as we reviewed Sister Ballard's life of Christian experience and service. May the memory of her life be not only a comfort, but also an incentive to godly living on the part of all those near and dear.

G. H. Engelbrecht.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £36 tithes from Faithful.

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SYDNEY SANITARIUM AND HOSPITAL

X-RAY TECHNICIAN WANTED. Our X-ray technician will be terminating his services in February, 1959, as he plans to study at the Sydney University. Any Seventh-day Adventist anywhere in the Australasian Division who is a qualified X-ray technician and desirous of applying for this position should write direct to Pastor A. H. Forbes, manager, Sydney Sanitarium and Hospital, Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga, N.S.W.

NORTHERN RIVERS (N.S.W.) CAMP-MEETING

The annual camp-meeting of the Northern Rivers section of the North New South Wales Conference will be held at the camp site, Goonellabah, via Lismore, from August 28 to September 6, 1958. This camp will be devoted entirely to spiritual activities. The camp-ground is located on the Ballina Road, about three miles from Lismore.

Please obtain your application forms from your church elder or from the Secretary, P.O. Box 27, Hamilton, 2.N, N.S.W.

ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE! All advertisements should be sent to the editor at 148 Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga, N.S.W., and cheques should include exchange where necessary.

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- First 25 words 3s. 6d.
- Each additional 6 words 9d.
- Remittance must accompany copy.

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BREVITIES

We expect Pastors E. J. Johanson and W. E. Battye back from the General Conference on July 23, and Pastor L. C. Naden about the middle of August.

The "Canadian Union Messenger" of April 2 welcomes Miss Loma Stewart to the Ontario-Quebec Conference office in Oshawa, where she continues in secretarial work. Miss Stewart was formerly employed in the Sydney Sanitarium and Hospital and by the Sanitarium Health Food Company in Brisbane.

"The Lord is continuing to work here at the New Gallery Centre" wrote Pastor R. M. Kranz from London on June 25. "So far this year we have had sixty-six baptisms, and anticipate about another twenty during the summer months. We are greatly looking forward to Brother Ratcliffe's series, which will commence on September 7. It is surprising the number of people we meet at the New Gallery who have made contacts with Adventists in different parts of the world. It has been a great joy also for us to meet the many Australians who have passed through here in the past two months."

Our readers will be shocked to learn that our beloved Pastor N. A. Ferris of the Mona Mona Mission met his death on July 7 as the result of a head-on motor collision, while travelling between Ayr and Townsville. He and Mrs. Ferris had been to Ayr to celebrate the twenty-first birthday of their daughter Marilyn, and while returning, were involved in the tragic accident at 2 p.m. in which Pastor Ferris was killed instantly, while Mrs. Ferris was severely injured internally, and is in hospital, critically ill.

After nine years of separation from his only daughter, Brother A. L. King of Cooranbong, N.S.W., was on the wharf to meet her when she landed in Sydney on July 4. Eight very happy years Miss Irene King spent in England, serving with Granose Foods Ltd., Esda, the Union office, and the Newbold Missionary College, where she taught business subjects. The last year she was teaching in the Oshawa Missionary College, Canada. There she found the winter bitterly cold, the temperature dropping below zero each night. Miss King has a position waiting for her in the Trans-Commonwealth Union, and we all welcome her back to her homeland.

The wide circle of friends of Pastor and Mrs. G. E. Marriott will be glad to learn that he is still able to care for a few patients each week at his home in Melbourne, and that Sister Marriott has made a wonderful recovery from her broken hip. The doctors thought that owing to the chalky nature of her bones the metal pin would not hold and that she would never walk again without crutches, or one crutch and a walking stick. Sister Marriott tells people that the Great Physician took charge of her and did a wonderful work. This summer, for the first time since 1955, Sister Marriott resumed her mission appeal collecting among business people in Collins Street, Melbourne. She had happy contacts and gathered more than £50 for missions.

Pastor C. Pascoe and a ship's crew came to Sydney on July 2, having travelled from Rabaul, New Guinea, by Qantas and T.A.A. A few hours were spent in Brisbane looking around so that the boys would not land in Sydney in the cold of a winter's night. The party are on their way to the New Hebrides for the purpose of transferring a mission ship to New Guinea waters. Pastor Pascoe observed that should they find a new island during their voyage they could man a new mission field, for in the group is one president (himself), an assistant president, a secretary, a central school head master, a boat's crew captain, and an engineer. Two are from Bougainville and one each from Mussau, Emira, and Rabaul. Their smiling faces were a tonic, and among them was at least one who has suffered bodily injury for the Lord's sake. Biari of Bougainville is the father of the charming little girl in the bucket adorning the back of the 1958 Appeal for Missions magazine.

Pastor and Mrs. J. H. D. Miller and three daughters, Ruth, May, and Joy, arrived in Sydney early in July on permanent return from the islands and will reside in Cooranbong, N.S.W. Pastor and Mrs. Miller have given more than twenty years of service in the New Hebrides, Fiji, and the Cook Group, and their missionary background will be of great value wherever they meet with our church folk or the public.

After six years of service in Tahiti and New Caledonia, Pastor Paul Nouan has returned permanently to France to engage in pastoral and evangelistic work. He has been succeeded by Pastor Leon Hilaire, a young evangelist from Le Havre, who sailed direct to New Caledonia through the Panama Canal, without calling at Australia. We welcome Pastor Hilaire and his family to our division and hope to see them during their period of service.

The manager of the Warburton Sanitarium and Hospital reports a financially disappointing half-year, adding, "However, I am looking forward to the completion of our modern and up-to-date physiotherapy building, and believe with this advance in treatments and with expert staff we will move out of this trough. Two graduates of the Berlin Sanitarium with state qualifications left for Melbourne on June 25 to join us. Sister Pisela Richter spent the last year specializing in hydrotherapy and physiotherapy, and will assist with these treatments here. Sister Evelyn Fuffell has been a ward sister. We are glad to have them, both for their pleasing personal qualities and because they will strengthen our service here."

Good Things Coming!

VOICE OF PROPHECY SUBJECTS

August 3: "THE FORGETFUL ANGEL"

August 10: "THE PERSECUTED ANGEL"

August 17: "THE EXALTED ANGEL"

August 24: "THE BUSY ANGEL"

August 31: "A SONG IN MY HEART"

Have you adopted the plan of inviting at least one person every day to listen in to the Voice of Prophecy? Even in brief, casual contacts, you may make known to others this "best loved religious service on the air," and set someone on the way to the kingdom.

Tell them an excellent series of lectures on the prophecies of Revelation begins on Sunday, August 3. Pastor H. M. S. Richards will give up-to-date information on the first four letters to the seven churches of Revelation, chapters 2 and 3. Each letter is addressed, "Unto the angel of the church. . ." They are "seven letters to seven angels, written by an apostle in the penitentiary. The series will be concluded in October.

Don't miss August 31! It will be an all-musical programme—ten numbers by the King's Heralds and Del Delker.