

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

ORGAN OF THE BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

“Britain for Christ” Month

By C. R. BONNEY

It is an outstanding fact that through one of our half-hour British Voice of Prophecy radio-programmes we can take the Advent message of salvation to more people than Christ contacted in the whole of His three and a half years ministry, or more than Paul preached to in the whole of his thirty-three years of ministry.

Surely, as promised by His servant, God has placed in our hands methods and means whereby the everlasting Gospel can be taken to the world in a very short period of time.

But as we think of the completion of this great objective, which has been with the Advent Church for over a hundred years, we are sometimes inclined to forget that the work will not be finished in all the world before it is finished in the territory of the British Union. The fifty million people of these islands are the greatest challenge to the almost 8,000 missionary-minded members of our Union.

For this reason we are setting aside September as a “Britain for Christ” month—a month when our whole membership can be united in concerted action for the salvation of the men, women, and young people of our cities, towns, and villages. Through experience, we know that the Voice of Prophecy radio and Bible Correspondence School can become mighty weapons for the cause of God as they are brought into contact with the millions around us by the co-operation of our members.

During the past four-year period 300 new members were the result of Voice of Prophecy card distribution by our members. Added to this good number, we know of seventy baptisms as a direct result of the literature distributed by our colporteurs and members, for as you know, nearly all our periodicals and books carry an advertisement of our radio programme and Bible School. So with the united effort of our members and the Voice of Prophecy Bible School, nearly 400 souls were baptized in the British Union. Then, of course, there were further baptisms from our radio work and other methods of getting students.

With such good results, we know the whole

membership will join with us whole-heartedly in our special endeavour to distribute at least one million new Voice of Prophecy cards during the month of September. This will result in thousands more listening to our weekly broadcasts and taking our Bible Course, which, in the end, will bring added members to your church.

This campaign for souls is organized in a similar way to that of the Ingathering. The Home Missionary officers will allocate the territory, and the members will report each week the number of cards distributed.

In all our churches, during the morning service on September 3rd, time will be taken to explain the details as planned by the local officers. All our members will also be given the opportunity of



The “King’s Heralds” Radio Quartette

placing their orders for the number of Voice of Prophecy cards required.

Our isolated members can share in this great work by putting a card in every letter box of the village or district where they live. In this way, they will be helping to finish the work in their surroundings. Will all the isolated members who want to share in this glorious work please write to me



View from the studio control room during the preparation of a "Question Night" programme.

series which we know will prove a great success in reaching the young people as well as the older ones.

There is much more we could do if we had the money. We would like to advertise more widely in some of the popular magazines and daily or weekly newspapers, and bring before the public the facts that we are on the air each week and are offering Bible lessons on the great doctrines and prophecies of the Word of God.

The Roman Catholics, who have now started a Bible Correspondence School, are planning to offer it to the public in this very successful way in reaching the public, set aside for advertising during this autumn. They have realized that we have stolen a march on them in this very successful way of reaching the public. *We are depending on our members to help us in counteracting this great threat.*

Remember the special offering which is to be received in your church on Sabbath, September 10th, will come direct to the Voice of Prophecy office here in the British Union and be used for this great work this year.

at the V.O.P. Offices, Stanborough Park, Watford, stating the number of V.O.P. cards you will be needing. If you cannot distribute them yourself, you could get someone else to do it for you.

New cards have been printed on which we include an offer of a new series of lessons especially prepared for young people.

We have lived up to our motto and gone "forward in faith" in preparing and printing these new lessons. We hadn't the money to do it, but knowing the generosity and faithfulness of our members when the salvation of souls is involved, we borrowed from our budget and produced this new

"Behold, The Bridegroom Cometh"

Report of the Forty-First Session of the South England Conference

By Pastor R. D. Vine

BANK-holiday week-end for two thousand South England Adventists, was, to say the least, truly memorable. For nearly four days, from Thursday, July 28th, to Monday morning, August 1st, the forty-first biennial session of the Conference was held. Perhaps the biggest thing about it was that it marked a heartening chapter in our history, and provided another milestone in our journey home. Realistically the fact was faced that the future seems indeed, to be fraught with problems of baffling immensity, yet the past biennium has clearly revealed a healthy growth and vigour in all departments, and has confirmed our faith—if such were ever needed—in the fact that God is with this movement, and that under Him it will surely triumph.

Watford Town Hall provided the main rendezvous. The comfort of this fine public building contributed materially to the success of the meetings, and thanks were appropriately expressed for the privilege of using it.

From behind the spacious platform a giant banner, colourful and mutely eloquent, proclaimed its glorious message: "Behold, the Bridegroom Cometh." It served as a reminder to all present of the blessed hope so dearly cherished by every loyal believer—the hope which keeps keen a sense of urgency in all our service for the Lord.

Proceedings actually began in the Stanborough Park church on Thursday evening at 7 p.m. The "church in the woods" was packed with 211 delegates and hundreds of others. After the formal

opening by President J. A. McMillan, and the appointing by vote of the various committees, Dr. L. E. Froom, General Conference Field Secretary, gave a unique study on the "Shepherd Psalm."

Psalms twenty-three, was the most matchless of all psalms, he declared. It has gladdened more hearts than all the secular poems of the human race. Martyrs have been nerved by it, mourners comforted, while the dying moments of many a child of God have been sweetened by its lovely message. No wonder Luther described it as "the nightingale of psalms."

Embodied in this brief portrayal of divine goodness and tender mercy are all the main names of Jehovah. Here we see Jehovah Jireh, "God will provide" (verse 1); Jehovah Shalom, "the God of peace" (verse 2); Jehovah Tsidkenu, "the Lord our righteousness" (verse 3); Jehovah Chabash, "the Lord our Healer" (verse 3); Jehovah Nissi, "the Lord our Banner" (verse 6); while throughout is the heart-warming revelation of Jehovah Ra'ah, "the Lord our Shepherd."

Dr. Froom spoke of Psalms twenty-two, twenty-three, and twenty-four, as a divine triad, portraying respectively the experience of the Cross, the Crook, and the Crown.

We all appreciated the beauty of this presentation, and were grateful that we, as God's weak, and often erring, sheep, have so vigilant and able a Shepherd.

Pastor Derek Mustow's testimony in song: "Some day I'll see His face" was a moving climax to a memorable opening meeting.

The delegates seemed loathe to leave the precincts of the church after the service. Lingual muscles worked with stupendous and enjoyable vigour, as folk freely indulged in the delight of renewing old acquaintances and making new contacts. Meanwhile committee members were hard at work, preparing plans for presentation the following morning.

The Friday morning devotional by Pastor E. R. Warland, Union Home Missionary secretary, took the form of a blackboard study, and emphasized God's willingness to supply all our need. (1 Peter

3:12.) We were reminded of the various appeals in God's Word to open our eyes, our ears, our lips, our hands, and our heart, in order that we may receive from Heaven's open windows the fullness of God's blessing. We were reminded, too, of the gates to glorified life which God will shortly open to us if we respond to His merciful appeal.

A prayer season followed which was entered into with much enthusiasm.

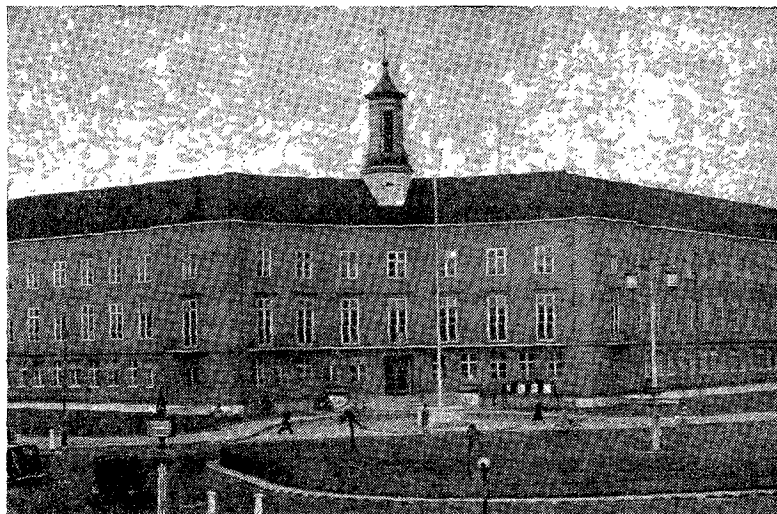
NEW ELECTIONS

As a preliminary to the following business session, committee secretaries presented reports. In every case, acceptance was unanimous. In due time, details will be available, but of immediate interest is the election of leaders for the next biennium. All were glad for the privilege of enjoying the continued presidency of Pastor J. A. McMillan and the report he presented for the biennium is reproduced in full elsewhere in this issue. Also elected were: J. A. Clement, Secretary-Treasurer; Pastor A. C. Vine, Home Missionary, Sabbath School, and Educational Department Secretary; Pastor K. H. Gammon, MV, Public Relations, and Temperance Department Secretary; and Pastor V. Benefield, Publishing Department Secretary. The Executive Committee: the president, the secretary-treasurer, Pastors A. C. Vine, W. McClements, and J. C. French, and Brethren R. Hearne (Torquay), A. R. Hastings (Bournemouth), D. McDowell (Lowestoft), Miss K. Mahon (Bible Instructor).

The hearts of all present were gladdened by the first proposal submitted by Pastor A. C. Vine, secretary of the Plans Committee. It was an expression of thanks to God for the best-ever biennium in our history in souls won and means given for the support of God's cause.

Then followed the presentation of the secretary-treasurer's report. Brother Clement's figures told an impressive story of faithfulness and generosity. The Lord's tithe of £120,933 represented an increase over the previous biennium of more than £18,000, while mission offerings were nearly £2,000 ahead. True, there were discouraging decreases in certain cases,

The spacious Watford Town Hall where the recent conference session was held.



notably the Week of Sacrifice Offering, but the overall picture was one of increasingly generous response to the insistent calls of God's church. The spiritual implication of these figures is very heartening. As our president, Pastor J. A. McMillan, who so refreshingly piloted all the conference business sessions, reminded us: "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty." Prov. 11:24.

Hearts were cheered by Pastor E. B. Rudge's Bible Study in the afternoon. It was based on Isaiah chapter fifty-eight—a scripture which the Spirit of prophecy declares should be frequently brought before God's people. Set forth in this chapter are our own needs, and also the needs of others. An understanding of it will help us to avoid formalism—an ever-present danger to the church of God in the last days. It also provides a clear outline of the God-given task we have been called to perform—that of building "the old waste places." "Men recognize," said Pastor Rudge, "that we are lifting up the Bible and its great principles. But they must also see the effect of these principles on our own lives."

MV AND SABBATH SCHOOL REPORTS

At the subsequent session, Pastor K. Gammon, colourfully clad in Master Guide uniform with badge be-spattered sash, presented a report of Missionary Volunteer advance. It told of sustained missionary spirit among our young people, of increasing interest in study courses and holiday camps, and of vigorous and enterprising leadership in which the church may have full confidence. It was evident that complacently assuming that we need pay no special heed to the young people's welfare, would be dangerous, and would set flowing the flood tide of youth apostasy which, thank God, is at present on the turn. It was of interest to note that of the 200 invested as Master Guides in South England, only one had fallen by the way. Additions by baptism were 164—a 100 per cent increase over the previous biennium.

Spirited discussion followed this report. The deep concern of all delegates present for the welfare of our youth was very obvious. Their stimulating and sometimes provocative contributions flowed swiftly till the axe eventually fell, thus enabling Pastor A. C. Vine to provide a picture of the church at study. His Sabbath-School department report was both sobering and gratifying. It told a story of advance—sometimes substantial, other times small. Though mission offerings of £18,000 show a good increase, in actual fact it represents only an extra three farthings per week per member compared with the previous biennium, and still falls a little short of the shilling-a-week goal which was set before the war! The average member gave £2. 6s. 9d. in 1954 for missions, and £15. 12s. in tithes. The view was expressed that consistent, balanced giving, which had regard for home as well as foreign needs, was the ideal to aim at.

A sombre fact was the "missing 24 per cent." Nearly a quarter of our baptized members miss the unique opportunity afforded by the Sabbath school of well-directed Bible study. This is proportionately

fewer than in previous years, but it is nevertheless regrettable.

The soporific heat of the summer afternoon failed to deaden discussion by the assembled delegates. Many suggestions were made—practical and otherwise. There were, of course, one or two benevolent sword thrusts, and there was even a "straw vote," but clearly evident was the general concern that this God-given feature of our church programme become an attractive, instructive, and uplifting blessing to every member.

FRIDAY EVENING IN THE TOWN HALL

Friday evening found us in the Town Hall for Pastor H. L. Rudy's study. Brother Rudy is one of the General Conference vice-presidents, and was the second of our two visitors from America. We were cheered by the messages of this kindly man with his long and varied experience in the service of God. He studied with us the four-fold testimony of Paul in Philippians 3:9-11. He rightly felt that we could benefit by considering afresh this statement of the Bible's greatest exponent of salvation by faith.

In verse nine Paul speaks of Christ's righteousness, acceptance of which is basic and vital, and without which no man shall see God. A brief word picture of Joshua, the high priest, who stood as symbolic of all rag-clad sinners—helpless, unworthy, guilty; and of the reward of faith that refused to succumb to the Satanic accuser, bore home to every heart the lesson of God's saving love. (Zech. 3.)

Step two in Paul's profession of faith is one which many fail to take. (Verse 10.) "The power of His resurrection" must perform its regenerating work in every heart. This rebirth into God's spiritual kingdom must follow the first step, whereby we realize the nature, and our need, of the provision of Christ's righteousness.

Verse ten also indicates step three in the experience of faith—conforming to Christ's death through "the fellowship of suffering." Death to the world, to the carnal nature, to all that in any way mars our spiritual growth—this is vital. It is the work of sanctification. Suffering is involved. Dying is seldom painless. But dying to sin leads on to step four in verse eleven, which is glorification—a miraculous process which finds its choicest description in verse twenty-one.

A STIMULATING SABBATH SCHOOL

Sabbath morning dawned bright and sunny—so gratifying to all who planned to have their meals in nearby Cassiobury Park. Long before Sabbath school, the two-thousand seater Town Hall auditorium was packed. It was a thrill to be there—and an even greater thrill to realize that even this great gathering was the merest handful compared with the saintly assembly that soon shall worship from Sabbath to Sabbath before God's throne of glory.

Sincere welcome briefly expressed by chairman, Pastor A. C. Vine, launched the programme, every moment of which was thought-provoking and helpful. Pastor G. T. Hewlett's brief review of some-

thing he gladly accepted yet was "unable to understand," led all into a deeper gratitude to God "for His unspeakable gift." 2 Cor. 9:15.

Dr. E. G. Essery followed with the lesson for the day, on the theme of, "The Grace of God." Truly no lesson could be "larger," and hence more appropriate for such a large congregation. His clear and spirited exposition of Paul's assurance to the Christians at Ephesus: "For by grace are ye saved through faith," must surely have dispelled any lingering notion that Adventism is synonymous with legalism.

Sister Phyllis Bonney's sweet solo touchingly climaxed this presentation of a vital lesson.

Startling, sombre, stirring, and inspiring, was Missionary S. Beardsell's Missions appeal. It was a heart-throbbing call for money, workers, and constant prayer for mission work which faces mounting problems. Some think: "Mission fields, like the poor, are always with us." But the march of time is proving the fallacy of this. We sturdily sing of those in heathen darkness: "They call us to deliver their land from error's chain." This is becoming less and less true, even in the world's traditional mission field, Africa. Evil forces, based on racialism, threaten not only the expansion, but the very existence, of Christian missions.

Doors are, however, still open, and the work is onward. Striking indeed, was Brother Beardsell's significant remark to young people and workers: "It is not the West, with all its amenities, its luxuries, and its strongly established and adequately staffed church, that is in need of your service. The call today is from the south and from the east. The traditional recipe for material success: 'Go West young man,' which some still find irresistible, can hardly be considered as in the best interests of the great mission needs." Pastor Beardsell's appeal paved the way for an offering of £103. 12s. 0d.

"AWAKE, AWAKE, . . . O ARM OF THE LORD"

In the second service, Pastor Rudy brought us a picture of persecution, suffering, faithfulness, and victory.

The prayer and assurance of Isaiah 51:9-16, penned by the prophet at a time when many of God's people were enduring humiliating and grueling oppression at the hands of the Babylonians, was used as a basis for the morning sermon. Many thousands of our fellow members, like ancient Israel, are curbed, hampered, oppressed, imprisoned, even slain, for their faith. Many stories of suffering were told, notably of our work in Czechoslovakia, where all church property was criminally confiscated by the government in 1952, and workers and elders imprisoned. For preaching the Sabbath they were accused of boycotting the interests of the state which demands Saturday work. (How similar to Pharaoh's complaint to Moses, in Exodus 5:5!)

For preaching health reform, they are charged with undermining the country's pig-raising drive.

For preaching the Lord's tithe, they are accused of assuming the prerogatives of the state, which alone can levy taxes. And so many are now in prison for preaching the truth.

Truly, the cry of the oppressed, as they anticipate

the joy of second advent deliverance, is: "Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord; awake as in the ancient days, in the generations of old." Isa. 51:9. Though Satan does his worst, God's cause advances. Anti-clerical governments may apply the brake with ruthless vigour, yet a thousand new members have recently requested baptism in Czechoslovakia.

Other stories impressed all with the gravity of conditions just now, and led us to thank God for the faithfulness of fellow believers beyond the iron and bamboo curtains.

"EVANGELISM ON ALL FRONTS"

President J. A. McMillan, in the 2.15 p.m. session, introduced six speakers representing "Evangelism on all Fronts."

WHAT LACK I YET?

THE DISCIPLE:

"I would be perfect Lord, what lack I yet?
I come to Thee, O Christ, my mind is set
On Life, Eternal Life. Good Master, say—
Speak just those words to show to me the way.
Behold I come to Thee and humbly kneel
Before Thy face, do Thou the path reveal.
What must I do that I this life may gain?
Speak to me, Master, speak, the road make plain."

THE SAVIOUR:

"Eternal life's a gift, My child, 'tis free
To all who choose to love and follow Me!
What shalt thou do—you ask, this prize to win?
My law I've given thee, to show thy sin—
These precepts, ten, upon the heart I write
And to thy troubled mind they give true light
So needful in thy walk from earth to heav'n,
'Tis for this very thing that they are given."

THE DISCIPLE:

"Dear Lord, I cannot say—'All these I've kept
From earliest youth.' The letter I accept
Indeed as truth, but is there not one thing
That I can do—one thing that I can bring
To lay at Thy dear feet?—and then to rise
From off my knees, holding that one great prize—
The consciousness that I am right with Thee
And safe both now and for Eternity."

THE SAVIOUR:

"Give Me your heart, My child, all else beside
I'll give to you if you in Me abide;
I am the Vine and you—a branch in Me
Must constantly remain to fruitful be.
Your treasure's where your mind and heart do rest
So—go! sell! give! My friend, give for this is best,
But better with it all, give Me *thyself*
And thou wilt gain at last—ETERNAL WEALTH.

STANLEY COMBRIDGE.

First: Colporteur evangelism by Brother S. Combridge. Brother Combridge's book ministry has been wonderfully blessed by God as he has concentrated among business folk. We were reminded that: "If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public."—*Colporteur Evangelist*, page 80.

Second: Church-school evangelism by Teacher Cyril Roe. His was a testimony to the increasing need for, and fruitful ministry of, our church schools. Harvest in the Stanborough Park school is twelve baptisms this year, including four from non-Adventist homes. "I am troubled," wrote a former Watford pupil to a teacher. "I feel I'm not doing right. Will you help me?" Seed sown many months before, was bearing fruit. He is now a baptized member of the church.

Third: Health evangelism by Bible Instructor Kathleen Mahon. We could have listened much longer than the few minutes to which Miss Mahon was confined, as she told of a progressive health education programme in the New Gallery Evangelistic Centre. "Why bother, in such a place, with health matters?" is an oft-repeated question. The answer is that health matters are inseparably involved in the message of full salvation which is intended to save body, soul, and spirit.

How our hearts throbbed with grateful joy as Pastor Russell Kranz now sang of God's love. We will never forget that glorious message in song:

"Overflowing! overflowing!
Wide as the sky, and deep as the sea:
Overflowing! overflowing!
Is my Saviour's love for me."

Fourth speaker was Brother H. G. Cruttwell, intrepid and irrepressible self-supporting evangelist and leader of a team of fifty auxiliary colporteurs in North London. This band has distributed hundreds of thousands of message-filled magazines among the back-slapping Cockneys of East London, and much other missionary work has been done. Brother Cruttwell appealed for members generally to share, even though a little, in the noble work of literature evangelism.

Fifth, was veteran field evangelist, Pastor S. G. Hyde, with whose Ipswich exploits all MESSENGER readers are well acquainted. Not long ago, Ipswich had only a mere handful of members with no proper meeting place. Today, thanks to God's blessing, there are several scores of new members, fifty of whom were right there on the platform. And God has miraculously overruled so that they now have a fine, spacious, central church of their own in which to worship.

No wonder one grey haired old warrior, long since retired from full-time ministry, shouted a jubilant, "Hallelujah!"

Pledge slips for home evangelism were now distributed, which reminded us that in South England alone, there are 164 towns with populations ranging from 10,000 to 200,000, which have not yet heard an Adventist preacher. We await the result with hopeful interest. Surely right here at home there is great scope and mighty prospects for consecrated

missionary endeavour.

Sixth and final speaker at this session was Pastor C. R. Bonney, Director of the Voice of Prophecy Department. The V.O.P. is the "baby" department, but its power to reach hearts, bringing conviction, and decision for Christ, to folk who, because of their isolation or social standing might normally never be touched, has assumed giant proportions. We were glad to learn that 85 per cent of the world's population is now covered by the V.O.P. radio and correspondence school programmes. Iron and bamboo curtains are unable to exclude the influence of this newest evangelistic medium, and God is blessing it with wonderful fruitage. Weekly broadcasts are breaking down prejudice and creating goodwill, as was evidenced by many letters that were read, some from ministers of other denominations.

THE ORDINATION SERVICE

As the Town Hall clock struck four, a unique male choir slowly descended on to the platform. In the vanguard was octogenarian Pastor A. S. Rodd, dignified and patriarchal, being assisted by fellow octogenarian and equally patriarchal, Pastor S. Joyce. Possibly two score or more ordained ministers assembled with these retired stalwarts, to sing hymns of welcome and challenge on the occasion of the ordination of three workers. They were: Pastor Victor Benefield (Bournemouth), Pastor Kenneth Gammon (Bristol), and Pastor Roy Graham (Norwich).

Pastor E. B. Rudge, Northern European Division Secretary, presented the message, which was based on the call of Moses to leadership. (Exod. 4:1-5.) Brief though the story is, it tells of a man who was very timid, and who, by nature, shrank from the onerous task God called him to do. In mercy God gave assurances of adequate help. Modern counterpart to Israel is God's flock—both within and without the remnant fold. To us, and especially to the ordained workers, has been entrusted the ministry of reconciliation. Essential for fruitful service, said Pastor Rudge, is possession in the heart of the Word of reconciliation.

Of God's church we were reminded: "The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the Gospel to the world. . . .

"The church is God's fortress, His city of refuge, which He holds in a revolted world."—*Acts of the Apostles*, pages 1, 3.

We were reminded too, of God's plan to redeem a pure church, without stain or blemish (Eph. 5:26, 27), and of the glorious fulfilment of His plan as seen and described by John in Revelation 14:4.

This purpose, said Pastor Rudge, is to be achieved through the instrumentality of God's ministers.

A solemn hush fell upon that large assembly as Pastor Rudy gave the ordination charge, and Dr. Froom offered the dedicatory prayer.

We then listened to the brief testimonies of the newly ordained young men. One expressed gratitude for a wife who had led him to Christ; the others for godly parents and ministers. All were humbly

grateful to God for calling them to front-line service in time's last hour.

SERVICE OF SONG

All too soon, the tea-time hour struck. The thousands dispersed for a brief while, before reassembling for the 6.30 p.m. song service under the direction of Pastor Kranz. In harmony with the spirit of Psalm 150 which was read to us, hearts and voices were raised to God in praise. The congregation sang, helped by the spirited conducting of Brother Kranz, and all hearts were moved and entranced by the solos of Kathleen Joyce, and Phyllis Bonney; the singing of the King's Heralds Quartet; and the lovely songs by the New Gallery Choir under Brother Kranz, and the Philomel Ladies Choir under Kathleen Joyce.

This brief, bright, uplifting programme was a delightful prelude to Dr. Froom's evening study on, "The Names of Christ." The speaker showed how the many names of Jesus reveal Him as the perfect provision for man's need.

In John 14:6 He declares Himself to be the Life. He is concerned about life—about our life. He wants to make it more abundant, prosperous, of service to others, and to give it eternal significance. (John 10:11, etc.) His limitless power is shown in Matthew 28:18 and Colossians 2:9, 10, and it is this very One who is willing to dwell in our hearts in response to our faith. (Eph. 3:17.)

He is further declared to be the Truth. (John 14:6.) Truth is personalized in Him. We may know the doctrines and prophecies, but if we do not know Him, we are not really "in the truth." John 8:27 declares that "the truth shall make you free;" and verse thirty-six says: "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

It was an impressive service—an appropriate conclusion to an all-too-infrequent high day. As the Sabbath hours closed, the great assembly dispersed, everyone laden with golden memories that time will not efface.

CHANGED ATTITUDES

Sunday was hardly less impressive than the Sabbath. The programme began at 9 a.m. with Dr. Froom prefacing an exhilarating study with Deuteronomy 2:25: "This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations." Under the blessing of God, the despised and puny Israelites were no longer to be regarded as an inconsequential and motley gathering of nonentities. There was to be a completely changed attitude. Not derision, but dread; not scorn, but respect, was henceforth to characterize the attitude toward them, of the idolatrous Canaanites.

Dr. Froom's study on prophetic faith revealed a similar changing of attitude toward the remnant church today. Recovery of "the gems of divine light," their "resetting in the framework of the Gospel," and the recovery of our doctrinal and prophetic backgrounds, have caused high-circled opinion of us to change from one of contemptuous disregard to that of genuine respect and humble acknowledgment of the truth.

A Yale University professor was struck by this change, and attributed it mainly to three things, our world-wide radio work, our television programmes, and the *Prophetic Faith* volumes by Dr. Froom.

"We are a privileged people," declared the doctor.

"Amen! Amen!" responded many in that early morning congregation.

A brief break supervened before the 10.15 a.m. conference session. This, like its predecessors, proved to be lively and helpful—made even more so by the scintillating spontaneity of the chairman, Pastor J. A. McMillan.

Pastor K. Gammon presented his Temperance report, reminding us of Sister White's statement: "When temperance is presented as a part of the Gospel, many will see their need for reform. They will see the evil of intoxicating liquors and that total abstinence is the only platform on which God's people can conscientiously stand." (*Temperance*, page 238.) Little has yet been done as a church department, though many sisters are active "White Ribboners." It was hoped that "before the next Conference session, a constitution will be adopted by the British Union which will give a lead in organizing an active section of the International Temperance Association here in South England, where, with a potential membership in excess of 4,000, we shall be one of, if not the largest of temperance bodies in the territory."

PRESS RELATIONS PROSPECTS

Brother Gammon followed this, with his Press Relations Report. Gratifying success has been achieved by many Press secretaries. But with editors actually crying out for church news—there are cases where appeals for it have been published in local papers—it is clear that infinitely more can, and should, be done to publicize church activities. Our programme, in many respects, is so newsworthy, that secretaries need have no qualms about submitting regular reports. Delegate D. C. Swan from Southend, recently of South Africa, but now working for a secular newspaper, mentioned that Catholics contribute regularly to this paper, and rarely is anything excluded. Editors welcome appropriate material from whatever source.

Finally, Pastor V. Benefield submitted his Publishing Department report. This told of truly excellent progress—of sales that were simply rocketing ahead. It was clear, however, that much more should be done to scatter our truth-filled papers and bound books. Supported by Editor W. L. Emerson, General Manager J. C. Craven, and Union Secretary A. W. Cook, Brother Benefield expressed an appeal for more workers who would serve the cause of colporteur-evangelism. The manager, with forthright enthusiasm, made his appeal, informing us that the Press is about to produce even better, brighter, and hence more attractive publications in the near future, thanks to the installation of modern machinery.

We might mention that the "roving mike" had a bewildering time in the hands of Brother Combridge, as it was carried around the auditorium from speaker to speaker. We began to fear that

its lengthy lead was about to form itself into a choice bit of crochet work, until Brother Dobbs came to the rescue.

Resolutions which were brought forward at this, and all other sessions, relative to every department and phase of the work, were passed with genuine enthusiasm and without a single dissentient vote.

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Pastor W. L. Emmerson's Bible study at 2 p.m. was both timely and arresting. His theme was: "Light in the Darkness;" and the opening text was Job 37:21: "Men see not the bright light which is in the clouds." This expression of men's blindness came from the youthful Elihu while seeking to bring comfort to the suffering patriarch. Elihu here uses an impressive illustration. He envisions the roar of thunder, the flash of lightning (verses 3, 4), a storm so frightful that the beasts cower fearfully in their dens (verse 8). But beyond the gloom was the "bright light" which men so often fail to see, and of which the three miserable friends of Job, Bildad, Eliphaz, and Zophar, had been completely oblivious. Their message to Job was virtually: "You are suffering your just deserts. There is now no remedy."

Elihu, on the other hand, pointed to a benevolent, overruling God.

There is an obvious application to our own experience. Come wind, come weather, God will not desert us. The "bright light" of His presence is a fact which is unaffected by the gloom.

But there is a more spectacular application to the world scene. The storm clouds gather, thick and lowering, above a frustrated earth. "Darkness covers the earth, and gross darkness the people." Weapons today make all that we have hitherto known seem puny and weak. One hydrogen bomb releases destructive power equivalent to the total of all the German bombs dropped on Britain during World War II. Ten cobalt bombs, rightly placed, could kill all life—animal and vegetable. "The situation," said Churchill, is "both measureless and laden with doom."

But there is light in the darkness. The deafening thunders of world unrest do not invalidate the apostle's assurance of prophetic light in 2 Peter 1:19. Though others may sense only the oppressive gloom of political unrest and fearful anticipations, God's people today, like Israel of old during the Egyptian plague of darkness, may walk safely in the "bright light" of God's prophetic Word. (Exod. 10: 21:23.)

ADVANCES IN EVERY SPHERE

The 3.30 p.m. business session brought reports from Pastor A. C. Vine, Home Missionary Department secretary, and Pastor C. R. Bonney, of the V.O.P. Department. It is well known, yet regretted, that only a small proportion of missionary work done actually gets reported. Out of 4,000 members, fewer than 1,000 submitted statements of work done. Yet there were increases in every phase of service. Nearly 6,000 Bible studies were given, 24,000 missionary contacts made, 2,300,000 pieces of literature distributed (an average, incidentally, of

five pieces per member, per week); 11,000 articles of clothing given, 28,000 persons helped, and nearly £43,000 collected for missions.

"Service," we were reminded, "is a link between ourselves and our Lord."

Pastor Bonney's V.O.P. report was also heartening. Radio work is surmounting all kinds of barriers. Inquiries from listeners in every conceivable place are regularly flowing in to the office—from lighthouses, liners, and even a Catholic convent.

The Correspondence School has united with several major evangelistic campaigns, creating no prejudice whatever, but rather building up and strengthening the interest of all inquirers. In the biennium, over 8,000 applications for V.O.P. lessons came from the South England Conference territory.

Baptisms are numerous. Families have accepted the whole truth, in practice as well as in theory. In some cases converts were unaware of the existence of a nearby Adventist church.

All present for this inspiring session determined to make the September V.O.P. campaign a truly concerted and consecrated effort to win "Britain for Christ."

Pastor Kranz, our singing evangelist from "down under," led out in the "Hymns We All Love" programme on Sunday evening. His enthusiasm was infectious, even to those of us who were temporarily incapacitated by laryngitis. We sang the dear old Advent hymns. We also learned and sang a new chorus:

"It's in my heart—
This lovely melody divine.
It's in my heart,
Since I am His and He is wholly mine.
It's in my heart—
How can I help but sing and shine!
It's in my heart."

We did so well that as a special treat the King's Heralds Quartet sang for us: "Those Golden Bells."

"WHY CHRIST MUST RETURN"

Pastor Elman Folkenberg's public service followed; his theme: "History's Coming Climax." It was an immaculately presented portrayal of the world scene today. With dramatic timing, recordings of world leaders added powerfully to the purpose of the sermon. We listened to Neville Chamberlain, full of hope after the 1938 Munich fiasco. We heard Roosevelt, throbbing with emotion after the Pearl Harbour outrage. We heard the voices of those about to deliver the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

We were reminded of God's intention one day to "destroy them which destroy the earth." Rev. 11:18. Soon Christ will fulfil His ancient promise to return, and "save us from our distresses." And our hearts were cheered at the joyful prospect of imminent intervention.

An altar call revealed how deeply anxious many were to make a new beginning with God, and to have done for ever with all that would unfit them for His glorious presence.

Back to the Park church for our final morning, we began Bank Holiday Monday with a study by our Union president, Pastor W. W. Armstrong. His

was a call to rejoice always in the Lord (Phil. 4:4), and he surveyed briefly the successes in the field which were a real cause for jubilant gratitude. Pastor Armstrong emphasized that this spirit must fire the heart of every child of God, even in adversity. Paul sets us a commendable example in 2 Corinthians 4:8-11, 16.

We will never forget the testimony period that followed. There was no urging of those present to testify to God's goodness. Time was wholly inadequate to say all we wanted to say. Had Brother Armstrong permitted it, the session would cheerfully have absorbed the whole morning. We will never forget octogenarian Pastor S. Joyce's glowing tribute to God's goodness.

At 10.15 a.m. came the last business session—this time on education. A keen awareness of the vital value of Christian education, such as our schools alone can give, was very evident. May God, who knows our peculiar problems, guide and bless the efforts of all responsible for this important phase of our work.

THE FINAL SERVICE

The final service came at 11.15 a.m. Dr. Froom addressed us on the supreme importance of the latter rain. He read God's invitation in Zechariah 10:1: "Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain." He also read Romans 9:38: "For He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness." This quick work, which world conditions demand, will be accomplished only by a Spirit-filled membership and ministry. Heart-searching statements were read from the Spirit of prophecy: "The Holy Spirit awaits our demand and reception."

"It is the absence of the Holy Spirit which makes the ministry powerless."

"Without the Spirit operating, no soul will be transformed."

"When the theory of the truth is repeated without its sacred influence being felt upon the soul of the speaker, it has no force upon the hearers, but is rejected as error, the speaker making himself responsible for the loss of souls."—*Gospel Workers*, page 253.

"We are to pray and plead for the latter rain."

"The early rain was abundant; but the latter rain is to be much more abundant."

All listened with rapt attention as hindrances to the Spirit's reception were pointed out. They include: Wasting our time on trifles; satisfaction with small things; failure to appreciate Christ's righteousness; stubbornly retaining set ideas; clinging to pet sins and wrong habits; spiritual indolence; etc.

All were deeply stirred with renewed desire to swell the volume of "the loud cry" of Revelation eighteen, and therefore earnestly besought God, in the prayer season which followed, to fit us for the fullness of His enabling power. May none of us fail God: He will not fail us.

Solemn, urgent, heart-felt prayers rose to God in

continual succession. Many were still seeking to raise their petitions heavenward, when Pastor McMillan, perforce, brought that precious season to a close.

The forty-first biennial session was over. The closing hymn expressed the united feeling and prayer of all present:

"Holy Spirit, light divine,
Shine upon this heart of mine,
Chase the shades of night away,
Turn my darkness into day.

Holy Spirit, all divine,
Dwell within this heart of mine,
Cast down every idol throne,
Reign supreme, and reign alone."

"Behold the Bridegroom Cometh"—was the conference motto. The session left us all deeply anxious to respond to the command: "Go ye out to meet Him."

A Biennium of Advance in South England

By Pastor J. A. McMillan

I WISH to report with gratitude to God that the cause of truth has prospered throughout the South England Conference during the past two-year period. The following figures call for thanksgiving and joy.

MEMBERSHIP

The number of souls accepted into church fellowship by baptism and vote was 539. This was 276 more than in the previous two-year period, and is the largest accession in the history of the conference. There was a net gain in membership of 294. We mention this first of all because the growth in numbers and spiritual experience of our membership is the chief objective of our denominational activity.

These figures of increases are all the more gratifying when we realize that the Church of England communicants dropped 399,000 from 1941 to 1954. The Methodists lost 11,000 in the same period. Since 1930 the Congregational Church has lost 112,000. During the same period, the Baptists have declined by 79,000, and this past year they reported a loss of 2,732.

On the other hand, to prevent any feeling of complacency on our part, the Roman Catholics passed the 3,000,000 mark in 1954. They claim that within the next five years, Catholics in Britain will outnumber all the other religious bodies put together.

We must never neglect the primary commission of our Lord, "Go ye . . . make disciples. . . teaching them to observe all things, whatsoever I have commanded you." There are now 51 churches, and

17 companies in the Conference, with a total membership of 4,050 at the end of December, 1954. Serving this membership are 28 ordained ministers, 14 licenced ministers, and 13 Bible instructors.

CHURCH BUILDINGS

We are also happy to report that since the last conference session, eight new church buildings have been erected or purchased. Two former Methodist churches were purchased in Swindon and Ipswich. In Taunton, Bath, and Gillingham existing buildings have been bought and dedicated to God's worship and the preaching of the Gospel. Two new church buildings have been erected in Bristol, and Chiswick has built a new youth hall. Lowestoft is completing its new church building this summer. We have secured sites for church buildings in Brixton, Ealing, and Slough. These three churches urgently need a building in which to worship and conduct the many-sided activities of communal church life. In the case of Brixton, the site has not proved acceptable, but in the others, the necessary cash is still needed to meet the cost. We must help these smaller church groups to erect a suitable memorial to the truth in their localities.

TITHES AND INGATHERING

We thankfully report a good increase in the tithes, £18,076 more than in the preceding period. The Lord has prospered our people and given them faithful hearts to support His work both at home and abroad. The Sabbath school offerings were up by £1,951 and the Ingathering by £6,771. British Advent Missions holds in trust some twenty-three houses as residences for our conference workers.

CHURCH SCHOOLS

Our four church schools enjoy a reasonable patronage. We have a loyal and qualified group of teachers who carry on their work under somewhat restricted conditions. It is interesting to note that we are not alone in struggling with church school problems. In London, out of 940 primary schools, 280 are church schools. Many of these are conducted in condemned buildings. One is even known as "The Cowshed" and Sir David Eccles, Minister of Education, calls many of them "shockers." Wimbledon is our worst problem and we trust that steps may soon be taken to help Sister Ridger and her associate to conduct their school in more congenial quarters.

The problem of feeding our school with trained and consecrated teachers is receiving earnest attention. We stand in need of several teachers at the present time to fill vacancies that will be occurring soon. We believe that Bristol should be planning to open a new church school when the question of teachers has been settled.

THE WORKER FORCE

We welcome at this time Pastor Elman J. Folkenberg who arrived early in the new year to head up the evangelistic team at the New Gallery.

Other workers who have joined our worker force since the last conference session include Pastors J. M. Howard, R. M. Kranz, J. R. Lewis, A. J. Mustard, P. Stearman, and Brethren T. A. Benwell, K. Clothier, A. G. Freeman, D. P. McClure, J. G. Munson, G. Norman, and I. Kinnersley.

Pastor L. Murdoch who has laboured for twenty-nine years in Scotland and North England has just come to us and will be district leader in the Bristol area. During this past year Pastor Murdoch has conducted an evangelistic campaign in Iceland.

A further recent addition to our worker force is Pastor J. Freeman who comes to us from Wales in place of Pastor H. E. Bull who is proceeding to Wales.

The ministry has toiled to strengthen the faith and numbers of our churches. They have sown and planted and the Lord has given the increase. We praise God for His watch care over His work and workers.

APPRECIATION

It has been my privilege to enjoy the help and association of efficient and loyal workers in the administration of the conference during the past two years. Brother Clement works assiduously to serve the financial needs of the workers and churches. The secretaries of the departments have laboured to promote the interests of the work under their care. In the publishing department, Brother F. C. Barfoot has been appointed as assistant publishing secretary, to foster the publishing interests in the Greater London area. The Conference Executive Committee has been the strongest in my experience.

While we express a goodly measure of satisfaction as to the progress attained during the past two years, we would impress on the hearts of all our workers and members that there is still much to accomplish. We must stretch our faith to greater lengths. We must seek for more power in prayer and piety. We must win more souls for the kingdom while probation lingers. The Lord's messenger has written these solemn words:

"Let us be thankful every moment for God's forbearance with our tardy, unbelieving movements. Instead of flattering ourselves with the thought of what we have done, after doing so little, we are to labour still more earnestly. We are not to cease our efforts or relax our vigilance. Never is our zeal to grow less. Our spiritual life must be daily revived by the stream that makes glad the city of our God. We must always be on the watch for opportunities to use for God the talents He has given us."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 8, page 27.

A Profitable South England Workers' Council

By Pastor J. R. Lewis

FIFTY-FIVE conference workers and their wives met for counsel and discussion at Stanborough Park

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

from Monday, July 25th to July 28th, under the chairmanship of the president, J. A. McMillan, and with Dr. L. E. Froom and Elder H. L. Rudy of the General Conference as visiting brethren, Pastor E. B. Rudge was present from the Northern European Division.

"Preach the Word so that it will be easy to comprehend," exhorted Pastor McMillan early in the council, as he outlined the scope of the studies and topics of the gathering. This quotation from *Evangelism*, page 178, was hung over the rostrum to remind the preachers and Bible instructors that they were to "bring the people right to Jesus Christ, in whom their hopes of eternal life are centred. . . . As you bring them the Word of God, presenting it in a simple style, the seed will grow, and after a time you will have a harvest. The seed sowing is your work: the propagation of the seed is the Lord's divine work."

It was in harmony with this quotation that the papers presented by various workers should be on the craft of preaching. Preaching was declared to be a fine art, requiring as much thought by the minister as the practice of medicine by a doctor. There was the preacher who gave "his beloved sleep," and there was the preacher who moved people to cry out, "What shall we do to be saved?"

Coming from the New Gallery, Elder E. J. Folkenberg, told the assembly *what* they were to preach. They were to uplift Jesus Christ. In the discussion which followed it was agreed that every doctrinal truth presented to the public should be presented as a vehicle for better illustration of the saving Gospel of Our Lord.

Elder S. G. Hyde from Ipswich gave much good counsel on *how* to preach. We should preach "with authority," he said. And who better could so counsel us than this veteran evangelist who has just raised up a fine church in East Anglia.

Along with the older ministers came the young men. Newly ordained Pastor Roy Graham came from the Duchy of Cornwall. His thoughtful paper on preaching encouraged other new recruits freshly weaned from the College to stand up and air their problems as they found them in taking up their life work.

"And what more should we say." For the space would fail me to tell of Pastor Conroy and his views on visual aids (a well-focused approach indeed), of Pastor J. M. Howard, pastor of Holloway Church and also chaplain of Pentonville, of Pastor K. Gammon, from Watford, (a well illustrated talk on how to illustrate), and several

others who by faith rendered a good report, to the edification of their fellow labourers in the Gospel.

"The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers" was the theme of the spirited addresses of Dr. Froom. "Adventists should be foremost," he challenged. "We should be the head, and not the tail." The speaker spoke of the burden laid upon his heart for the upper strata of society. This burden, he illustrated, telling of his contacts with heads of universities, and editors of the world's leading religious journals, scholars, and reviewers. Doctor Froom's work in research has been monumental, a fact readily acknowledged by more than one reviewer. That in itself was good. But the denomination was beginning to see that the published results of that research were having repercussions for good on a wider and higher scale than had ever been envisaged. An American religious journal, for instance, had been about to publish a series of articles deprecating the work of Adventists. As a result of Elder Froom's work, the magazine cancelled the derogatory articles.

There was great need, stressed this scholar, that Adventist preachers address themselves to their vocation with a new vision. The minister must not be content with the mediocre. It was the counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy that ministers should prepare themselves to meet those who mould public opinion. Such action would prepare the world for the "loud cry," when the Advent church would be seen in a blaze of glory.

Those who feed others must themselves be fed. The spiritual needs of the pastorate were attended to in a series of devotional hours. Among those who spoke at these sessions were Elder H. L. Rudy, (The Spirit is God's greatest gift to the ministry), and Pastor R. D. Vine from the Editorial department of the Stanborough Press, (God is the Maker and Lover of Beauty, particularly of the beautiful in the character of the Gospel ambassador), and Pastor W. L. Emmerson, (Let us not "limit" the power of God). The union president, Pastor W. W. Armstrong, and the Voice of Prophecy principal, Pastor C. R. Bonney, were also preachers whose messages were much appreciated.

The working force of the Conference, never so strong as it is today, cannot but be grateful to its administrative officers for the blessings the Council sessions provided.

The lay members of the Conference might well take courage from the growing force of pastors, evangelists, Bible-instructors, and school teachers. May the blessing of God be upon them all as they return from this Council to minister in your midst.

Till the Day Dawn

GILCHRIST.—We regret to announce the passing of our dear Sister Gilchrist on July 7, 1955, at the age of eighty-one years. She had a fall in her room at the Dell Rest Home, Lowestoft, on March 17th, and sustained a fracture. She was transferred to the Stanborough's Hydro on March 30th, where she was cared for until her death. Our dear sister was laid to rest in Garston cemetery on July 15th, to

await the call of the great Life-giver.
F. FITCHER.

BROWN.—It is with deep regret that we record the death, on July 27, 1955, of Sister Hannah Brown, at the age of seventy-six years. Sister Brown was baptized in the Plymouth church in June, 1939, by Pastor L. G. Hardinge, and has been a faithful member of the Torquay church ever since, being a regular attender on the Sabbath until a few weeks before her death.

All who knew her will remember the faithfulness with which she served the church she loved. The funeral service was conducted by Pastor R. Bolton, and our sister was laid to rest in the Torquay Cemetery, in the sure and certain hope of a glorious resurrection. To her sorrowing relatives we extend our sincere sympathy, commending them to the love and care of God that their hearts may possess that peace which passeth all understanding.

CHURCH CLERK.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE BIENNIAL SESSIONS

GRATITUDE AND THANKSGIVING

WE EXPRESS our deep gratitude to our heavenly Father for His many blessings since our last Biennial Session.

Particularly are we grateful for the precious souls that have been added to our membership, our good financial position, the erection and purchase of new church buildings, for the health and prosperity of our members, together with many other indications of the progressive development of the work.

We are also happy to record the unity and loyalty of the church and its willingness to serve and to sacrifice, and rejoice in the privilege of now re-dedicating our lives, our talents, and our possessions as we go forward together to finish the work.

INGATHERING

WE EXPRESS to God our thanks for so richly blessing our endeavours in the 1955 Ingathering Campaign, and also our sincere gratitude for the faithful work of our loyal members. We would also express our hope that even more of our membership in future might enjoy this enriching experience of service for the Master.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

WHEREAS, faithfulness in tithes and offerings is a divinely appointed plan for the support of the ministry and the extension of the Gospel message, and has always brought upon God's people His promised blessing,

Resolved, 1. That we express our appreciation to the membership for their faithfulness and liberality in this respect and reaffirm our loyalty to this principle.

2. Further, that we urge those of our membership, who as yet have not fully entered into the privilege of tithing, to do so and thereby receive the promised blessing.

3. That in order to implement this, our ministers be urged to present the subject of faithful stewardship from time to time throughout the year.

RADIO AND BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL

WHEREAS, God's call to the church for a speedy finishing of the work demands the uniting of all our forces; and it is recognized that the radio work and Bible Correspondence School are of God's appointment and a means whereby the members can unite with aggressive evangelism for the millions in our territory,

WE RECOMMEND, That in September each year we unite in a "Britain for Christ" month, when our whole worker and membership force be organized to cover as much territory as possible with our Voice of Prophecy cards, inviting people to take our Bible Correspondence Courses, including our new course for young people.

HOME MISSIONARY WORK

WHEREAS, in apostolic times the growth of the church resulted from the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, evidenced by the personal witness of the individual members, and

WHEREAS, the work will be finished by the same power and consecrated witnessing,

Resolved, 1. That a definite call to full consecration be sounded in every church before the end of 1955, and 2. That collectively and individually we constantly plead for the Holy Spirit's power for effective witnessing in the various lines of Christian service.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

IN VIEW of the inspired counsel from the servant of the Lord that "wise plans should be laid" to use the secular press for the publicity of matter relating to church activities and teachings,

We recommend, wherever churches and districts have thus far been deprived of the undoubted value of positive publicity in the secular press through lack of secretaries, that such secretaries be appointed at the earliest opportunity, and that nominating committees keep this in mind when recommending officers for 1956.

SABBATH SCHOOL WORK

WHEREAS, the Sabbath School is a proven source of spiritual strength to the membership,

Resolved, 1. That we call upon the ministers and church officers of this conference to make a very earnest endeavour to enlist every church-member not already enlisted in the Sabbath School, and

2. That we encourage all Sabbath School members to study the lesson daily, and

3. That we endeavour to raise the efficiency of our Sabbath School teachers by institutes, regular teachers' meetings, and the use of the *Sabbath School Worker*.

4. That we operate more Branch Sabbath Schools, and also, wherever possible, Sunday Schools as an evangelistic effort on behalf of the children in the neighbourhood of our churches.

CHILD EVANGELISM

WHEREAS, junior-age youth are forming attitudes toward God, the church, and the world which determine destiny, and

WHEREAS, the age ten to fifteen is characterized by surplus energy, passion for adventure, and reaching toward God,

We recommend, 1. That every church leader do his utmost to make the church attractive to these junior youth, by a. providing a positive church-

centred activity programme; b. providing adequate facilities and equipment for JMV meetings, childrens' Sabbath School and Sunday School classes.

2. That where the need exists MV Pathfinder Clubs be organized, and

3. That through the medium of Master Guide training, and the MV Pathfinder Counsellor Training Course, we endeavour to provide leaders who will lead our youth into active evangelism for fellow youth.

CHURCH SCHOOL BUILDINGS

WHEREAS, we are genuinely concerned at the perils to the spiritual life of our children and young people, as represented in the materialistic philosophies now commonly accepted in educational circles and increasingly taught in the schools of our land, and

WHEREAS, We feel that where possible our children and youth should be trained by Adventist teachers in harmony with the very definite counsel of the Spirit of prophecy,

We recommend, That every well-established church begin a Church School Building Fund and that we request the British Union Committee to inaugurate a Union policy of assistance for the provision of suitable premises in which to operate church schools.

COLPORTEUR-EVANGELISM

WHEREAS, our publishing work in the past has proved a most effective agency in bringing men and women to a knowledge of the truth and of winning souls to Christ, and

WHEREAS, the vision of the future assures us that "more than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first conviction to the reading of our publications,"

We recommend, 1. That we urge and encourage all churchmembers and church officers to be more diligent and earnest in the wider circulation of our message-filled literature;

2. That suitable young men and women in our churches be encouraged to give their full time to the colporteur ministry, and that they take advantage of the special training facilities offered by the Publishing Department;

3. That our evangelists, pastors, and church elders recommend to the Publishing Secretary individuals who might be enlisted and trained in the literature ministry;

4. That where promising individuals are unable to devote their full-time to colporteur-evangelism, they be encouraged to work as Auxiliary Colporteurs, and that we emphasize the importance of organizing more Auxiliary Colporteur Bands in our churches.

CHURCH BUILDING FUNDS (SOUTH ENGLAND)

WHEREAS, we recognize the encouragement and blessing that have come in recent years to our people who have acquired new or more suitable places of worship, and

WHEREAS, we recognize there are still groups of believers that lack representative meeting places,

We recommend, That in those places where the need exists for improved facilities of worship, such churches take immediate steps to establish a local Church Building Fund.

CHURCH BUILDINGS (IRELAND)

WHEREAS it is essential to the spiritual welfare of the church of God and to successful soul-winning evangelism that we have suitable places of worship representative of the message we proclaim,

Resolved, 1. That we express our appreciation to the Northern European Division and the British Union Conference for the interest they have shown in providing financial assistance to meet this great need.

2. That we record the special need that has arisen in Portadown for a house of worship, that there the many new converts recently won to the faith might be consolidated.

3. That our gratitude also be expressed to our membership who have contributed so willingly and so well, appealing to them that they continue their liberality towards our church building funds. And it was further

Voted, That the British Union Conference be asked to give consideration to the establishment of a General Church Building Fund among our churches, to be applied for the assistance of those places where the need is greatest.

EVANGELISM IN WALES

WHEREAS there are nine counties in the Welsh Mission in which there is no organized church or company, and

WHEREAS the everlasting Gospel has to reach the whole population before the return of our Lord,

We recommend, That at least two of these counties be entered within this two-year period with the object of organizing at least one church or company in each.

OUR COLLEGE (SCOTLAND)

WHEREAS the commission of preaching the Gospel in all the world is the responsibility of the church in this generation, and

WHEREAS there is an urgent need for trained British workers,

Resolved that our youth be constantly urged to dedicate their talents and lives to the service of God in our cause and that they prepare themselves for this task by attending Newbold Missionary College; and

WHEREAS it has been found that less than five per cent of our young people who have attended Newbold Missionary College apostatize, and

WHEREAS young people are increasingly having to meet subtle philosophies which are undermining the faith,

Resolved, That all our young people be encouraged to spend at least a year at Newbold College, especially those planning to enter the professions.

RETIREMENT OF MISSIONS SECRETARY-TREASURER (MISSIONS)

Voted, That appreciation be expressed to Mr. W. G. Baldry for his years of faithful service as Missions Secretary, and that the delegates wish him the blessing of God and many further years of usefulness.

THANKS TO GENERAL CONFERENCE, N. E. DIVISION, AND BRITISH UNION

Voted, That we express our thanks to the General Conference for making possible the visit to us of Elder H. L. Rudy and Dr. L. E. Froom, and to these brethren for their most helpful admonition and instruction.

The Northern European Division and British Union brethren whose ministry has been so much appreciated.

South England Conference

President: Pastor J. A. McMillan

Office Address: 25 St. Johns Road, Watford

Telephone: Gadebrook 2728

President's Notes

WE have concluded a most successful Workers' meeting and Conference session at Watford. The Lord was most evidently with us and the services throughout were seasons of spiritual revival. We are grateful to the General Conference for the help given by Pastor H. L. Rudy and Dr. L. E. Froom, also for the ministry of brethren from the Division and Union offices. We also deeply appreciated the services rendered by the members of the many committees, whose work contributed to the success and smooth operation of the entire session.

ON the Sabbath afternoon, an appeal for funds to strengthen our evangelistic work was made. It is not always recognized that we have 164 cities and towns in South England with a population from 10,000 to 200,000, which have never heard an Adventist preacher. We plan to open up one of these cities in the autumn of next year. It may be Oxford or Cambridge—the two great university cities. Oxford, with a population of over 100,000 has never been touched. Our members present pledged £626. 7s. 6d. We will need double this amount to open up a campaign in either of these key cities.

The Lord has declared: "The work in England might now be much farther advanced than it is if our brethren, at the beginning of the work there, had not tried to work in so cheap a way. If they had hired good halls, and carried forward the work as though we had great truths, which would surely be victorious, they would have had greater success. God would have the work started in such a way that the first impressions given shall be, as far as they go, the very best that can be made."—*Gospel Workers*, page 462.

We appeal to you to pledge a gift for evangelism. The pledge may be redeemed up to Decem-

ber 31, 1955. Here is an opportunity to invest in a soul-saving project within our own territory. All pledges should be sent to J. A. Clement at the conference office. Thank you.

J. A. McMILLAN.

"O Happy Day"

FOR the members of the Gillingham church, Sabbath, July 23rd, was a very happy day. Practically the whole membership journeyed to our church at Folkestone to witness the baptism of six of their young people—two sisters and four brethren. Two of the young men are from one family.

In a brief address, the writer, who also baptized the candidates, said that these young people had chosen a *Way* in which to walk. The word "way" was used in the early church for this walk. It is a safe Way, for it leads to the life immortal; it is an old and tried Way, for all the saints of all ages have chosen and walked in this Way; it is a true Way, for Jesus Himself walked in this safe and tried Way. May these dear young people walk in this way till the journey shall end.

The hymn chosen by one of the candidates to be sung as they rose from the water, was: "O happy day, that fixed my choice, on Thee my Saviour and my God."

We thank the Folkestone church for the floral decorations, and for their helpful co-operation in making preparations for this happy service.

L. E. A. LANE.

North England Conference

President: Pastor J. H. Bayliss

22 Zulla Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham

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Service of Music and Song at the North England Conference Session

THE Sabbath hours were passing. A day of rich spiritual blessings was drawing to a close, and as the sun lost some of its daytime strength and drew nearer the horizon, the Camp Hill Church began to fill with people who were fortunate enough to enjoy to the last moment the services of the North England Conference Sabbath.

As the strains of the organ voluntarily died away, Pastor Derek Mustow welcomed the congregation and invited us to join in the worship of anthem and song. Praise was the keynote of the opening hymn and prayer, and the theme was continued in the one hundred and fiftieth Psalm read by Pastor E. H. Foster.

The choir first sang the anthem, "Open the Gates of the Temple," as arranged by Ernest Dick. As the programme proceeded we found that Jesus our Saviour, our Refuge, and our Redeemer was

the central theme. As Pastor Foster unfolded the sweetness and the power of the Gospel, by soloist and choir the message was emphasized by such items as "Jesus is the sweetest name I know," "Seek ye the Lord," and "From every stormy wind that blows." Pastor Mustow's solo, with the choral interludes, showed how the power of song can affect the life of a sinner, and be the means of drawing him to Christ.

Into hearts that have responded to the love of Christ comes the message, "Be still my soul, the Lord is on thy side." With this reassurance all can join in the hope as expressed by Charles Marsh in the "Glad Day" of Christ's re-appearing. How wonderful to meet Jesus in the clouds! But meanwhile, "What a friend we have in Jesus." The choir's descant made the singing of this hymn something different from the usual congregational singing.

Pastor Foster refreshed our memories with some of the joys and wonders of the kingdom "Over yonder, down by the crystal sea," and surely our own hearts joined in the "Longing" as the choir sang these two songs composed by Henry Fluiter.

We of today, as God's remnant people, are His messengers. We are to plead with those who know not Christ, "Come unto Him." The choir sang this appealing message from "Olivet to Calvary." "Tell it to every kindred," the choir continued, for "Jesus is coming again."

"Soon the Gospel message will be over. Soon the last sermon will be preached, the last soul saved, the last opportunity offered." Until that dread day our prayer shall be, "Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah."

With the strains of that grand hymn ringing in our ears, the benediction was pronounced, and a service of praise, music, and enjoyment came to a close. Another Sabbath spent in Conference fellowship had ended.

Our thanks are extended to Pastor Mustow, his wife, and the Birmingham Choir, who must have given much of their time to prepare this excellent programme; to Brother Pilmoor for his very skilful portrayal of Christ and the lamb drawn in chalks while the choir sang; and to Pastor Foster for narrating.

The sacred music sung at this evening service will remain with us during the months to come, and will give us a song in our hearts as we go on God's errands.

I. J. HULBERT.

What's Cooking?

WE didn't know. Neither did the sixty members and friends in Birmingham who crowded into the home of Dr. Huse on Wednesday afternoon, August 10th. They had come to see, hear, and taste at a vegetarian cookery demonstration given by Mrs. Huse. All were more than interested as they saw several dishes prepared and cooked . . . then they knew what was cooking! They were well pleased as they tasted the delightful dishes.

During the period while the dishes were cooking Brother Pilmoor spoke on the importance and reasons for such a health message held by the church.

It was an enjoyable afternoon well spent and all left amply satisfied and filled—with new ideas of new dishes.

We are reminded of two statements from the messenger of the Lord: "The people are to be taught HOW to prepare wholesome food. . . . The work of teaching the people HOW to prepare a dietary that is at once wholesome and appetizing, is of the utmost importance."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, page 112.

"This work is the door through which the truth is to find entrance to the large cities."—*Counsels on Health*, page 392.

Brethren and sisters, this open door comes as a challenge to every home to let our light so shine and to Share our Faith!

BRIAN PILMOOR.

Oldham "Youth for Christ" Service

SUNDAY, June 5th, seemed to be *the* day here in Oldham. Everything, except our nerves, was fine. Yes, even the sun was shining. Then, sooner than I expected, it was 6.30 p.m., and time for the evening service. After one or two last-minute alterations, by force of circumstances, before the service, Pastor C. W. Knowlson and the young people met in their own room to have a short season of prayer. We felt more at ease after prayer and Henry Oddie, Janet Baker, and I took our places on the platform. After silent prayer, Janet announced the first hymn which was, "O Thou whose feet have climbed life's hill." The Scripture was read by myself and was taken from Exodus, chapter 20: 1-17, Pastor Knowlson then led us in prayer.

We were very pleased to have Miss Therese Schibanetz with us, and she sang for us a very lovely solo, "Beyond the Sunset." This item was followed by a short talk given to us by Miss Irene Berry, a Voice of Prophecy student. Irene chose Jude, verse 21, for her opening text as she spoke on "Obedience." This interesting talk was followed by the very well known children's hymn, "Jesus is our Shepherd." Christopher Knowlson and Graham Robinson then gave two short recitations. Our visiting young people from Rochdale sang for us two of their favourite hymns interspersed with "Rochdale" items, namely, a well known Scripture reading by David Crossley and a touching missions story by Philip Wright. These contributions were greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all.

We don't like to see visitors working too hard, so Miss Janet Baker read that lovely poem, "Thank You God for Trees" by Marie Polano. The offering was then received, followed by a short talk given by Henry Oddie. His texts were Mark 9:1-9.

Therese and Mrs. Hayward then sang a duet very beautifully. The hymn, "I would be, dear Saviour, wholly Thine," and the benediction by Henry Oddie, closed a very profitable and refreshing evening.

We are sure that it was enjoyed by all, and I know that our young people will be only too pleased to take part in more such meetings.

WANDA SENINGER,
Assistant Y.P. Leader.



At Rest

Grace Agnes Clarke

GRACE AGNES CLARKE was born in Gloucester, England, September 1, 1898, and passed away in Nairobi, Kenya, July 18, 1955. Her parents, Herbert David and Agnes Kate Clarke, joined the Seventh-Day Adventist church under the labours of Elder Washburn before they were married. For many years Brother Clarke carried important responsibilities in the work in England.

After a period of work in the Granose factory and as a Bible Instructor in England, Sister Clarke, in 1921, accepted a call to mission service in Kenya. For twelve years she was headmistress in the Girl's School at Kamagambo Training School, and later she spent several years in the Girl's School at Nyanchwa. For seven years she was secretary-treasurer of the Kenya Mission.

From 1944 to the time of her death, Sister Clarke carried the responsibility of the Luo and Swahili translation work. Because of her proficiency in Luo she was appointed by the British and Foreign Bible Society as one of the translators of the Old Testament into Luo. She also completed the manuscript of an English-Luo dictionary.

Because of her translation work in both Luo and Swahili, and because of the textbooks which she prepared, Grace Clarke was widely known in South Nyanza and other parts of East Africa. The wives of some of our leading African workers owe their training to her. During her thirty-four years of

service in the mission field, Grace endeared herself to the African people. The influence of her devotion will long be felt in East Africa.

She leaves to mourn, one sister, Margaret Gwynedd, who is in mission service in East Africa, a brother, Elder D. J. Clarke, in mission service in West Africa, and a brother, G. J. Clarke, who is in business in Brazil.

The funeral service was conducted by the writer, assisted by Pastors D. K. Short, R. J. Wieland, and F. E. Schlehuber. A large group of workers and friends met in the little Karura mission church to pay their last respects to the deceased. We then laid our sister to rest in the mission cemetery where rests another beloved worker, Pastor J. V. Wilson, there to await the call of the Life-giver.

E. D. HANSON.

Judson S. Washburn

JUDSON S. WASHBURN was born in Waukon, Iowa, April 24, 1863, and died July 21, 1955, aged ninety-two years. When only twenty years of age he was principal of a high school. He left this to become a Seventh-Day Adventist minister. In 1884 he married Orra Ellen Riddle. They later had four children, the youngest dying in infancy. Although this church was young and unpopular at that time, yet Elder Washburn laboured with great zeal and made many sacrifices to win souls to Christ. From twenty-two to ninety-two he was a minister for God. The first few years of his ministry he laboured in the Middle West of the United States. Then he was sent to Washington,

D.C. in 1890, but after only one year, he received a call to Great Britain. There he remained for ten years, working indefatigably in Bath, Bristol, Kettering, London, Swansea, Cardiff, and Southampton. He then returned to Washington, where, greatly aided by his wife, acting as secretary and singing for his meetings, he established the original Washington Memorial Church. Following the destruction of the headquarters in Battle Creek, Michigan, by fire, it was Elder Washburn who felt impressed that Takoma Park would be an ideal spot for a sanitarium, college, and church headquarters, having the advantage of not only beautiful rural surroundings, but also being close to the nation's capital. Later Elder Washburn conducted extensive evangelistic meetings in Memphis and Nashville, Tenn., Philadelphia, Toledo, Wilmington, Wheeling, Baltimore, Hagerstown, Martinsburg, and other places. His first wife died in 1932. In 1946 he married Mrs. C. Brown. Her death occurred July, 1953. Seven months later he lost his only son, Forrest Washburn, in February, 1954. He resided with his daughter, Mrs. Grace Tewalt. He had a remarkable constitution but this summer's heat seemed to bring on his final illness which lasted only a few days. Judson S. Washburn lived a consistent Christian life. He had many friends all over the world. His whole life was devoted to God and humanity and he was sincerely loved by many. He fully expected to meet His Saviour. He will be missed by his daughters, Mrs. Tewalt and Mrs. Moore also his sister Mrs. Mabel Balzer. May God comfort them.

MRS. GRACE WASHBURN TEWALT.

Advertisement

"AUDANGELA RESIDENCE" has vacancies for elderly retired ladies as paying guests. Personal supervision. Ex-nurse. Write in the first instance to: Columbia Guest House, 15 Cannon Place, Brighton. Phone Brighton 26642.

SUNSET CALENDAR

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	Lon'n	Car'ff	Edin	Not'm	Bel't
Aug. 26th	8.01	8.14	8.25	8.09	8.32
Sept. 2nd	7.46	7.59	8.07	7.53	8.15

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

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EDITOR: W. L. EMMERSON

Listen to the Voice of Prophecy—Radio Luxembourg

FRIDAYS. 208 metres.

Friday, September 2nd, at 11 p.m.

"DOES OVEREATING SHORTEN LIFE?"

(DOCTOR'S TALK)

Friday, September 9th, at 11 p.m.

"GOD HAS A TIME-TABLE"