

BRITISH ADVENT

MESSENGER

ORGAN OF THE BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

The Church at Study

By E. R. WARLAND

Sabbath-School Secretary, British Union Conference

PERHAPS it is because it was here before even the oldest of us was born, because we have grown up with it, that we are sometimes inclined to take it all for granted—the Sabbath school. It is so characteristically *Adventist*, so uniquely *ours*, that we may not even have considered the possibility of it passing from us, or what our church life would be like now and in the future without it.

For well over a century the Sabbath-school lessons have played an important part in the formation of personal character and in developing the talents of both young and old in the church. Its influence upon this movement is incalculable. It has not only indoctrinated the membership and been in many homes a keystone of the daily family altar, it has also provided the means and the men to pioneer the Advent movement into many new lands. In fact, it would be impossible to name a mission field which has not received its support, and difficult to find a missionary who is not indebted in no small way to the Sabbath school for his missionary vision and zeal.

So we feel honoured to bring to you this report of the life and work of our British Sabbath schools during the past quadrennium—the first four years of the second century in the life of this virile institution, whose vigour increases with age and whose contribution to the growth and stability of the church enlarges year by year.

We have in these islands 163 Sabbath schools with an average enrolment during the four years of 1,191 children and 5,557 adults, a total of 6,748. This is an increase of 429 compared with the previous quadrennium. The average attendance each week has been just under 5,000. Though the members of the school only meet together once a week, this institution functions every day of the week for the member who is faithful in his daily lesson study. To encourage children in forming this excellent habit we still issue the quarterly Perfect Record Card to those under fourteen years of age.

It is our objective and constant endeavour to



have every churchmember a student in the Sabbath school. Why should not *every* Adventist enjoy the blessings of study and fellowship which it affords? As the aged, the infirm, those living at a distance from the church, and those whose legitimate Sabbath duties prevent their regular personal attendance can be enrolled in the Home Division, why should the goal of 100 per cent member enrolment not be possible? What, however, do our figures reveal? That only 70 per cent of our British Union churchmembers are enrolled in Sabbath school. The percentage varies, of course, in different churches; some having up to 90 per cent enrolled and others as low as 50 per cent. What a challenge this should be to us all—to the *ministry* first as the shepherds of the flock, and also to *church elders* and *Sabbath-school officers*. Think of it, brethren and sisters, nearly a third of the membership not enrolled in Sabbath school! A total of nearly 2,400 members!

In a few cases the Sabbath school has itself been somewhat to blame for this situation. But from our own observation of schools large and small in all sections of the Union, we would say that in the main our schools are well conducted and are a credit to the denominational standards. Of course, we have not yet reached our *ideals*, but we believe the reason for non-attendance generally lies, not with the school but with the individual.

RALLIES AND CONVENTIONS

Through district rallies and conventions, as well as by correspondence and personal contact, your

Sabbath school departmental secretaries have consistently endeavoured to raise the standard of their Sabbath schools and the efficiency of the teachers. Particular mention should be made of a series of conventions held in 1956, when the theme was "The Shepherd Teacher." At these we were fortunate in having the help and counsel of Pastor M. E. Lind, the Sabbath School Secretary for the Northern European Division. In February of that year long week-end conventions, incorporating practice with the theory in "workshops" or study groups were held at Milford-on-Sea for South England, at Newport for Wales, at Sheffield for North England, and at Glasgow for Scotland. In October a similar series of meetings was held in Ireland.

That our teachers are conscious of their God-given responsibility and are anxious to improve their teaching standards is evidenced in many ways of which we will mention two in particular.

"SABBATH SCHOOL WORKER"

First, the increase in *Sabbath School Worker* subscriptions. During the quadrennium, 1950-53, we steadily promoted this good periodical and were happy to report to you four years ago that no less than 360 copies were coming into this field every month, chiefly for our teachers. We then made it our objective to have as many subscriptions as we have Sabbath school teachers. We are happy to report that the figure has continued to rise until by the end of last year, December, 1957, for our 543 classes we had 573 subscriptions for *The Sabbath School Worker*. We, therefore, feel confident that few, if any, of our teaching staff fail to have the regular help and inspiration of this splendid periodical.

But the help of the *Sabbath School Worker* is by no means confined to teachers. We would strongly recommend it for ministers, Bible instructors, church elders—in fact all who wish to be up-to-date regarding the operation of the modern Sabbath school, informed of its progress, and equipped for its service. Of course, for teachers, particularly those for the children's division, it is absolutely indispensable.

THE SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHERS' COURSE

The second illustration of the keenness of our teachers to develop their talents and efficiency is found in the number who have purchased the textbook for the new Sabbath school teachers' course. No fewer than 370 copies of the *Handbook*, and 180 of *You Are a Teacher* have gone into the field. A number have already qualified for the Sabbath school teachers' certificate, and we hope that many more will do so in the near future.

SABBATH SCHOOL COUNCIL AND TEACHERS' MEETINGS

Any of us who has experience in the operation of an ordinary day school will know how important is the regular staff meeting. In fact, no educational institution would think of operating without it. It is, therefore, with regret and concern that we report that less than forty of our 163 schools hold committee or council meetings and only thirteen hold

regular teachers' meetings. In other words, only one Sabbath school in every four is guided by a committee or Sabbath-school council, to use the modern terminology. In only one of every twelve schools do teachers gather together for prayer and study of the school and its lessons.

To say that this has been the situation for decades does not lessen the gravity of it. We recognize that there are difficulties in certain places, but we believe that in the main these can be largely overcome when once the value of the Sabbath-school council and the teachers' meeting are recognized.

BAPTISMS

This department of the church is always glad to have the support of the ministry, whose regular and punctual attendance is a source of encouragement to its officers. In many cases conference workers are the teachers of certain classes, particularly when newly interested people are feeling their way into church fellowship. Experience shows that those who become regular attenders of Sabbath school prior to baptism, usually make our spiritually strongest members. We are, therefore, glad to report that 206 Sabbath-school members were baptized in 1954, 152 in 1955, 189 in 1956, and 266 in 1957, making a total of 813 for the quadrennium. This was an increase of 110 over the previous four years.

BRANCH SABBATH SCHOOLS AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS

We are all well acquainted with statements by Sister White underlining the importance of soul winning in the Sabbath school. We, therefore, wish we could report the large number of branch Sabbath schools of which we read in reports from overseas fields. Actually, during the past four years the number of our branch Sabbath schools has fluctuated from three to seven, with an enrolment of 18 to 44. What a wonderful evangelistic agency the Sabbath school would be in this field if during the coming quadrennium every organized Sabbath school had at least one branch school in operation! Sabbath-school officers and ministers who believe in lay-evangelism, will you not make this a definite objective for your school at your very next committee meeting—or council as we now call it?

Though we only have a few branch Sabbath schools we are happy to say that twenty Sunday schools, with an enrolment of nearly 500 non-Adventist children, have been in operation throughout this quadrennium. Some of these are very efficient and effective. We take this opportunity to commend the self-sacrificing love for Christ and His "little ones" that motivates the officers and teachers in our schools. They give up many hours of this working day to bring Jesus into the lives and the homes of non-Adventist children. There is no easy task, but it is richly rewarding. Much of the fruits of their devoted service we shall only know when time passes into eternity. Still we are glad to say that every year more and more of these children are now attending Sabbath school and several churches have had the joy of seeing Sunday-school scholars baptized and received into church membership. Here indeed is a very worth-while field

of child evangelism, worthy of the prayers and support of us all.

Wherever a film-strip projector has been available locally or could be borrowed from the conference, our Sunday schools have found the special series of lessons, "Adventures in the Holy Bible," most helpful. These film-strips, of which the twenty-six lessons of series one and two have been widely used during the past quadrennium, have been lent by the conference or mission without charge. In addition we have duplicated the lesson folders and quiz sheets which correspond with these film-strips so that the children have been able to take home with them these excellent Adventist folders. This not only helps the children to remember them but lets the parents know what they are being taught at the Adventist Sunday school. "Adventures in the Holy Bible," series three and four, a further twenty-six lessons, have now been obtained and we believe will greatly strengthen the work of our Sunday schools; and of those individuals who through the "Story Hour" plan are teaching children Bible lessons in their own homes.

OFFERINGS

The value of the Sabbath school to our world missionary advance has already been mentioned. The Union treasurer in his financial report has already given the amounts contributed by the conferences and missions comprising this Union. We now ask you to look at these Sabbath school offerings in another setting.

BRITISH UNION	1950-53	1954-57	Increase Decrease
Regular 12 Sabbaths	£40,281	£51,255	£10,974
13th Sabbaths	£13,056	£14,303	£1,247
Birthday Thank Off.	£1,061	£1,354	£293
Investments	£679	£410	£269-
Totals for Missions	£55,077	£67,322	£12,245

Despite the fall in the Investment fund, the total gain of £12,245 represents an increase of just over 22 per cent. Encouraging as this is, and grateful as the mission boards are for the help these offerings brings to their fields, we do not feel complacent about the figures when we consider two important factors: the increase in our membership (about 15 per cent) and the general rise in wages.

If we divide the total Sabbath school mission offerings by the average membership figure during the two quadrenniums we find that for 1950-1953 the mission offerings represent £2 1s. per member per year. For the present quadrennium the figure is £2 3s. 10d. per member per year—an increase of 2s. 10d. The general earning capacity of the membership is shown in the tithe figure. Some may remember our calling attention to the steady decline in mission offerings as related to tithe in the previous quadrennium. We are sorry to say that, despite strong promotion by your appointed Sabbath-school secretaries in the field, and by local superintendents, this unfortunate trend continues, as the following figures indicate:

Sabbath School Offerings as percentage of tithe

1950	15.4
1953	14.0
1955	13.6
1957	12.5

No doubt we can all think of reasons, such as additional local and general offerings, for this decline. Nevertheless we do most earnestly remind the church of the following statement from the pen of Sister E. G. White early in this present century. In appealing for the work in the "regions beyond" she said: "We feel moved by the Spirit to ask you to pledge yourselves before Him to lay by something weekly for the support of our missionaries. God will help and bless you in doing this."—*Review and Herald*, November 11, 1902, quoted in *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, page 138.

The Sabbath school is the one institution among us which provides the opportunity to make this weekly contribution. We invite all to attend it, to personally benefit from its teaching and fellowship, and to participate liberally in its offerings whereby the Advent message is heralded to the ends of the earth.

One of the advanced steps taken during the quadrennium was the appointment in 1957 of Sabbath School Secretaries for the Welsh and the Scottish Missions. We believe that as Brethren M. C. Murdoch and G. S. Crutchfield develop that personal contact with the schools, which is only possible to a resident secretary, increased strength will come to the schools and the churches under their departmental care. I know that they together with Pastor A. C. Vine and Pastor E. H. Foster of the South and North England Conferences join me in thanking all Sabbath-school officers and members who have in any way contributed to the progress reflected in this report.

May the Lord's blessing continue to rest upon our Sabbath schools.

CONFERENCE STANDING COMMITTEES

NOMINATING COMMITTEE.—A. F. Tarr (Chairman), J. H. Bayliss, G. Bunker, J. Clifford, E. H. Foster, Dr. T. Gallivan, Dr. J. Houston, J. Logan, Sr., W. McClements, J. A. McMillan, E. Merchant, A. C. Vine, Miss V. Warren.

COMMITTEE ON LICENCES AND CREDENTIALS.—M. V. Campbell (Chairman), W. W. Armstrong, J. H. Bayliss, K. A. Elias, O. M. Dorland, B. F. Kinman, M. C. Murdoch, J. A. McMillan, A. F. Tarr.

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION.—N. H. Knight (Chairman), J. H. Bayliss, M. V. Campbell, A. Carey, K. A. Elias, G. D. King, B. F. Kinman, M. C. Murdoch, J. A. McMillan.

COMMITTEE ON PLANS.—G. D. King (Chairman), G. L. Annis, D. Baildam, C. R. Bonney, J. H. Craven, G. Crutchfield, W. L. Emmerson, E. H. Foster, Dr. Gallivan, R. Hearne, A. W. Howard, N. H. Knight, J. Mahon, E. Merchant, W. Morton, W. McLeod, G. E. Norris, H. E. Nix, R. W. Olson, Dr. Richardson, R. Syme, H. Taylor, A. C. Vine, R. D. Vine, E. R. Warland, C. D. Watson, C. Wilson, A. J. Woodfield.

THE CHURCH AT WORK

By E. R. WARLAND

Home Missionary Secretary, British Union Conference

"EVERY true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 195.

"In every church the members should be so trained that they will devote time to the winning of souls to Christ. . . . Let those who have charge of the flock of Christ awake to their duty, and set many souls to work."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, page 436.

These two statements epitomize the purpose and the objective of the Home Missionary Department. *Effective every member evangelism* is our goal. Our activities as your appointed departmental secretaries are directed to *inspire*, to *train* and to *organize* lay witnesses for soul winning. For the successful accomplishment of these purposes we are largely dependent upon the ministers, the church elders, and the local home missionary leaders.

Our monthly periodical *The Leader*, now in its twenty-eighth year, has continued to act as the chief means of information and inspiration to the church officers. From the commencement of the quadrennium now under review it has been published in a handier size. It is supplied without charge to all major church officers so that every church and company in Britain may be fully informed of all home missionary and other projects and co-operate intelligently in each campaign as it comes. Every year district rallies or conventions have been held by the conference home missionary secretaries, at most of which it has been our personal privilege to help. At times we have also enjoyed the presence and counsel of Pastor E. W. Pedersen of the Northern European Division. Two or three years ago we purchased a copy of the film, "The Living Link," which has greatly added to the interest and effectiveness of our home missionary rallies.

The highlight of the quadrennium in this respect was the British Layman's Congress held at Birmingham last year. It was advertised as "An Easter You Will Never Forget." We believe that all of the delegates who attended from every part of these islands will testify that it was a time of unusual blessing from the Lord. In addition to about 200 who attended for the four days, nearly 1,000 members were present at the special Sabbath services. This Congress was not only a time of study together; it was one also of practical experience as we visited the homes of the people on Easter Sunday.

The Layman's Congress was followed by a series of rallies in various places, bringing the inspiration and help of the meetings to those who were unable to attend at Birmingham. At these district rallies, as at the Congress, emphasis was placed on the need for training our willing lay-members in the art of soul-winning. We are glad to report that a number of our ministers have already conducted

training classes. In fact, nearly 500 copies of the text-book *Training Light Bearers* have been sold to members in this Union during the past four years, a figure which we think is encouraging when we remember that our total membership is only around 8,000.

A growing number of our brethren and sisters witness for the truth, making use of the projectors and film-strips provided for each conference and mission by a special donation from Union funds early in this quadrennium. These have been in constant demand and in the autumn and winter are insufficient to meet the need. We hope that money can be found to increase availability of this excellent evangelistic agency for our laymen. We certainly advise any who contemplate borrowing film-strips this coming autumn to make arrangements with their respective conference home missionary secretaries without delay.

Another proof of the keenness of our lay-people to give Bible studies to their neighbours has been the interest shown in the "Pictorial Aid for Bible Study," the unique series of lesson charts published by the General Conference. Through the co-operation of the Review and Herald Publishing Association and The Stanborough Press we were able to import sets and have them bound in this country, thus reducing the price to considerably less than half that charged in the States. At first we ordered fifty sets but soon it was evident that a further fifty were needed. We have not yet decided whether to order again, but if the demand is sufficient we shall certainly do so.

MISSIONARY WORK BY MEMBERS

Thinking now of the various activities of the membership we would first mention the Ingathering for Missions in the spring and the *Our Times* and Tract Campaign in the autumn.

During the winter months there is considerable activity behind the scenes. The Union Home Missionary Department is busy preparing the supplies—the magazines, leaflets, receipt books, badges, permits, record books, and other agents' material—necessary for the house-to-house work when it begins. Here we would like to mention the valuable help of the management and staff of The Stanborough Press which provides everything we need in print.

These winter Sabbaths, with their lengthened hours of darkness, provide your conference and mission home missionary secretaries with the opportunity, which they fully utilize, to present the needs of the mission fields to our members by use of both still and movie projector. Our special mission films, "Daybreak Over Africa" and "Under the Southern Cross," have now been shown in most of our churches—in some more than once during this quad-

rennium. The more recently acquired film, "Japan and the Philippines," has already been exhibited in a few places and will be shown by the secretaries in many more during the coming months.

In addition to these, we, through the much appreciated help of Pastor J. P. Sundquist of the South African Division, Brother L. Barnard of New Guinea, Pastor H. J. Welch and Brother L. Hubbard of West Africa, and others, have been able to assemble a few sets of most interesting Kodachrome pictures. The showing of these in the churches during the winter months has, we believe, done much to keep alive the very real interest of our members in missions and also to provide them with a valuable background of information for the house-to-house contacts.

INGATHERING

To appreciate the place which Ingathering for Missions has come to hold in the life of the church and its growing importance to the extension of the Advent message overseas, it may be interesting and helpful to give a brief resumé of its growth through the years. Some of us remember its introduction to the British field in 1915, when every member was invited to give or obtain from friends the sum of half-a-crown for missions! Here then are the total amounts of previous quadrenniums, with the percentage increase of each over its immediate predecessor.

Quadrennium	Total £	Increase Per cent
1914-17 (3 years only)	1,397	
1918-21	27,726	
1922-25	29,124	5
1926-29	29,325	1
1930-33	35,136	19
1934-37	41,863	19
1938-41	56,497	35
1942-45	85,935	52
1946-49	122,831	43
1950-53	151,731	23
1954-57	218,650	44

What a wonderful picture of God's blessing on our united labours for Him!

Let us now look more particularly at the results of the last four campaigns, 1954-1957.

		Per member
1954	£46,975	£6 9s. 6d.
1955	£51,443	£6 16s. 8d.
1956	£58,543	£7 9s. 9d.
1957	£62,027	£7 12s. 10d.

Detailed figures from the various conferences and missions reveal that each of the five fields comprising this Union did its full share toward this wonderful achievement. The Ingathering Campaign, in which 60 per cent of our full membership actively participates each year, is a demonstration of

love to God and His cause and a fellowship in service which is inspiring to see. The personal records of many aged members among us have been astonishing—so much so that some have wondered what will happen when these stalwart Ingatherers are physically compelled to retire from active service. Be reassured, brethren and sisters, one of the most cheering features of our Ingathering is the splendid help given by our youth. We feel in no small way indebted to the Conference and Mission MV secretaries and the youth leaders in the churches for this good help.

As the 1958 Ingathering Campaign is now in the past we are happy to report that a most excellent start has been made toward another record quadrennium. Subject to the final official audit of the actual cash, we now announce that this year's collection resulted in £62,800, an increase of 34 per cent over 1954, the first year of the quadrennium at present under review. The contribution of the youth this time was well over £11,000!

No fewer than thirteen churches, Bournemouth, Belfast, Camp Hill, Central London, Chiswick, Edinburgh, Erdington, Holloway, Manchester, Newbold, Newcastle, Nottingham, and Walthamstow passed their objective of £1,000 for missions. In fact, Camp Hill and Newbold both gathered in more than £1,600. Our headquarters church at Stanborough Park had a total of over £4,400. *For all this we thank and praise the Lord.*

"OUR TIMES" AND TRACTS

Our church missionary paper, *The Bible and Our Times*, is a veritable "preacher of righteousness" in this age, which the Saviour likened to the days of Noah. Many of our members have now formed the admirable habit of taking a few of each issue and disposing of them to their friends and neighbours. Some are sold, others are given away or mailed to addresses at home or overseas. We are glad to say that in some of the churches "literature bands" have made systematic distribution of tracts and *Our Times* with good results.

To encourage our members in this regular ministry of our missionary periodical, and to provide them with a supply of good tracts, with which to witness for the message, the Union committee, in conjunction with The Stanborough Press, makes each autumn a special "tract offer." The increased circulation of *Our Times* and the wider distribution of the truth in tract form resulting from this plan is evidenced by the following figures:

	Subscriptions for "Our Times"	Tracts Obtained Number	Kind
1954	7,871	125,936	"New Gallery Sermons"†
1955	8,985	287,520	"Timely Topics"*
1956	9,866	316,312	"Timely Topics"*
1957	9,965	313,104	"Timely Topics"*

36,687 1,042,872

(† 16 pages * 8 pages)

You may recall that four years ago we were able to report a considerable increase in the circulation

Church Missionary Activity

	1954-57	1950-53	Increase
Church Membership (average)	7,821	6,845	976
Members Reporting (average)	2,276	1,746	530
Percentage Reporting (average)	29	25	4
Bible Studies and Cottage Meetings	27,839	25,036	2,803
Missionary Visits or Contacts	11,879	90,304	21,575
Literature Distributed (not including Colporteur sales)	7,636,781	3,301,717	4,335,064

of *Our Times* resulting from the operation of this subscription plan. This time we report a further encouraging gain, for our total of 36,536 subscriptions in four years is a gain of 11,092 subscriptions or about 30 per cent on the previous quadrennium.

To our total of 1,042,872 eight- or sixteen-page tracts we must add a further 468,000 special four-page tracts given in 1955, making a total of over one-and-a-half million tracts given *without cost to the churches* during the past four years. We believe most of these have by now been profitably distributed, and our members are awaiting the announcement, soon to be made, of this year's "tract offer."

One feature of the 1956 *Our Times* Campaign must here be mentioned. Eleven churches; Handsworth, Luton, Central London, Swansea, Camp Hill, Holloway, Lodge Causeway, Sheffield, Nottingham, Edinburgh, and Stoke-on-Trent, received from The Stanborough Press a very acceptable tract rack for their respective churches in recognition of their increase in *Our Times* subscriptions taken.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

In addition to the two major campaigns already mentioned, our members are busy throughout the year utilizing or making opportunities to witness for this Advent message which we love. For statistics of this varied missionary work we are dependent upon the reports received from the churches. This is not altogether satisfactory because in some places no reports are taken and in others not all the working members are willing to report their activities. The figures above are, however, a summary of the information sent to us from the churches.

These figures are certainly encouraging, particularly when we realize that they represent many, many hours of missionary work by the members. These are not just *figures*, brethren and sisters, they are a record (though imperfect and incomplete) of service given in love for Christ by the wayside, in the factory, at the fireside, in public places, on the bus and train, in correspondence and conversation. Only the angel records, complete in every detail, comprehending the motives as well as the service, will one day reveal all that has been done.

VOICE OF PROPHECY CARD DISTRIBUTION

Each autumn, just prior to the Tract Campaign, our members have rallied to the Voice of Prophecy call, "Britain for Christ." The local home missionary officers have organized the teams and the territory. The conferences have issued weekly bulletins, as during the Ingathering Campaign, so that the churches might know of their progress in the distribution of a million, or even a million and a half, Voice of Prophecy cards in the homes of Britain. Pastor C. R. Bonney in his report will tell

us of the results of this good work in terms of actual enrolments, of study courses finished, of souls baptized. Let it suffice for the present for us in the Home Missionary Department to report the work done by the membership.

BAPTISMS

We all recognize that many different influences combine to win souls to Christ. The members in our churches, no less than the ministers and Bible instructors, rejoice to see people profess their faith by baptism. This is particularly so when they are conscious of having had some part in the person's spiritual progress. We, therefore, are glad to report that during this quadrennium the number of persons baptized, whom lay-members helped to win, was again over 200. Happy additions indeed!

WELFARE WORK

To some of us the most encouraging development in home missionary activity in Britain during recent years has been the new vision and growth of our Dorcas Welfare work. The revival began at the lay-workers' conventions at Matlock Bath and Watford in the spring of 1953. So this quadrennium began with a very lively, if still small, Dorcas work. It was represented then by some thirty-two societies. During the past four years this has increased to eighty-one societies. The growth and development of their work will be illustrated to us at a special Dorcas rally during these meetings. For the present, we give below the following total statistics of the welfare work done by churches and Dorcas societies during the past four years.

During the past year Pastor C. E. Guenther, of the Home Missionary Department of the General Conference, spent several weeks with us visiting a

Welfare Ministry

	1954-57	1950-53	Increase
Articles of clothing given away	61,110	30,063	31,047
Hours of Welfare service	187,697	131,781	55,916
Number of persons helped	140,467	97,619	62,848

number of our larger churches specially in the interest of our welfare work. He presented to us a vision of what this can become under God's blessing in service to humanity in our own homeland and in needy countries abroad. With the guidance of a new Welfare Manual, now being published by the General Conference, we expect to see considerable growth in this field of home missionary activity during the next few years.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look around us we realize that only as we daily consecrate ourselves to the Lord and receive His constant blessing shall we equal the

challenge of a population in these islands of over fifty million souls to whom the Advent message must be given. We are encouraged to see a growing number of lay-members actively engaged in soul winning, and hope that opportunity will be given at their conference and mission sessions for some to relate their experiences and to introduce to their brethren and sisters those whom they have been instrumental in winning to Christ. For we firmly believe that "the work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work and unite their labours with those of the ministers and church officers."—*Gospel Workers*, page 352.



Education for Life

By C. D. WATSON

Educational Secretary, British Union Conference

THE old pagan philosopher Socrates used to say that if he could climb to the highest point in Athens he would lift his voice and proclaim, "What mean ye fellow citizens that scrape every stone to get wealth together and take so little care of your children to whom you must some day relinquish it all?"

Without making any pretence to being a modern Socrates I would remind the delegates that the church's first responsibility and most important mission field lies in the saving and training of her youth.

From the beginning of her history the Seventh-Day Adventist church has recognized the need to provide schools for the youth as soon as churches have been established. The programme of education which has been pursued is not simply to provide a school system comparable with or better than state schools, but to provide an education which is distinctively Christian.

A chorus of voices now join with us in proclaiming this need for Christian education.

"It can hardly be disputed, however, that the attitude of Protestant leadership in this country on the question of the relation of religion to education has been undergoing a change. . . .

"The current disintegration of social life to which the Oxford Conference on Church, Community, and

State called attention so repeatedly and so strikingly, has raised serious questions in thoughtful minds as to the probable or inevitable result of a system of education which is studiously secular. The anomaly of a system of public schools which undertake to represent every significant aspect of contemporary culture, which hold themselves responsible for fully equipping the younger generation to cope with the problems of life but which at the same time, entirely avoid religion, is increasingly apparent."—*Department of Research and Education, Federal Council of Churches in Christ*.

"To be truly educated—educated so that he will be serviceable to society rather than menacing to it—a person needs knowledge plus moral control. He needs a sense of moral direction. He needs a centre and source of moral authority in his soul. This is the divine plus that religion gives to education."

"Religion puts into the individual a centre and source of moral authority, a moral dynamic which safeguards character and gives it direction. Education implies the accumulation and conveyance of factual knowledge. But religion insists that knowledge alone is not enough. Mathematics may be used to rob a bank, chemistry may be used to kill; penmanship may be used to forge a cheque, psychology may be used to cheat one's fellows.

"Education alone is not enough. . . . No education is complete that does not give us knowledge plus moral control. Religion energizes as well as inspires education. . . .

"Religion furnishes education with a sense of values. . . . It shows what is worth while. It infuses education with a spiritual conception of life, and furnishes the norm by which values are recognized. Materialism is the most menacing obstruction in the way of education's progress."—*Daniel L. Marsh*.

"Knowledge was long considered a support to religion, explaining its nature and its methods. But unfortunately this relation ceased, and knowledge drifted into the hands of the sceptics, and education wandered away from the fold of religion. . . .

"What was England's experience in the nineteenth century? Mr. Huxley shall be our judge. Said he: 'I hold that any system of education which attempts to deal only with the intellectual side of a child's nature and leaves the rest untouched, will prove a delusion and a snare, just as likely to produce an unusually astute scoundrel as anything else. Unless a child is taught not only morality, but religion, education will amount to very little.'"—C. H. Buchanan in *Christian Faith and Life*.

"The basic need of our day is not more education, but more faith; not more knowledge, but more character; not more brain power, but more spiritual power. Too often an enlightened mind contains an unenlightened soul. Too often our education teaches men and women how to battle most cunningly and selfishly for the survival of the fittest.

"We arrive at this basic truth: We can have no security without Christian education. We must have a process of training for our boys and girls that is based upon the fear of the Lord as the beginning of wisdom, which exalts the Bible as His true and inspired will, which regards the cross of Christ as the symbol of the holiest and highest love, the seal and assurance of our everlasting redemption."—Editorial in *Pulpit Digest*.

"Some day our educators will awaken to several basic facts about youth: (1) Youth has an intellect and a will. The intellect is the source of his knowledge; the will the source of his decisions. If his choices are wrong, the youth will be wrong regardless of how much he knows. (2) Education through the communication of knowledge does not necessarily make a good man; it can conceivably make learned devils instead of stupid devils. (3) Education is successful when it trains the mind to see the right targets, and disciplines the will to choose them rather than the wrong targets."—*Bishop Fulton J. Sheen*.

Dr. Leslie Weatherhead recently made the statement:

"EDUCATION. It started in the church. It was initiated by the church. Men and women were taught to read so that they could read the Bible and find their way to Christ. But now if I wanted a child really to understand and get hold of the love of Jesus, it would be more satisfactory to send him to a mission school in the heart of an Indian jungle than to the state school in England. Because in a missionary school he would be taught by a person who is a missionary first and a teacher second, and in whose heart the love for Christ is blazing, whereas in Christian England he can be taught even Scripture by an atheist, and as long as a teacher is qualified he is not questioned about his Christian faith."

In one of H. G. Wells' last statements we find him saying:

"Years ago I threw out a sentence that caught the attention of that very great and lucid historian, James Harvey Robinson. He picked it up and re-

peated and commended it and gave it a wide publicity. The outlook for mankind, I had written—I think in *The Salvaging of Civilization*—is 'a race between education and catastrophe.'

"Today catastrophe is well on its way, it is losing no time at all, but education seems still unable to get started, has indeed not even re-adjusted itself to start. The race may, after all, prove a walk-over for disaster."

What did this historian mean by stating that education seems unable to get started after a period of fifty years of the most intensive schooling in the history of our race?

Evidently he learned to recognize in his later years that education is more than the acquisition of knowledge.

"Certain it is," says a well-known writer, "that while men are gathering knowledge and power with ever-increasing and measureless speed, their virtues and their wisdom have not shown any notable improvement as the centuries have rolled. . . . Under sufficient stress—starvation, terror, war-like passion, or even cold intellectual frenzy—the modern man we know so well will do the most terrible deeds, and his modern woman will back him up." That is not the pleading of a morbid theologian but the considered judgment of a statesman, Sir Winston Churchill, whom no-one could accuse of being morbid. He is rather a realist who knows that the root error of Utopian idealism is its failure to take a sufficiently tragic view of human nature and the absolute necessity of teaching moral and spiritual values if our civilization is to survive.

What has been the genius of Adventist education philosophy is evidently coming into its own. Let us beware lest we allow the children of this generation to show greater wisdom than the children of light by failing to improve the advantages which have been ours.

The Newbold College report will be presented on Sunday by the principal, Pastor Robert W. Olson. Mr. R. C. Syme, the headmaster of the Stanborough Junior and Secondary Schools is presenting a separate report of this thriving Union school together with information about the Boarding School which has been opened since the last Union Session.

The total enrolment of pupils during the 1957-8 school year in Britain was 453, excluding the 141 students who attended Newbold Missionary College. Twenty-five teachers are employed in the Stanborough School and in the four Conference church schools.

The teachers are a consecrated group of men and women who are attempting to carry out a very important phase of the Adventist church programme.

Although the schools are in need of financial help and meet with numerous problems in the day-to-day working of the schools, from personal acquaintance with each school teacher and school board I can assure the delegates that what is most coveted and necessary for the strengthening of our education work is the loyal and solid support of our members. We solicit your constant interest and help as we go into the new quadrennium.



Training the Young

By R. SYME

Headmaster, Stanborough School

As we look back over the past four years we could best sum up the progress of our educational work in this area by the phrase: "Expansion and Extension."

Many problems have confronted us and by God's grace many problems have been resolved; many obstacles have been in our path and many obstacles have been removed; we have made mistakes and has learned to profit by those same mistakes; our work brought us both joy and sadness; but above and beyond all this we have been ever conscious of our Lord's leading and of His providences in times of need.

ENROLMENT

The demand for places in Stanborough School has not slackened off although the greatest pressure comes at present upon the middle and upper school. We rarely have any vacancies to fill from forms Junior II upward. Our policy is to accept always children from Adventist homes, for our school was founded for that purpose. We never refuse an application from an Adventist on the grounds that we have no room. We do have to refuse applications from non-Adventists when our classes reach the optimum number. In general we endeavour to keep our classes at a maximum of thirty pupils per class and prefer the classes to be just a little below this where possible. This makes possible better teaching and more individual attention. Our 1957 enrolment stood at 325 and this increase of thirty-one over the highest figures quoted in the 1954 report has only been made possible because in 1957 we dealt with the large number of secondary school applications by forming two parallel first year forms. We propose to do the same in September of this year.

Our school is highly esteemed in the neighbourhood. We have long since given up advertising Stanborough School. Almost every new pupil whom we enrol comes to us through recommendation either from the parents of present scholars or from the local Education Office itself. Recently we were greatly surprised and gratified when an inquiry came from a gentleman who had been sent to us from the County Education Office in Hertford itself! In

short we have had numerous instances which indicate to us the value which our non-Adventist friends place upon our school.

STAFF

We have to a great extent overcome the staffing difficulties which overshadowed the school in former years. Our staff has been less mobile for three years past than perhaps at any other time. It is true that Mr. C. Roe moved in 1955 to study in the United States and Mr. H. Dunton left us in 1956 to head up the secondary school in Bekwai, West Africa, but in each case we were not left without adequate replacements and the stories of how Mr. C. Vesey, B.Sc., and Mr. H. Leonard, B.A., came to us are in themselves remarkable proofs of God's direction and watchcare.

We have now a full and well qualified staff at Stanborough School. The remarks of Her Majesty's Inspector, Mr. Moore, as he conned the staff list earlier this year are worth quoting. He said, "Well, Mr. Syme, the school is quite generously staffed." I should add that in his brief one-day inspection he seemed well satisfied and advised that we ought at an early date to apply for Ministry of Education recognition.

Since 1954 the following teachers have joined us:

Miss Christine Beddall (Mrs. Leonard), Diploma Domestic Science (Bath)—Domestic Science.

Mr. Cyril Vesey, B.Sc. (London)—Science.

Mr. Harry Leonard, B.A. (Hons.)—History and Latin.

Miss Brenda Griffiths, B.A. (Hons.)—French.

Mrs. Bronwen Atkinson, B.Sc.—Science and Mathematics.

Mr. F. Powell—Commercial Subjects.

Miss J. Hulbert, Teacher's Training Certificates—Junior School.

Miss A. Lawton, A.R.C.M., A.G.S.M.—Music and Art.

Mr. G. Jones, Teacher's Credentials, State of New South Wales, and S.D.A. Teacher's Certificates.

I ought to tell you here that in spite of their busy lives the members of our staff are still students as well as being teachers. It has been most gratifying these four years past to see the extent of their personal studies.

This quadrennium Mr. W. Fitcher, B.A., has gained London University's Diploma of Education, no mean achievement while working full time and doing active work as a lay preacher as well. Not content with that he is now well on his way to

attaining his Master's degree from London University in the field of Education.

Mr. Seymour also has well-nigh completed his work for gaining the City and Guilds Handicraft Teacher's Diploma, the highest qualification for Handicraft teaching which is obtainable in this country and a course of study which in the opinion of many educationists ranks equally with a degree.

Mr. H. J. Brookes in 1956 sat successfully for the Associateship of the College of Preceptors and just a few days ago will have sat for the higher Licentiate's examination of the same body.

Mr. Vesey also, besides attending in 1957 a Science Master's course in Leeds University, is engaged in study for his Post-graduate Certificate of Education.

Other members of the staff likewise have used such time as comes their way for improving their knowledge and their teaching methods.

I desire to pay tribute in this report to the loyalty and industry of the teaching staff.

I would not have you think that we always agree on every point or on every occasion. Staff meetings at times can be quite exciting, but democratic rule prevails and our differences of opinion are always amicably settled. When a course of action is decided upon then those who have not been in favour have accepted the decision of the majority and have worked as a team to carry the project into effect. With the fine staff we now have and working together as they do we face the future with confidence.

ACADEMIC WORK

Naturally a report of this nature would not be complete without some indication as to the academic standard reached. Our British system of education is such that all schooling, both junior and senior, is devoted to the end of gaining the General Certificate of Education in as many subjects as as high a level as possible.

It has been said before and needs to be repeated here that generally our pupils do not find study easy and have to work therefore much harder to make the grade than those who have been successful in entering the Grammar School. Incidentally this factor means that our teachers have to work much harder than Grammar School teachers. Despite this, however, over the past four years our pupils have gained 163 passes at Ordinary Level in the following subjects: English, French, Latin, History, Religious Knowledge, Geography, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Music, Art.

It is only two years since we began VI Form Advanced Level work, and Advanced Level G.C.E. requires two years' study beyond Ordinary Level, but the three pupils we entered in 1957 gained three passes at A Level in English, History, and Biology.

Of these latter candidates one, who came to us in 1944, after failing to secure admission to a

local Grammar School, left us finally in 1957 with passes in nine subjects at Ordinary Level and two at A Level and this fine achievement secured for him a substantial county award which is enabling him to continue in full-time study.

Our primary school has maintained its high standard. We have a file of letters from parents who, for various reasons, have moved away from the district and many of these letters thank us for the good scholastic grounding given to the children and inform us that the children have found themselves easily able to cope with the work set in their new schools.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Our Junior and Senior Choirs continued to flourish under Mrs. Swift and Mr. Owen, until the latter's emigration in 1957. Latterly the work of the Senior Choir has gone forward under the able direction of Miss Annie Lawton. Both choirs have taken part in various music festivals, such as those held in Watford, Wembley, and Ealing and two silver cups have been won this quadrennium, one of them outright. We are glad, however, that our choirs have become soul-winning agencies, for they have sung at campaigns held in places as far apart as Hemel Hempstead, Hammersmith, and Portsmouth, besides recitals at Newbold and the New Gallery Centre.

We look to see this form of service continue and we are happy that our young people, Adventist and non-Adventist alike, can help in this way. I ought to tell you that in all the spheres of service and sacrifice which we encourage our children to enter, many from non-Seventh-Day Adventist homes take part as cheerfully as though they were Adventists. A number come to love this cause as we do and some we even baptize.

But to recount all that has been done in service to our fellow-men these past four years would take too long. Briefly I would say that besides the Ingathering Campaign, we have supported yearly such worth-while charities as The National Children's Home, Dr. Barnado's Homes, Sunshine Homes for Blind Babies (since 1956), besides numerous appeals for smaller charities.

The figures below are of interest.

Stanborough School's Response to Charity Appeals

	1955	1956	1957	1958	Total
National Children's Home	£54	£92	£68	£66	£280
Dr. Barnado's Homes (assessment)	15	15	15	16	61
Sunshine Home for Blind Babies ...	—	11	15	*—	26
Harvest Ingathering	330	348	437	618	1,733
Miscellaneous	6	7	12	*—	25
TOTALS	£405	£473	£547	£700	£2,125

* Not collected until December, 1958.

Thus you may see that in this past quadrennium the staff and pupils of Stanborough School have collected for, and given to various causes, not less than £2,125, or more than £10 per week over the four-year period. This figure is, if anything, conservative as it does not take into account the additional annual contributions in kind to Dr. Barnado's Homes, which can only be assessed, but is easily equal each year to the cash collected in the boxes.

I would ask you, friends, where will you find a school in this country that does more than this? I must comment upon the remarkable increase over the years in the sums collected for World-Wide Advent Missions. The amount raised this year alone, £618, is nearly 85 per cent of the total collected in the previous four years together, and is an increase of 630 per cent above the £98 collected in 1950. Our total of £1,606 collected this quadrennium is an increase of 220 per cent over the previous quadrennium.

I do not know that we can give you a satisfactory reason for this startling percentage increase which I believe has rarely been equalled in the field, and yet more rarely surpassed. I can only say that, under God, the ideal of service seems to have gripped many of our young people and, led by consecrated and willing leaders, they have achieved this result. It would have encouraged you greatly to have heard some of the senior pupils, not Adventists, who have collected door to door for our cause, relating afterward their experiences, and explaining how they made their approach. It was hard to believe indeed they were not baptized members, as indeed we trust some will yet be.

BAPTISMS

Baptismal classes have been held at regular intervals under Pastors A. K. Armstrong and R. D. Vine, and forty-nine pupils have been baptized. This baptismal figure represents an increase of 80 per cent above that of the previous period and confirms us in our belief that in Stanborough School we have a wonderful field for evangelism. Five of this number came from non-Adventist homes and we have at present two more non-Adventists anxious to be baptized.

What is even more important is that of those baptized throughout the period, all, as far as we can ascertain, are in the message today.

We have not shunned to declare to our young people the whole counsel of God and we believe that though some, like Nicodemus, may be slow to declare for Christ, yet the seed faithfully sown will spring up and bear fruit in due time, and it is our earnest hope and prayer that many more of these young people whom we have learned to esteem and love will yet take their stand with the people of God as the great controversy draws to its close.

IMPROVED FACILITIES

The past four years have seen a number of improvements in the facilities made available to the school through the generosity of the British Union Conference and the Northern European Division.

The Boarding School, envisaged and spoken of

as far back as 1944, became a reality in January, 1958, and up to thirteen scholars have lived there in a happy atmosphere under the care of the Matron, Miss B. Williams, and preceptor, Mr. G. Jones.

Our increased enrolment and parallel classes had long rendered it necessary to plan wisely for the future, and accordingly upon a day in early 1957 the School Board, led by Pastor W. W. Armstrong, came to inspect the school and sat down afterward in the principal's office to discuss future developments.

The plans then laid are now becoming realities and a new and well-equipped science laboratory, together with a larger and altogether more suitable handicraft centre, built of cedarwood, and delightfully situated against the dark green of the woodland is nearing completion. The extra rooms thus made available within the school building will give cloakroom and classroom facilities which have long been desirable.

A further and desirable asset to the school is the new fire escape built against the south wall which now provides rapid egress from the building in emergency. In view of our heavy enrolment we are glad that a safe and easy exit exists although we trust that we may never require to use it, save for fire drill only.

In conclusion let me say that we look forward to the future in sober confidence. This past quadrennium has proved to us in a practical way that the Lord looks after His work and will not suffer it to languish. There is no indifference on His part, only on ours, and when we endeavour to serve Him faithfully He is able to do great things for us and for His institution.

External competition will do us no harm; unwarranted criticism from without or from within may cause us pain, but will not discourage us; black though the future may appear to the world yet it is bright with hope for God's work and for His people.

Brethren, pray for us that we may fitly represent Christ to these young people whom it is our privilege to teach, and pray also for them, Adventists and non-Adventists alike, that many may come to a full and perfect acceptance of the truth and so be found of God in the day of Jesus Christ.

Church Publicity Progress

(Continued from page 16.)

heroes in the local churches. We would also like to record our appreciation of the excellent practical help given us by our brethren at the General Conference.

We look forward to more effective service in the future as we unitedly seek to accomplish our aim: "To present Jesus Christ, to win good will for His church, to allay prejudices, to prevent wrong impressions, to lay a firm foundation for evangelistic activities, and to place truth before the multitudes."

Advancing in South England

By J. A. McMILLAN

President, South England Conference



It is with deep gratitude that I bring this report of the years 1954-1957. These have been good years in the South England Conference, as evidenced by the following facts.

I am happy to record that the number of souls accepted into church fellowship by baptism and vote was the highest in our history. Some 922 were thus accepted, seventeen more than in the previous quadrennium. It took twelve years to grow, in membership from 3,000 to 3,500, five years from 3,500 to 4,000, and only three years from 4,000 to 4,500. We have endeavoured to foster a strong spirit of evangelism, and our workers have been fruitful in their efforts to win souls for the kingdom of Christ. Each year, about fourteen public campaigns have been conducted by our evangelists. During the year 1957, two new cities were entered, Pastor A. H. Cowley opening up the work in Tiverton, Devon; while Pastor S. G. Hyde launched a campaign in the ancient city of Oxford. Both these ministers are continuing their work in these centres and we are confident that churches will be organized in Tiverton and Oxford in the near future.

The New Gallery was acquired as an evangelistic centre in the last year of the previous quadrennium. It has continued to grow in membership and influence throughout the past four years. Pastors G. E. Vandeman, R. A. Anderson, E. J. Folkenberg, and V. H. Cooper have served as evangelists during the period under review. Pastor R. M. Kranz was appointed as organizing secretary some two years ago and this has strengthened the work of the Gallery. Brother Kranz launched the "Best Saturday Night in Town" as a monthly feature in the Gallery programme, and this has attracted a large number of young people to the centre. Converts to the faith have included Roman Catholics, Jews, and people who had no religious affiliation before coming into contact with the message. We have a hard-working group of soul-winners in the New Gallery team. They have never complained of the long hours and the constant strain of the service demanded of them. The souls won to Christ have to them been a satisfying reward for their toil.

We are glad to report that Pastor A. G. Ratcliffe, one of our successful evangelists of Australia, has been lent to us for service in the New Gallery until the end of January, 1959. Then H. M. S. Richards, of the Voice of Prophecy, will be with us for at least three months, and Pastor K. Lacey will take over from Pastor Richards about May of next year. So a continuing season of evangelism will be sustained in the Gallery throughout the coming years.

We have encouraged our congregations to obtain adequate and representative church buildings as memorials to the Advent movement. During each of the

past two quadrenniums, we have built or bought, seven churches, while seven churches were built in the twelve years from 1938-49. We recall that the war years were not conducive to church building, but it is a good thing that the years of destruction have been followed by years of construction.

Recently, in the city of Bristol, known as the Gateway to the West, we dedicated two new churches on the one day. And better still, Pastor L. Murdoch had the joyful experience of baptizing the builder of these two fine churches in one of the baptistries which he built.

In Chelmsford, we were able to purchase the very building where our church was first organized and this building will soon be dedicated, free from debt, to the worship and service of God.

There is still a dire need for churches in Brixton, Cheltenham, Ealing, Edgware, Ilford, Luton, Oxford, Slough, Bodmin, and St. Austell. We trust that these congregations will not have to wait too long before their needs are met and their aspirations are realized.

The tithe returns for the past four years also show a remarkable increase, even allowing for the inflationary devaluation of sterling. In 1938-41 the tithe amounted to £14,831, while for the past four years, it was £83,104—about six times as much. The Lord has prospered His people and they in turn have been faithful in remembering God's claims upon their means.

The Ingathering Campaign for Missions continues to be one of the best organized and most stimulating efforts in our annual calendar. During the past quadrennium, £105,316 were collected for the work overseas. Compare this with £21,397 in the 1938-41 period—a total five times greater. We express the gratitude of the Conference to all our enthusiastic members who laboured to achieve this splendid result, and to Pastor A. C. Vine for his vigorous leadership of the Home Missionary Department during this period.

Our literature sales for the quadrennium were £101,377, an increase of £24,442. Pastor V. J. Benefield reports that some seventeen souls were won to the truth as a direct result of the literature

ministry. Many more will yet trace their conversion to the influence of the books and magazines distributed by our faithful colporteurs.

Pastor K. H. Gammon, reporting for the MV department, tells me that the young people collected some £21,000 of Ingathering during the quadrennium, and that in this period the North London young people's colporteur group sold £8,000 worth of magazines and small books. Another interesting fact was that in 1957 the enrolment of Newbold College students contained one-twelfth of the South England Conference young people—one student in every two and a half was from South England Conference. Sixty-five of our young men have appeared before tribunals during this period, all receiving exemption from military service. Over 1,000 children and youth have enjoyed the facilities of camp experience during the four years. The Young People's Department conducted a campaign in Edmonton in 1956-57 and twelve souls were added to the church from this effort. The children and youth are a precious heritage of the church and we are thankful that a vigilant MV Department is caring for their spiritual development.

Our church schools at Newbold, Plymouth, and Walthamstow have enjoyed good patronage. In Plymouth, Brother Wright took over the head-mastership of the school from Miss Dorothy Hearne, who was called to mission service in Ethiopia. Brother Wright reports an increasing enrolment in

the Plymouth school, and we are encouraged by its development.

Sister Verna Houston has resigned from the head-mistresship of Newbold Church School. She is now Mrs. James Ginbey and will assist in Walthamstow, where Sister Trott is conducting a strong and vigorous school.

Let us sustain these teachers in their exacting and laborious task, that the children under their care may be brought into contact with Him who is the Light of the world and the Bread of life.

I express my deep appreciation of the worker force in the South Conference. They are a conscientious, hard-working group of workers. We have also a good staff of men and women in the Conference office. They have made leadership most pleasant and have contributed strongly to the various successes reported today.

Let us ever remember the inspiring challenge of the Lord's messenger: "If the church will put on the robe of Christ's righteousness, withdrawing from all allegiance with the world, there is before her the dawn of a bright and glorious day. God's promise to her will stand fast for ever. He will make her an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations."—*Acts of the Apostles*, page 601.

May the Lord grant that this appeal may be wrought out in full measure in the experience of the church through the coming years—for Christ's sake.

Onward in the North

By J. H. BAYLISS

President, North England Conference

"ONWARD, ever onward!" "Onward, Higher!" "Advance . . . lift the standard!" These exhortations, cited in the Spirit of prophecy writings, were selected as mottos for our recent local Conference Sessions. It has been the constant endeavour of our Conference Executive Committee to translate these challenging slogans into terms of active crusade. Accordingly, the deep undertone of back-room planning and the consistent over-tone of promoting utterance, has been an emphasis on Evangelism in its comprehensive sense. Evangelism by every means, by any method, and by all men! We state more than a mere pious cliché when we declare, Where there is Evangelism, there is life!

Now, may we solicit your aural indulgence while we briefly review happenings in the North England Conference over the past four years. Our Conference membership at the end of 1957 was listed as 2,533. Although the aggregate baptisms numbered 774 souls, deceases, defections, and dispersals unfortunately have accounted for 343. We rejoice, however, to report a net increase of 431 (22 per

cent), and believe this modest achievement was due to a sustained programme of public and personal evangelism throughout our Conference territory.

We recall the four years of continuous city-wide crusading of Pastor T. J. Bradley and K. Lacey and their associates in the city of Birmingham. The visible growth of the churches into more than double their initial strength has been a most heartening feature. We are confident, too, that the big city effort now in progress in Manchester will provide us with an equally productive result.

We think of the campaigns of Pastor K. A. Elias,



two in each of the cities of Sheffield and Leicester. In each instance there were large accessions to the faith.

We remember, too, the efforts of Pastor S. H. Parkin in Leeds, Huddersfield, and Bradford; those of Pastor F. C. J. Pearse in Wolverhampton, Dudley, and Newcastle; of Pastor H. Logan in Derby and Blackburn; of Pastor I. McGougan in Blackpool and of Pastor B. Pilmoor in Stoke and Crewe. Time prohibits us to enter into detail regarding the exploits of these evangelists, much less the recitation of a further set of achievements of other brethren who have served equally faithfully, though perhaps with not the same measure of numerical success. Watch the young evangelists in the North England Conference! We do confidently predict, other things being equal, a productive future for many of them.

Our memory also turns to an average of fifteen of our experienced ministers who, while giving pastoral care to their churches, have engaged, each autumn, with the members, in the "Britain for Christ Voice of Prophecy Campaigns." Many of these brethren, through faithful and persevering visiting, have been rewarded with small but satisfying baptisms.

We happily report that practically every minister in the Conference has enjoyed annually some fruit for his labours. The work of our Bible instructors, too, deserves complimentary recognition. In some cases the accredited success of the evangelist might have been very nominal, were it not for the selfless endeavours of these consecrated sisters. To all, including hundreds of lay men and women, who have contributed toward this soul-winning achievement, we offer a warm tribute of public appreciation.

The confidence we have placed in the policy of all-out evangelism is reaping dividends in the field of finance. Resulting from the good accessions in Conference membership, we are able to report a much happier picture of financial recovery and encouraging evidence of approaching stability than was the case some four years ago. Comparing the current with the previous quadrennium, the Lord's tithe has increased by about forty per cent and offerings, too, both for missions and local funds, have shown a steady advance.

We are glad to relate that some progress has been made in finding satisfactory accommodation for our increasing membership. Church properties, or their equivalent, have been purchased or built in Camp Hill (Birmingham), Sheffield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Huddersfield, and Coventry (Youth Hall); and land has been acquired in Middlesbrough and Manchester for the future erection of church buildings. We are ever cognizant of the fact that many of our church groups worship under appalling conditions in rented halls, and are conscious that much remains to be done to provide acceptable spiritual homes for our people throughout the conference. This is only possible, however, as funds become available.

Reference has already been made to the evangelistic-mindedness of the great bulk of our membership. They have always shown themselves willing to sacrifice and serve for the advancement of the Advent cause. The consistent achievement annually

in Ingathering speaks for itself. Over the past four years £77,050 has been collected for foreign missions, by between 55 and 65 per cent of our membership, representing a per capita return probably among world records.

We hold our group of twenty-eight literature evangelists in the highest regard. During the quadrennium they have placed close on one million truth-filled books, magazines, and periodicals in north country homes. These silent messengers surely whisper the way of life to those who read. Indeed, soul-winning fruitage is apparent from such a prolific sale-success sowing. Fifteen souls, who now embrace the Advent message, can trace the origin of their interest in the truth to these publications.

We consider our contingent of 100 lay preachers, without whose voluntary services in the pulpit, we would be at a distinct disadvantage. Some carry quite a heavy preaching programme, the preparation for which obviously entails a substantial proportion of their leisure hours. They, however, esteem it an honour to have a part in feeding the flock of God.

In order to give our lay brethren and sisters the opportunity of the best preparation for service, within the church and to those outside, facilities are offered for teacher training. Several churches have organized such classes, the response has been excellent, and over fifty have already qualified for the official certificate.

North England was privileged to be the host of the Union-wide Laymen's Congress held in Birmingham during the Easter week-end of 1957. The inspiration of this meeting gave impetus to the idea of training for service. Subsequent district conventions, rallies, and "workshops" in strategic places were convened to stimulate other brethren and sisters into more effectual service for Christ. Reports come to hand of our lay people engaging in home evangelism, with the result that over the period under review, fifty-eight persons have been led to accept the message through such witness.

Dorcas Welfare societies have been organized in several churches, and the formation of the Yorkshire Federation is a first step in the expansion of this form of practical service Christians owe to the needy in their community.

Perhaps the most important of conference activities generates from our youth. Aside from the prominent and effective part young people play by assisting in evangelistic campaigns and the Ingathering effort, "Share Your Faith," far from being a mere MV slogan, is indeed a way of life. Some have witnessed a good confession before National Service tribunals, while others in the state colleges and schools of learning have boldly challenged teachers and scholars who adhere to the hypothesis of organic evolution. Their regular inspiration is derived from their MV Society activities—the weekly meetings, the MV Courses, the summer Camps, the winter reunions, the conventions, the rallies, the "Meet Newbold" week-end. During the quadrennium some twenty-nine North England youth have entered the doors of Newbold College for ministerial training. At least four responded to calls of mission service in Africa.

While speaking of our youth and children, we

are reminded of our single church school in Leeds. The enrolment has fluctuated. At one period as many as forty children were in attendance. The keeping of a regular staff has been the school's outstanding drawback. We are confident, however, that the appointment of a male head teacher, and extensive improvements to the physical plant and tutorial facilities, will give greater confidence to parents and result in the establishment of the school on a permanent basis.

As we bring this brief review of achievements to a close, we express gratitude for the blessings of God. However, as we regard our territory, embracing

as it does twenty-one million people, with literally scores of cities and towns without a single Adventist, we are at once soberly confronted with the tremendous challenge of an unfinished task, demanding the consecration and unreserved zealous service of our entire membership under God.

To my office colleagues and associates, the members of the Conference executive committee, ministers, Bible instructors, teachers, church officers, and members in general, we again say thank you for your loyalty to the Conference administration. Let us accept the responsibility of service, "Lift the Standard" and "Advance."



Church Publicity Progress

By R. D. VINE

Public Relations Secretary, British Union Conference

THE particular concern of our Public Relations Department is the reputation of the remnant church. Due to misunderstanding, ignorance, and in many cases, to deliberate distortion of the facts, our church has been presented to Christendom as a subchristian cult which, like a lowly mushroom, suddenly emerged complete with its own unique theology, during the fervent nineteen hundreds. Our secretaries around the Union have had much satisfaction in the noble effort of seeking in various ways to dispel such unfortunate illusions.

Our concern during the past quadrennium, and since our beginning as a separate department, has been to let non-Adventists know that we are a truly Christian church, with a truly biblical message; whose doctrine and practice is truly apostolic; a church that is humanitarian, responsible, balanced, respectable, and friendly.

We are glad to report limited but consistent effort during the past four years, and feel grateful to God for what has been accomplished. All of us connected with this department have been limited by the pressure of our normal duties. But the physical impossibility of caring for all, or even a substantial proportion of, that which should and could be done, does not alter the fact that much gratifying success has been achieved.

Our efforts have lain chiefly in the direction of the public Press, for despite the popularity of radio

and television, the Press is still recognized as by far the most effective medium for informing and influencing public opinion. Particularly is this so in Britain, for statistics prove Britons to be more press-minded than any other country. The great national titans with their astronomical circulations ranging from the highest record of eight million per issue, and the nearly 2,000 provincial papers which regularly emerge to serve a voracious readership, constitute the main field of labour for our Public Relations secretaries around the Union.

Before the advent of our secretaries, Adventist news in the British Press consisted almost wholly of items which were prejudicial to us. Nobody knew the truth about us, simply because nobody told them. In their view we were on the rather disreputable fringe of the Christian sects, with odd views about war, pork, the scapegoat, and the Sabbath, but with very little that could be classed as really rational or truly Christian. We were religious oddities, often mistaken by responsible editors and reporters for Mormons, Russellites, and even Satanolatrists.

My personal interviews with official reporters and newspaper editors, including the editor of that acme of journalistic respectability and integrity, the *London Times*, has proved how woefully defective their knowledge of our church has been.

Both the religious and the secular press have opened their columns for the informative news items and features which have been submitted by our own press secretaries. Typical of our secretaries is our stalwart in Bristol, whose efforts have succeeded in a quarterly average of twenty column inches for church news, apart from picture space. In terms of money, such space in the local Bristol paper is worth more than £100 annually. Multiply this amount by the number of influential papers around the Union which have opened their columns

for the objective and informative material supplied by our secretaries, and we have an annual value of newspaper space amounting to thousands of pounds. And it is all free. For I might add here that this evangelistic ministry by our faithful secretaries costs virtually nothing.

Notably successful have been our secretaries in the West Country, East Anglia, Hampshire, South Wales, and Northern Ireland.

The items we submit for publication are not open propaganda, yet they clearly have propaganda value. Furthermore, they are helping to break through the barrier of ignorance that has hitherto enshrouded our name. "Adventists! I've never heard of them"—was an admission all too commonly heard in Britain some years ago. This situation is slowly changing, thanks in a large measure to our loyal secretaries.

Our work consists mainly in reporting church news such as Ingathering, rallies, conferences, youth activities, special visitors, baptisms, Dorcas work, weddings, etc.

It also consists in defending the faith, particularly against the false charges of the religious press. It is amazing how ignorant of our true position are certain responsible religious leaders. It is, furthermore, disconcerting to discover how consistently they dip into the vitriolic writings of D. M. Canright for their source material when preparing articles for publication. Publications concerned, include the *Expository Times*, *The Church of England Newspaper*, the publication of the Lord's Day Observance Society, the Pentecostal press, and other journals.

We undertake to contact these writers, and submit corrective articles for publication which set forth our true position. More often than not, these articles are published, and we are sure that much good is thereby accomplished.

In the *Belfast Telegraph*—Ulster's leading newspaper—Professor J. M. Barkley of the Presbyterian Assembly's College, Belfast, recently wrote about Adventists. Only 200 words were devoted to us, but these were enough to set forth certain misconceptions, including the charge that we teach the sinful nature of Jesus Christ, and that we insist that the Bible "must be interpreted to harmonize with Mrs. White's writings." Our wide-awake secretary prepared a concise explanatory statement which the paper published in full.

Mr. Barkley has since been sent a copy of *Seventh-Day Adventists Answer Questions on Bible Doctrine*, fifty of which were generously provided by the British Union Conference for distribution among influential men. In a brief but courteous letter, the professor has expressed his appreciation of this volume. Several of these volumes have already been placed, and we hope to distribute the remainder before long.

A tendency in the British religious press is to deal exclusively with our so-called "peculiar" doctrines, and present these as the whole teaching of the church. Certain of H. J. Legerton's articles have given the impression that our main teachings consist only of the scapegoat and the Sabbath.

Our Lord warned, "Woe unto you, when all men speak well of you." We are therefore undismayed

by a certain amount of vilification, but seek continually to present the facts. We are not so much perturbed by the expression of antagonistic opinion about the truth; but we are truly concerned when we are criticized for teaching things that are completely foreign to us.

However, we are glad to report our discovery that, with scarcely an exception, all we have approached have proved courteous, reasonable, and grateful for our help. One such was the famous writer, Rose Macauley, whose book: *The Towers of Trebizond* outstripped all other circulations in 1956. It contained—purely for entertainment, we admit—several references to Adventists, one of which made us out to be time-setters. Miss Macauley, when approached, was apologetic, and excused her crime by saying that her church too, had often to face up to unjust jibes and mortifying thrusts.

By our work, we are convinced that we are clearing the air of ignorance and prejudice, and are thereby reducing the likelihood of incorrect publicity in the future.

During the past quadrennium, successful Publicity Workshops have been held throughout the Union. These were conducted in Edinburgh, Scotland; in Cardiff, Wales; in Birmingham and Derby of North England; and in Milford-on-Sea on the South Coast. The latter lasted a week-end, and we were grateful for the good help given at that time by our Division Secretary, Pastor J. A. Simonsen.

Radio publicity has thus far been an undreamed of goal, but this phase of our work made its humble debut on the B.B.C.'s Western Region programme early this year—thanks to the good services of our Bristol Public Relations secretary. The topic concerned the dedication, on the same Sabbath, of two new Adventist churches in Bristol city.

County Show publicity is another phase of the work that promises great things. This was begun at Cornwall's Royal Show four years back. This year, on a high, hurricane-swept field near Turo, we had our very attractive display—rather diminutive because our large marquee had been totally destroyed four days earlier by the gale, but nevertheless, effective. We feel that similar displays, where Voice of Prophecy invitations, and free literature are distributed, should be shown in other places too. Money, and more important, time, are the limiting factors at the moment.

In conclusion I would emphasize that for the success thus far achieved in this important phase of evangelistic endeavour, thanks are due to Pastors K. H. Gammon in South England; J. Mahon in North England; B. F. Kinman in Scotland; Dr. H. Ebdon in Wales; and Brother John Dorland in Ireland—and to our loyal unsung Press Relations

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British Advent Messenger

Vol. 63, No. 17A.

August 28, 1958

Published fortnightly on Fridays for the British Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists by the Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts.

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