

Australasian RECORD

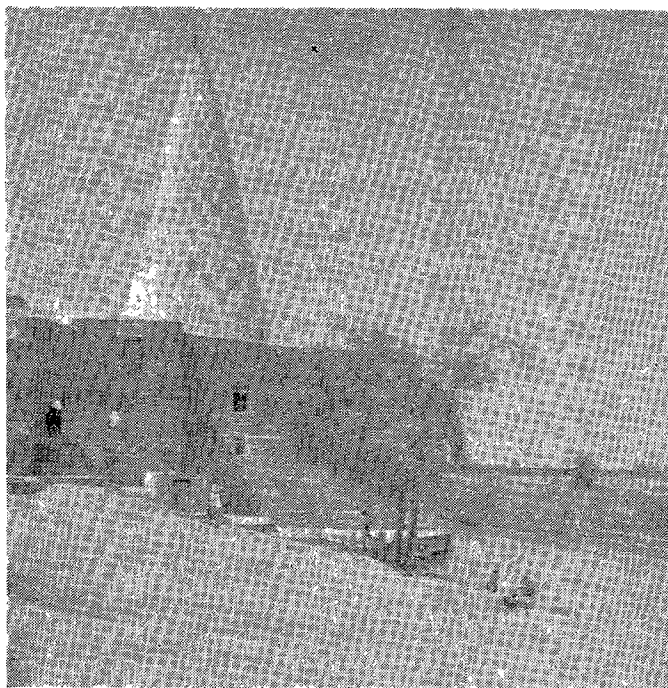


AND ADVENT WORLD SURVEY

Volume 62

WARBURTON, VICTORIA, AUGUST 25, 1958

Number 34



Tomb of Daniel the prophet at Shushan the palace.

Sabbath at Shushan

D. K. DOWN

IT IS THE SABBATH DAY and we are spending it just outside the ruined walls of Shushan the palace. There is no Adventist church for hundreds of miles, so we had our own Sabbath school, using our house on wheels for a church. But what memories this Sabbath brings to us! Some of God's chosen servants have kept the Sabbath at Shushan, for it was the dwelling place of Daniel, Mordecai, and Esther. It was here that the vision of the 2300 days, which lies at the foundation of the Adventist faith, was given. And here is the place that was hallowed by a visit from the mighty angel Gabriel.

Last Thursday morning we left our overnight camping spot, which we calculated to be only 150 miles north of Shushan, expecting to reach Shushan that evening. But we struck the worst roads of our journey, and so winding that what seemed to be 150 miles on the map proved to

be more than 250 miles. The result was that we did not drive into Shushan until Friday afternoon.

Our excitement rose as the ruins of Shushan came into view ahead of us and we were soon able to recognize the ancient tomb of Daniel the prophet!

The ruins of the city are standing in a massive pile about fifty feet high and a mile square. The walls and city buildings have crumbled to ruins and been covered with earth blown across the plains by the winds of twenty-two centuries. On top of this miniature plateau stands an impressive castle built by the men who have been excavating these ruins for the last sixty years. Most of the findings have been carried off to the museums of Paris and London; but inside the castle we saw many broken pillars, pottery vessels, and ornaments in a remarkably well-preserved condition. Bricks with ancient cuneiform writing inscribed on them have apparently been so common that many of them are cemented into the castle walls as building materials.

At night our trailer was parked in the compound of the town's electricity generator. We were sleeping on the site of Ahasuerus' palace garden where he went in his fury when Esther exposed Haman's purpose to destroy all her people (Esther 7: 7). Just a short distance from here we found a huge mound of earth studded with thirty-six massive blue limestone pillars. These supported the lofty roof of the throne room. We were standing on the very place where the events of the Book of Esther had taken place.

A little to the south-west we walked across the pavement where Esther appeared uninvited before the king. A little further and we were at the gate where Mordecai waited anxiously while Esther ventured her life. But many sites are still unidentified, and as we wandered through the ruins we could only speculate as to whether we were in Esther's bedroom, Haman's house, or the ground on which stood the 90-foot high gallows where Haman proposed to hang Mordecai.

The village of Shoush is stretched out along the west side of the palace ruins. In the centre of the village is the tomb of Daniel the prophet. There is another place in Iraq which claims to have the tomb of the honoured prophet, but there is every indication that Daniel really lies buried beneath this Moslem mausoleum at Shushan.

As I entered the prophet's tomb my first thoughts were of Dan. 12: 4, where it states that in the time of the end "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." If Daniel were to rise up today he would certainly recognize that this is the time of the end. Over his coffin is an electric fan and the interior is illuminated with fluorescent lighting. A mile away heavy motor trucks

roared along the highway; a little further and a diesel engine was pulling a long line of oil trucks from Abadan to Teheran. A four-engined world airlines plane droned overhead. Yes, Daniel is standing in his lot at the end of days. (Dan. 12: 13.)

But I think my greatest thrill at Shushan came to me, not in palace ruins or prophet's tomb, but by the banks of the river Ulai. Here we gave loose rein to our imagination and tried to visualize the past.

It was beside this small river 2,500 years ago that Daniel stood in prophetic vision. Suddenly he looked up and saw standing on the bank a two-horned ram. As he watched he saw it charge triumphantly westward towards Babylon, then northwards to Greece, and wheel southward to conquer Egypt. The angel later explained that this was the Medo-Persian army.

But while he was pondering the meaning of this symbol another animal appeared. To the north-west Daniel could just make out the hazy outlines of the Median mountains. Before him stretched out the shining plains of Shinar. Across these plains he saw a shaggy he-goat galloping at such speed that it seemed to Daniel his feet did not even touch the ground. The prophet saw the he-goat charge into the ram, breaking his horns and trampling mercilessly upon his mutilated body.

The vision continued until Daniel saw a blasphemous little horn spring up which cast down the truth to the ground and it practised and prospered. Spellbound, Daniel heard two angels conversing by this very river: "How long shall be the vision?" asked one. Then it was that the

other angel, the mighty Gabriel, spoke those vital words which laid the foundation of the great advent movement: "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." Dan. 8: 14.

Daniel was perplexed, but such a momentous prophecy was not to be left even to the mighty angel Gabriel. The voice of the Son of God was then heard from between the banks of the river, "Gabriel," He said, "make this man to understand the vision."

Was it any wonder that on this Sabbath afternoon we lingered by the bank of the river Ulai, while its quiet waters slid by on their way to the Persian Gulf? Yes, we will long remember our visit to Shushan the palace!

Pitcairn Representative Draws Crowds in New York

HELEN F. SMITH

Parkin Christian, patriarch of Pitcairn Island, has left New York, and all the mementos of Pitcairn, past and present, are packed away. Fellowship Hall seems empty and a bit lonesome. But for everyone at New York Centre the visit of this simple, warm-hearted, colourful man will remain a bright memory.

Wherever he went people responded to his radiant smile, his dry humour, his shrewd comments on what he saw. Commissioner O'Brien, who greeted him on arrival at Idlewild Airport on behalf of the mayor, called him "Brother Christian."

Reporters, discovering that Pitcairners do not wear shoes, asked whether he sat as magistrate barefooted and chuckled delightedly at his drawled reply: "We'll now, a man doesn't think with his feet; he thinks with his head."

As guest on the TV programme, "I've Got a Secret," Mr. Christian was given a Thomas organ and an electric generator. Worth more than \$1,000, the gifts were an unusual gesture from a programme which usually gives participants no more than \$80.

After the programme Mr. Christian was deluged with telephone calls. All week people who had never before visited the centre streamed in, some with newspaper clippings in their hands, to see and talk with Parkin Christian, and to look at the collection of rare and interesting objects gathered from museums, libraries, and private owners from coast to coast.

An amazing number of people had met Mr. Christian previously on Pitcairn. Dr. Harry Shapiro of the American Museum of Natural History was an old friend. Members of the crew of the "Yankee" on its various voyages turned up to say "hello." A man who had stopped during a cruise returned three days in a row in order not to miss seeing the visitor from Pitcairn.



Commissioner James O'Brien, Parkin Christian, and Pastor R. H. Adair from the General Conference, visit the top of the Empire State Building, New York.

The exhibit not only told the story of the "Bounty" but also of the Adventist mission ship, "Pitcairn." One of the greatest rewards for all the work that went into the exhibit was the helpfulness of dozens of people who were contacted. Mr. Louis Stark, in charge of the Rare Book Room of the New York Public Library, arranged for the loan of the rarest item of all—the Pitcairn Bible—and spent several hours at the centre.

Dr. Shapiro gathered up the souvenirs saved from his visit to the island in 1934. Mr. Williamson of the marine division of the Museum of the City of New York called more than once with suggestions about locating relics of the "Bounty," later came with his wife to see the exhibit. Harmon Tupper, author of an article on Pitcairn in the May "Reader's Digest," lent

his cherished model of the "Bounty." A model of the "Pitcairn" came from the Pacific Union Conference office. Review and Herald officers took the beautiful Gordon Grant painting of the "Pitcairn" down from their board room wall. Adventists all over the country responded to a request for Pitcairn mementos.

The high point of Mr. Christian's first week in the United States was probably his visit to Mystic Seaport, Conn., where an annual collection of old ships, historic buildings, and objects of all kinds has been gathered. Mr. E. A. Stackpole, curator of the museum, had added the pintle strap of the "Bounty" and Captain Bligh's spyglass to the centre's exhibit, and extended an invitation to Mr. Christian to visit Mystic.

Mr. Stackpole was delighted to discover that Parkin Christian was the namesake and great-nephew of the George Parkin Christian who was first mate of the "Charles W. Morgan," now a part of the museum collection.

Standing at the wheel of the old wooden whaling ship, Parkin Christian made an unforgettable picture. Six feet, three inches, 225 pounds of rugged strength, the seventy-four-year-old seaman looked a match for the wildest gale.

It is too soon to know the full results of the many interviews with reporters, the radio and T.V. appearance, the personal contact with all kinds of people. But he was identified consistently as a delegate to the world conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Over and over he told of the change which came to the island after years of drunkenness and murder when the Bible became the islanders' only textbook. Best of all, he was himself an impressive example of a simple, clean, Christian way of life.

As he continues to visit Adventist churches around the country, making friends for himself and his church, Parkin Christian is himself a missionary from the tiny island which inspired one of the denomination's earliest mission projects, the building of the mission ship "Pitcairn." —"Atlantic Union Gleaner," June 2, 1958.



Our ISLAND FIELDS

Three Nurses in New Guinea Mountains

Writing to friends recently, Miss June Rogers gives intimate details of life and service at the Mt. Hagen Hansenside hospital in the highlands of New Guinea:

"We now have about 440 leper patients. We three nurses—Dorothy Schultz, Linda McClintock, and I—rotate in three departments, taking two months in each department. At present Dorothy cares for the leper patients; Linda has the outpatients' department of general ailments, the theatre and the laboratory. I have the main office and medical store to care for.

"During April and May I had the outpatients' section and it was really busy. Such a lot of babies were brought in with pneumonia. At this altitude of over 5,000 feet and with no clothing it is no wonder there is so much pneumonia. Burns are common, as the children fall into the open fires. Then we had an epidemic of measles and a few cases of diphtheria. It is not only children who come in, of course. Many adults come in with malaria, pneumonia, and other ailments.

"There are seventeen medical orderlies (doctor boys) and three girls on the staff. A lot of training is required in their medical education, so in addition to the regular nursing and office duties each of us three nurses has two classes of an hour each to teach. At 3 p.m. I have Grade A (beginners), giving instruction in pidgin English, writing, reading, and arithmetic; also one Grade 4 boy for English and arithmetic. Then at 4 p.m. Medical School for the more senior members of the staff. Dorothy has two English and arithmetic classes, and Linda an English and arithmetic and a Medical class.

Dr. Yeatts is at present visiting the colony on the coast near Madang, at Hatzfeldhaven. He supervises both places, but lives here on this station and spends most of his time here, as this is a much bigger colony. In January I visited Hatzfeld when I had two weeks' holiday. It is a pretty spot on a little bay with tropical scenery of coconut palms, etc., and a tropical climate. I enjoyed seeing the coast, but was very glad to come back to the mountain scenery and the mountain air.

"We have two house boys working for us in our home. One does the cooking and house cleaning while the other washes and irons and cuts grass. They change over their duties each month. Linda is the housekeeper at present. We take it in two-month terms as with our hospital duties and find it more satisfactory for

one to be supervising the boys than for three to do it. The housekeeper plans the menus, prepares savouries and desserts, and generally plans the work. This is done before and after hospital hours.

"If you know of any folk who have used clothing to give away or needles and sewing cotton, just tell them about this place. We are trying to get some clothes together for Christmas-time, to give at least one article each to the patients and staff. Last year we had nothing, except a few balls, pencils, and combs which we bought for the children, so we are trying to do something special this year."

N.B.—All used clothing must be fumigated. If donors are unable to attend to this, please enquire from your conference Welfare secretary. Unfumigated clothing reaching New Guinea is destroyed.

Patients Run from Hospital Poison

Extracts from a personal letter written by Sister H. Bais of Lae, New Guinea, on July 10:

"We have just had two weeks' holiday with Brother and Sister Barnard at Omaura. It was a wonderful change from the heat of Lae, and we all feel and look so much better for it. The climate up there is simply delightful, and having seen only the sophisticated natives of Lae it was a real experience to see some of them in the raw. What a transformation Jesus makes in their lives!

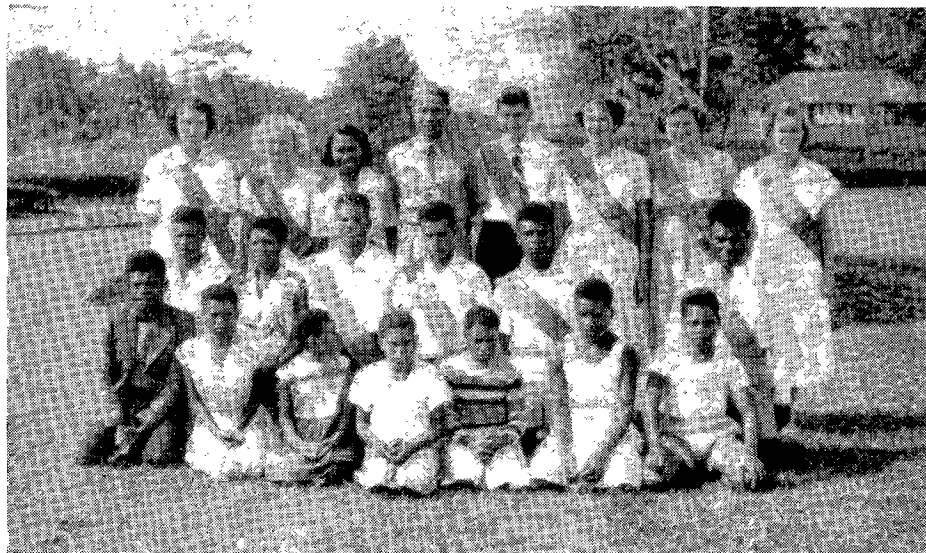
"While we were there a native and several of his 'one-talks' walked in to the hospital from a nearby village about four hilly miles away. He looked very sick and when he was asked how long he had been in that condition he said 'About two days.' Upon examination, however, this proved to be untrue, as both his lungs were full of pus and he had a marked swelling in his abdomen. He had been sick for quite some time. Brother Barnard treated the man to the best of his ability, but he was very ill and after several days he died.

"Within five minutes his relatives (about thirty of them) and the rest of the patients in the hospital went running from the mission grounds, carrying the body of the young man with them. Because the poor fellow had died they were all convinced that the hospital was brewing some kind of 'poison,' and couldn't get away quickly enough. At the time it was useless to tell them that the young man had been sick far too long before he sought hospital help.

"Several days later we visited the village. At first our reception was markedly sullen, but after having convinced them that we were interested in them and were sorry that the young man had died and were sympathetic with the widow and her three children, they thawed out and were much more friendly.

"They had been having a big feast of pig for about five days and had all absolutely covered themselves with mud as a sign of mourning. The filth and squalor was unbelievable! We had taken several of the church members out with us to the village and among these was a very nice young woman with two children. She was spotlessly clean, with shining white teeth untouched by the stain of betel-nut. She was a deaconess at the Omaura church and her face shone with friendship and Christian love.

"Just as we were leaving this filthy village we met a dirty old man. He was unusually old for a native and extremely de-



Group of those recently invested at Mount Hagen, New Guinea. Four of those invested are lepers.

generate. His teeth had rotted away with betel-nut and his skin and hair were caked with mud and dirt. I wished for a bottle of lavender water as I stood near him! However, the poor fellow was very friendly, and then the young lady whom I have just mentioned came up and told us that he was her father! To see them together was amazing, a true testimony of what the knowledge of Jesus and His gospel can do for these poor people if they have the opportunity to hear and accept it.

"On the whole, the native population around Omaura is very sullen and degenerate, and I feel sure that the missionaries' work must at times be rather discouraging. It is a stronghold of the devil. There is gold in the surroundings creeks, and the natives are no more immune to 'gold fever' than are the white men. The missionaries in this part need our prayers."

On North Bismarck Walk-about, New Guinea

Dear Home Folks All,

What a lot can happen in twelve hours! Here it is 7 p.m. (Thursday, July 10) and the Baluan church choir is singing harmoniously in the large schoolhouse 100 by 40 feet, which has been converted into a meeting house by the removal of the internal walls. This is at Pisk on Lou Island, Manus, where Pastor Leslie Webster has congregated his flock for their annual feast of spiritual things.

At 7 a.m. this morning I was taxiing down the runway on Rabaul 'drome in a D.C. 3, and five seconds later took off into a stiff sou'easter that snatched the plane off the ground in a minimum of time. A quick circle was made of the wind-whipped harbour with its white horses racing towards the shore and we headed out over the sea to Kavieng, over 100 miles and a little less than an hour's flight away.

There was a quick touch down there, where I saw Mrs. Webster and Louis, the office boy from the North Bismarck Mission headquarters, and then we flew on for another hour through turbulent clouds to Manus, the island of dreams—dreams of conquest by the Japanese a decade or more ago, dreams of reconquest by the allies of this outermost bastion of Australian defence. But more than these, dreams of conquest by the Adventist message.

The little 28-foot vessel "Day Star" was ready at the nearby wharf, a few minutes' walk from the drome, where Solomon Islander Pastor Karese Manovaki met me immediately I stepped from the plane. As soon as I was on board, the lines were cast off and we were heading out of the shelter of the friendly reef (friendly when you are on the inside) into the open sea and a four-hour crossing to Lou.

We slipped by Mamote, the old war-time airstrip on Los Negros, as dead now as the heroes who died there twelve years ago, while I sucked an Andrammine and sur-

prisingly kept down the biscuits hurriedly eaten while walking from plane to boat.

You never find the men who sail these mission boats day in and day out, come fair weather, come foul, writing about them. They take them all as part of the day's work and the call of the Lord. But we who visit from headquarters express on their behalf gratitude to you folks in the homeland who have made them available to the field.

The "Day Star" stopped suddenly with her nose gently nudging the black sand on the beach at Lou, the scene of the first of a series of camp-meetings which I am favoured to visit this month. A host of welcoming handshakes from old men and women with faces scarred with heathen tattoos of days gone by, from young folk of fine physique, second generation Adventists, and from third generation children, made it good to be here.

Pastor Webster waited further up the beach with Principal George F. Smith, his wife Helen, and two kiddies, George Junior and Ian (a little daughter with a native name, given just to tie them more realistically to the people they serve, I guess).

It was about 2.30 p.m. and dinner had been kept on the stove for me. The hour was late, I was hungry, and the kai (food) was good. But even then the bell was ringing for the afternoon meeting at which I was scheduled to preach. Now good meals and good preaching do not go well too close together, so half my lunch had to go uneaten.

In the school some 450 or 500 of these lovable people were ready for a feast of singing. Many had battled against fearful canoe weather to come in from outlying islands during the last week. Large canoes with thirty or more souls on board had braved the seas and were lined up on the beach with their sails now spread over them tent fashion, providing shelter during the meetings. Two large canoes had been forced to turn back and the folks had to miss the meetings. One canoe had been badly smashed in the seas and limped home. And while I led the song service the "Day Star" slipped out to sea to help in against the opposing wind some canoes which had been unable to tack around successfully to the landing place.

Service over, I visited around the campus, first to see the boys' old and rickety dormitory which we hope to see rebuilt this year; then on to the gardens which are the backbone of every school programme, and then on to attend a native wedding. When the "knot" was tied the bridegroom went his way and the bride went hers, back to the boys' and the girls' dormitories respectively. They will take up permanent residence together some time later. "Fashion belong all."

Tea was a happy occasion with the Smiths and their George junior, who speaks pidgin English with a Scottish burr.

And now only twelve hours after leaving home, some 400 miles away, I find myself sitting here listening eagerly while Pastor Kata Rangoso, who has come from

the Solomon Islands a thousand miles away to attend these meetings, is holding enthralled these "red skins," as the Manus natives are called, by preaching a sermon that would be appropriate at any camp-meeting in the homeland. He has just marked his face with white chalk to represent sins to which most of us fall at times (coloured chalk just would not show up on his black skin). He is now looking into a mirror, and as the glass "tells" him of the various sins in his life he is rubbing them off one by one. There goes stealing and lying and some grosser evils.

I feel this camp is off to a good start. This afternoon we sang "There shall be showers of blessing." Even now they are surely beginning to fall.

Goodnight, all; I shall continue later.

AROUND THE CONFERENCES

Baptized Gaol Converts in Tub!

Pastor L. J. Kent, a chaplain at the Brisbane gaol, has sent us a cutting from a city newspaper, from which we take these excerpts:

"Spiritual and physical rehabilitation of prisoners in Brisbane's Boggo Road gaol is bringing about some amazing transformations as hardened criminals" (and some not so hardened) "turn to the Bible."

"Ranging from life-term murderers, thieves, and sex offenders, to youngsters experiencing their first taste of gaol, they are finding something to live for.

"So Pastor L. J. Kent, of the Seventh-day Adventist Church declared yesterday.

"Pastor Kent told of the untiring church efforts to rehabilitate men and women who have turned to crime.

"Shortly after starting his term, one man was interested in the Bible Correspondence Course by another prisoner (since released). 'He took on a new lease of life, spending hours studying the Scriptures,' said Pastor Kent.

"As a result he has been completely converted and we eventually baptized the man in a gaol bathtub," added the pastor.

Parole to Come

"With the physical side of assistance in view, Pastor Kent is already working on the problems of an eventual parole for the man in the years to come.

"Three meetings a month are held for prisoners at the gaol by the church—two for the men and one for the women. They have attendance of up to 100 men and at least 50 per cent of the women in gaol.

"Pastor Kent said he often hears from ex-convicts who have since made good. One of these is a returned soldier, who, with the help of the church, rehabilitated himself and started a new life interstate after his release."

"Outside the prison welfare workers visit the relatives of the prisoners."

Meet Brother and Sister Follett

E. R. BURNS

I would like to introduce to you Brother and Sister Follett. They are both in their ninetieth year and have just celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of their wedding. To commemorate this occasion a special service was conducted by Pastor Wade in the Adelaide City church where they again proudly walked down the aisle, arm in arm, to the strains of the Wedding March.

After the church service their many friends met with them in the church hall to offer them congratulations, and to enjoy a pleasant evening with them. It brought great joy to all to see Sister Follett cut the specially prepared wedding cake, and to hear the words of admonition Brother Follett gave to young and old.

Some ten years ago Brother and Sister Follett accepted the message under the labours of Pastor J. W. Kent, and became members of the Adelaide City church. They immediately endeared themselves to us all, because of their lovely Christian traits and winning personalities. More than once Brother Follett conducted the divine service. It was always an inspiration to see him stand in the pulpit and listen to him quote scripture after scripture and, without any notes, speak from the depths of his rich Christian experience.

Brother Follett was particularly well known in civic circles. He cannot try to remember how many street badge days he organized or how many thousands of pounds he was responsible for collecting for charitable purposes. Until 18 months ago he was a familiar identity in the streets of Adelaide organizing and collecting for worthy causes.

This godly couple has been, and still are, an inspiration to us all; and we pray that God will bless them both, and give them continued good health, as they fearlessly witness for Him.

Round the World and Home Again

Looking well after his visit to the General Conference, Pastor H. W. Hollingsworth, president of the North New South Wales Conference, reports having preached in Rome, Baghdad (both in the American church, of around forty-five members connected with the large hospital, and the Arabic church of approximately sixty members), Wimbledon and Edinburgh. In the Central church, San Francisco, the traveller met again an Italian lawyer from Rome who had a dual purpose in visiting the United States: to be present at the General Conference and to win a friend to Christ. The friend was with him the day Pastor Hollingsworth met him.

The Bible lands were most stimulating. Another high point both geographically and in interest was Angrogna Valley in the Italian Alps where the Waldenses preserved the pure faith during the Dark Ages. Pastor Hollingsworth was taken into



Brother and Sister Follett of Adelaide, who recently celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary.

the "Rock church," a cave accommodating 130 people, where these persecuted saints worshipped for 200 years. Just above the place where the minister stands a chink in the rock admits sufficient light for the service to be held.

The Wimbledon church has two connections with Australia. The building, damaged during the war, was rebuilt with some financial assistance in the way of an offering from our division; and the church pastor who was also Pastor Hollingsworth's host, Pastor A. J. Mustard, graduated with him at A.M.C. in 1932.

At his last point of call on the homeward way, Pastor Hollingsworth was present at the opening meetings of Pastor J. Coltheart's mission in Wellington, New Zealand, on Sunday, July 27. In the afternoon 1,175 people crowded into the Town Hall at Lower Hutt; at 6.30 a congregation of 1,300 was waiting in the Regent Theatre in the city, where a repeat address was heard by 850 people at 8 o'clock. The subject was: "My Search for Treasure"—"exploring buried cities, mysterious temples, and desert caves in Bible lands of the Middle East." The speaker and his assistant, Brother L. A. Gilmore, returned from their trip, via U.S.A., where they attended the General Conference, a few weeks previously.

"Signs" Sows Seeds of Truth

The divine injunction found in Eccl. 11:6 (Moffat), "Sow your seed in the morning of life, and stay not your hand till evening, you never know if this or that shall prosper, or whether both shall have success," reminds us that results do not come by accident. A basic law of nature demands the sowing if we would have a harvest, and this is found to apply also to the realm of the spiritual, in the work of winning men and women to God.

We have been committed to the task of sowing seeds of truth. Lack of apparent results in no way excuses us from being faithful in our part of the contract. "Stay not your hand" indicates the continuity of our labours because "you never know if this or that shall prosper." We will never be able to truly assess the results of the sowing until we reach the better land and see the glorious harvest of men and women saved in the kingdom of God.

It was a gusty day in Denver, Colorado, when a wind-blown piece of paper clung to Mr. Williams' shoe and would not seem to shake off, no matter how much he stamped his foot. Finally he made a grab at it so as to remove this offending piece of printed matter, when something caught his eye. Mr. Williams was interested, and so read the paper through. Subsequently he subscribed to the "Signs." Today he, too, has become a sower of good seeds.

Mr. and Mrs. Watson had only recently moved into another home and were busy cleaning up the rooms when they found a pile of "Signs" in a cupboard. Being poor, they couldn't afford the needed paper for the kitchen, but eventually they solved their problem by using the "Signs" as wall paper. When Mr. Watson would come home for lunch, he frequently spent his spare time reading from the papers pasted on the walls. He even continued to read the ceiling, so interested did he become in the subject matter of the papers. This couple were converted as a result of what they read, and they changed their manner of life.

In a small community hospital, a "Signs of the Times" had mysteriously made its way into one of the patients' rooms. The patient, not being particularly religious, tossed it aside where it was later discovered by a nurse who did not profess to be much of a Christian. In her spare moments, the nurse read it through and felt impressed to send for the free Bible course.

On discovering many new and wonderful truths as she began to study for herself, one of the first things she did was to share her enthusiasm for the Bible course with her close friend, Helen Schwartzkoph. Together they studied the Word of God until they came to the Sabbath question. Helen's friend refused to accept the seventh day, and discontinued her study. Helen, alone now in her quest, found new truths unfolding as she understood more clearly God's great plan for the salvation

of man. After several years of education in one of our colleges, Helen is now a church school teacher, who hopes ultimately to enter mission service in a foreign field.

We will never know till the harvest how many lives have been transformed by the seeds of truth sown by the "Signs." Our missionary paper is doing a work the ministers cannot do. The "Signs" finds its way into places they cannot go, and it is bringing in its harvest of souls.

Improved Facilities in the Publishing House

C. F. L. ULRICH, Manager

Since its establishment first as the Echo Publishing Co. and later as the Signs Publishing Co., this house has sent out a steady and ever-increasing stream of truth-filled volumes which contain God's message for our days. The number of subscription books sold in this division from 1885 to December 1957, totals 1,742,733. Among these are such well-known titles as "Patriarchs and Prophets," "Daniel and the Revelation," "Heralds of the Morning," "Home Handbook," "Desire of Ages," "Coming King," "Ladies' Handbook," "Bible Readings," "Children's Hour," etc.

In addition to these larger subscription books, several millions of smaller paper-covered books referred to as "helps," and many millions of tracts and periodicals have come from our presses, and have been distributed far and wide.

As the output of this publishing house has grown, so has our church membership increased, and a large number of our members trace their first interest in the message to one of the publications of the Signs Publishing Co.

The great-hearted founders of our publishing work were seriously hampered through lack of funds, and they were forced to use rather primitive machinery. Nevertheless from its inception this company has always sought to maintain a high standard of printing and book binding, for the belief is imbedded in our souls that the message of salvation should be presented in a manner truly representative of its inestimable value.

In our earlier publications all illustrations were in black and white, and it is only in relatively recent years that coloured illustrations have been introduced. But with the insistent demand for more and more colour, the number of coloured plates used in our books has increased, until "Drama of the Ages," a book of 592 pages, contains fifteen full-page pictures printed in four colours, in addition to seventy-one pictures in black and white.

This introduction to colour, together with the endeavour to produce more legible reading matter and improved black and white pictures, has called for the con-

tinual improvement in plant facilities. In recent years four new presses, one a large two-colour machine, have been installed in our plant. We have developed our own process engraving department, where all plates for printing both black and white and coloured pictures are made. Improved machinery has been installed in the bindery also. An addition to our building has allowed a re-organization of production flow through the plant.

If those men who founded the Echo Publishing Co. could see the plant of today and the products of this plant, I am sure that they would thank God that He gave them the courage and foresight to lay the foundations so well and truly, and I believe that they would appreciate the efforts that have been made to maintain their ideals of craftsmanship through the years.

The Signs Publishing Co. publishes doctrinal books, books for the girls and boys, and two excellent medical volumes: and we are equipped to produce a much greater number of these than is being sold at the present time. However, the continual improvement in printing methods, the insistent clamour by the public for more and more illustrations in colour, and the competition from television and other inventions that seem to have dulled the appreciation for good reading material, show that we must still further improve our books.

Within recent months the board of the Signs Publishing Company has authorized us to proceed with the development of an offset printing department, and a large two-colour offset press has been ordered from overseas. Enlargement of our process engraving department for the production of offset printing plates is under way, and other essential plant is in course of manufacture. Our process engraving man has attended classes at the School of Graphic Arts over a two-year period to learn the art of offset plate-making, and at the present time the foreman of our printing department is in England gaining practical experience in the offset method of printing. He will return via U.S.A. and

will have the opportunity of gaining experience at the Review and Herald and Pacific Press also.

The setting up of this new offset department will cost quite a large sum of money, but we must keep abreast of the times and the offset process provides the opportunity to produce books with coloured illustrations on every opening. The cost of doing this with our present letterpress equipment would be prohibitive.

The Review and Herald and Pastor Arthur Maxwell have sold us the publishing rights for that excellent ten-volume set of books, "The Bible Story," and we expect to have the first two books of the series ready for this field during 1960. Yes, that's a fair way off, but we cannot set up an entirely new department and introduce a new printing method, without it consuming a reasonable amount of time.

At the present time our books compare more than favourably with any on the market for quality, appearance, and durability, and no one can deny the truth of the message they contain. With the introduction of our offset-produced books, we will add to our range publications which in the telling of the grand old story of the Bible, are unsurpassed in attractiveness of set up and illustration by any book on the market today.

The publishing of books, however, is only half of the job, for the products of the house are useless, unless consecrated men and women take these books, and place them into the thousands of homes within our division boundaries. Despite the attractiveness of any books we may produce, there is always a resistance to Adventist literature, and this resistance can only be overcome by the kindly personal touch and Christian demeanour of the Spirit-filled literature-evangelists.

When Brother Arnold commenced canvassing in Melbourne in 1885, he worked for six solid weeks without taking one single order. The brethren then gathered with him and they fasted and prayed together, with the result that orders began to come in at the rate of ten, twelve, and up to fifteen a day, which is an excellent result by today's standards.

Selling our literature is not as easy as selling many other things today. Satan is blinding the eyes of many and steeling their minds against spiritual truth. We have a band of loyal literature-evangelists fighting valiantly for God, but they urgently need reinforcements to keep the battle pressed strongly. Our book work is facing a determined challenge by the enemy of souls. All who dare to oppose this enemy must possess courage, energy, and perseverance.

The publishing house offers you an abundant supply of a variety of tested ammunition, religious, children's, and medical books, all proven soul-winners, and which if used in a well-balanced way, will assure success. Will you answer the call, accept the challenge, and armed with a prospectus, guided by the Holy Spirit, and constrained by the love of Christ, go forth to save souls for the kingdom of God?

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON HELP

HARRY W. LOWE

Associate Secretary General Conference
Sabbath School Department

For Sabbath, September 20, 1958

(Please preserve for reference)



THE NEW JERUSALEM

Like a bright new morning after a storm come the last two chapters of Revelation. This week we study chapter 21, where everything is "new." The new creation! This is the theme that prophets, holy men, apostles, evangelists, and our Lord presented to men with passionate zeal. It is the message of the whole Bible: "According to His promise we wait for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." 2 Peter 3:13, R.S.V.

1. **God Is with Men.** Rev. 21:1, 8, 27.

"I saw a new heaven and a new earth." There is much beauty in our present creation—day and night, the earth with its rivers, mountains, fields, and flowers. But with all its glories, nature is nevertheless an old and sin-stained garment. "The world that God had made was blighted with the curse of sin, and inhabited by beings doomed to misery and death."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," page 63.

"No more sea." That there is sea or water in the new earth appears from many scriptures. (Isa. 42:10; Zech. 9:10.) God created the seas originally. We may therefore expect them to exist in the restoration. (Ex. 20:11; Rev. 10:6.) But the sea as an instrument of fury and destruction, of isolation and separation, covering at least three-fourths of the earth's surface, will not exist; nor will many other things as we now know them in nature.

"I John saw the holy city." A new city for a new earth! No Babylon, no harlot, is there, but the New Jerusalem, the bride, the Lamb's wife.

"The tabernacle of God is with men." A similar expression is found in Rev. 7:15, and the same in John 1:14, of the incarnate Christ: "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." "The metaphor stands for the Shekinah Glory of God in the old tabernacle (7:15; 13:6; 15:5), the true tabernacle of which it was a picture. (Heb. 8:2; 9:11.) God is now Immanuel in fact, as was true of Christ. (Matt. 1:23.)—Robertson, "Word Pictures," Vol. VI, page 467.

"No more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain." Perhaps the annihilation of death is the most impressive act of God's judgment of evil. It is beyond human comprehension, but there is nothing sweeter in all God's promises. "There will be no more tears, no funeral trains, no badges of mourning."—"The Great Controversy," page 676.

"I am Alpha and Omega." The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet are used

both of God (Rev. 1:8, and here) and Christ. (Rev. 22:13.) "The first and the last" as to time, cause, effect, completeness, rests with the Godhead, from whom alone can come the work of absolute accomplishment: "It is done!"

"But the fearful." This, with verse 27, is a retrospective warning, and except for Rev. 22:15, 18, is the last reference in the Bible to judgment. It is a sombre warning that wickedness alone stands between man and the glorious new world.

2. **The City Foursquare.** Rev. 21:9-26.

"Carried me away . . . to a great and high mountain." One of the vial angels took John to a high point in order to see "the bride, the Lamb's wife," "the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God." Moses was sent to the top of Mount Nebo in Moab, there to view the Promised Land (Deut. 32:49), as he had previously gone up Mount Sinai to hear God's words (Ex. 19:3; 24:12), and to be shown the pattern of the tabernacle. (Ex. 26:30.) John sees the eternal reality, the substance of all our hopes.

"Having the glory of God." A wealth of indescribable colour, light, and radiance, due to the glory of God, as in verse 23 also. Reality is suggested by specific dimensions, twelve foundations inscribed with apostolic names, gates with tribal names, and streets, etc. This is Abraham's "city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Heb. 11:10. This was the hope of ancient saints: "He hath prepared for them a city." Heb. 11:16; cf. John 14:2, 3.

"He measured the city." Amplitude and superlative glory pervade this city to an extent that is incomprehensible to us now. All who are worthy to enter God's presence there will share the joy of the psalmist, who wrote: "I shall be satisfied!"

"Garnished with all manner of precious stones." The flashing foundation colourings may be faintly imagined from the words **jasper** (translucent green), **sapphire** (blue), **chalcedony** (blue-green white), **emerald** (bright green), **sardonyx** (red-brown on white?) **sardius** (reddish?) **chrysolite** (golden yellow), **beryl** (sea green), **topaz** (transparent yellow), **chrysoprasus** (apple green). The gold streets and pearly gates complete this picture of transcendent glory.

"No temple therein." A temple serves to localize the divine presence for purposes of worship. Worship requires no sacrifices, for there is no sin there. There "the people of God are privileged to hold open communion with the Father and the Son. . . . We shall stand in His presence, and be-

hold the glory of His countenance."—"Great Controversy," pages 676, 677.

"No need of the sun." Paul on the road to Damascus saw "a light from heaven," brighter than the sun. Moses descended from the "devouring fire" of God's glory, and his brethren could not endure even its reflection in Moses. (Ex. 24:17.) Sinful beings cannot endure God's glory, but John sees immortal beings in a sinless world rejoicing in God's ineffably glorious presence.

"The nations of them which are saved." In Isa. 60:1-11 is a picture of the glory of God upon His church in the last days, and it is said: "Thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought." John draws upon this imagery in depicting "the glory land," whose inhabitants come from "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." Rev. 14:6. This is the first wholly Christian city. It is unique in that its inhabitants "shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever." Isa. 60:21.

"These visions of future glory, scenes pictured by the hand of God, should be dear to His church today, when the controversy of the ages is rapidly closing, and the promised blessings are soon to be realized in all their fullness."—"Prophets and Kings," page 722.

—Review and Herald."

WANTED, "Signs," V.O.P. "News," and small books, leaflets, for missionary purposes. Please post to L. Thomas, Warrell Creek, 2C, N.S.W.

WANTED, married couple to work on mixed farm. Either wages or share basis. Good home, school one mile. Please apply A. A. Mitchell, Gerogery, N.S.W.

TO LET until Christmas, 1959, large house convenient to shops and bus. Set up for running fowls and cow; fruit trees bearing. Apply F. Phillips, 115 Maitland Rd., Cooranbong, N.S.W.

VACANCY FOR YOUNG MAN. Sanitarium Health Food Company Retail Department, Victoria, have a vacancy for a lad 16-18 years of age to learn the retail business, store and sales work. Apply manager, 164 Burwood Road, Hawthorn, Victoria.

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.

Advertisements approved by the editor will be inserted at the following rates:

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

AUSTRALASIAN RECORD

and Advent World Survey

Official Organ of the

AUSTRALASIAN DIVISION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Editor - - - - - L. C. NADEN
Assoc. Editor - CONSTANCE M. GREIVE

Single Subscriptions, in Australia 15s., New Zealand 12s. 6d. per year (post paid).

When mailed to territories outside Australasia and territories annexed thereto (Papua, New Guinea, Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands, Fiji and Western Samoa) 10s. extra for empire and foreign postage is required.

• Order through your conference office, or send direct to the Signs Publishing Co., Warburton, Victoria, Australia.

All copy for the paper should be sent to The Editor, "Record," Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga, N.S.W.

Appearing regularly in the *Australasian Record* are articles from the *Review and Herald*, the general church paper of the Seventh-day Adventists, published at Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Printed weekly for the division by the Signs Publishing Co., Warburton, Victoria.

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BREVITIES

On July 28 Pastor R. E. Hare left Sydney to attend camp-meetings in the Coral Sea Union Mission, commencing with Wabag on August 1. He expects to return on September 23.

The Canberra folk, now numbering around eighty adults, youth, and children, are worshipping in their new church hall. The official opening will be held in November.

Brother and Sister W. Miller, who spent a term school teaching in Samoa and then went to America and Canada, returned to Sydney early in July. Later on they hope to resume service in the Central Pacific, where their hearts are, and we are glad to have them back.

An ordained minister from Austria has been living privately in Victoria for about a year. He is Pastor W. Aigner, formerly secretary for the MV, Sabbath School, and Temperance departments of the Austrian Union, where he was valued as a consecrated and energetic worker. Pastor Aigner is concentrating on learning the English language.

Saturday night and Sunday, July 26 and 27, around 200 eager press secretaries, other church officers, and conference staff attended a Public Relations Congress arranged by Brother E. H. J. Steed of Greater Sydney. Most of the guest speakers and those on the panels were ministers of other churches, newspaper and radio men, as well as representatives from other spheres of public life. You will be interested to read detailed reports which will appear in our issue of September 1.

Pastor E. J. Landa, who came from France six years ago to serve in French Oceania, has expressed a wish to reside in Australia on the completion of his term next year. This request is very gratifying to our leaders who are acquainted with Pastor Landa, and the Victorian Conference has been quick to secure a promise of his services. Speaking a number of European languages, Pastor Landa is well suited to specialize in evangelism for New Australians, for which purpose he has been called. The Australasian Division has lodged a request with the General Conference for another French minister to fill the vacancy in Tahiti.

Elder W. W. Morris reports that the Drummoyne clinic is still averaging forty treatments per week, opening one day for men and two for women. Brother O. V. Hellestrand and Sisters Adelaide Cutts and Essie Petherbridge comprise the staff, and are assisted by volunteers. The clinic is self-supporting, having a satisfactory credit at the present time. Because patients gain so much happiness as well as benefit from their associations they do not wish to leave, and it has been found necessary to limit treatments generally to a 6-week course. However, they are encouraged to continue friendly visits. The lending library still functions and Bible studies are being held in some homes (some accessions have been reported in times past). Between now and October the Drummoyne church hopes to raise £500 towards the erection of a larger and better equipped clinic.

When All Else Fails

W. A. FAGAL

A brother in Canada living in Quebec where the work goes so slowly, writes telling us that for years he had worked with different members of his family, trying to bring them to the message. He says, "I have sent them all kinds of literature and books, but seemingly it did no good whatever. I have also sent my niece papers, and talked to her many times, but she just laughed it off. Recently she and her husband purchased a television set with a tower so they could get American stations and they brought in your Faith for Today programme.

"She had been a good Sunday school teacher and thought the Bible course would help her to teach, so sent for it. Soon she was studying Seventh-day Adventist doctrines before she knew it. She

telephoned me one day to ask me about the course and I asked her how she liked it. She replied, 'It is wonderful.' Now she has told me she wants to be baptized. Her children also are starting the course. She has now got the Sunday school superintendent to take the course and they together are discussing Adventist doctrine. We are so grateful for the way God has used Faith for Today to help win souls in this difficult area."

North New Zealand

W. A. TOWNEND

He Calls Them "Mr. and Mrs. Projector." A very active layman, Brother A. M. Sheffield, calls his two latest Sabbath-keepers at Whangarei "Mr. and Mrs. Projector." The reasons for this name are unique: So busy with Bible studies that he found himself unable to keep up with all his appointments, Brother Sheffield, after a contact or two with this fine young couple, simply left with them night by night a projector, strips, and tape recorder. And now "Mr. and Mrs. Projector" are Sabbath-keepers!

We Call Them "Mr. and Mrs. Hymn Poll." For this thrilling reason we think of these folk as "Mr. and Mrs. Hymn Poll." It was while out on the Home Missionary Department's Hymn Poll about a year ago that Brother Sheffield made his very first contact with this young optician and his wife, and at the same time arranged for a Bible study. Thank God for our laymen's soul-winning opportunities, and the use they made of them! Just such opportunities are in your town.

Million Dollar Offering

To our people throughout the Australasian Division, in both home and mission fields, we desire to express a big "thank you" for their wonderful response in connection with the special "Million Dollar" offering recently received in our churches. As a result of your liberality, together with special contributions from the Sanitarium Health Food Company, and the Signs Publishing Company and something from the division itself, we have been able to pass on to the General Conference the goodly sum of \$60,000, equivalent to £26,785, Australian currency. This is slightly more than 150 per cent of our goal.

In all, at the first Sabbath service of the General Conference Session in Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A., the brethren were able to report total receipts of almost \$1,250,000 for this offering. We were happy that Australasia could contribute so liberally to this fine overflow of the million dollars.

The needs of the cause are great and continually growing as the work expands. The liberal response to this special offering of our people around the world will make it possible to advance the work still further. Thank you once again.

E. J. Johanson,

Treasurer, Australasian Division.