

COLUMBIA UNION VISITOR

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Held at Cleveland, Ohio, February 15-22, 1928



The Columbia Union Conference Office,

Takoma Park, Maryland



The Roll Call



The Third Quadrennial Session of the Columbia Union Conference was called to order by the President, Elder F. H. Robbins, 9:00 A. M. Thursday, February 16, 1928. All joined in singing hymn number 65, "I know I Love Thee Better, Lord". Professor W. E. Howell, Educational Secretary of the General Conference, read for the Scripture Reading Luke 3:40-42. Prayer was offered by Elder O. Montgomery, Vice-President of the General Conference.

The delegates were then seated and the following responded to the roll call:

General Conference Delegates

O. Montgomery, L. E. Froom, C. S. Prout, N. Z. Town, W. E. Howell, Mrs. W. E. Howell, W. H. Green, C. L. Bond, J. F. Huenergardt, Miss Katharyn Jensen, Chester Rogers.

Union Delegates

F. H. Robbins, E. J. Stipeck, J. P. Neff, H. K. Christman, E. M. Fishell, E. A. Manry, A. J. Clark, J. S. Washburn, Doctor G. K. Abbott, C. V. Leach, H. J. Detwiler, N. S. Ashton, W. F. Martin, W. M. Robbins, D. A. Rees, H. H. Hamilton, B. G. Wilkinson, J. A. Leland.

Chesapeake Delegates

N. C. Van Horn, R. S. Lindsay, S. T. Dixon, M. S. Banfield, G. Medairy, U. D. Pickard, Mrs. U. D. Pickard, A. J. Evelyn, G. R. Aspley, J. H. Wierts.

East Pennsylvania Delegates

W. H. Jones, G. S. Butler, O. C. Weller, Carl Becker, Miss Jessie Weiss, Elder J. E. Cox, H. A. Vandeman, Miss E. R. Hochschorner, W. A. Nelson, W. E. Barr, John Ott, E. R. Numbers, W. J. Venen, A. A. Cone, Miss Sadie Baker.

New Jersey Delegates

C. H. Kelley, J. E. Lippart, B. E. Miller, E. M. Kester, S. E. Norton, E. H. Swanson, O. G. Carnes, W. F. Schmidt, M. H. St. John, F. C. Phipps, Andrew Yakush.

Ohio Delegates

E. R. Corder, A. N. Durant, I. M. Evans, L. O. Gordon, C. W. Guenther, O. S. Hershberger, Miss M. H. Howell, A. E. King, Mrs. A. E. King, L. E. Lenheim, Mrs. L. E. Lenheim, Paul Matula, Mrs. Gertrude Resseguie, Daniel Roth, W. F. Schwartz, O. F. Schewdrat, J. W. Shultz, C. F. Ulrich, G. L. West, C. E. Welch, C. G. Atterholt, I. J. Gault, G. W. Hosford, J. G. Dasent.

Potomac Delegates

W. B. Mohr, B. F. Bryan, B. E. Connerly, R. F. Farley, H. G. Gaucker, R. D. Hottel, J. W. MacNeil, H. A. Morristown, C. P. Sorenson, W. S. Mead, J. A. Bee, W. O. Berry, R. L. Kimble, M. O. Bradford, Mrs. G. E. Wales, E. C. Atkinson, M. J. Shanko.

West Pennsylvania Delegates

H. E. Garrarde, Miss Alfrida Larson, Stanley Brown, C. B. Nemyer, L. W. Kurz, A. O. Lund, J. C. Oswald, G. S. Rapp, N. J. Grant, C. W. Weber, M. R. Coon.

West Virginia Delegates

C. M. Paden, J. E. Meredith, Charles Baierle, M. G. Conger.

Review and Herald Delegates

F. M. Wilcox, J. W. Mace, L. W. Graham, Clarence Palmer, E. L. Richmond.

Washington Sanitarium Delegates

Miss Esther Bergman, Miss Laura Witzke, Miss Florence Davies, Dr. D. H. Kress.

COLUMBIA UNION VISITOR

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of Seventh-day Adventists*

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President's Report

Third Quadrennial Session

of the Columbia Union Conference

Greetings to the Delegates and those assembled in the Third Quadrennial Session of the Columbia Union Conference. We come to this union session with gratitude in our hearts to God for His protecting care and prospering hand over us.

"When the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own tongue." Acts 2:1-6.

"It shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams." Acts 2:21.

"Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Acts 2:21.

The work of the disciples is illustrative of the work of God's people today. Our great need now is power from God to enable us to give the last message of mercy to a lost world. This power will be given if our relationship is right with God, and we ask for it. "Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to everyone grass in the field." Zech. 10:1.

God is just as willing to give power to His people for service now as He was in the days of the apostles. "To us today, as verily as to the first disciples, the promise of the Spirit belongs. God will today endow men and women with power from above, as He endowed those who on the day of Pentecost heard the word of salvation. At this very hour His Spirit and His grace are for all who need them and will take Him at His word." *Test.*, Vol. 8, p. 20.

The Columbia Union Conference comprises the States of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, New Jersey, Delaware, and the District of Columbia, with a population of 26,811,000, or approximately one-fourth that of the United States. This union conference was organized in November, 1907, with 206 churches, and 5,517 members. Today we have 262 churches, with a membership of 12,337, having increased our membership 100 per cent since the union was organized. The total number of laborers at present is 303.

The influence and importance of this union conference will be recognized when we consider that within its territory is located the Nation's Capital, and also the headquarters of our denominational work. There are many interests centered here.

During the last quadrennial period special evangelistic efforts have been conducted to reach the people in the large cities with the message. Meetings have been held in Cincinnati, Columbus, Springfield, Pittsburgh, Wheeling, West Virginia, Philadelphia, Scranton, Reading, Washington, D. C., Newark, New Jersey, and also in many small towns and country places. There have been 2,957 baptized during the last four-year period.

Tithe and Offerings

Financially the Lord's blessing has rested upon our union conference. The tithe for the last quadrennial period amounted to \$2,213,216.30, which is \$46.86 per capita, an increase of approximately one quarter of a million dollars over the previous period. This is within \$4,000 of the tithe paid by the entire denomination for the first twenty-nine years of our existence.

During the same period our mission offerings, including the per cent of tithe to missions, amounted to \$1,768,518.26, or more than was paid by the entire denomination for foreign missions up to 1904.

The total tithe and mission offerings for the last quadrennial period amounted to \$3,580,411.91. We are happy to have the privilege of not only sustaining the work in the home field, but also to help support the general work, and send the gospel to those in foreign lands.

Home Missionary Activity

Success marked the work of our lay members during the four years just ended. In this short period \$35,908.27 has been raised by our people in the mission extension fund. Not only has this sum of money built publishing houses, erected dispensaries, and aided in educational institutions, but it has forwarded the truth here at home by the books sold. 793,377 Crisis books were disposed of by the Columbia Union laity in the quadrennial period just closed.

The sum of \$397,557.66 was raised by Harvest In-gathering. The year 1927 proved to be our banner year. The General Conference credits us with \$109,850.74. A gain of \$17,442.73 was made over the former period.

At present more than 3,000 are reporting missionary work each month. This is a gain of practically 100 per cent. Just to show how God is leading His people into



service, it may be well to compare a few items. The first figure read will show what was accomplished in the former four-year period, and the second figure will show the four-year record just closed.

Number persons doing Bible Work	No report	4,320
Bible Readings Given	86,239	98,816
Missionary Visits	301,091	370,225
Articles of Clothing Given	124,350	157,930
Books Distributed	89,608	211,159
Tracts Given Out	1,018,951	1,024,016
Papers and Magazines Distributed	2,221,064	2,939,383

During the last four years, the union has circulated 3,756, 173 copies of *Present Truth*. Since 1919, the beginning of the reporting of circulation of *Present Truth* by conferences and unions, the Columbia Union has circulated 6,588,573 copies of *Present Truth*—an annual average number of 732, 063 copies.

This union has led all other unions in the circulation of *Present Truth* since its beginning; and since 1919 the records show that it has circulated twice as many copies as the Central Union, 2,690,902 more than the Atlantic Union, 1,042,608 more than the Lake Union, 2,790,302 more than the Pacific Union and 455,220 more than the North Pacific Union, and lacking less than 500,000 copies in equaling the combined circulation of the Southern, Southeastern, Southwestern, and Northern Union Conferences.

In the last four years 32,725 persons were taken into our churches, and 1,636 were converted as a result of the lay members' activity. Our churches have been blessed of God, and now that they are more thoroughly organized, we believe the time will soon come when every member will be an active worker in soul-saving service.

Missionary Volunteer Department

The Missionary Volunteer Department presents items of special interest which reveal encouraging progress in every phase of its endeavor. At the close of the first year of this quadrennial period there were 152 societies, while at the close of 1927 there were 170 societies organized in the union. The average membership of our societies throughout the conferences totaled approximately 3,000, which represents about 25 per cent of the membership of our churches.

The work for the salvation of our young people constitutes a most fruitful field of evangelism. During this quadrennial period 1,594 were added to our churches by baptism. This number of youthful additions to our membership in the Columbia Union during this period would provide the constituency for a conference the size of Chesapeake and West Virginia combined. It represents a little more than 50 per cent of all the baptisms reported by our conferences during the past four years.

We are especially interested in observing too, that our young people are carrying a heavy share of the evangelical work of our churches, and also providing a large part of the funds to prosecute our work in the regions beyond. The reports show that they distributed over 800,00 periodicals, and over a quarter of a million tracts during this period. They also gave and gathered for missions from 1924 to 1927 a total of \$109,861.57, which represents the highest amount of Harvest Ingathering funds gathered by our people in the Columbia Union Conference during any one year in its history.

The work of our Young People's Department merits our confidence and support, and as workers we should not

rest satisfied until we see every boy and girl in the homes of our people brought under the saving influence of this message, and trained for some line of service in the great world-wide work.

Educational Work

Eight years ago there were 54 church schools in this union; four years ago there were 65, and now there are 77. Eight years ago there were 66 teachers; four years ago there were 86; and today there are 105. The enrollment eight years ago was 1,177, four years ago, 1,324, and today 1,805. Thus there has been a gradual and substantial increase in the number of schools, the number of teachers, and the enrollment.

The qualifications of the teachers have greatly improved during the past eight years. Eight years ago we had seven teachers who held only permits. Today there are no teachers holding permits. Eight years ago there were only six who held "Professional and Life" certificates; today there are twenty-six teachers holding these certificates. Likewise there has been a large decrease in the number of third grade certificates, and a correspondingly large increase of first grade certificates. This shows our teachers are better prepared for their work than in the past. This improvement in the preparation of teachers is manifest in the general satisfaction that our schools are giving, and in the ever-decreasing number of complaints that come to those who are directing the schools.

The school system in this union has now reached that point where a definite step has been taken to carry out the full curriculum proposed by the General Conference as to the requirements in music, manual training, and other lines. There is still need of greater improvement in the schoolrooms and equipment. There has never been a very satisfactory attainment along these lines. Most important of all, the teachers are giving more attention to the spiritual education of the children, and are definitely working for the conversion of the children in their charge.

Our academies and college have had some reverses, such as the fires at Mt. Vernon. We notice that all of these schools have provided ample room for the accommodation of students, both in the homes and in administration facilities. They have also enlarged their plants for giving work to the students, and from every standpoint these schools are on a firm basis for rendering the service to the cause for which they were established. We are grateful to notice that the college has the largest enrollment this year in its history.

Publishing Work

As the Saviour sat upon the Mt. of Olives, He foretold what would take place in the world just before His second coming. He said, "The gospel must first be published among all nations." Mark 13:10. We are pleased to be able to report to you the splendid work accomplished through this department during the last four years. A number have been won to the truth through the personal efforts of our colporteurs and many more no doubt will be saved through reading the books placed in their homes.

Book sales for the quadrennial period 1920-1923 amounted to \$1,109,306.78, and for the last period 1924-1927, \$941,135.71. These figures indicate a loss during the last four years, but the preceding quadrennial period includes two of the post-war boom years. Our sales slumped considerably following 1921, but during the last two years have come up, amounting to a little over

\$218,000.00 in 1926, and a little over \$214,000.00 in 1927. This small loss is caused by the small number of relief books used in the union during 1927 as compared with 1926.

Medical Work

During the last quadrennial period progress has been made in our churches in educating the members to give simple treatments, and care for the sick. Schools of health are now being conducted in different places and our people are being educated to give more attention to healthful living. A large number have completed the Home Nurses' Course, and also have received special instruction in dietetics and cooking.

The Washington Sanitarium and the Columbia Union Conference have united in a program to hold schools of health in every conference in the union, thus working in harmony with the instruction as revealed in the Spirit of Prophecy. In "Ministry of Healing," page 149, we find this statement; "Every church should be a training school for Christian workers. Its members should be taught how to give Bible readings, how to conduct and teach Sabbath school classes, how best to help the poor and to care for the sick, how to work for the unconverted. There should be schools of health, cooking schools and classes in various lines of Christian help work. There should not only be teaching, but actual work under experienced instructors." A broader work remains to be done in the church than ministers and workers have realized. The people are not only to be ministered unto, but to be taught how to minister. Therefore two graduate nurses from the Washington Sanitarium are being sent to each conference in the union for a period of eight weeks, to give this instruction in the churches. Health talks are given one or more evenings during the week as can be arranged with demonstrations of the simple treatments that all should understand how to give intelligently in time of illness. During the afternoon cooking schools are conducted in the homes of the people or in the church. To these classes our people are encouraged to invite their neighbors and friends. Thus doors into the homes and hearts of the people are opened to the giving of the third angel's message in its fullness. Where these classes are being held, we have been told by our people that those not of our faith who could not be persuaded to attend any of our services are now manifesting an intense interest. Medical missionary work is not only the entering wedge, but a demonstration of the actual working of the gospel, and many an honest heart will thus be brought to a saving knowledge of the truth.

Sabbath School

It is gratifying to notice the splendid progress which has been made in the Sabbath School Department. The largest membership reported was in 1925; the largest average attendance in 1927; the largest total offering to missions, and the largest thirteenth Sabbath offering to missions was given in 1926. Four conferences in this union received pennants, signifying that they had reached the goal of thirty cents per member and also dollar day on the thirteenth Sabbath. These figures are an evidence of activity and faithfulness on the part of our Sabbath school secretaries. The figures for the last quadrennial period far exceed the figures of the preceding quadrennial period. Every conference in the union shows advancement during the last four years.

A large number of members in the union have received the Honor Cards which are given in recognition of their having attended Sabbath school each Sabbath, and being on time, and studying the lesson every day for a quarter. There are a large number in the union who have received the book marks, showing that a perfect record has been kept for an entire year. There has been considerable work done in the union by the General Conference Associate Sabbath School secretaries. Every conference has had help from these field workers by way of conventions held, special services in behalf of the Sabbath school work, stereopticon lectures, etc.

The total offerings received for the last four-year period was \$632,355.78. Of this amount \$168,151.62 was raised in the thirteenth Sabbath offerings. Our people have shown their great love for the truth by their liberality. We thank the Lord for the progress which has been made in the Sabbath school work.

Religious Liberty

In almost every state in this union conference the Sunday Law advocates are seeking more drastic Sunday Laws. At present in Washington a desperate effort is being made by many of the religious organizations of this country to have Congress pass the Compulsory Sunday Observance Bill, H. R. 78, which has been introduced by Mr. Lankford. Never before have we seen a more determined effort on the part of those seeking Sunday Laws to have our Government legislate and pass a Sunday Bill for the District of Columbia. All know what the result of this movement will be but are we ready for the issue?

The servant of the Lord has said, "The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation, by merely human authority, of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal Himself. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity, and the earth shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain."

"The great conflict that Satan created in the heavenly courts is soon, very soon, to be forever decided. Soon all the inhabitants of the earth will have taken sides, either for or against the government of heaven. Now, as never before, Satan is exercising his deceiving power to mislead and to destroy every unguarded soul. We are called upon to arouse the people to prepare for the great issues before them. We must give warning to those who are standing on the very brink of ruin. God's people are to put forth every power in combating Satan's falsehoods and pulling down his strongholds. To every human being in the wide world who will give heed, we are to make plain the principles at stake in the great controversy-principles upon which hangs the eternal destiny of the soul. To the people far and near we are to bring home the question, 'Are you following the Son of God, who declared, "I have kept My Father's commandments?"'

Let us pray earnestly, and ask the Lord to commission the angels to hold the four winds a little longer until the gospel message has reached every honest heart in the world.

The question comes to us, "Have we faithfully discharged the duty which God has committed to us of warning people of the dangers before them?" We have a great work to do, not only to show the world what such legislation means, but also to help our people to be prepared to meet the things that are coming. The salvation of our own souls as well as the destiny of others depends upon the preparation we make for the trial before us.

As to the future, we greatly desire to see our efforts more effective and fruitful in soul-winning. Our aim is to lay broader plans to reach more people in the cities and country, and to put into practice the counsel given in the Spirit of Prophecy to enlist the services of every member in our churches. We want to see more church schools established, more of the children gathered in, and more attention to shepherding the lambs of the flock. We are deeply interested in seeing Washington Missionary College, Mount Vernon Academy, and Shenandoah Valley Academy filled to overflowing with an attendance of our young people, and we also want to see the reproach of debt rolled off these institutions. This, we believe, can be done by faithful service in the Institutional Relief work. While our colporteur work is most gratifying, yet we are not satisfied, and we should encourage more of our people to enter this field, and make it their life work. As to the medical work, we should urge our people to give special attention to healthful living, also the giving of simple

treatments, and to the forming of classes in Home Nursing.

We should not relax our efforts until we see the "Testimonies" and the *Review and Herald* placed in every Sabbath-keeping family in this union conference. It will be a great blessing to our work if we call the attention of our people frequently to their duty in rendering to God His own, the tithe, and the offerings should not be forgotten.

In view of the Sunday bills now pending before Congress, our people should be strongly urged to circulate the *Liberty* magazine, and also to send to Congress as many petitions as possible against the Sunday bills.

In closing I would say, may God help us at this union session to lay broader plans than ever before for the carrying forward of the third angel's message, and may our hearts be in tune with heaven for the accomplishment of this work.

F. H. Robbins.

Treasurer's Report

During the past four years the Lord has greatly blessed the work in the Columbia Union Conference as the following will attest.

Statement of Quadrennial Period

1924-1927	
Conference	Tithe
Chesapeake	\$193,329.30
East Pennsylvania	372,645.60
New Jersey	336,615.10
Ohio	561,922.50
Potomac	478,058.30
West Pennsylvania	193,398.30
West Virginia	77,247.20
Totals	\$2,213,216.30



1924-1927	
Missions	4 Year Totals
\$ 90,423.27	\$283,752.57
228,847.49	601,493.09
184,762.68	521,377.78
315,514.79	877,437.29
265,344.41	743,402.71
110,433.35	303,831.65
51,108.11	128,355.31
\$1,246,434.10	\$3,459,650.40

The above figures do not include funds raised by the local churches for church expense and new buildings. If we were to add the amount raised for this work, it would easily reach the four million dollar mark.

Surely the Lord has blessed our people to enable them to give this enormous sum. This is as much as was raised by the entire denomination for the first thirty-two years of its existence and as much as was raised by the

entire denomination in 1916.

The following statement is a comparative operative statement of the Columbia Union Conference for the quadrennial period. We have endeavored to build up the work in the Columbia Union with the funds at our disposal, making such appropriations to the local conferences and schools as was deemed necessary.

Comparative Statement of Income and Expense

	1924	1925	1926	1927	Four Year Totals
Income					
Tithe	\$54,605.68	\$55,265.72	\$55,097.56	\$56,372.91	\$221,341.87
Interest	787.19	914.58	813.44	553.72	3,068.93
Rentals	4.63	238.42		5.43	248.48
Rutherford Property		687.14			687.14
Summer School				599.82	599.82
Totals	\$55,397.50	\$57,105.86	\$55,911.00	\$57,531.88	\$225,946.24

Expense	1924	1925	1926	1927	4 years
Lab. Sal. & Ex.	\$22,456.65	\$22,230.97	\$20,549.08	\$20,578.67	\$85,815.37
Administrative	1,617.13	1,860.25	1,610.52	1,765.12	6,853.02
General	4,488.72	4,621.02	4,200.70	4,679.87	17,990.31
Appropriations	24,700.19	25,516.52	33,771.64	28,349.47	112,337.82
Totals	\$53,262.69	\$54,228.76	\$60,131.94	\$55,373.13	\$222,996.52
Loss			\$4,220.94		
Gain	\$2,134.81	\$2,877.10		\$2,158.75	
Net Gain for Period					\$2,949.72

Summary

Present Worth January 1, 1924	\$38,313.83
Net Gain for Period	2,949.72
Present Worth January 1, 1928	\$41,263.55

E. J. Stipeck, *Treas. C. U. C.*

Missionary Volunteer

The records of the past four years tell an intensely interesting story of progress in the work of the Missionary Volunteer Department in the Columbia Union Conference. Your present secretary was assigned to the work of the department less than one year ago, immediately following the departure of the former secretary, Elder C. E. Andross, for the mission fields. For this reason we shall be compelled to confine ourselves mostly to a presentation of figures, as given in the records, with a rather limited account of practical experiences which naturally accompany vital contact with the work.



For the sake of simplicity and brevity in presenting this report we purpose to confine ourselves to three main thoughts.

1. Our Missionary Volunteer Movement,—Its need, purpose, and objectives.
2. Accomplishments during the past four years.
3. The challenge of our unfinished tasks.

Our Missionary Volunteer Movement

We are living in days of rapid transition. They are the closing days of the generation to which the Saviour referred nineteen hundred years ago, when He said, "This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled." Matthew 24:34. More than eighty years have passed since those wonderful days of inspiration that naturally accompany vital contact with the work.

set in operation the forces of the Advent message. The men and women of those early days have, for the most part, passed off the stage of action, and another generation has assigned itself to the task of leading the movement to its glorious consummation.

More than twenty-five years ago, when we were approaching the twilight hours of the generation of Jesus' prophecy, the following interesting message came to this people:

Reserves to Fill up the Ranks

"The burden-bearers among us are falling in death. Many of those who have been foremost in carrying out the reforms instituted by us as a people, are now past the meridian of life, and are declining in physical and mental strength. With the deepest concern the question may be asked, Who will fill their places? To whom are to be committed the vital interests of the church when the present standard-bearers fall? We cannot but look upon the youth of today as those who must take these burdens, and upon whom responsibilities must fall. These must take up the work where others leave it, and their course will determine whether morality, religion, and vital godliness shall prevail, or whether immorality and infidelity shall corrupt and blight all that is valuable." *Gospel Workers*, p. 68.

This startling message from one who has spoken with authority among this people suggests the reasons for the establishment of the Missionary Volunteer Department in the bosom of this great organization. Three reasons are especially emphasized as expressing the need and purpose of the program in behalf of our youth.

1. To perpetuate the vision, which inspired the founding fathers of this movement in 1844.
2. To answer the challenge of an overwhelming tide of evil.
3. To complete the program for world conquest that has been assigned to the advent people.

The Missionary Volunteer Department has undertaken the greatest character-building program of any similar organization in existence. To encourage our youth in a harmonious development of their spiritual, intellectual, physical and moral powers is the great purpose of this department. This gives it an unusual distinction, opens before it a limitless field of endeavor, and greatly widens its horizon of possibilities. In this inspiring program is comprehended the two-fold objective of the department,—To Save from Sin, and To Guide in Service. "That our sons may be as plants grown up

in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace." Psalms 144:12.

Accomplishments During the Past Four Years

In presenting a report of accomplishments in the program and activities of the Missionary Volunteer Department during the past four years, several items are deserving of special mention. We shall enumerate them briefly so as to give you a comprehensive survey of the field, and to gain a more intelligent conception of our unconquered territory in the work for our youth.

Society Organization. At the beginning of the period there were 152 organizations in the union conference, while at the beginning of this present year there were 170 Junior and Senior societies. These societies represent a total membership averaging approximately 3000 over the four year period. It is most interesting to note too, that during this entire period we have maintained an average reporting membership in our societies of 1650, or practically fifty-two per cent. Throughout the four years approximately thirty per cent of our society membership have participated in various band activities of the society organization.

Spiritual and Devotional Activities. During the last four years 1579 young people within our territory have made the great decision, been baptized, and accepted into the fellowship in our churches. This represents almost fifty-four per cent of the total accessions to our membership since 1924. This number would be sufficient to form a conference as large as the Chesapeake and West Virginia Conferences combined. The past year represents the peak of attainment in youthful conversions, when 499 were added to the ever-increasing ranks. This was the first time in the quadrennial period that we reached the goal suggested by the General Conference for the Columbia Union.

The number who received recognition for reading the Bible through totals 2028. Every year larger numbers are joining the ranks in this phase of our work, and the response of our youth during this early part of the year encourages us to anticipate even greater things in time to come.

As an invaluable aid in the devotional life of our young people, the Morning Watch idea occupies a place of supreme importance. More than fifty per cent of our active membership are faithfully observing the Morning Watch, and we shall not rest satisfied until one hundred per cent are listed in this feature of our devotional work.

Educational Features. The educational features of our society work include the Standard of Attainment, and also the various reading courses,—current and Spirit of Prophecy. We recognize reading as a most potential factor in moulding the lives of our young people. Many have been lost to this movement because of the stifling influence of pernicious literature. For this reason an excellent list of beautiful volumes is provided each year for our people of all ages, from the earliest grades to maturity. In this connection we are promoting a Spirit of Prophecy reading course in an earnest endeavor to encourage our youth to make a careful perusal of the writings of Mrs. E. G. White.

During the last four years 5342 Reading Course certificates were issued to our young people. Each year we have more than reached our goal assigned by the General Conference in this item. During 1927 alone 1330 certificates were issued, as against a suggestive goal of 1200.

Our aim is to endeavor to conduct a Standard of Attainment band in every society each year. We want every boy and girl in this movement to be able to "give a reason for the hope that is in him with meekness and fear", and to be thoroughly conversant with the historical setting of the movement whose cause he has espoused.

Since 1924 we have issued 610 Standard of Attainment certificates to those who have met the requirements in Bible Doctrines and Denominational History. This, by the way, represents the only item of our departmental program in which we did not reach our goal in 1927. Our report of 143, however, represents an increase over the previous year of 17 certificates.

We should not pass this division of our department endeavor without a brief word regarding the Testimonies and Spirit of Prophecy Reading courses that have been promoted during the past few years. These courses include two different sections,—the nine bound volumes of the Testimonies for the Church, and any six of the other volumes written by Mrs. E. G. White. We have observed, with a degree of satisfaction, a developing interest in these courses on the part of our young people in the Columbia Union during recent years. This is as it should be. We want our youth, who are to be future leaders of this movement, and to stand as beacon lights amidst the corrupting scenes of our present society, to be moulded and influenced by the many wonderful counsels that have come to us through the gift of prophecy.

Financial. A few items pertaining to the financial aspect of our Missionary Volunteer Movement will be of interest. Each passing year our young people are coming to assume an increasing share in the missions program of this denomination. During the last four years they have contributed \$109,861.57 to foreign missions. This is equivalent to the largest amount of Harvest Ingathering funds ever gathered in one year in the Columbia Union Conference. In addition to this amount definitely reported through the channels of the department our youth are contributing heavily in the financial part of our Sabbath-school work. Almost \$10,000 was raised for local society missionary work during this quadrennial period.

Missionary Work. The purpose of this report will not necessitate any detailed presentation of the many and varied items of missionary work accomplished by our people. There are a few items, however, that deserve special mention. Our records for four years include 93,060 missionary visits; almost 20,000 Bible readings; a quarter of a million hours of Christian help work; over a million periodicals and tracts distributed; and almost 50,000 missionary letters written.

The Challenge of our Unfinished Tasks

Only a few days before the opening of this conference session we completed a census of our young people within the territory of the Columbia Union. The figures present some interesting and startling revelations, which press a mighty challenge upon us for united action in the movement in behalf of our youth. At the very best our census figures are very inaccurate, and enable us to form but a limited conception of the stupendous task confronting us in saving our boys and girls to the cause.

Apostasies. Incomplete as our census seems to be, we discover that a little more than twelve out of every hundred of our young people have apostatized from our

churches. This does not include that vast army of young people of Adventist parentage who drift into the world without having ever declared their allegiance to the message. Conservative estimates by our statisticians place the loss to this cause of boys and girls of Adventist parentage during the last ten years at fifty per cent. This percentage would no doubt hold true in the Columbia Union Conference. Our observation reveals two important factors that enter into this tragic and alarming loss of youthful talent to our ranks. These factors especially touch the social and economic phase of their experience. The world is bidding high for any Seventh-day Adventist young person, and is willing to pay any price necessary to lure them from the moorings of their childhood training.

Church and Society Membership. Our recent census of young people in the Columbia Union also disclosed some interesting facts as related to church and society membership. Practically fifty-eight percent of the entire census enrollment of a little more than 5000 young people are not members of any church, and 45 per cent do not have membership in any of our Missionary Volunteer Societies. Fifty-eight of every hundred young people in this union conference who have not yet made the vital contact with the movement through church-fellowship, and openly declared their allegiance to this faith, present a mighty challenge to our entire constituency, and should stir us to concerted action in a great forward movement to save them all to the cause of God.

Our Junior Work. No field of activity in all our departmental endeavor presents a more prospective aspect than our Junior work. The last few years have witnessed some interesting developments in aggressive plans for the hundreds of boys and girls in our conferences who are approaching adolescence. It is the most delicate, and yet the most fruitful work ever undertaken by the Missionary Volunteer Department. Only twenty per cent of the youth under fourteen years of age have entered into church-fellowship according to our latest census, and we purpose to assign ourselves, through our various junior activities, to a well-organized program of character-development and evangelism in behalf of this great army of youth.

Plans for the Future

We face the future with courage and optimism born of a heaven-appointed vision. To us, in a unique sense, has been assigned the gigantic task of directing the work in behalf of our youth. We are keenly conscious of the seriousness of the task, and desire to affirm our sincere ambition to act our part faithfully in harnessing this great army of youthful grenadiers upon whom God is depending to lead His cause to a glorious triumph.

As we contemplate the program for widening the sphere of endeavor in the Missionary Volunteer Movement the following principles especially urge themselves upon us as of primary importance:

1. A strong, continuous evangelical movement, especially designed to strengthen those who have allied themselves with the cause, and to save from sin those who have not yet surrendered their hearts and lives to the Saviour.
2. A great society expansion program directed toward increasing the efficiency and usefulness of existing societies, and developing new organizations wherever possible.
3. A constant and more earnest promotion of the

principles of character-building, to the end that our youth may develop, harmoniously, their spiritual, intellectual, physical and moral powers for the best performance of the duties of life.

4. A well organized plan to acquaint our youth with the principles of Christian morality, in order that they may know how to relate themselves rightly trained against the corrupting influence of our present society.
5. A sincere effort to encourage all our youth to plan their careers for God, and to determine to make all their activities contribute definitely to the evangelical program of this denomination.
6. A strong, cooperative program in conjunction with the educational department to enroll all our young people in our own schools to receive a training for service in our own work, either at home or abroad.
7. A more aggressive program of society evangelism directed toward increasing the soul-winning results of our young people in all their society work.

"With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!! How soon might the end come,—the end of suffering and sorrow and sin! How soon in place of a possession here, with its blight of sin and pain, our children might receive their inheritance where 'the righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever', where 'the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick' and 'the voice of weeping shall no more be heard.' " *Education*, p. 271.

H. K. Christman.

Publishing



In the following terse but pertinent language, the historian, Wyllie described the rise and advance of the Reformation: "The history of Protestantism is the record of one of the greatest dramas of all time. It is a creative power. Its plastic influence is all-embracing. It penetrates into the heart and renews the individual. It goes down to the depths and, by its noiseless energy, vivifies and regenerates society. The globe itself it claims as a stage not too wide for the manifestation of its beneficent action and the whole domain of terrestrial affairs it deems to fill with its spirit, and rule by its laws."

Shall we say less of the phenomenal growth and expanse of the products of the press under the auspices of the Second Advent Movement?

Under the caption "The Press in Modern Missions," page 15, of "Publishing Department Story," we read:

"Throughout the years since Reformation times, gospel workers have recognized that 'the ministry of the press is not merely an auxiliary to which the Christian teacher can look to supplement his labors. It is itself an evangelistic agency, often penetrating farther and delivering a more effective message than any missionary could.' 'Modern missions, in a word, could never have grown to their present dimensions but for the printing press. As

one writer states, "It is among the auspicious signs of the times that into all the great languages of the world, the tongues of all the great peoples of the earth, the good news of God to men has already found its way. Great be the company who publish it! Mightily may the Spirit of the Lord attend it! Speedily may it heal the nation's deadly hurt!" Thus do we have again our attention called to the material uplift gospel literature lends to both the social and spiritual welfare of mankind. With authority then could Luther give expression to the following immortal words: "Printing is the latest and greatest gift by which God enables us to advance the things of the Gospel."

In speaking of the literature ministry, Mrs. E. G. White, under the inspiration of the Spirit, calls our attention to the following counsel: "God has ordained the canvassing work as a means of presenting before the people the light contained in our books. This is the very work the Lord would have His people do at this time. The time has come when a large work should be done by the canvassers. Do you ask why? Because the same ministry of angels attends the books that contain the truth as attends the work of the minister." Therefore the following appeal is made. "I beg those bearing responsibilities in God's cause to let no commercial enterprise interpose between them and the work of soul-saving. Let no business enterprise be allowed to absorb the time and talents of workers who ought to be engaged in preparing a people for the coming of the Lord." "Well may every one feel an individual responsibility in this work."

Permit me to now call your attention to this map which represents, without doubt, the most remarkable union of conferences in the world. This section of the world field of evangelism, represents approximately 25,000,000 blood-bought souls perdition bound. Surely this great mass of humanity, from a spiritual aspect, presents to this delegation a staggering problem, the solution of which is found largely in the following answer - our books and periodicals. Our literature is alive; it talks, but it cannot run. Therefore the vision must be written and made plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. Hence the union of the divine and human instrumentalities.

Figuring on the basis of resident canvassing and 50,000 people to each colporteur, 25,000,000 persons call for just 500 literature missionaries. What a mighty challenge these facts present to the constituency of this great conference. And while we do appreciate the valiant corps of colporteur evangelists, 132 strong, which this union has the honor of directing, if it were only possible to increase this number five fold and the results in the same proportion to the increase of workers, what a far-reaching influence would be exerted by means of the printed page throughout this great populous center. Yes, we thank God and take courage for the 132 men and women who, for the past four years, have championed the cause of truth through the agency of the printed page. The orders taken by this tireless, zealous and heroic band of house-to-house, person-to-person missionaries during the past four years, amount to \$941,135.71, or nearly \$1,000,000 in sales. Allowing 25 per cent of this amount for losses during deliveries, we could safely say that our colporteurs have, in the quadrennial period just closed, delivered books amounting to \$705,750. In other words that means that 128,318 large books have been placed in

the homes of the people. One hundred twenty-eight thousand three hundred eighteen books are equivalent to 102,654,400 pages of truth. If this amount of literature represents so many pages of light and truth, figuring two persons to each page, 4,106,176 people would benefit by this heaven-sent literature.

Figuring, however, on the basis of so many books alone and four persons to the family, to whom these books were sold, 513,272 individuals would have access to these beautifully inspired volumes of God's final message to the world. This is not the end, however, of this great program of evangelizing the benighted souls of the Columbia Union. This is merely the beginning. We have not mentioned the many, yea, one half million earnest appeals these self-supporting, sacrificing, travel-worn missionaries have made to the careless sojourner on life's highway. The story would not be complete unless something were said regarding the many souls that have been redeemed and established in present truth through their fidelity, zeal and contact with the people.

For a brief moment let us consider the financial asset these self-supporting missionaries have been to the cause we love. We can safely estimate that \$35,000 tithe has been paid into the treasury from the books they have sold, not to speak of their liberal offerings and the thousands of dollars they have contributed to the support of the publishing houses.

Notwithstanding all the afore mentioned accomplishments and assets which have accrued to the conference as a direct out-growth of the colporteur work, and quite apart from the material side of the project, it would hardly be within the province of the finite mind to conjecture as to the end of this literature movement, marching ever onward, growing in proportions as it increases in momentum. Yet we believe that the day of God and eternity alone will fully reveal the complete and glorious fruitage of this loyal and consecrated band of gospel seed sowers.

In passing, there is another item which features largely in this work of which I wish to speak. I am profoundly grateful for the kind and liberal consideration that has been given to our publishing department from time to time, in the matter of efficient local leadership. By being able to head up the department in the various conferences with more men and stronger leaders, we have been able to increase our volume of sales and missionary achievement, besides raising the standard of efficiency. I could not think of concluding this report without expressing our appreciation for the splendid cooperation of the *Review and Herald* in making possible for such conferences as Ohio and East Pennsylvania to increase their colporteur department leaders from two to six strong, dependable generals. And now West Pennsylvania is determined not to come behind in any good thing, but rather to follow their laudable example by adding an associate secretary in the person of Brother Ridenour. And at this juncture may I add, in the way of emphasis, that we trust the end is not yet, but that other of our conferences may catch the same but more progressive spirit and thereby make it possible to extend the triumphs of the cross through this heaven-appointed agency. However, permit me to state again that we sincerely appreciate the most hearty support and cooperation extended to the colporteur ministry by our Columbia Union and local conference presidents.

We appreciate the earnest prayers, and liberal support our constituency has contributed to this branch of the work. We thank God for the printed page and the ben-

eficient influence it has and still continues to exert on the hearts of mankind, and may the dissemination of light, through this effectual medium, expand in radiant and penetrating rays until the millions of earth are enlightened with the truth of the Advent message.

E. M. Fishell.

Home Missionary

In the seven conferences comprising the Columbia Union there live 27,486,095 people, who are to receive the last message of mercy from the people of God who now number 12,337, or one Seventh-day Adventist to every 2,227. No union in North America has so great a population nor does any union have the foreign-speaking people that reside within our borders. Several cities have more inhabitants than some of the states west of the Mississippi. Several cities have more inhabitants than some of the states west of the Mississippi.

These people must be warned in this generation in which we are living. "So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the door. Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." Matt. 24:33-35.

Nearly eighty-four years ago Jesus went into the Holy of Holies, and as the final movements will be rapid, it follows that a quick work must be done. Were it left to our conference workers, the population's increase from year to year would be greater than the number warned. However, Jesus has given unto every man his work, and has instructed us to organize the church for active service.

"Well organized work must be done in the church, that its members may understand how to impart the light to others and thus strengthen their own faith and increase their own knowledge. As they impart that which they have received from God, they will be confirmed in the faith. A working church is a living church. We are built up as living stones and every stone is to emit light. Every Christian is compared to a precious stone that catches the glory of God and reflects it." *Test.*, Vol. VI. p.453.

Two years ago considerable stress was laid upon the question of organization. First, each unorganized conference was divided into districts with a worker in charge. In one or two cases seven churches were in one district, in a few places just one, but the average was about four. The worker in charge is responsible for his district. It is a conference in miniature, and just as the president of the conference is held accountable for all the missionary activities of his field, so the district leader is accountable for every church in his district. A further dividing of responsibility is advocated in Exodus 18. All Israel was separated into bands of ten, so each church is to be organized into bands. This grouping into bands is now going forward, and many churches are thus organized.

"Those who have the spiritual oversight of the church should devise ways and means by which an opportunity may be given to every member of the church to act some part in God's work." *Test.*, Vol. IX, p. 116.

"The laws of God's kingdom are so simple yet so complete, that man-made additions will create confusion. And the more simple our plans for work in God's service,

the more we shall accomplish. To adopt a worldly policy in the work of God is to invite disaster and defeat. Simplicity and humility must characterize every effective effort for the advancement of His kingdom." *Id.* Vol. VII, p. 215.

Our people of the Columbia Union Conference, 12,337 in number, have gone on from victory to victory following the leadings of the Master. In the four years covered in this report, 2036 have been brought into the truth by the activity of the lay members. To illustrate, a sister selling crisis books on the main street of a Virginia city sold two to a contractor. In a few days the same man ordered a copy of each crisis book published. Not long after this, it was learned that his wife was much interested. A few Bible studies convinced this woman that we have the truth, and now she and her children are active workers in our church.

A sick woman was visited by a lay member. After a few visits, the Adventist woman offered to read to her. "Christ's Object Lessons" was used, and in a short time the woman not only became well, but accepted the truth. A young church elder began holding studies with a young man and his two sisters. The sisters have begun to keep the Sabbath, and the brother is deeply interested.

For a long time one of the small churches in the union held its services in a hall. Often the lodge members left the hall in an untidy condition, the floor being strewn with burnt matches and cigaret stubs. Finally the brethren decided to build a church. It was a struggle, but at last a little church, with a schoolroom, was erected, leaving a debt of over a thousand dollars. A man in the neighborhood had watched the efforts of our people, and had learned something of our work through the elder and his sister. The special *Signs* was given to this man. He was amazed to learn of the magnitude of our work. He asked the elder how much remained on the church indebtedness. He was given the figures, and wrote out a check for \$1,157.37, which covered the debt.

All missionary work can be included under three headings; namely, Literature Ministry, Bible Readings, and Medical Missionary work. In the past it has been the plan of the layman's soul-winning movement to encourage each member of the church along one of these lines.

In many of the churches Home Nursing classes have been carried to completion. No one can estimate the amount of good thus accomplished. Three hundred and fifty-nine persons have been given certificates in the past four years, and at present there are 104 in classes. Recently in a city where it was necessary to secure permits to sell literature on the streets, one of our ministers went to the city manager and told him of the medical phase of our work, and that should a plague of the flu break out in the city, the manager could feel free to call upon the Seventh-day Adventist church for help. This offer was pleasing to the official, and in a short time a permit was given for our work.

In the circulation of literature let us notice a few items. In the last four years 793,377 Crisis books have been circulated in the union. The past year was the best, there being last year 236,277 of these truth-filled books distributed by our people, a gain over the previous year of 59,712. "If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the Scriptures." "Christian Service", p. 145. It is generally believed that on an

average, five persons have access to a book in the home. The Crisis books sold by our people are exerting a strong influence for the truth.

There has been a revival in the distribution of tracts in our field. Letters coming to the various offices and churches indicate that should we do as we are advised in the Spirit of Prophecy, much more would be accomplished. "Carry with you wherever you go a package of select tracts which you can hand out as you have opportunity." This instruction was given in the *Review*, 1880. How slow we are to grasp God's way of doing. Many churches using the Home Bible Study League plan have been rewarded by persons accepting the truth. One large church reports twenty persons won during the last year. *Present Truth* has been constantly given out since our last session. The estimated number of copies is 2,876,956. If these had been given to separate individuals one in ten in this union would have a copy.

The mission extension shows an encouraging gain during the past four years:

1924	\$8,142.47
1925	6,982.39
1926	8,307.91
1927	11,133.61

Total \$34,566.38

About one-fourth of the mission funds of the General Conference are raised through the Harvest Ingathering. Each year for the past three years has witnessed a gain in this union. The total amount for the quadrennial period is \$397,857.66. By the year:

1924	\$85,842.00
1925	93,713.00
1926	108,150.00
1927	110,150.00

Total \$397,855.00

This shows a gain of \$17,442 over a corresponding period. Not only has this large sum extended the message in lands of darkness, but all who have participated have been benefited. Several souls are now rejoicing in the message because some Harvest Ingathering worker found them.

In conclusion here are a few statements of missionary activity:

Comparative Report of the Two Quadrennial Periods

Missionary Visits	301,091	370,225	69,134
Bible Readings	86,239	98,816	12,577
Signers Temperance Pledge	3,470	4,146	676
Hrs. Christian Help Work	383,691	485,468	101,777
No. Treatments Given	75,522	44,557	30,965
Value Food Given	\$27,073	\$36,373	\$9,300
Subs. to Periodicals	54,574	62,959	8,355
Articles of Clothing Given	124,350	157,930	33,580
Books Distributed	318,087	687,798	369,711
Miss. Letters Written	120,683	116,475	4,208
Tracts Distributed	1,018,951	1,024,016	5,065

These figures show what the laymen are doing to forward the message. Only about 25 per cent are represented in the report. Just as soon as we have all our people engaged in soul-saving work, the message will soon be given and Jesus will return for His waiting servants.

Plans for the Future

Since experience has demonstrated the practicability of the district arrangement, we urge every conference to

maintain this organization, and look to the district leaders for the campaign goals and missionary activities of every church in their respective group. Each district leader should organize his churches into bands as outlined in the Spirit of Prophecy. "The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err." *Testimonies, Vol. VII, p. 21*....

At least once a month the church missionary committee should meet and lay plans. These plans should include the first Sabbath service, and also the work of each individual member. "If Christians were to act in concert, moving forward as one, under the direction of one power, for the accomplishment of one purpose, they would move the world." *Id. Vol. IX, p. 221*.

Each church should become a training center where the individual will be so trained that all his talents shall be used in some soul-saving effort. "Every church should be a training-school for Christian workers. Its members should be taught how to give Bible readings, how to conduct and teach Sabbath school classes, how best to help the poor and to care for the sick, how to work for the unconverted. There should be schools of health, cooking schools, and classes in various lines of Christian help work. There should not only be teaching, but actual work under experienced instructors. Let the teachers lead the way in working among the people, and others, uniting with them, will learn from example. One example is worth more than many precepts." "Ministry of Healing," p. 149.

As we follow the outline given us by the One who cannot err, we will witness the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit which will finish the work and usher in the return of Jesus.

E. A. Manry.

Educational

It is with deep sense of our dependence upon God that we express our gratitude for the light that has been given on the subject of Christian education, and for the response which our people give when they see the light on this subject. Great changes have taken place in the training of children and youth during the past few years, and especially has been manifest the results of secular education as seen in the young people of today. Where there is no religion, there is no high purpose in life. Modern education from purely secular education becomes more pronounced each successive year.

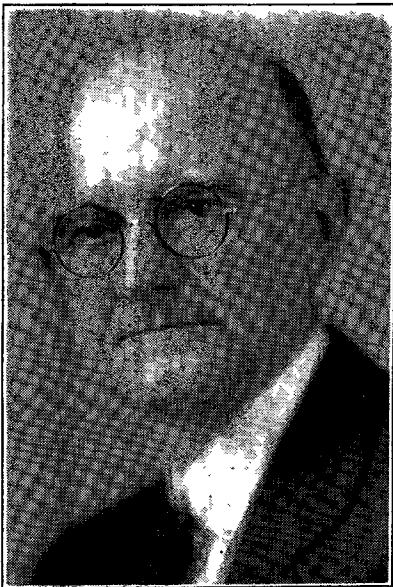
Knowledge and mental power that are not guided by the wisdom of God, become weapons of every evil work. Education is power, and that power is directed either by the wisdom of the world, or by the wisdom of God. The wisdom of the world is using education for the accomplishment of some of the highest purposes of our material civilization, and we also note that it is using it for the accomplishment of some of the most shocking conduct in all history.

We are compelled to reach the conclusion that unless scholarship, learning, knowledge, mental power and skill tend to lead the one who possesses these into the path of virtue and rectitude, into lines of unselfish service for the glory of God and the good of humanity, it were better that such an individual would have remained in comparative ignorance, lived in obscurity and been confined to the humbler walks of life.

Several volumes have been compiled from the Spirit of Prophecy covering every phase of Christian education.

We believe the time has come when we should know what has been written; when all our people should be educated along this line as well as they have been in the doctrines, and that the whole denomination should give its attention and support to this question which has become paramount at this time. We are sure to lose our children unless we give heed to this matter.

We are glad to report that progress has been made during the past four years in our church schools in the Columbia Union Conference; although it is not as much progress as we should like to report. Today there are enrolled in the church schools 1805 pupils. Four years ago there were 1324; and eight years ago, 1177. This shows an increased enrollment of over thirty-five per cent on four years, and of eighteen per cent the past year. There has also been a corresponding increase in the number of church schools and teachers. Eight years ago there were fifty-four church schools in this union; four years ago there were sixty-five, and now there are seventy-seven. Eight years ago there were sixty-five teachers, four years ago there were eight-six; and now there are one hundred five.



While these schools show a very substantial gain during each of the quadrennial periods as compared with the preceding, there are still many of our churches without schools, and many of our children growing up without a Christian education. Including the College with 335 students, the Mount Vernon Academy with 165, and Shenandoah Valley with 65, we have a total enrollment of 2380. But there are approximately 2620 children of school age in this union not enrolled in any of our schools. We have gained nearly 500 in the enrollment of the church schools during the past four years. About one-half of the increase has been made this year.

Special effort was made to gather the children in the schools in churches where we already had schools, and also to establish new schools. We are most happy to see this decided advancement. We hope it is only an indication of what is to follow until the 2620 lambs of the flock without the fold are gathered into our schools.

There has been a marked improvement in the qualifications of the teachers. Seven teachers held permits eight years ago; this year no permits have been granted. Eight years ago there were only six holding professional

and life certificates, and today there are twenty-six who have these certificates. This is a gain of over four hundred per cent. There has been a large decrease in the number holding third grade certificates. Then too, it will appear that the teachers are very much better qualified along educational lines today than they were a few years ago. Teachers have been encouraged to attend the summer schools at Washington Missionary College each summer, and there is very much better understanding among the teachers, of the work that they are expected to do. As a result of this improvement in their preparation for teaching, better work is being done. The people are generally satisfied and fewer complaints are coming into the office.

Special attention is being given in our church schools to educate and train our children in missionary activities, and in helping to carry out the denominational program. In Harvest Ingathering, Week of Sacrifice, Institutional Relief, Big Week and so on, the children set their goals and work to reach them just like their older brothers and sisters and fathers and mothers. Thus they are receiving a practical training that will be of great value to them as well as to their churches as they grow up into young manhood and young womanhood. We believe that this experience in their training will eminently qualify them to become leaders wherever they may be located, and that great impetus will be given to these various lines of financial endeavor that are put forth by the denomination. Since September 1 the church schools have raised for missionary purposes \$5,325.69, which is \$3 per capita.

A large number of School and Home Associations have been organized. The problems that affect the home and school have been studied and discussed, and consequently there is closer cooperation, wider support and better understanding between the home, the church, and the church school.

The schools organize the Junior Missionary Volunteer Societies at the beginning of the school session, and they are considered a regular part of the church school program. There has been notable improvement in regularity and stability of this work. Definite study as well as active missionary endeavor is being carried out in their societies.

We have been giving attention particularly to the fundamentals during the past four years. We have now reached the point where definite steps have been taken to carry out the full curriculum proposed by the Educational Department of the General Conference; such as their requirements in music, drawing, manual training and other lines. Some of the conferences have worked quite vigorously during the past two years for the improvement of the school rooms and school equipment.

We are especially glad to also report that there is a fuller appreciation on the part of the teachers of the spiritual side that is expected of them. Our schools are not simply schools of instruction where lessons are learned and recited. Nor are they simply schools where the Bible is a part of the course of study and where doctrines of our faith are learned; they are schools where the stately steppings of angels may be discerned, and where the Holy Spirit teaches the deep truths of God, not only to the understanding, but to the heart. Teachers have conscientiously and definitely worked for the conversion of their children, that they might not only believe in God, know about Him, and study the plan of redemption; but they are more and more realizing that their work is incom-

Sabbath School

plete and fundamentally defective unless they lead the children to know God, to trust Him, and to love Him. This is the teacher's chief responsibility, his solemn task, and should be his constant and highest purpose.

We express, by way of explanation rather than apology, that many of the schools are working at a disadvantage in the teachers having more classes than they can well manage. Their work is heavy, the results are not as good as we could expect if the schools were larger, and there were more teachers and fewer classes to each one. But we believe that in spite of these conditions the children will be very much better prepared for life, even in this world, than if they were being prepared in the very best schools in the country with the most complete equipment and the highest classifications, but where the spiritual atmosphere may not be obtained, and where Christian principles are not taught and incorporated into the lives of the children.

Ninth and tenth grade subjects have been taught in some of the schools where a question of standard might be raised and the wisdom of attempting this work called in question. But those in charge of the educational work in this union have thought that we must not be too technical or discriminating where eternal interests are involved; for we believe that the ninth and tenth grades mark the critical time in the life of all children, and especially is this true of Seventh-day Adventist children, who must choose between the high schools or receive the instruction we have provided in our seemingly overcrowded program. We have endeavored by this means to make the connecting link between our church schools and our academies. To lose the children for a year or two at this critical period, in the majority of cases, means to lose them forever.

Now I would say our academies and college have had some reverses, such as the fires at Mount Vernon. We note that these schools have all provided ample room for the accommodation of students, both in the homes and in administration facilities. They have also enlarged their plants for giving work to the students, and from every standpoint, these schools are upon a firm basis for rendering the service to the cause for which they were established. We are pleased to note that the college has the largest enrollment in its history, about 335 students.

We have made some efforts, during the years, to help in a financial way the young people in our academies and college who were not able to defray all their expenses. We do not believe that we have yet reached a satisfactory solution of this problem. Our present plan will not take care of all the young people who are desirous of obtaining a Christian education in one of our academies or colleges.

If we understand the Spirit of Prophecy, it is plain that this denomination has a responsibility of setting itself to the task of seeing that every boy and girl has the opportunity of receiving a Christian education. We are most happy to report that the General Educational Department is moving out along definite lines to gather all of our children into our own schools. We believe that this is by far the longest step that has yet been taken in our denominational history for the salvation and training of our children and young people, and we would lay the responsibility upon every worker, teacher, parent, and church member of seeing that this task is accomplished.

J. P. Neff, *Minister of Ed. of C. U. C.*

The only reason for the existence of a Sabbath school is the salvation of souls. The Lord has told us that "The object of the Sabbath school work should be the ingathering of souls". *T. S. S. W. p. 47.* And again "The Sabbath school work *if rightly conducted* is one of God's greatest instrumentalities to bring souls to a knowledge of the truth". *T. S. S. W. p. 18.*

Notice the conditions under which this blessing is granted—if rightly conducted. "The Sabbath school is preeminently a soul saving work. This sacred objective should be kept foremost in mind in the arrangement of every program, the conducting of every exercise, and the use of every device. There should be no purposeless nor meaningless mechanism of the Sabbath school machinery; there should be no lost motion or useless ceremony."

A Sabbath school report at a union meeting is something new, but is in harmony with the action taken at the recent Fall Council. In this brief report it will be impossible to tell you all the soul saving results of the Sabbath school work during the past four years. Eternity alone will reveal the results of the faithful efforts and the sacrifices of the constituency in this great union conference. We will not burden you with many statistics and figures but will use these only as they illuminate the future with the aim of setting before the assembled workers the definite objectives towards which we should work in the days just before us. If we can catch a vision of the Sabbath school work and the responsibilities that rest upon the leaders of the work in this union, it will be time well spent.

In Volume 5, page 127, we are told that "The Sabbath school work is important and all who are interested in the truth should endeavor to make it prosperous". Now what is the first requisite to make a Sabbath school prosperous? Attendance, of course, is the first thing we need for the success and prosperity of a Sabbath school, and this applies to the leadership of our churches, of church pastors and elders. The Sabbath school is one of the most effectual agencies in the hands of a pastor to keep close records of the members of his flock. If only our church leaders could realize this and make better use of the Sabbath school organization, they would find it would find it would help lighten their burdens and make more effective the work in their churches.

There are in the union at present about twelve thousand church members. The Sabbath school membership at present is approximately thirteen thousand. Of course you will understand that included in this Sabbath school membership are many children and others who are not members of the church. There are in this union at present two thousand six hundred ninety-two Seventh-day Adventists who are not connected with a Sabbath school and who do not attend. These figures should be a mighty challenge to the workers assembled in this conference to go back to our fields of labor and gather in these missing members. These people need the Sabbath school and the Sabbath school needs them.

If these absent members were enrolled in our Sabbath school department and if they were faithful in giving their offerings as those who do attend, this union would have no difficulty in reaching the Sabbath school financial goal of 30 cents per church member and the individuals themselves would receive the blessing that they are now deprived of because of their failure to attend

Sabbath school. Let us bring this a little nearer home and find out just how many members are missing in each local conference. In West Virginia there are seventy-three missing members; in New Jersey two hundred eighty; in West Pennsylvania four hundred ten; in Chesapeake four hundred fifty-seven; in the Potomac Conference five hundred; Ohio five hundred forty-seven and East Pennsylvania six hundred twenty. Now what shall we do to enroll these missing members? If we can go back to our work with a new vision of the needs of these not enrolled in our Sabbath schools and put into operation plans that will bring these absent ones into the fold, what a wonderful blessing will be in store for the people of God in this union. In order to do this we must have the cooperation of every worker. Several times I have heard the statement made that one of the first steps in the experience of a back slider is his failure to attend Sabbath school regularly. Let us do everything possible to keep our good people from taking this first step.

Of course there are many who are enrolled in the Home Division of our Sabbath schools, and you might be interested to know that in this union there are enrolled in the Home Division one thousand seventy-five members and that they gave during the past quadrennial period \$21,353.10. Most of this offering is due to the activities of the Home Division leadership and very little of it would have been given had not these good people been enrolled in the Home Division of our Sabbath schools.

During the past four years the Sabbath schools members received 4,764 Honor Cards, showing that they had perfect quarterly records. And each of the four years we have issued over one hundred fifty ribbons to individuals who had not missed a Sabbath all during the year and who had not been late and had studied their lessons every day in the year. What a wonderful blessing these individuals have received by learning to be regular in studying God's word every day.

That many of the Sabbath schools are trying to increase their efficiency is shown by the fact that two hundred twenty-eight Sabbath schools in this union use the *Sabbath School Worker* and fifty-nine Sabbath schools hold regular weekly teachers' and officers' meetings. Many members have taken the Reading Courses.

Eighteen hundred twenty-two Sabbath school members were baptized during the last quadrennial period. Of course we realize that many and various influences have been instrumental in leading to these baptisms. The Sabbath school department would not discount in the least the work of the minister, the Bible worker, the church school, and individual lay members, and yet who can tell of the influence exerted by the Sabbath school where these individuals came from week to week, listening to the study of the Word of God, and being encouraged to study for themselves at home. Surely the Sabbath school has had some influence in helping to mold these Christian characters. As was stated before, the only objective of the Sabbath school work is soul-saving. We attend the Sabbath school to save our own souls and give our offerings to help save the souls in foreign lands.

During the past quadrennial period the Columbia Union Conference Sabbath schools gave a total of \$628,234.59 which is a gain of \$100,000 over the previous quadrennial period. This chart shows the growth of the Sabbath school offerings since the organization of the Columbia Union Conference. In 1907 the total offerings were just a little over six thousand dollars. In 1927 they

were over one hundred sixty thousand dollars. If you will notice this chart you will see that with only three exceptions this gain has been constant. I am sorry to note that two of these exceptions came in the last quadrennial period. The best year was 1926 when we gave through the Sabbath schools alone nearly one hundred sixty-five thousand dollars. You will notice that for the year 1928 we have a question mark. What shall the offerings be for this year? A great deal will depend upon this group of workers concerning the answer to this question.

The thirteenth Sabbath offering is a very important item in our foreign missions contributions. During the past quadrennial period our Sabbath schools gave \$162,814.07 through the thirteenth Sabbath offerings. It surely does pay to promote the thirteenth Sabbath offering, known to us as dollar day. It may be of interest to know that the thirteenth Sabbath offering idea originated in the Columbia Union Conference, to be specific, in Akron, Ohio. I am sure that as a union we are proud to give birth to such a worthy idea which has meant hundreds of thousands of dollars that otherwise would never have gone to the mission fields.

Over three years ago the General Conference Sabbath School Department adopted the Investment Plan and this has been quite fruitful in our union conference, bringing into the fund for missions over five thousand dollars. This is money that comes to us in addition to the regular Sabbath school offerings. A more determined effort should be made in this conference to foster the Investment Plan.

In our boxes and envelopes used for birthday offerings we have collected in the past four years over five thousand dollars for missions. You will remember that all of the birthday offerings are to be used in starting new work and new workers. Surely we cannot afford to speak lightly of this important offering for it means so much to the fields which have not yet been entered.

Something else that is new has come into the Sabbath school department during the last quadrennial period known as the Pennant Plan. This is a pennant that is given to union and local conferences when they reach the double goal—when they give one dollar per church member on the thirteenth Sabbath and average thirty cents per church member in the Sabbath school offerings. Of course the thirteenth Sabbath offering counts on this average. In 1926 the Columbia Union Conference reached this goal during the fourth quarter and received a pennant, but we are sorry to state that this pennant has since been lost. This pennant can only be held as the conference continues to reach the double goal. Most of the local conferences have held a pennant, West Virginia holding it all but one quarter since the first, Potomac holding the pennant for one year and a quarter, East Pennsylvania having the pennant for two quarters and New Jersey for one quarter. All the conferences in this union have adopted the pennant plan excepting one. The pennant plan is a source of inspiration to our Sabbath school members because it really represents something worthy achieved. Each conference has a pennant similar to this one but on a smaller scale and the conferences give these pennants to the Sabbath schools that reach this double standard.

The gain in the number of schools to receive these pennants has been constant since the plan was first introduced, growing from forty-six the first year to eighty-eight last year. But in all our planning for the Sabbath

school offerings we must never lose sight of the real objective of this work. Let us remember more dollars mean more souls.

In closing this report I might say that during the past four years practically every phase of the Sabbath school work has shown marked progress. Surely the Lord does bless the Sabbath school work and there are still greater things in the future for us if we will but lay hold of the facilities the Lord has given us and to work as never before for the salvation of souls.

O. S. Hershberger.

Religious Liberty



The forces in America who are seeking Sunday observance laws are becoming more and more active and determined in their fight. This was very forcibly portrayed in a meeting which was held recently by the "Lord's Day Alliance" leaders in the Lutheran Church, Washington, D. C.

An all day meeting of these leaders was publicly announced, but when Elder Longacre, Elder Wilkinson, myself and others went to attend the meeting, we were forbidden entrance. After the meeting had convened, a vote was taken to have an executive meeting, and all who were not in favor of the Lankford Sunday bill were asked to leave. Of course we do not know what plans were laid at this meeting, but we do know that the leaders were afraid to have us present when these plans were being discussed.

We were privileged to attend the evening session, and it was plainly stated that it is the atheists and the Seventh-day Adventists who are opposed to Sunday bills. The Seventh-day Adventists were classed with the atheists in all their arguments. The statement was made that it was well known that "if you destroy an interest in one part of the Bible, you destroy an interest for all the Bible". Therefore where no Sunday law exists, there will be no interest in religion, and all who oppose Sunday laws oppose all religion. It was also stated that "the failure to recognize Sunday as a day of rest and worship of Almighty God means an increase of crime."

A number of years ago the servant of the Lord told us that these very arguments would be used. On page 587 of "Great Controversy", we read: "Yet this very class put forth the claim that the fast-spreading corruption is largely attributable to the desecration of the so-called 'Christian Sabbath', and that the enforcement of Sunday observance would greatly improve the morals of society".

These arguments will some day lead to the declaration that Seventh-day Adventists are to be blamed for the world's condition of sin, as we are told again on page 590 of "Great Controversy": "And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. The class that have provoked the displeasure of heaven will charge all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God's commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday-

sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity."

From these statements it is not hard to see the ground from whence persecution is coming. Let us work while we have the opportunity, "for the night cometh when no man can work".

A. J. Clark.

Report of the Field Department of Washington Sanitarium

Definite instruction has been given this people concerning the kind of training to be given our nurses. "Counsels on Health", page 396, we read, "The nurses who are trained in our institutions are to be fitted to go out as medical missionary evangelists, uniting the ministry of the *Word with that of physical healing*". On page 533, we have this statement, "I wish to tell you that soon there will be no work done in ministerial lines but medical missionary work. Take hold of the medical missionary work and it will give you access to the people."

The Washington Sanitarium, desirous of carrying out this instruction, brought into existence thirteen months ago the field department. A demonstration area, within a radius of fifteen miles from the sanitarium was used to work out the five phases of work outlined in the Spirit of Prophecy. Namely:

The health supervision and inspection of the church school children in the demonstration area.

Conducting of Home Nursing Classes.

Health talks, Demonstrations, Clinics in connection with evangelistic efforts and at the seven union camp meetings.

Schools of Health, Cooking Schools in churches and communities.

At the time of the Chattanooga Fall Council, the Columbia Union Conference made provision for the extension of certain phases of the medical work to be promoted throughout each local conference in the union. This union phase of the work is elective after graduation to those desiring further supervised experience for which a regular salary is paid the graduate nurse.

Both the local and the union work is under the direction of a representative field committee of eight members as follows:

Superintendent of the Washington Sanitarium, and another physician.

President of the Columbia Union Conference.

Secretary of the Nursing Division of the General Conference Medical Department.

Supervisor of the local and union field work.

Superintendent of nurses.

Business Manager.

Chaplain.

The wisdom of such a representative committee for the planning of the medical work in the field has already proven its value. Since January 5, 1927, the following work has been reported:

1. Health supervision of ten church schools having an enrollment of four hundred fifteen children. From a total of six hundred fifty-nine physical defects found, four

hundred forty-nine corrections have been made. In addition to the corrections of obvious physical defects, the teachers and parents have cooperated in launching a health education program to train the children in healthful habits of living.

2. Seven hundred and eighty-two home visits have been made. Definite instruction and help has been rendered parents, former patients and to those interested through evangelistic efforts. This does not include the distribution each week of several hundred hand-bills and *Present Truth Series* in connection with efforts.

Very concrete help has been rendered persons in distressing circumstances discovered through home visits. For example, at the recommendation of the field committee, six very needy cases, including five children and an aged sister have been cared for by the sanitarium entirely free for a period of thirteen weeks.

3. Assistance of two nurses covering a period of not

the nurses are doing in every phase of spiritual uplift in the church.

6. Sixty-one home nursing certificates have been issued to members completing the twenty lessons outlined by the General Conference in home nursing. There are fifty at the present time receiving this instruction in two classes.

The field department rendered medical help and instruction last summer at seven camp meeting in the union.

During the first year of the operation of this department, one graduate nurse was employed by the sanitarium as supervisor of the department. For the past two and one-half months two additional nurses for the union field have been secured. Two student nurses in addition are constantly in this service.

The cost of operating this work during 1927, which included two to three weeks' training each of the eighteen



less than two months each has been rendered four evangelistic efforts.

Drums, Pennsylvania, in connection with evangelist Miss Weiss' tent effort.

Baltimore, Maryland, assisting Evangelist Lindsay.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, assisting Elder Coon.
Washington, D. C., assisting Dr. Wilkinson.

Two hundred and thirty-seven health talks and demonstration have been given in connection with these efforts in the churches and church schools.

At the Drum's effort held last summer, a new church has been organized, and it gives us a great deal of pleasure to report that four in our local Washington district where the *Present Truth* is being left each week, are now taking weekly Bible studies. Two are attending the Sabbath service and there are others ready for studies and appointments.

Elders Coon and Lindsay give encouraging word from the Baltimore and Pittsburgh efforts.

4. Five cooking schools consisting of six lessons have been held with an enrollment of from thirty to sixty in each class. Two of these were conducted in the local field and three in connection with the work at Pittsburgh.

5. Three schools of health are now being given at the White, German, and Colored churches in Pittsburgh. Not only do our own people manifest an intense interest, but it is bringing in those not of our faith. The pastor states that it is the greatest single thing that has ever come to the city of Pittsburgh. He appreciates the work

senior nurses in this department, amounted to \$3,665.53. Since uniting with the Columbia Union Conference, the cost of operating the work for the month of January, 1928, totaled \$508.88.

A budget of \$8,000 has been provided for the present year's work, \$5,000 of which is contributed by the sanitarium and the remaining \$3,000 by the union.

We acknowledge God's manifold help and blessings the past year, since we realize that had we the greatest intellect ever given to man it would not be sufficient for the task before us. We enlist your most earnest prayers for the success of this branch of the Lord's work for the future. The work of the Lord, says the prophet, is to be accomplished not by might nor by power, but by the spirit of the Lord. As medical workers, we desire God's spirit to guide us that we may have a part with you in bringing to lost men and women the gospel of salvation.

Esther Bergman,
Supervisor Field Department
Washington Sanitarium.

"Jesus knows every scar of sacrifice you bear, and loves it. For it tells Him of your love. He knows the meaning of scars, because of His own. The marks of sacrifice cement our friendship with Him. And the nearer we come to fellowship with Him in the daily touch and spirit, the more freely can He reach out His winsome spirit through us, to His needy children."

Resolutions

Expressing Gratitude to God

Whereas, the past four years have broubht to us many manifest tokens of divine favor, evidenced by an increase in membership, in tithe, in mission funds, and in many departments of the cause, as well as a higher standard of Christian living and endeavor

We therefore Give thanks to our Father in heaven for all these mercies, and pledge ourselves to deeper consecration for the years to come.

Sympathy

Whereas, the hand of death has visited our field since the last session of our conference, taking away the following workers: Elder O. Ostrander, Elder and Mrs. F. M. Fairchild, Mrs. A. J. Clark, Mrs. A. E. Manry, Mrs. J. N. Anderson, Brother Andrews, Miss Ruth Wilcox, Elder Gaylord, Professor and Mrs. Maier, Miss Hazel Leach, Elder Shrock, Elder D. E. Lindsey, Elder Seeney, and Mrs. Matthews,

We do not rebel against the hand of our God, but bow in submission to His will, and that we extend to the relatives and friends of these beloved ones our sympathy, and point them to the One who came to comfort those who mourn, and share with them in the hope of a soon coming Saviour to bring the dead forth, when we shall be united never to part again.

Publishing Work

Combination Plan.

Whereas, The combination plan, that is, the combining of periodical or magazine subscriptions with our books by the colporteurs where orders are taken has proven a practical, workable and successful plan, therefore,

We Recommend

1. That as far as possible it be put into operation throughout the field.

2. That on all periodicals for which subscriptions shall be taken in connection with book orders the publishers allow a uniform discount of forty percent from retail subscription price to the colporteurs.

3. That in reporting sales the colporteur report periodical subscriptions and single copy sales as "helps," on that portion of the blank provided for periodical reports.

4. That periodicals be reported to the credit of the colporteur in the union conference paper, and be included in the general summary appearing in the *Review*.

5. That current copies of periodicals supplied by the publishers be used by colporteurs taking orders rather than a magazine prospectus.

6. That the regular twenty percent scholarship bonus be allowed on periodical subscriptions taken on the combination plan, and that each publisher of the magazine used allow its proportionate share.

Resident Colportage

Whereas, Experience has demonstrated that the resident plan of colportage is one of the most successful plans,

(a) In gaining the confidence and friendship of the people.

(b) In winning souls to the truth through our literature.

(c) In aiding the colporteur to economize on expenses.

(d) In affording the colporteur an opportunity to be more with his family, therefore,

We Recommend

1. That as far as possible the residential plan of placing our colporteurs in the field be adopted.

2. That in the selection and instruction of these resident colporteurs, emphasis be given to the spiritual, soul-winning results.

3. That the territory be districted in such a way that each district can be worked within a year by one colporteur; the number and needs of these districts to be kept before the churches.

Whereas, In addition to the combination plan, there is urgent need of a more systematic effort being made to increase the circulation of our periodicals and magazines, therefore,

We Recommend

That each conference in our union plan to give the needed help to the lady magazine workers who may be enlisted from our schools and churches by employing, as circumstances demand, an experienced sister to train and assist them in their work.

Courtesies Extended to Colporteurs at Camp-Meeting.

We Recommend

(a) That in harmony with the recommendation of the Publishing Department, arrangements be made with the conference committee to pay the railroad fares of colporteurs bearing credentials to and from camp-meeting providing said colporteurs have kept free from indebtedness to the book and Bible house.

(b) That wherever possible, and when desirable, colporteurs be given work on the camp ground to pay for, or assist in their defraying their expenses, care being taken not to give work that would deprive them of attending the meetings.

(c) That colporteurs, instead of being invited to assist in the pitching and breaking up of the camp, be urged to remain in the field until the beginning of the camp meeting, and to return to the field as soon as possible after its close.

Use of "Christ's Object Lessons" by the Students

Whereas, We have been told that the book "Christ's Object Lessons" has been dedicated to "the relief of our schools", and also "as a means of helping worthy students to meet their expenses while in training,"

We Recommend,

1. That "Christ's Object Lessons" shall not be made available for use by the regular colporteurs.

2. That a prospectus be prepared similar to our other subscription books.

3. That "Christ's Object Lessons" be sold for \$3 on the subscription basis.

4. That the same scholarship privileges, as proposed in this recommendation, apply on "Christ's Object Lessons" as on any other book used by our young people in their colporteur work. And further,

We Recommend,

That, inasmuch as our book and Bible houses have been released from any financial responsibility in the proposed scholarship plan, and since they have not previously accepted any commission for handling "Christ's Object Lessons" for our churches, they appropriate one half of their share, under this arrangement, to the Institutional Relief campaign in their respective conferences.

Ministerial

Whereas, The manifest call of the hour to every gospel worker is for greater spiritual power and increased efficiency in soul-winning service; and recognizing our

accountability for utilizing every preparatory agency designed to fit us to be more effective channels through whom the Holy Spirit may work; and

Whereas, The ministerial Reading Course, established and promoted by the General Conference as an aid to this end is proving such a rich blessing to many, we therefore,

Recommend,

That each ordained and licensed minister and Bible worker in the Columbia Union be urged to register yearly for the Reading Course outlined by the Ministerial Association of the General Conference. We further,

Recommend,

That local church elders and other officers be encouraged to register yearly for the Auxiliary Ministerial Reading Course for this important group of local leaders.

Ministerial Standards

We hereby adopt as operative in the Columbia Union Conference the following statements of ministerial standards as found in "Manual for Ministers" page 8, and in "Minutes of General Conference Autumn Council" of 1927, page 35:

"One separated to this work of the ministry, is ever to remember that he is called to be in personal life a 'man of God' (1 Timothy 6:11), an example 'to the flock' (1 Peter 5:3), 'giving no offense in anything, that the ministry be not blamed' (2 Corinthians 6:3). In an age of lowered moral standards, the minister, above all men, must heed the injunction laid by the word of prophecy upon workers of God in the last days. 'Be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord.' Isaiah 52:11. In this matter of purity of life, he is not only to shun evil, but to 'abstain from all appearance of evil.' 1 Thessalonians 5:22. In case of moral fall by any minister, it is to be recognized that automatically the ministry ceases. While one so offending has access to the mercy and pardoning grace of God, and in reformation of life is assured of the love and good will of the brethren, it is clearly indicated that, for the sake of the church and the maintenance of moral standards, the laborer should plan henceforth to give his life to some other calling or business than that of the ministry."

Whereas, The standards of the ministry in all things should be maintained on an irreproachable basis in order that 'the ministry be not blamed;'

We Recommend,

1. That our conference and institutional workers refrain from all side lines of business, and give themselves wholly to the denominational work and the ministry of the gospel.

2. We counsel our workers to arrange their personal income, and where they do not succeed in so doing, that they be advised to take up some remunerative line of business outside of denominational employment.

3. Believing that every worker should be a faithful tithe payer, we re-affirm the action of the Des Moines Autumn Council of 1925, not to employ any worker who is not a faithful tithe payer. Further, that workers who are known to be unfaithful in tithe paying shall not be transferred to another conference without proper consideration of this standing of the worker.

4. That workers who continually neglect to refuse to pay their just obligations, be advised to take up some other line of work.

5. And further, that proper and satisfactory arrangements be made by workers of all financial obligations before transference to another conference.

6. While desiring to encourage every worker to make continuous effort for self-improvement, especially through correspondence courses,

We Recommend,

That full-time conference workers, or other denominational employees, do not take residence school work, or any line of study that would make inroads upon time that should be given to their regular duties, without first making proper arrangements with those in charge of their work."

Religious Liberty

Whereas, We read the following in *Volume V*, p 711 of the *Testimonies* concerning the Religious Liberty work, "The question of enforcing Sunday observance has become one of national interest and importance. We well know what the results of this movement will be. But are we ready for the issue? Have we faithfully discharged the duty which the Lord has committed to us, of giving the people warning of the danger before them? And

Whereas, We realize that there is much more to be done than has been done

We Recommend,

(a) That our ministers keep our people informed as to the development of events in this field. And that they instruct our people how to present the principles of Religious Liberty to those about them.

(b) That a Religious Liberty band be formed in our churches for the distribution of Religious Liberty literature, and the fostering of Religious Liberty efforts by the church, and keeping the department informed regarding events transpiring in their territory touching these principles.

(c) That as a union, we take a special interest in securing subscriptions to *Liberty* and selling and distributing the same, also the sale of the twenty-five cent books dealing with this subject, and the distribution of the Religious Liberty leaflets.

(b) That we remember the officials of our Government in prayer, praying that the hand of the enemy may be stayed until these men shall know what the enactment of religious laws will mean. Also that we may still have a time of peace until we as a people are prepared for the issue, ready to stand in the hour of trouble.

Memorial to Congress

We, the delegates of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in its Quadrennial Session, consisting of representatives from the states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia; do petition your honorable bodies, to defend and maintain the noble principles of religious freedom enunciated by James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, and others, by refusing to commit Congress to the enactment of any law restricting the freedom of conscience of any man. Recognizing that the enactment of any law enforcing Sunday rest upon the American people will restrict the conscience of many of its citizens, we earnestly pray your honorable bodies not to pass the Lankford Sunday Bill, H. R. 78, or any similar measure which might come before you.

Educational

Whereas,... The scholarship plan has been a great blessing to our schools, conferences, and publishing houses, and has resulted in a large distribution of litera-

ture, has brought great enthusiasm and inspiration into our work, and

Whereas, Little has been done in promoting this plan among the 2,600 young people of school age in this union, who are not in schools, and

Whereas, According to accurate figures often quoted, eighty-five per cent of the young people who attend our schools remain in the truth, and approximately eighty-five per cent of those who do not attend our schools leave the truth, and

Whereas, At the recent Autumn Council an action was passed, increasing the scholarship premium from fifteen to twenty per cent.

We Recommend,

(a) That the departments of the conference which have to do with young people unite on a plan to reach every young man and woman in the Columbia Union who are not attending our schools with the aim to get them into one of our schools at the opening each year.

(b) That the scholarship plan be strongly emphasized as a means of paying their way through academy or college.

(c) That a booklet, setting forth the needs of an education and the way to secure it, prepared by the publishing house, in conjunction with the Educational, Missionary Volunteer, Home Missionary, and Publishing Departments, be placed in the hands of our young people.

(d) That the names of the young people in the seven conferences of the union be supplied by the Missionary Volunteer Department, and by the children ingatherers, and others, and that a personal letter, inclosing a booklet be sent to all prospective students.

(e) That this correspondence be conducted by the four departments especially interested, and that these letters be personally signed by the conference president, the president of the school or by the secretary of one of the departments.

(f) That careful consideration be given to a plan which will help our church school pupils pay their expenses from the sale of small publications, such a plan, as an experiment, to be included under the scholarship arrangement.

(g) That in addition to the regular scholarship premiums, our conferences make the following efficiency awards:

1. That for the year 1928 a special award of \$15 be given the students who put in 500 hours during the summer vacation.
2. That for the year 1928 an additional award of \$15 be given the students who deliver \$750 worth of publications during the summer vacation.
3. That all young people who were residents in the Columbia Union at the time this recommendation was passed, and that only such other young people who will come into this union, and as will reside in the Columbia Union one year or who have attended one of the Columbia Union Conference schools for the past year be eligible to these special awards.
4. That the payment of the scholarship premium be in harmony with the Publishing Department regulations and the payment of the

extra bonuses be made direct to each student who qualifies.

(h) That we invite the Review and Herald Publishing Association to unite with our departments in conducting the strongest continuous campaign for scholarship students ever launched in this denomination.

Baptismal Classes in Schools

Whereas, The spiritual work in our church schools is of fundamental importance and should be given such a place in the daily curriculum will bring definite results in the personal experience of the children, looking toward church membership at the proper time,

We Recommend,

The adoption of the baptismal class plan in our church schools, and that in organizing and carrying on this work we be guided by the following:

(a) That the teacher call together in meeting the parents and patrons of the school prior to the opening of the school if possible, otherwise within a few days after the opening of school, and present to them the baptismal class plan along with other plans for the school year.

(b) That the teacher explain the plan to the school at the close of some consecration service within the first month of school. At this time request those who are interested to see the teacher in private after meeting. The teacher is to be guided by this private interview as to which children should or should not immediately enter the class. It should be recognized that admission to the baptismal classes should be conditioned on a definite experience in the child's life and on intelligent desire to become a follower of Jesus.

(c) That the baptismal classes be open to all grades, two classes to be conducted, - one for the primary grades and one for the upper grades.

(d) There may be children who should not be admitted to the class until they have manifested a change in their attitude or conduct. For example: a child who is addicted to any worldly habit should not be admitted until he has shown his earnestness of purpose by discontinuing the practice.

(e) In the case of children from non-Adventist homes, the parents should be consulted before the children are admitted to the baptismal class.

(f) These classes are to be a part of the daily program of the school, giving about ten minutes to the primary lesson and fifteen minutes to the upper grade lesson. The choicest time of the afternoon should be given to this class.

(g) Pupils who are not enrolled in the baptismal class will engage in study or quietness the same as during any other recitation period.

(h) The outline course of study for the baptismal class is to be provided by the union educational secretary.

(i) The teacher to do this baptismal class work with the purpose in mind of turning over the children at the conclusion of the class work to the pastor or elder of the church for examination and final preparation for baptism.

(j) While the teacher does this special work for the members of the baptismal class, she is not to be neglectful of the spiritual interest of the other pupils in the school, but to put forth constant endeavor to win them to Jesus and to membership in the baptismal class at the proper time.

Statement and Appeal

We desire to take occasion at this quadrennial session of the Columbia Union Conference to express our deep gratitude to God for the wonders he has wrought in behalf of our children and youth through his matchless plan of Christian Education. Not far from 30,000 Seventh-day Adventist boys and girls are now in our own schools in North America. Of this total 2,380 are in our own union. As a result of the spiritual instruction and atmosphere of these schools, hundreds of our children and youth making up the natural increase in the churches, are being baptized and united with the living body of Christ on earth. Thousands are being saved to the church and being trained for the cause of God. No other agency we know of but the Seventh-day Adventist Christian school could bring about such marvelous results. It is the working of God's own power, through the Spirit, in God's own chosen way of saving our children.

But mingled with our joy over such achievement is nothing less than the deepest sorrow when we contemplate the fact that in North America some 20,000 of our own boys and girls are still out in the schools of the world in these times of spiritual peril such as have never been equalled before. We do not have exact figures on the total losses suffered by the church or the gains made among the children of Seventh-day Adventists as between those who attend the secular schools and those who attend our own. But reliable figures have been worked out in a local section here and there which show that approximately 85 per cent of those who attend secular schools are lost to the church, whereas 85 per cent of those who attend our own schools are saved to the church. Anyone can satisfy himself that these figures are too nearly the truth by painstaking investigation in almost any church with a history up to twenty or twenty-five years. In the Columbia Union Conference alone there are some 2,600 of our own boys and girls who are out in the schools of the world. If we apply to this number the percentage above, it brings to us the shocking thought that 2,210 of the boys and girls may be lost to the our own church if we do not bring them in to our own schools.

The task of this conference is therefor to institute measures far more effective than any heretofore employed, for gathering in our own precious boys and girls into our own schools those cities of refuge intended of the Lord for their safety in this time of supreme spiritual danger.

But the truth is, brethren and sisters, that we are living in abnormal times, and considering the subtle spiritual perils that are engulfing well-nigh all the people, we ought to be making unprecedented gains in our ingathering of boys and girls. While we must continue to work and give tirelessly for the Hottentot and Chinese, God will hold us responsible for leaving no stone unturned in our efforts till every Seventh-day Adventist boy and girl in the Columbia Union can answer present to the roll call of Christian education in a Seventh-day Adventist school.

Children Ingathering Plan

We therefore desire to submit the following recommendations for your consideration:

Whereas, The Lord Jesus our Master Teacher gave the key to Christian education when he quoted from Isaiah those words full of command and promise, "And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy children" and

Whereas, The Spirit of Prophecy echoes the same words when it exhorts: "All our children should have the privilege of Christian education", (CT 158) and:

Whereas, Joel in his prophecy for the last days puts into the very heart of his message those soul-stirring words, "Gather the children," and

Whereas, More than one half of the children of the Seventh-day Adventists in the Columbia Union are still outside of the fold of Christian education, therefore,

We Recommend

1. That there be set on foot immediately in the Columbia Union Conference a forward movement for the gathering of 100 per cent of our children into our own schools.

2. That in harmony with the prophecy of Joel, this movement be known as the Children Ingathering work.

3. That this work be organized as fully in every local church where there are children of school age as is the Harvest Ingathering for missions.

4. That in every church a standing band or bands of volunteer members be organized, who shall visit every family with children of school age, and who shall follow up these visits from time to time until every child is gathered into our schools.

5. That to help make this work effective, the children ingathering workers meet at the close of the weekly prayer meeting for counsel and prayer regarding their work.

6. That in the progress of this work when children ingatherers encounter difficulties they cannot overcome, after a reasonable number of visits, such as indifference of parents, or shortage in finances, appeal should be made by them to the church-school board or to the church board whose responsibility it then becomes to deal with the difficulties.

7. That the conference president and other workers give strong moral support to the local church in its work of children ingathering, both by personal visit and by letter, especially in case of indifference to the claims of Christian education.

8. That a week-end convention or rally on Christian education be held at least once a year in the larger churches and for groups of smaller churches for the purpose of reviewing the aims and principles of Christian education, as also for emphasizing its moral and financial claims upon parents and other church members in behalf of our boys and girls.

9. That the urgency of gathering our children into our own schools be laid on the hearts of all who attend our church officers' and other workers' meetings.

10. That we heartily invite the missionary volunteer and home missionary workers to unite with us in this forward movement.

11. That it be incumbent on the educational secretary and superintendents, the General Conference Department of Education cooperating, to promote vigorously and perseveringly the work of children ingathering in the spirit of the injunction from the Spirit of Prophecy that we must work as for life "to save the children from being drowned in the polluting, corrupting influence of the world."

Theological Course

Whereas, The Board of Trustees of Washington Missionary College has this school year created a full col-

lege Theological Department adapted especially in an up-to-date way to train young men for the ministry, therefore

We Recommend

That we respond to the request of the College Board voted January 1928 that each conference of the Columbia Union encourage the following number of young people next Fall to the College to take one of the Theological Courses; the number of young people lists as follows:

Chesapeake	16
Ohio	16
Potomac	12
East Penna.	10
New Jersey	9
West Penna.	6
West Va.	2
Total	60

Health Inspection

In harmony with the action originally passed at the Fall Council in 1920 and reaffirmed at the World Educational Council at Colorado Springs, that the Medical Department of the union give its first attention to the physical inspection of our school children, and

Whereas, The benefits resulting where this work has been carried on has a direct effect upon their spiritual and mental welfare; therefore,

We Urgently Request

That our conference committees, in counsel with their respective educational superintendents, make definite provision for physical inspection and follow-up work as early as possible each school year. And

We Recommend

Second, that in every case possible a Seventh-day Adventist nurse or physician be employed for the purpose.

Quarterly Offerings

Whereas, the four quarterly offerings in the churches in behalf of our church schools have yielded but insignificant returns, therefore,

We Recommend

(a) That our four Sabbaths on which the quarterly offering for church schools is taken be regarded in the union as Christian Education Sabbaths, and that on each of these Sabbaths a sermon be preached in all the churches previous to the taking of the offering; and that in the absence of a minister, the hour be devoted to a study of Christian education from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

(b) That it be the duty of the union educational secretary and the conference educational superintendent, in counsel with the conference president, to arrange for these programs.

Home Missionary

God's Program for the Church

The evangelization of the world rests upon the whole church, not upon the ministry alone. While the responsibility for leadership and for training the church rests upon the ministry, the obligation for service rests upon all. Christ first called the twelve as the responsible leaders of His work, but He also called the seventy. And all were sent forth to preach. The evangelization of the world waits upon the united efforts of ministry and laity. Therefore evangelists and pastors will achieve the greatest success in the winning of souls by enlisting and developing latent soul-winning possibilities in the churches under

their care, through training the members to conduct cottage meetings, to give Bible readings and showing them how to properly use our message-filled literature. Therefore

Resolved

(a) That our ministers and other conference workers, together with local elders, be urged to organize, train, and lead into soul-winning the great latent forces of our lay membership.

(b) That local elders of piety and talent be encouraged to help in deepening the Christian experience of old and young in their local congregations, and to lead in evangelical effort to increase their church membership.

(c) That we utilize our excellent and inexpensive literature both to pioneer the way to new interests and also as a faithful follow-up, recognizing its stabilizing influence upon those who largely read themselves into the truth.

The 'Review and Herald'

Whereas, The Spirit of Prophecy has definitely stated that our church paper, the *Review and Herald*, should be placed in every family of believers, and

Whereas, Experience has taught us that people who are faithful in reading the *Review and Herald*, seldom apostatize, and are among the most loyal members of the church,

We Recommend

(a) That as an added impetus to to the *Review and Herald* Forward Movement we set apart the time from Sabbath, May 26, to Sabbath, June 2, for a special effort to place the church paper in the home of every Seventh-day Adventist family.

(b) That this be a conference movement, every worker taking an active interest in making this effort a success.

Home Missionary Day

Whereas, The successful development of missionary work on the part of all church members requires a regular opportunity for the presentation of instruction and inspirational themes by our ministers and other church leaders, that our people may be enlisted as personal soul-winners and be intelligent as to the work they are to do for God,

We Recommend

That the first Sabbath of each month be designated as Home Missionary Day, it being understood that the work of other departments will be presented on certain of these days, as heretofore. This plan does not contemplate additional programs, and that the offering this day be devoted to home missionary purposes.

Recognizing the importance of a definite time being provided on the Sabbath to promote the interest of the layman's missionary movement,

We Recommend

That a period of fifteen minutes between the close of Sabbath school and the opening of the church services be set aside in all our churches to secure written and oral reports of missionary activities, to instruct our people in methods of Christian service and also to promote the various campaigns which constitute the yearly program of the church.

Whereas, It is vital to the success of this movement that our people follow true health reform principles,

We Recommend

That health classes for the study of simple treatments and dietetics be organized in every church and

That each conference seek the cooperation of the sanitarium to supply a nurse to attend home missionary conventions or soul winning institutes organizing classes and teaching our people true health reform principles.

(c) That we urge upon our conference laborers the necessity of holding before people constantly health reform principles, and

(d) That in order to maintain these health standards and propagate these principles more successfully we urge the wider use of "Life and Health" as a medium. --

Dorcas Society

Whereas, the work of the Dorcas Society as outlined in the Bible, by the example, can be made, not only a means of helping the poor in the community, but a soul saving agency,

We Recommend

That our churches encourage the Dorcas Society plan and recognize this work as an integral part of the church organization.

Missions Extension—Big Week

Whereas, The Missions Extension Fund, raised through the Big Week plan is now shared equally by the publishing, educational, and medical departments for the extension and development of these phases of our work in mission lands, at the same time exerting a tremendous soul-winning influence through the literature circulated; therefore,

We Recommend

(a) That church members be asked to sell at least \$4.00 worth of our literature, either books or periodicals, during Big Week; all the profits to be turned over to the church treasurer to be applied on the mission extension fund.

(b) That colporteurs be invited to continue to share in the mission extension fund by giving the profits of their biggest day's sales during the Big Week.

(c) That all conferences and institutional workers be requested to join in the mission extension plan by selling literature during the Big Week, devoting the entire profits to the fund, in addition to giving their personal income for one day, or its equivalent in the sale of additional literature.

(d) That where conference or institutional workers cannot share in the sale of literature, they be encouraged to give an amount to the mission extension fund equivalent to their personal income for one day.

(e) That one or more field days be held by all our churches, sanitariums, publishing houses, schools and conference offices during the Big Week.

(f) That the regulations relative to special gifts, institutional earnings, etc., adopted at the 1924 Des Moines Autumn Council, govern the 1928 Big Week campaign.

Whereas, the envelope plan for ordering missionary supplies makes more expeditious and accurate the work of the missionary secretary

We Recommend

That all our churches throughout the Columbia Union adopt the order envelope plan.

Home-Foreign Work

Whereas, "God desires His servants to do their full duty toward the unwarned foreigners of this country, many of whom are here by the providence of God, that they may have opportunity to hear the truth for this time,"

We Recommend

That an organized effort be carried on in all our churches, both English and foreign, to give the truth to

these people of many tongues,

(a) By organizing a home-foreign band in each church near a foreign population to give special study to reaching these peoples

(b) By putting forth strong, systematic efforts to reach these "strangers within our gates" by use of literature and personal work best adapted to their needs.

(c) By giving careful training to our church members in methods of missionary endeavor among these people in connection with the various conventions and institutes conducted in our churches.

Electing the Church Missionary Committee

We Recommend

That, instead of considering the missionary committee ex-officio, as is now customary, at the time of the election of church officers the members of the missionary committee be designated and elected the same as any other officers.

Church Depository

We Recommend

That our churches in consultation with the conference home missionary secretary and book and Bible house secretary, be encouraged to maintain displays of literature, to be carefully selected by the church missionary committee, and that, rather than overload, the churches make the beginning depository small, selecting an adequate variety and ordering new supplies from time to time as may be necessary.

Camp Meetings

In harmony with the instruction given to us in the "Testimonies", Vol. IX., 81-83, regarding the giving of practical missionary work,

We Recommend

(a) That all our conferences in planning the program for their camp meetings for the year 1928, make provision for one hour a day for presentation of home missionary principles.

(b) That a program be arranged for the holding of church officers' meetings in connection with these camp-meetings.

Home Bible Study League

Whereas, The promulgation of our message through missionary correspondence has long been a successful soul-winning method, therefore,

We Recommend

(a) That the Home Bible Study League method of missionary correspondence be inaugurated in every conference.

(b) That the "personal visitation" plan be followed as far as consistent in preparing the way for evangelistic meetings.

Campaign Follow-up

Whereas, the great general campaigns offer wonderful opportunities for the discovery of people who may become definitely interested in the truth, therefore,

We Recommend

That provision be made in every conference to provide a tract on some appealing topic, and bearing the imprint of the Home Bible Study League, for free distribution as opportunity offers.

Church Extension

Recognizing the seriousness of the fact that there are thousands of small towns and villages, where no evangelical work has been done, or will be done because of so few workers and lack of funds, and hundreds of communities without a Seventh-day Adventist church believer, and

Believing the statement in Volume II, p. 113, "In every town, city and village, there are people that would embrace the truth if it were brought before them in a judicious manner,"

We Recommend

(a) That suitable families be urged to move out of the cities into these needy mission fields doing self-supporting work, either in the sale of our literature or in the carrying on their regular trade or occupation, regarding this territory as their mission field using every effort to give the truth to all the people as quickly as possible.

(b) That we urge our conferences to take a special interest in all our people who enter upon this program.

(c) That we encourage our laymen to make evangelistic tours into these unentered fields holding cottage meetings, giving Bible readings and scattering literature.

Magazine Work

We Recommend

That each missionary committee choose one or more representatives to circulate our magazines by sale and subscription in the territory of the church, and the systematic sale of our small books as well.

Signs

Whereas, its variety of current interest articles, its strong systematic presentation of the prophecies and doctrines, and its Bible study and spiritual features, is making the *Signs of the Times* fruitful in winning souls to the truth;

We Recommend

(a) That the circulation of the *Signs of the Times* be a prime and a constant feature of the home missionary program, with efforts directed toward getting every church to use the *Signs* in its work for souls both by personal distribution and through the mails.

(b) That during the special period set apart for the annual *Signs* campaign we throw our energies wholeheartedly into the circulation of the *Signs of the Times* thus giving strength and volume to the year's work that such a united effort makes possible.

(c) That in unions where the date of the union conference session may conflict with the date of the campaign, that the time be adjusted so that the *Signs* may receive the same attention either before or after the union conference session.

Colporteur Follow-up

Whereas, There is at present no well developed plan to follow up any interest created by our colporteurs and those who purchase our large books;

We Recommend,

That in all our conferences plans be instituted at once along Home Bible Study League lines to follow up every purchaser of our literature from our colporteurs, and that we invite all our colporteurs to unite in this soul-winning effort by making use of the soul winning follow-up blanks.

Missionary Organization

Whereas, "The church of Christ has been organized on earth for missionary purposes, and it is of the highest importance that every individual member of the church should be a sincere laborer together with God," and *whereas*, we are instructed that "In our churches let companies be formed for service"

We Recommend,

That the enlisting of all the church membership in prayer and missionary bands, be the basis of the missionary

organization of the local church for service.

That the territory allotted to each church be considered and divided into districts of convenient size, and combined districts to be its home mission field and that suitable and agreeable assignments of territory be made to each member.

That wherever possible classes for training church members in the art of giving Bible readings, how to handle our literature, the care of the sick, etc., be formed in our churches in order to reach the public with the message along all our recognized missionary lines.

Institutional Relief

Whereas, The General Conference has asked all of our people to remove the indebtedness from our schools, and

Whereas, The Spirit of Prophecy has definitely signified the methods by which this is to be done namely;

First, "The Lord has means for His work in the hands of His stewards; and since our schools have debts, which were incurred in their establishment, in the erection of necessary buildings, and in providing necessary facilities, it is our duty to present the case to our brethren and ask them to lessen these debts. Our ministers should feel a burden for this work. They should encourage all to labor harmoniously, and to lift in proportion to their ability." Volume VI, page 207.

Second, "God desires that the sale of "Christ's Object Lessons" shall be recognized by all our people as His method of relieving our schools from debt. It is because this plan has been neglected that we now feel so keenly our lack of means for advancing the work." Volume IX, page 80.

"One point that should never be forgotten by our workers is that the Lord Jesus Christ is our chief director. He has outlined a plan by which the schools may be relieved of their indebtedness; He will not vindicate the course of those who lay aside this plan for lack of confidence in its success. When His people will come up unitedly to the help of His cause in the earth, no good thing God has promised will be withheld from them." Volume IX page 75. And

Whereas, Our union in a large representative conference held in Washington, D. C. the latter part of 1926 definitely adopted the foregoing plans and set the goal at \$50,000 per year until the indebtedness should be removed, and

Whereas, the Lord greatly blessed the efforts made in this union last year, therefore,

Resolved

First, that we reaffirm our adoption of the Institutional Relief plan; that we seriously re-dedicate ourselves to the unfinished task; and that we continue to look to the home missionary, the educational, the missionary volunteer, and the field and publishing departments to promote these plans, and place upon every worker the responsibility of cooperating with these departments in fostering the movement.

Second, That we urge the heads and faculties of our schools to promote this plan vigorously in their respective schools, and that they train, with the help of experienced bookmen, the students to sell "Christ's Object Lessons;" and that we ask all of our people to join the example set by the schools in raising funds.

Missionary Volunteer Evangelism

Whereas, We are living in an unfortunate age for the young, in which the prevailing influence is a spirit of abandon and self-indulgence that besets the youth with

special temptations and dangers, and threatens to undermine the simplicity, earnestness, devotion, and spirit of self-sacrifice which should characterize Seventh-Day Adventists; and

Whereas, We believe the only security is found in a life of complete consecration to God and His service.

We Recommend,

(a) That our conferences launch an active evangelistic program in an effort to reach all our young people during 1928, presenting to them in a simple, constructive way the doctrines of the Advent message, including the fundamental truths of Christian experience, such as are found in "Steps to Christ."

(b) That as ministers we re-dedicate ourselves to God for this great task, giving ourselves earnestly to prayer, Bible study, and a sympathetic consideration of the problems of youth.

(c) That we encourage workers to put forth earnest efforts to become personally acquainted with every boy and girl, every young man and young woman in their fields of labor and spheres of activity, and by a sympathetic personal approach, endeavor to help them with their problems and lead them into a definite Christian experience.

(d) That in connection with all evangelistic efforts in their behalf, young people will be enlisted to cooperate through the local missionary volunteer society.

Society Officers' Elections

Recognizing the need of the strongest possible leadership in both senior and junior societies,

We Recommend

That our district leaders, pastors, and church boards, give careful consideration to the selection of suitable officers at the annual elections.

Junior Work

Whereas, The General Conference has adopted a plan of junior missionary volunteer organization which provides for the employment and direction of the natural impulses of the child,—religious, intellectual, social, and physical; and which, by the cooperation with the home and school, has been a great blessing in developing in our junior boys and girls true ideals of life, and in fostering the spirit of helpfulness, —

We Recommend

That a special effort be made to foster this junior work in our churches and church schools; and to this end that our teachers, church leaders, and conference workers give careful study to these plans and to make an earnest effort to develop junior leaders; and—

We Recommend

That our parents and church officers be earnestly advised against allowing our boys and girls to unite with other junior organizations, which, however good in themselves, tend to withdraw the energies of the youth from the church.

Standards of Christian Living

Whereas, There is a great tendency for the people of God to be influenced by the lower standards of conduct in the world about us, and

Whereas, The General Conference Committee Council at Chattanooga, Tennessee, in October 1927, issued "A Call to Our Young People and to Their Elders for a High Standard of Christian Living",

We Recommend,

That all our church officers and conference workers make a very definite and earnest endeavor to maintain these standards in the church, by their example and teaching, and by the circulation of the leaflet "Standards of Christian Living," which contains the General Conference statement.

Missionary Volunteer Officers' Institutes

Whereas, Experience has proved that there is great benefit in bringing society officers together for the consideration of mutual problems, for the deepening of spiritual experience and for the uniform promotion of conference plans among the young people,

We Recommend,

That a Missionary Volunteer Officers' Institute be held in each conference once a year.

Spring Week of Prayer

In harmony with the action of the General Conference setting aside one week in the Spring of each year as a season of prayer and evangelism in behalf of our youth,

We Recommend,

That we heartily concur in this action, and rally our forces for a united effort in behalf of our unconverted boys and girls.

Sabbath School

Whereas, The great objective of the Sabbath school is soul-winning, for the Spirit of Prophecy says, "The Sabbath school should be one of the greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in bringing souls to Christ," and also that "The Sabbath school, if rightly conducted, is one of God's great instrumentalities to bring souls to a knowledge of the truth", therefore,

We Recommend,

That we seek for greater efficiency through every possible channel for the winning of our boys and girls to Christ, but also for the sanctifying influence of the Sabbath school to permeate every home, binding the hearts of fathers, mothers, and children more closely to Christ.

Whereas, There are three thousand of our church members in the Columbia Union who are not members of any Sabbath school, and

Whereas, The search for the missing is pastoral work of the highest order, therefore

We Recommend,

That all conference workers and local church officers unite in a definite search for these missing members and that earnest effort be put forth to enroll every church member in the Sabbath school.

We Recommend,

That a special effort be made by the Sabbath schools to place the *Youth's Instructor* in the hands of every boy and girl in these classes.

The Offerings — The Pennant Plan

Recognizing the important place that the Sabbath school offerings hold in financing the advance of the Advent message into all the world, and believing as a people that not to advance is to stand still or go backward, therefore,

We Recommend,

That more earnest effort be made to attain the financial goals set for us by the General Conference which re-

quires in the North American Division an average of at least thirty cents a week for each church member, and which includes an average of one dollar per church member for the thirteenth sabbath. We further

Recommend.

That as rapidly as possible each conference adopt the pennant plan for its schools, and continue to bend every energy to raise its mission funds so as to reach the pennant class.

Birthday Offerings

Recognizing the appeal that the new plan of using the birthday offerings as a special fund for new work and new workers has to our people,

We Recommend,

That pastors and elders urge the superintendents of Sabbath schools to keep this matter constantly before their schools, frequent mention being made of the birthday offerings, and emphasizing the special nature of the work for which it is planned to provide.

The Investment Plan

Inasmuch as the Investment Fund plan has been adopted by the Sabbath School Department, and that it provides a means for the increasing of means without drawing too heavily upon our people, and

Whereas, It provides for the development of the talents of every member of the Sabbath school, therefore

We Recommend,

That all our Sabbath school leaders be encouraged to take hold anew of this plan, and educate our people with regard to its objective.

Health Work

Whereas, We as a people have been told that "To make natural law plain and urge obedience to it is the work of health reform that accompanies the third angel's message",

We Recommend,

That each conference lay plans to promote the five specific lines of medical missionary work outlined to us, namely,

We Recommend,

Health work for S. D. A. Children.

Medical Missionary Evangelistic work.

Schools of Health.

Cooking Schools.

Home Nursing Classes.

And that as the needs develop and funds permit each conference endeavor to secure for this work graduate nurses whose educational preparation has included practical experience and instruction in these lines of medical missionary service.

Foreign Work

We Recommend,

That in each conference in this union, definite plans be laid for evangelizing the people who ordinarily use another language than the English:

1. By securing the service of workers who are able to preach in those languages.

2. By encouraging English-speaking ministers to hold meetings for these people, speaking to them through an interpreter.

3. By encouraging our churches to distribute foreign literature in person and through the mail and especially

to follow up the work done among these people in the Harvest Ingathering campaign.

4. By the use of the foreign *Present Truth* which is now being issued as a monthly publication by the Brookfield house; in putting forth a strong systematic effort in each conference where the foreign language groups are represented, in behalf of the foreign *Present Truth* to reach a definite goal based on the percentage of the church membership and also the foreign population in the field.

5. By encouraging our American and foreign speaking youth to engage in the sale of foreign subscription books.

Chesapeake Conference Quadrennial Report

The Chesapeake Conference comprises the territory of the State of Delaware, the larger part of the State of Maryland, three counties in the State of West Virginia, and two counties in the State of Virginia.

Membership

At the beginning of the year 1924, the membership of the conference stood at 1335, and at the end of 1927, 1149. This decrease was due principally to the fact that



formerly the church lists were somewhat inflated, and that one church passed through a sad experience. Before the close of last year some of our churches revised and corrected their lists.

The total number of members added during the four years is 625. The total dropped, 811. During the four year period 239 were baptized, and in the year 1927, 72 were baptized.

In view of our decreasing membership we have been working with determined effort to carry on evangelistic work, notwithstanding the many financial campaigns which occupy so largely the time of our workers. Elder R. S. Lindsay, who for many years has been doing successful evangelistic work, has been called upon to make the Chesapeake Conference his field of labor.

In the fall of 1927, Elder Lindsay opened up an effort in one of the theaters of the City of Baltimore, and at the present time has 45 or 50 new Sabbath keepers. A large class of candidates will be ready for baptism the first Sabbath in March.

In the Chesapeake Conference progress has been made in educational lines. Up to 1926, four church

schools were operated in our field. Last year three new schools were organized, making seven at the present time. While these schools have had a real struggle, they are doing splendid work and the churches are more than convinced that they are of untold benefit.

In the year 1925, the Baltimore No. 1 Church erected a fine large school building known as the Edgecombe Junior Academy. Splendid work is being done by the three teachers employed. In fitting up the new church in Wilmington, a comfortable school room was provided for. In Hagerstown the basement of the church was remodeled for the use of the church school. The Baltimore No. 3, Colored Church has recently purchased a three-story building with some extra ground for their school. They employ three teachers.

Conference Property

The Chesapeake Conference has increased its property holdings during the past four years. Many will remember the old conference office building on Rosedale Street in Baltimore. This property was sold and a new location secured in Catonsville just west of the city limits of Baltimore. There is a two-story building providing offices on the lower floor and a living apartment on the upper floor. There is also a good barn for storing tents and equipment, and space for an automobile, and also a one-car garage. Between seven and eight acres of ground are included in this property, making a beautiful place for camp meeting with many large oak trees for shade.

Mission Funds

During the quadrennial period our donations to missions were as follows:

Annual Offering	\$498.51
Harvest Ingathering	34,257.00
Mid-Summer	948.51
Missions	4,890.31
Sabbath School	45,230.47
Sacrifice	1,401.04
Big Week	2,911.74
Miscellaneous	285.69

Total \$90,423.27

Our Sabbath schools have fallen short of reaching their goals of 30 cents per week per member, yet we are not discouraged. Our plans for increasing the offerings include definite efforts to increase the membership and attendance.

Our Harvest Ingathering campaign was a grand success, bringing us in a total of nearly \$13,000, and putting us over our goal of \$10 per member. The funds gathered in our field in the four separate years are as follows:

1924	\$6,883.98
1925	6,304.30
1926	8,127.33
1927	12,941.39

Total \$34,257.00

We believe that credit for gaining the Harvest Ingathering goal in 1927 is largely due to the untiring efforts of our Home Missionary Secretary, Elder U. D. Pickard.

In our Big Week campaigns we were able to gather during the four years the following amounts:

1924	\$788.39
1925	448.63

1926	479.88
1927	1,194.84

Total \$2,911.74

The Institutional Relief work in the Chesapeake Conference brought in the following amounts:

1925	\$516.42
1926	307.75
1927	2,454.99

Total \$3,279.16

The large increase in this line of the work for the year 1927 was due to the inspiration of the union workers' meeting early in the year, and the splendid leadership of our home missionary secretary. Great will be our rejoicing for our share in this good work when the clouds of debt are rolled away from our institutions.

Tithe

The tithe in the Chesapeake Conference shows a fair gain in the last four years over the previous four years. The comparison is as follows:

1920-1923	\$187,256.00
1924-1927	193,329.30

Gain \$6,073.30

Our gain in 1927 over 1926 was \$1,354.80. From our tithe we have passed on to the Columbia Union as tithe of the tithe, 10 per cent; and to the General Conference, 7 per cent for sustentation; and 11 per cent for missions, making a total of 28 per cent sent forth into service outside of our field.

Expense

We have found it difficult to keep within the limits of our operating budget nearly every year. Some of the causes for the increased expense in operating for 1927 over the previous year are the costs of transferring men to our field and in our field, and the installing of the mileage system for the operation of automobiles of the workers.

Literature Sales

Our net sales of the book and Bible house for the four years are as follows:

1924	\$10,127.33
1925	8,549.83
1926	8,812.42
1927	11,520.27

Total wholesale value \$39,206.06

R. M. Spencer, Per N. C. Van Horn.

What Has Made

America Great is the question asked and answered by Elder Milton C. Wilcox in his strong religious liberty article in the April color *Signs*. An article you will want your friends and neighbors to read; and the many other strong features will make it most effective. Four cents each in lots of ten or more. Ask your Bible house secretary for a liberal supply today.

"By imparting we increase our blessings."

East Pennsylvania Quarterly Report



The East Pennsylvania Conference comprises the territory of the 35 counties including and east of Tioga, Lycoming, Union Snyder, Juniata and Franklin in the State of Pennsylvania. This territory has a population of approximately six million people, one of the three conferences in the North American Division of more than six million population. We have a great urban population of more than 2,000,000. Two cities with more than 100,000, three cities of 75,000, four cities of more than 50,000, eleven cities of over 30,000, fourteen of 20,000, twenty of 10,000, and 32 of 5,000 and more.

Church Membership

Our church membership stands at 2100 at the end of 1927. This membership is divided into 45 churches with an average church membership of 46. The membership by year for the quadrennial period is as follows: 1924—1720; 1925—1802; 1926—1962; and 1927—2100. We have a net gain in membership of 380 for the period. Baptisms for the four-year period were as follows: 1924—149; 1925—105; 1926—124; 1927—201. The good results attending evangelistic work the past year in some of our most successful efforts were due in no small measure to the medical evangelistic program associated in the campaign.

Gains and Losses

Members added by baptism were 579, profession of faith, 76; by letter, 334; a total of 992. Our losses were sustained in the following way. By death, 95; by letter, 343; by apostasy, 259; a total of 697. These figures give us a gain of only 295, whereas our church membership report shows a gain for the period of 380. This discrepancy is due to inaccuracy or incompleteness of reports from our churches. The heavy loss by apostasy challenges us as an organization and as individual workers to give careful study to remedial means for this heavy loss.

Finances

Our tithe has gradually increased through the quadrennial period. 1924—\$86,075.20; 1925—\$92,103.00; 1926—\$94,871.00; 1927—\$99,596.40, a total of \$372,645.60. The gain of the last year of the four-year period over the first year is \$13,521.20. The average gain per year for the four-year period is approximately \$3,500. The gain in tithe the last quadrennial period over the quadrennial period 1920-1923 is \$87,923.20.

Aside from the tithe which is the chief revenue of the gospel, we raised the past four years approximately \$10,000 for evangelistic work.

Organizations

Our conference is divided into 13 districts, the district arrangement being determined largely by the close proximity of churches by program or by conditions obtaining in certain churches; some division of responsibility being determined by language, etc.

We have a total of 64 workers, 11 ministers, 8 licentiates, 11 missionary licentiates. Divided according to

activities we have 11 district leaders and evangelists, 5 departmental workers, 4 office workers, 7 Bible workers and 30 evangelistic colporteurs.

Departments

We will present the work of the departments in alphabetical order. The first therefore to be considered is the educational.

Educational

We have had an average of 12 church schools per year during the quadrennial period with an average of 14 teachers. This year, 1927-1928, we have 13 schools, and 16 teachers. We have had an average enrollment of 192 for the quadrennial period. The year 1927-1928 we have an enrollment of 231 which is the highest enrollment of the period. It is encouraging to note that there has been a gradual gain in number of children enrolled the past three years. The enrollment by year is as follows: 172, 154, 210 and 231.

During the quadrennial period, 27 of our church school children were baptized, 15 of these were baptized at the end of the school year 1927. The teachers at the time of the annual institute gave careful, prayerful study to the matter of conducting baptismal classes for the benefit of the children and young people who were ready to take their stand for the Master. Undoubtedly the careful, prayerful, solicitous attitude on the part of our teachers, with cooperation of parents, should be credited with the good results obtained. Three hundred eight of our church school children took reading courses and 74 read the Bible through during the four-year period.

Our church school teachers and children gathered the splendid sum of \$5,444.83 in Harvest Ingathering during the past quadrennial period. The amount gathered per year is as follows: \$1,439.00; \$1,313.00; \$1,405.00; and \$1,287.00. The Week of Sacrifice offering from our schools in 1926 totaled \$187.84, in 1927, \$151.53. Other offerings to missions from our church schools were \$120.30.

We call your attention to the amount raised per capita by our church school children. They gathered the splendid sum of \$7.09 per child from the first grade up. The total amount raised including Week of Sacrifice offering was \$7.70. When we stop to think that these children, little and big, are potential church members, missionaries and leaders, these missionary activities mean much to us.

Home Missionary

The report as rendered by our home missionary department is a most encouraging one when we consider that the totals submitted for the four-year period represents the work of only 24 per cent of our people on the average. The last year's report shows a nice gain in reporting membership which now stands at 33 per cent. The last year's report shows a good gain in churches reporting, which indicates a revival of interest in the work on the part of our leading laymen. Twenty-seven of our 45 churches reported in 1927.

Time and space will not permit us to go into detail in rendering this report. We will touch only the high points.

The 24 per cent reporting membership, report approximately 40,000 missionary visits, 11,000 Bible readings, 77,000 hours of Christian help work, 5,000 treatments, \$6,800.00 food given, 25,000 articles of clothing

given. The twenty-four per cent have circulated nearly three-quarters of a million papers and magazines, 250,000 tracts, taken 8,000 subscriptions to our periodicals and distributed 42,000 books. In addition to these activities there was given for local work the sum of \$6,815.95.

Harvest Ingathering

Our Harvest Ingathering program has been greatly blessed of heaven, the grand total gathered for the four year period being \$75,028.57, an average of \$18,757.14 per year. The highest amount reached in one year was in 1926, \$20,187.18. We could easily have exceeded in 1927 the goal reached in 1926 had we concentrated upon the campaign until the end of the year as we did in 1926. About the middle of November we asked our home missionary secretary to concentrate his efforts upon other phases of our work needing attention, anticipating that momentum take us to our goal of \$20,000.00. While we stopped about \$800.00 short, we accomplished other things that will count big in promoting our work in 1928. The raising of our "Review" list from approximately 400 to 800 on the part of Elder Sanderson and Elder Butler within this period is an accomplishment with tremendous power bound up in it. We are planning on attaining our Harvest Ingathering goal in much shorter time in the future and we have no plans to lower or shorten our objectives.

Institutional Relief

The East Pennsylvania Conference is solidly back of the program to roll away the reproach of debt that rests upon our educational institutions. Our field raised \$726 in 1926, and \$3,000. in 1927. As it becomes more clear to our people that relief funds apply 100 per cent to liquidate the debt they will give more liberally to this splendid program.

Big Week

We will also here report on our Big Week returns since this program is promoted by the home missionary department. Big Week returns total \$5,166.19, an average of \$1,291.54 per year. The year 1927 saw the largest Big Week returns for the period, the amount being \$1,573.67.

Objective of Laymen's Movement

The great objective of the laymen's missionary movement is soul winning. We have a report of 294 souls having been won through the efforts of our faithful lay members during the quadrennial period. As we approach the climax of the Advent Movement we may expect larger and larger results accomplished by the rank and file of our people.

Publishing

The Lord has signally blessed our publishing work the past four years. The sales for the four year period being \$148,905.33. The sales of our evangelistic colporteurs the past two years has been approximately \$100,000. We had in the field on the average 11 colporteurs in 1924, 15 in 1925, 16 in 1926 and 30 in 1927. While the increased sales in our territory have been most encouraging we have only touched the possibilities. One hundred fifty thousand dollars sales means only \$.025 worth of literature to each individual of our 6,000,000 population within the period of four years. Only a little more than one fourth of a cent's worth of literature per year per individual. Looking at the proposition from another angle we have placed on the average one \$3.00 book to each one hundred twenty individuals in 4 years or one \$3.00 book

to each one hundred twenty individuals to the home.

The above figures give us a plimpse of the great field of opportunity that East Pennsylvania offers to an aggressive publishing department program.

Our faithful colporteur evangelists are seeing many accepting the truth as a result of their labors. One new church of 40 members was raised up last year, the foundation of which was laid by our colporteurs. One colporteur covered the territory 12 years ago, another within the past two years. A tent was pitched this past summer and a nice harvest of souls was garnered in. Many places that have been prepared by the colporteur are awaiting the coming of the evangelist. Our colporteur forces should be greatly increased this year.

Sabbath School

Our Sabbath school attainments have been encouraging. The Sabbath school has been a great blessing to our people and has been the means of bringing to the mission treasury \$105,750.61 during the quadrennial period. The Investment fund has grown from \$177.63 in 1925 to \$721.95 in 1927. Our schools are taking hold of the Investment Fund Plan this year and we expect to exceed by a good margin our attainments in 1927.

We would briefly call your attention to a few interesting points in connection with our Sabbath school work. Our thirteenth Sabbath offerings for the four year period total \$27,001.53 which is slightly more than 25 per cent of the total Sabbath school offerings. The Sabbath school membership has acceded the church membership by a goodly number each year of the quadrennial period. Our Home Division membership averaged 169, and the offerings have averaged \$1,228 per year for the period. Last year the Home Division offering totaled \$1,445.50.

We have several members in the conference who have had a perfect record in both attendance and daily study for seven years. Among these are several young people and children.

During the past four years we have given out silk book marks as follows:

1924	1925	1926	1927
77	71	88	102

This is a total of 338. The bookmark is the award for a yearly perfect record.

During 1926 and 1927 we have held a number of Sabbath school conventions. The members and officers have appreciated these helpful meetings and we can see marked improvements in Sabbath school lines where these conventions were held.

Missionary Volunteer

We have a splendid army of young people in the East Pennsylvania Conference. We have 15 senior societies and 16 junior societies. We have a total of 563 young people in our conference, 343 seniors and 220 juniors. 392 of 563 young people belong to our young people's societies, leaving 175 non members. 232 of our young people, (214 seniors and 18 juniors) are members of the church, leaving 331 not church members, who constitute a field of opportunity that should be carefully worked by parent, teacher, preacher and leaders of young people's work.

Our young people are active in cooperating in the church program. They have shared proportionately in the combined work of the church, averaging for senior and

junior the \$10 goal in ingathering and \$2 goal in Big Week. Two hundred twenty-three of our young people were baptized during the quadrennial period, 45 in 1924; 45 in 1925; 43 in 1926, and 90 in 1927. An average of 56 young people per year.

Our young people exceeded all goals in 1927 excepting Standard of Attainment. Eleven successfully passed, compared with one in 1926, 88 in 1925 and 26 in 1924.

Foreign Missions

Our conference passed on to the foreign mission treasury the sum of \$228,847.49 in the four-year period. In 1924 we averaged 59 cents per week per member, .566 in 1925, .62 in 1926 and .60 in 1927. Our plan is to faithfully work all the avenues that lead to the 60 cent a week goal to the end that we may carry our share of the great world work of the Advent people.

Home Foreign Work

We are working for the Italian, Czecho-Slovakian, Russian, and Scandinavian peoples. This work is in its infancy, having been opened only within the past two years. Two companies have been organized, one Italian and one Czecho-Slovakian. The work is just being opened in the Russian and Scandinavian. Our field is rich in hundreds of thousands of foreign-speaking souls among whom a wonderful harvest is waiting. In this connection we speak of the good work being done by our German congregation in Philadelphia. This church is always at the forefront in every good work. The good work of the church, we believe, is prophetic of that which we may expect in results from strongly developed churches among foreign-speaking peoples.

Evangelistic Opportunities

Each worker in his appointed place plans to care for the flock under his care and reach the goals along different lines that are formulated in general councils. The remaining time is then given to evangelism. Many times our workers, seeing the whitening harvest on every side, express the earnest longing to give their full time directly to evangelism at the home base. Could this be done, our experience leads us to believe that just as remarkable results in soul winning should be seen in the homeland as in the average foreign field.

We look forward to the day when conferences with such great populations may in some way be aided in evangelizing their fields by reducing the percentage of tithe sent out of the conference or in some other way.

One of the best ways to forward the cause of foreign missions is by bringing in new believers. Every time we add a hundred souls to our membership, we thereby add to our foreign mission resources on the 60 cents a week basis the sum annually of \$3,120. The two hundred souls won in 1927 in East Pennsylvania have a potential value toward foreign missions of \$6,240 per year.

Church Building Program

The last three years of the quadrennial period have been very active ones in the matter of establishing church homes for our people. Seven buildings in all have been established, aggregating in value the sum of \$129,700. Three of these buildings are completed—Media, Beaumont and Reading. Three of them will be completed within the next few weeks—Harrisburg, Scranton and Drums. The seventh building was purchased outright and is located in Mansfield. If time permitted, we should

be glad to tell some of the providences in connection with the establishing of these church homes.

We have sought in the promoting of home programs, not to interfere with the flow of funds to the mission treasury. We believe it a mistake for a church or a conference to be placed under such a heavy program that it is compelled to neglect its duty toward the world mission field.

In the seven church buildings provided, we house 507 members, one-fourth our total membership. In the purchase of lots and in the erection of these buildings, we raised in cash approximately \$82,000, two thirds of the total value.

The total indebtedness remaining being \$47,800, or \$94 per member. Our annual debt liquidation program on churches, totals \$9,500, approximately \$20 per member per year. This goal is being attained and will liquidate total indebtedness within a period of five years.

Program and Outlook

The outlook for the work in the conference is good. We plan to build the work strong along all lines, and in a balanced way. It is possible by concentrating workers and people upon a given objective to make unusual gains in some specific field, but this, we believe, would be detrimental to the work as a whole.

The time has arrived, we believe, for a strong forward movement along all lines, and the workers and people of the East Pennsylvania Conference join hands with her sister conferences of the Columbia Union, entering into the providential openings being made by a kind and benevolent Father fulfilling the destiny as marked out for the Advent people in these closing days of probationary time.

C. V. Leach.

New Jersey Conference Quadrennial Report

Brother Chairman and delegates of the Columbia Union Conference assembled, Greetings:

"I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labor, and ye entered into their labors." These inspired words recorded in the fourth chapter of John's gospel, so full of meaning, very fittingly apply in the presentation of the quadrennial report that I am privileged to present to you in this conference session.

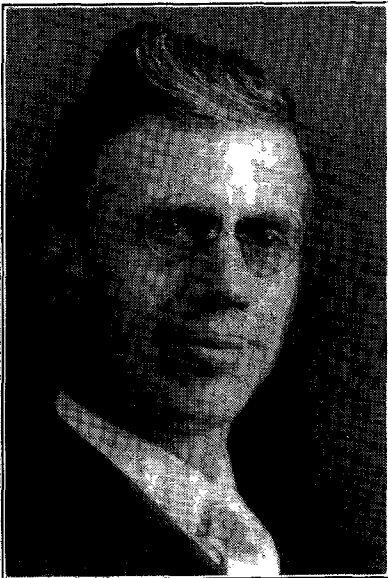
This cheering report represents in a small measure the favor and continued blessing of our Heavenly Father upon the united efforts of the faithful believers, coupled with the earnest labors of a loyal army of conference workers in the State of New Jersey in the proclamation of the three-fold message of Revelation 14, which in the plan and providence of God prepares a people for the advent of the King of Glory.

Small in area, with a land surface of only 7,525 square miles, or a little less than one-twentieth of the land area of the Columbia Union, but with a rapidly growing condensed population, New Jersey, often spoken of as a conference of cities, presents a problem of the greatest magnitude.

The multiplied testimonies setting before us our related responsibility to these congested centers of population,—the large cities of the East with special mention of the pleasure resorts, so numerous in our field—place upon us a burden that grips us with no ordinary concern.

With America's estimated growth of more than one

million a year, New Jersey has contributed a leading part. With a population of 3,155,900 in 1920 and an estimated population of 3,749,000 in 1927 as recently issued by the census bureau, our problem is fairly set before us. New Jersey's estimated growth alone in the last seven years of 593,000 is greater than the present population of the entire District of Columbia, including the city of Washington, the capital of our nation. This increase in population, covering a period of less than seven years, is more than one half of the present population of the entire State of Colorado. To illustrate further: New Jersey's growth in population for the last six and a half years was greater than the total population of the following states when taken separately and alone; Arizona, Connecticut, Idaho, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Utah, Vermont, and Wyoming. With the additional factor of the many peoples within the boundary lines of the New Jersey Conference, for New Jersey is literally a polyglot of nations, one can appreciate the immensity of the task confronting us, for it must be our continued studied policy to evangelize these peoples.



The New Jersey Conference composed of forty-three churches, has a present combined membership of 1713, representing five nationalities, with a Colored membership of 168. This is a net gain in membership over the previous quadrennial period of 102. 321 were reported baptized during the past four years. The following comparative report sets before us interesting facts relative to the work accomplished in behalf of our foreign-speaking peoples. Compared with the last quadrennial report, the Germans show a decrease in membership of 2, Danish a loss of 3, Slovak a decrease of 16, Swedish a loss of 12. The Polish membership alone shows a net gain of 5.

The Colored churches have a present combined membership of 168 as against 163 of four years ago, netting a gain of five members only.

These figures in themselves indicate that we are not gripping the foreign situation as we must, under God, in our field. We have hardly touched this big problem with the tips of our fingers. We must do more for these neglected peoples.

Tithes and Offerings

The following figures are a splendid illustration of faithfulness in tithe paying by the New Jersey believers.

During the quadrennial period, a total tithe of \$336,615.10 was receipted by the conference treasury. Compared with the previous quadrennial period of \$287,627, an encouraging net gain of \$48,988.10 is shown, a per capita gain of \$50.48 for each year during the quadrennial period.

The mission offerings covering the same comparative period are an additional source of encouragement.

For the quadrennial period closing January 1, 1928, the splendid sum of \$184,762.68, dedicated to the cause of foreign missions was sent on through the regular channels to the great mission fields of earth, thus showing a per capita for the quadrennial period of fifty-five and five one hundredths cents per week. This is a net gain in mission offerings over the preceeding quadrennial period of \$29,416.15.

This total was made possible only through the faithful efforts made by the Sabbath school and home missionary departments, as illustrated in the Sabbath school offerings and Harvest Ingathering receipts. A total of \$64,889.53 was gathered through the Harvest Ingathering campaign alone. More than thirty-five per cent of the total gift to missions from our field was gathered in these annual campaigns during the quadrennial period. Is this not a fulfillment of the prophetic word, "the forces (margin, or wealth) of the Gentiles shall come unto thee".

The Sabbath school contributed \$93,742.22 during the same period, thus maintaining the desired goal for the entire quadrennial period of raising an average of fifty per cent of all mission funds through the Sabbath school as required by a full sixty-cent-a-week per capita, giving for the full period.

Sabbath School

The Sabbath school ranks first in place among the agencies in our plans for the training and salvation of our children and youth. It not only sponsors the cause of missions by raising its millions in the aggregate, but serves in addition as a recruiting station, in the capacity of a school that leaves its first lasting impression upon the hearts of children and youth to answer the call of missions by a full consecration of their youthful lives of vigor in missionary service. The Sabbath school interests have been fostered through the 45 schools operating during the quadrennial period.

Educational and Missionary Volunteer Departments

An average of nine church schools were conducted during the quadrennial period with an average of 136.5 in attendance. We hope to see this phase of our report much improved, for our children and youth of today constitute the workers of tomorrow. They are our greatest denominational asset. These children of school age contributed \$2,000 to foreign missions during the four-year period.

The junior and senior societies of the missionary volunteers reported an average membership of 373 for the quadrennial period. Two hundred six young people were reported baptized. These societies during the Ingathering campaign solicited \$15,576.57 for missions. They disposed of 114,914 copies of truth-filled papers and magazines. Two hundred sixty-three qualified for the Bible Year. Two hundred nineteen qualified for certificates in either the senior or junior reading courses. With an army of almost 500 children between the ages of 6 to

14 and an additional army of more than 300 between the ages of 16 to 25, one of our most fruitful mission fields is presented to us.

Publishing Department

The book and Bible house sales for the quadrennial period aggregated \$69,885.16. We have confidence to believe that this soul-saving evangelistic factor in our work will grow in strength and success in these closing days, keeping abreast with all other lines of evangelistic endeavor.

Home Missionary Department

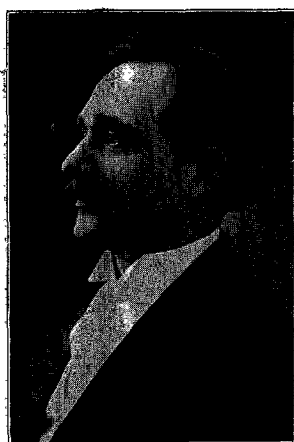
We are much encouraged over the splendid work accomplished through this department in the enlisting and training of the largest force of laborers—our loyal people comprising the membership of 43 churches.

Outlook

With our present force of 20 full time conference laborers properly organized and directed in service, we believe greater success awaits us as we unite our efforts in soul-saving labor. The times demand it. Our hope is stayed upon God. Our future is just as bright as the promises of God. To proclaim to all nationalities within our borders the glorious truth of the threefold message of Revelation 14, in this, our generation, is our objective and passion of heart, and at the same time swell the channels of giving in our conference field for missions, thus contributing our part to carry the glad tidings of a soon coming Saviour to earth's remotest bounds.

H. J. Detwiler.

Ohio Conference Quadrennial Report



The Ohio Conference embraces the State of Ohio, with a population of 6,000,000. It was organized in the year 1863, 65 years ago this spring. In looking over the age-browned records of that first year as an organized conference, I find that it was composed of nine companies, with a total membership of 144 believers. The record shows that the total amount of money contributed for all purposes that first year was \$332.25.

As we render this report today, what a contrast we find to those early beginnings, and we can truly exclaim, "what hath God wrought". The Ohio Conference today is composed of 68 organized churches, 56 of which are white, 6 colored and 6 churches among the foreign nationalities with a total membership of 3250. During the past quadrennial period, evangelistic efforts have been held in many of the large cities, such as Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton, Springfield and many other smaller places, all with good results. Altogether there have been 879 baptisms reported for the quadrennial period.

Tithes each year for the past four years are as follows:

1924	\$140,869.10
1925	141,038.60
1926	137,193.29
1927	142,821.60

making a total of \$561,922.50. The total tithe for the previous quadrennial period was \$525,824.70, or a gain for the past four years of \$41,097.80. This shows an average gain of \$10,000 each year for the past four years.

Mission offerings for

1924	\$73,535.30
1925	79,162.31
1926	83,497.31
1927	79,319.87

making a total of \$315,514.79 for the quadrennial period. In addition to our regular mission offerings, the Ohio Conference pays twenty per cent of its tithe direct to missions. This amounted to \$112,384.50 for the quadrennial period, added to the mission offerings makes a total of \$427,899.29 paid to the General Conference for missions during the last quadrennial period.

Our Harvest Ingathering campaigns for the past four years have shown a gain for each year.

1924 there was raised	\$20,095.19
1925	21,882.83
1926	25,127.94
1927	25,317.85

or a total of \$92,423.81 for the quadrennial period. This we believe is a goodly sum to be gathered by our church members from the resources of the world.

Our colporteur work has shown a marvelous gain for the last four years. We are endeavoring to literally sow the fields with the good seed of the kingdom. Space in this brief report will not permit to do justice to this department of our work. In 1924 sales totaled \$52,901.68. In 1925, \$66,275.46. In 1926 the goal was set at \$70,000 and they went \$73,086.57. In 1927, the past year, the goal was set at \$80,000 and they went \$83,153.90, a grand total for four years of \$275,417.61. This record for 1927 was made in spite of the fact that four of our strong men were taken out of the field to serve as leaders. The colporteurs have set their goal for the present year at \$90,000 and in all probability they will exceed that amount, I believe that a new day has dawned for our colporteur work, and that the statement found in the Spirit of Prophecy concerning the scattering of our literature just before the end is about to be literally fulfilled. At the present time we have 52 colporteurs in the field with prospects for quite a goodly number of good recruits. Brother Evans with two assistants, Brethren Houck and Carter, are waging an intensive campaign throughout the field.

Our Home Missionary Department is doing excellent work among our churches. The churches are better organized than ever before and more of the lay members are doing active missionary work than ever before. The work in this department is under the able leadership of the Corder Brothers.

The Educational and Sabbath School Departments have made a goodly showing during the past four years. There are at the present time 20 church schools operating in the conference with 25 teachers in charge and an enrollment of 410 pupils. This is an increase of 7 schools, and an increase of 4 teachers and almost a hundred students for the past quadrennial period.

There are 75 Sabbath schools in the conference who contributed to missions as follows:

1924	\$41,413.88
1925	40,338.95
1926	42,977.60
1927	43,207.42

This makes a good showing in gains in the Sabbath school department for the past quadrennial period. Brother Hersherger has charge of these two departments and is working for still greater results.

The Missionary Volunteer Department under the leadership of Mrs. King has shown remarkable gains. There are now 44 Junior and Senior Missionary Volunteer Societies in the conference, a gain of 14 societies for the past period. An average membership of 934 in these societies, which is a gain of about 200 in membership. 582 young people have been reported baptized during the past four years. 555 have read the Bible through and 238 received Standard of Attainment Certificates. 1583 received Reading Course Certificates. The young people's societies raised and contributed to missions by campaigns and society offerings a total of \$26,025.95. In addition to this the societies gave to help the poor \$3,157.30. During the past four years the young people's societies have given away and sold 263,065 tracts, papers and magazines. These figures show a remarkable gain in this department, and the future holds brighter prospects still.

Altogether the prospects for the future of the work in Ohio were never brighter and our opportunities were never so great. Perfect harmony and a spirit of brotherly fellowship prevails among all the laborers of the conference, who are loyal and true to all the principles of the Third Angel's Message. For all the accomplishments which this report has set forth we wish to give the praise and the glory to Him who hath called us to His glorious work, and as a conference we pledge to the union and General Conferences, our untiring efforts in the accomplishment of the objective set before our denomination.

N. S. Ashton.

Potomac Conference Quadrennial Report 1924—1927

The Potomac Conference is composed of the District of Columbia, two counties of Maryland, and the State of Virginia, with the exception of one county. There are within its boundaries, in round numbers, three million people.

We have thirty-eight churches and companies, including the conference church. Altogether, we have in the Potomac Conference a church membership of 2583 souls.

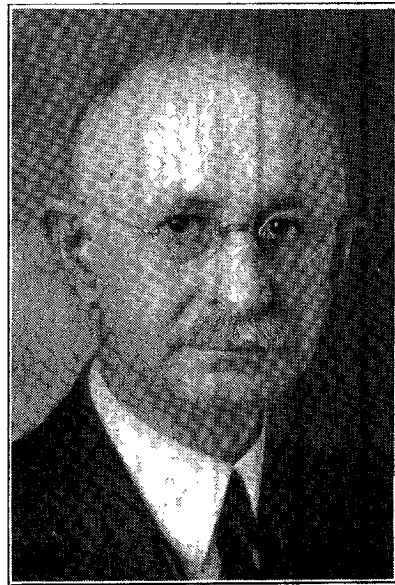
Personally, I came to the Potomac Conference the latter part of March 1927, taking the position of conference president. As my connection with the field commenced at that time, I can from a personal standpoint speak only of the time intervening since that date.

It will be interesting, however, to note some figures, embracing the quadrennial period, not as a matter of contrast, but as of importance. First, let me briefly call attention to the fact that during the previous union conference period there were baptized 419 people. The last period 515 followed their Lord's example in this ordinance. Let us now notice the present period, year by year. In 1924 there were 57 people baptized. In 1925 - 148. In 1926 - 125. and for the year 1927, just closed, our brethren

baptized 185. We wish there might have been many more brought to the truth, but these with others taken into the church, cause us to rejoice in the power of the message to change the lives of men from sin to righteousness.

For the quadrennial period ending December 31, 1923, there was paid into the Potomac Conference treasury \$431,604.30 tithe. For the last period, \$478,058.30. That marks an increase of \$46,454.00. The mission offerings for the two periods were \$223,140.66 for the former and \$265,344.41 for the latter. A balance to the good of \$42,203.75 for the latter.

During the summer of 1927 we had four tents in the field. Six efforts were held in as many places. As a result, a goodly number were brought to the truth, and one church was organized, which now meets in its own building which awaits a suitable time for dedication.



There are in the conference 28 church schools with an enrollment of 615 pupils. This department is well organized and is prospering. The progress of the church school work has been as follows: In 1925-26, 20 schools with an attendance of 511; in 1926-27, 22 schools with 30 teachers and 609 pupils. In 1927-28, 22 schools and 32 teachers. This year's enrollment is 615. The church schools have given to missions in 1927-28 up to the present, \$894.28. They were a strong factor in the Harvest Ingathering and Institutional Relief work. In fact, the churches who are conducting schools are stronger and have a better general spirit than those who neglect this important branch of the work.

It would be a suicidal policy to allow the church schools to languish, as in these schools our children get some of their first impressions of the message. Starting with the church school and going through the academies and colleges fits our young people for the work of the message. The Potomac Conference has one academy, Shenandoah Valley Academy. This school is beloved by people of the conference and is doing good work.

Sabbath School Department: As throughout the world, so in the Potomac Conference, the Sabbath school work is a great factor in promoting the work of the message.

We have a membership of 2661 in the regular divisions. Then in the home division there are 204, and in the conference division 12. Thirty-three of the schools use the *Sabbath School Worker*. During the last year 94

Sabbath school members were baptized. There was an average of 390 quarterly perfect records.

The Sabbath schools are our chief source for foreign mission offerings. In 1927 they gave \$35,019.39. In this amount were \$7,776.85 thirteenth Sabbath offerings, and \$381.55 birthday offerings. We wish all Seventh-day Adventists, young and aged might be enrolled in the Sabbath school and we are striving toward that end.

It might be well here to mention that the headquarters of the denomination, the headquarters of the Review and Herald Publishing Association, and the headquarters of the Columbia Union are located within our conference. Mention should also be made of the Washington Missionary College and the Washington Sanitarium. It is more than a pleasure to be so closely associated with these institutions of the Lord and with the splendid men and women who compose their working forces.

Referring to our Young People's or Missionary Volunteer Department, I will say that it is being pushed and the good Lord is blessing the labors put forth. We have 38 societies with a total membership of 964. 261 of these youth observe the Morning Watch. During 1927 130 young people have been converted and added to the church. The department has issued 59 Standard of Attainment certificates, 361 Reading course certificates, and 80 Bible Year certificates. A record has been kept of \$8,723.46 given to missions by members of the department. We thank the Lord for this splendid body of young people and desire to do all we can to lead them into the Master's active service in the homeland or in mission fields far away.

Our colporteurs and home missionary departments are active, working forces. These faithful workers are placing the printed page in thousands of homes, and thus putting before them in a strong, effective way the truths of the message.

During the last four years \$108,431.88 worth of literature was sold in the conference. This includes both subscription books and smaller literature. In addition to this, what can be said of the untold thousands of pages of papers and leaflets given away. It is a fact that by this means many people are brought to the light and are now rejoicing in the message that will save them. We cannot afford to neglect this line of work.

Situated at the head of the nation, we are glad to have an active part in the Religious Liberty work. We are sending *Liberty* to the legislators of Virginia, and members of Congress, both senators and representatives from our territory. Many other prominent men and women are also receiving the magazine from our conference.

By doing this, we hope to have a part with the angel in holding the four winds till the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. We are not doing the will of God if we sit in quietude, doing nothing to preserve liberty of conscience. It is incumbent upon us to set before the people the true issues at stake and arouse them to their dangers. It is our purpose to keep alive this work and to diligently hold up the principles of both civil and religious liberty.

We are aware of the struggle that is before us. It means persecution and in some cases imprisonment and perhaps death. We are not afraid, however as our case is going to win. That means victory for us.

"And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the num-

ber of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints." Rev. 15:2,31.
W. F. Martin.

West Pennsylvania Conference Quadrennial Report, 1924-1927

To the Delegates and Workers assembled in Union Conference session,

Greetings:

For the blessings of God upon the work in our field during the past four years we are thankful. While our gains have not been phenomenal, yet we are grateful that some progress has been made. There exists in the conference an excellent spirit of cooperation and willingness to go forward in the work of the Lord.

There are 28 counties in the West Pennsylvania Conference with a population of more than three and one half million. We have 27 churches with a total membership of 1,106. During the past four years a number of efforts have been held,—tent efforts, some in our churches, cottage meetings, and Bible readings have also been conducted in the homes of the people which have resulted in 316 baptisms.

Tithes and Offerings

We shall make some comparative statements of the work done the last two quadrennial periods. The tithe for the quadrennial period was \$193,398.30. While the tithe shows just a slight decrease there is a nice gain in mission offerings. Our total offerings for missions for the past period was \$98,388.96; for the last period \$110,433.35 which reveals a gain of \$12,044.39.

Missions

The Home Missionary Department representing the missionary efforts of our church members has been making steady progress. Harvest Ingathering the past period, \$33,139.80; for the last period \$38,032.56, making a gain of \$4,892.76. Big Week for the past period we had \$942.81, for the last period \$3,957.06, a gain of \$3,014.25. Institutional Relief \$3,653.39. Through the faithful efforts of our people in home missionary work twenty souls have been baptized into the message. The conference is well districted. All our churches are organized to do systematic work in the various lines of missionary endeavor.

Publishing Work

Untiring efforts are being made to build up the book work in the conference, and we recognize the circulation of message-filled literature occupies no small place in our work. The former period shows a record of \$127,337.67; for the last period \$97,834.59, a decrease of \$29,503.08.

We have just closed a profitable colporteurs' institute which was held in Pittsburgh. After ten days of valuable instruction given by Elder Fishell, other workers from the union, and representatives from the Review and Herald Publishing House, twenty-two colporteurs left the convention with a determination to put in 40 hours a week and give themselves in a definite way to the work. Reckoning from the nice line of colporteurs we now have,

the prospects are very encouraging for the book work in our field, and we believe the time is ripe for the colporteur evangelist to do a great work in West Pennsylvania.

Sabbath School

The Sabbath school represents progress. For the first period we had 35 Sabbath schools in the conference with a membership of 1,103; total offerings \$45,652.69. The last period closed with 39 Sabbath schools, and a

Medical Work

In "Ministry of Healing", page 149, we are instructed that every church shall be a training school for Christian service. "Its members should be taught how to give Bible readings, how to conduct and teach Sabbath school classes, how best to help the poor, and to care for the sick. How to work for the unconverted. There should be schools of health, cooking schools, and classes in various



membership of 1,159; total offerings for missions \$57,436.95, a gain of \$11,784.25. Three Sabbath school conventions have been held in the conference, two in Pittsburgh and one in Erie. Most of the Sabbath schools in the conference were represented by their superintendents who attended the conventions. Elder J. C. Thompson of the General Conference attended all the meetings and gave valuable instruction. A number of our conference workers were present and contributed in making the conventions successful. We believe this special help given to the Sabbath school department was time and money well spent.

Missionary Volunteer

The work of our young people is progressing, although every church does not have a society. The former period shows a record of twelve societies, with a total membership of 234. There were 97 conversions. Total given for missions \$7,720.52. At present there are 15 societies with a membership of 210, and 113 have been converted through this channel. Mission funds raised by our young people \$8,500.00, a gain of \$779.48. During the last four years 150 Bible Year certificates were issued, and 450 Reading Course certificates. Many of our young people who are not already in school are looking forward to attending the Mt. Vernon Academy and Washington Missionary College to prepare for some place in the Lord's work.

Education

We have in the conference two church schools and three teachers with an enrollment of 32 pupils. One of the schools is doing tenth grade work. Efforts are being made to establish more church schools this coming fall.

lines of Christian help work."

Miss Laura Witzke and Miss Florence Davies, nurses of the Washington Sanitarium have been working in Pittsburgh for the last six weeks giving health talks and demonstrations in Elder Coon's Sunday night revival meetings. They have also been conducting cooking classes and health classes in the three churches in the city. We are grateful for the valuable help these nurses are giving us. Never before has there been anything brought to these churches that has encouraged our people to come out on week nights as this health program

Church Buildings

Two church buildings have been provided for two of our Pittsburgh congregations. A beautiful church was purchased for the No. 1 congregation, valued at \$100,000, which cost us \$40,000. We have paid \$21,000, leaving a debt of \$19,000. The payments are being made monthly with a reserve fund in the treasury. Elder Coon has held two efforts in the new church building which have resulted in 129 baptisms.

A valuable building has been erected for the colored congregation located on Center and Morgan Streets, a very good location, costing us \$35,00, of which \$17,000 has been paid, leaving a debt of \$18,000. We have a congregation of loyal colored people in Pittsburgh, and they are working hard to liquidate the debt.

Our people and workers are of good courage in the Lord, and we feel determined to press on toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. With you we want to rededicate our lives to God for a more faithful service.

W. M. Robbins.

West Virginia 1924-1927



Mr. President, and Delegates of the Third Quadrennial Session of the Columbia Union Conference—

Greetings,

Having but recently taken hold of the work in West Virginia, I am glad to speak of the excellent spirit of loyalty and devotion I find among our people as I visit the various churches, and the cheerful willingness to cooperate and do their best in endeavoring to raise the quotas and reach the goals in various campaigns which have become a part of our yearly program, thus making possible the continuation of our wonderful world-wide proclamation of the blessed truth.

Membership

Numerically we are a small conference in West Virginia, and although our increase in membership has not been large during the last four years, still we are glad to report that the growth has been steady. Our baptisms during the last quadrennial period total 95 with a net gain of 64, our present membership being 437 divided into churches of 45 members was organized in Wheeling as a result of the earnest work of Elders J. S. Washburn and M. G. Conger. The faithful labors of Sister Mina Dengler, our Bible worker, and Brother H. M. Eklund as musical director, all contributed to the success of the work in Wheeling.

Elder Conger is holding Sunday night meetings in the Liberty Theater at the present time in Wheeling, and reports a good attendance and a splendid interest.

Elder W. A. Ralls is also conducting a series of Sunday night meetings in a theater in Beckley. Although the attendance is not large, yet a deep interest is being developed. We are expecting to see a goodly number of souls saved as a direct result of these meetings.

Financial

Our financial statements show that our people are demonstrating their faith in the third angel's message by their loyal financial support of the cause of God. Our tithe shows a substantial gain year by year during the last four years, making a total of \$77,247.20, or an average of \$176.70 per capita during the last quadrennial period.

Our Sabbath schools have been giving faithfully. During the first two years of the last four year period our Sabbath schools gave \$11,295.45 as compared with \$12,423.64 for the last two years of this same period, making a total of \$23,719.09 given during the last four years, and \$4,888.14 of this amount was given by our isolated members, our average Sabbath school membership being 475. Our Sabbath school members have given an average of \$1.12 per capita on each thirteenth Sabbath during this last four year period.

Harvest Ingathering and Institutional Relief

The total amount of Harvest Ingathering money raised during the previous quadrennial period was \$17,835.00 as compared with \$18,926.40 during the last

quadrennial period totaling \$36,761.40 raised during the past eight years.

Last year our people raised \$1,671.52 in our Institutional Relief campaign, or \$4.14 per capita. Had all of our people in the union raised an equal amount per capita, last year alone, we would have reduced our institutional indebtedness approximately \$75,000.00.

Missions

During the last four years we have raised \$51,108.11 for missions as compared with \$47,546.42 for the former quadrennial period, thus making a gain of \$3,561.69. We are glad to be able to report that under the blessing of God we have not only been enabled to raise our missions quota of sixty-cents-per-week, but have actually raised an average of .644 per week per capita throughout the last four year period.

Missionary Volunteer and Educational Departments

At present we have 166 young people in our conference between the ages of six and twenty-five years, and of this number 92 are attending our schools. Sixty-nine are attending church schools, and 21 are in Mount Vernon Academy. Three are in Washington Missionary College, and six are in training in our sanitariums. During the last four years our young people have raised \$2,025.18 in Harvest Ingathering. Seventy have read their Bibles through which is a splendid showing as our goal was only thirty-four.

Home Missionary Department

Our laymen are showing a great deal of enthusiasm in personal work. During the last four years the men and women in our churches have given 3,165 Bible readings, and as a result of their faithful activities 71 members have been added to the church. We appreciate the willingness on the part of our people to do whatever they can to advance the cause of God, and this is a splendid example of what can be accomplished when earnest effort is put forth.

Publishing Work

In West Virginia the printed page is being "scattered like the leaves of autumn." During the past eight years \$262,068.00 worth of literature has been placed in the homes of the people, and of this amount \$107,437.00 worth of literature has been sold during the last four years. We have an earnest band of fourteen colporteurs whom the Lord is blessing in a wonderful way, as they go over the mountains, across the vales, and into the cities to search out the honest in heart and leave the printed page in their homes.

The prospects for the future in West Virginia are very bright, and for this we thank God and take courage. With a corps of eleven faithful cooperative workers in our field whose hearts are wrapped up in the third angel's message, we are confident that greater triumphs are before us than we have yet achieved. We take this opportunity to thank the union, and also other sister conferences, for the help you have given us thus making possible our present success, and with you we are looking forward with eagerness to the time when God's work shall have been finished, and He shall take His children home.

D. A. Rees.

Our Youth

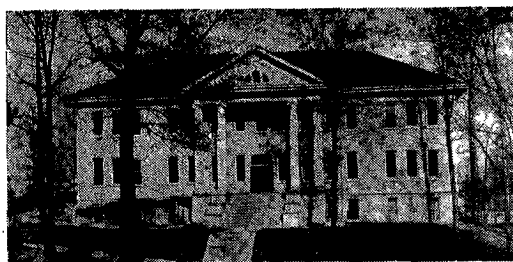
When Cornelia, familiarly known as the mother of the Gracchi, was asked by a titled lady to show her jewels, she called her two young sons and formally presenting them to her guest said, "These are my jewels." What fine ambitions parents have for their children. What fine trust they have in them. What noble desires that their sons and daughters shall rightly use the opportunities afforded the youth in these times.



Theodore Roosevelt said, "If you are going to do anything for the average man, you must do it before he is a man, for what is put into the first in life is put into the whole life."

Hannibal inherited from his boyhood an intense hatred for Rome. He would array his young companions in mimic warfare against the enemies of his country. He lived to scale the mighty Alps and caused the seven hills of Rome to quake. His zeal to conquer was put into the first of his life.

In the early days of this Advent message God gave to His people correct ideas of Christian education. The plan is outlined at length in the volumes so highly prized by this people, but it is a sad fact, notwithstanding this light, that many of the children of Sabbath-keeping

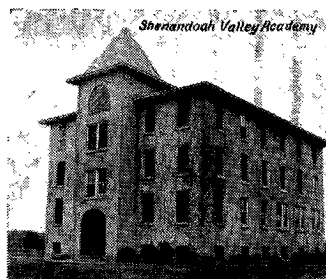


parentage are not to be found in our own schools, and of these the very, very large majority are lost to the cause which their parents profess to love. God would have His children in schools of His own planning. The school is to cooperate with the home in implanting in the plastic minds of youth the need of a lost world and to point sinners to the way of life.

Washington Missionary College was established in 1904. Its purpose is to give young men and young women that training which will fit them for service in this life and for the life to come. Its graduates are to be found in the uttermost parts of the earth. Its purpose is to educate the Seventh-day Adventist youth to point the world to the Saviour who can save them rather than to secure an education in the world to help the world to be lost. A large measure of the success of this movement can be attributed to consecrated men and women who have been educated in the schools of the denomination.

Between the ages of fourteen and twenty-five youth forms mental, spiritual, professional, social, and domestic ideals. Less than twenty per cent of Christians are converted to Christ after twenty, and eighty-five per cent of the criminals in our land begin their career before that age. How important it is during these formative years that our own noble youth be surrounded with the best influences and be given the best training. It is the object of our schools to place about our youth such influences as may fix their ideals on true religion and correct concepts of life and its duties.

I wonder if you, parents, face the fact in its awful reality that our young sons and daughters are going to bear the heat of the battle in the time of trouble? When we think of this, we are inclined to treat our responsibility as a fearful and overwhelming thing, but should



we not rather esteem it a blessed privilege to help to prepare the noblest of the race of earth, earth's true nobility—the Esthers, the Josephs, the Daniels—to stand against all odds at that time?

The doors of this college are open to our youth. We pledge ourselves to point them to the correct way in their preparation for the service of the Master, to put into the most of life that which will endure throughout all eternity.

H. H. Hamilton.

Present and Future Possibilities in Rural Work

There is no indication that opportunities for rural school work are no more to be found in the South. Looking over our school reports for the second semester, we see evidences of appreciation of this work in the communities where it has been established.

Most of our people have heard of the work at Fountain Head, Tennessee. The school work which is an important line of the activities carried on there is evidently winning its way into the community. In addition to the children of Adventist parents, we find that thirty are coming in from outside homes. On a recent visit to Nashville, Mrs. Eva A. Jenks, the principal of the school, told us that the enrollment from the outside was rapidly increasing so that it was necessary to break out of the confines of the two school rooms and hold classes in the adjoining room which has been used for church services. We would judge from our visit last fall that conditions are favorable for an evangelistic effort.

On Sand Mountain in Northeastern Alabama, Brother and Sister Harbolt are operating their school again this year with an enrollment of thirty-four from the outside. To carry on the work in their locality calls for real missionary zeal and fortitude and we believe God will bless the faithful efforts of these workers.

A substantial beginning has been made in the new location of the Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, rural enterprise. Its chief source of strength is in the sanitarium which has a flourishing patronage. There is no hospital within a radius of forty miles and the plant has filled a real need along surgical lines. The sanitarium is growing and new equipment is being added. Along with the school a school of health is being conducted with an attendance of sixteen, ten of whom are not from Adventist homes. This school is being taught in an old dwelling situated on the top of a steep hill overlooking the other buildings. If primitive educational facilities have any value in character training, we are sure that in some respects there will be no deficiency in the lives of the children attending this school. With the assistance of the students, the school was made more comfortable by stripping the wide cracks between the siding, and by covering the walls inside with building paper held on with lath. To our surprise we were told that the roof of the building did not leak. School desks of five different varieties were in evidence as part of the equipment. A cheerful, cooperative, Christian spirit, however, prevails in the school.

From the rural school fund and from other sources it will be possible to provide a good school building together with a meeting house and the interest which has been awakened can be continued. Our ministers receive good hearings in this place and doubtless a strong church will eventually grow up at Lawrenceburg.

There should be more schools of this kind in the South. People are glad for the privileges and influences of a Christian school in their neighborhood, especially where the facilities otherwise available are inadequate or entirely lacking. Best of all, an opening is provided for the preaching of the message. The ability of the union conference, through the provisions of the Rural School Fund, to offer assistance to such enterprises has meant much in the building up of the rural school work.

W. P. Bradley.

The regular annual offering for Rural Schools, which is reckoned as a part of the Sixty-Cent-A-Week fund, is to be taken up in our churches on Sabbath, April 14. Some of these schools are greatly in need of equipment. New educational centers should be established. In many of these schools, health work is being carried on. Several Sabbath schools and churches have been organized in remote sections of the South as a result of this work. Between three and four hundred children are enrolled this year in these schools. We hope there may be a generous response to this call in all our churches.

Gen. Conf. Dept. of Education.

I Want Every Course the Fireside Offers

After taking two courses of study with us, and making inquiry regarding others, one student says, "I want to take every course the 'Fireside' offers. I have dealt with other Correspondence Schools, but the 'Fireside' has the best organization. Enroll me for your course in 'Evidences of Christianity'. This is just what I want now."

Hundreds of other students are equally satisfied. Thousands more could be. Why not let us help you? Address Fireside Correspondence School, Takoma Park, Washington, D. C.

The Message Via the Air

Note: This is the second of a series of articles on the activities of the Radio Lighthouse, our denominational broadcasting station at Berrien Springs, Michigan. In these articles we are endeavoring to bring our people into a realization of the spirit behind the work of this gospel station which operates on 484 meters and with 1000 watts of power.

"This is the Radio Lighthouse, Berrien Springs, Michigan, operating by authority of the Federal Radio Commission, just beginning its regular Tuesday afternoon Lighthouse Bible Study Hour."

With this announcement, a very helpful and popular feature of the work of the Lighthouse is begun. Preceding the Bible study by Elder Westworth, a singer presents two appropriate songs, intended to bring the listeners into a spirit of worship, conducive to the study of the lesson for the day. The microphone is then in charge of Elder Westworth, pastor of the station, who presents the study we will say, the signs of the times or some other cardinal doctrine of our denomination. Several of the signs are studied, and the connection between these events and the coming of the Saviour is clearly revealed to the large audience of radio listeners.

Somehow as these truths are scattered through the air, as it were, like the leaves of autumn, we cannot but help feeling the mighty influence of this instrument which God has given us to promulgate the message. We who are in the studio, picture a humble dwelling, perhaps isolated from others by great distance, and with an old-fashioned mother tuning in, with her Bible in her lap, enjoying the spiritual food out. Perhaps here is a little group of church workers who have met for the Tuesday afternoon mission study class, who are anxious to receive what good they can from the talk and the music. Again our mind goes to perhaps a radio store where men are gathered round the receiver listening to the talk as it comes through the set to attract purchasers to his place of business. But the seeds fall here and there and we see evidences that much of it is reaching fertile soil.

On Thursday afternoon a similar service is held with the old hymns introducing the study of the hour which is based upon questions sent in by listeners who are really seeking for an understanding of "What saith the Lord". Listeners to the Radio Lighthouse have come to learn that the teaching of this station is based upon the Bible alone, and when ministers of other denominations fail, or are not capable of answering questions from their communicants, the Radio Lighthouse is appealed to for help. Sunday school superintendents and teachers, as well as Bible students of all denominations, are continually sending in their requests for perplexing questions on the Bible to be answered. What a privilege it is to be in a work which is helping men and women to find their Saviour! What a responsibility it is that rests upon WEMC! How sincere are the heart cries that go up for more light on the Word of God! What questions like these given below are sent to us and we answer them as best we can over the air, how glad we are that we can have a part in helping men and women to shape their lives a little more in harmony with the Word.

One listener writes in like this: "Would like your views on tithing and upon marriage after divorce", while another says, "What does John 13 mean, and if Christ's coming affected me, why did it not abolish all of the Mosaic law?"

A Sunday school teacher in Indiana asked her class to look up all references during the week on the unpardonable sin and asked each member of the class to bring in the report the following Sunday. This is the way the question came to the Radio Lighthouse. "Would like to have you answer this question as we had it in our Sunday school lesson last Sunday. What is the unpardonable sin? I would like to know so that I can tell my teacher." Thus the influence of the Lighthouse extends into the Sunday school.

If time permits, this question will be answered: "Perhaps you could just tell me when the wicked dead are raised to fulfill the 9th verse of Revelation 20. Are the wicked dead raised when Christ and the angels return to the earth?" Thus the questions come in—more than we can answer, and these questions are questions from the heart, thoughtful question that indicate a substantial hearing and a desire on the part of those who wish to know the better way. Is it not a privilege which we as a denomination have, to bring to the attention of men and women these things? Where it is desired, a personal reply is sent to the listener so that he is sure to get the answer. As the work goes on and from fifteen to sixteen sermons and Bible talks per week are put on the air, we begin to realize that it will mean work, and hard work on the part of our people to follow up the interest which is being created.

A song or two following the question box hour and the programs for the next day are announced. This program comes between three and four, central standard time, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Paul N. Pearce,
Program Director.

Regular Writers for 'Present Truth'.

The following is a list of our own writers whose articles are used in *Present Truth*, new current series, 1926 and 1927.

Carlyle B. Haynes, E. E. Andross, William A. Spicer, D. T. Bourdeau, C. P. Bollman, R. A. Underwood, Mrs. E. G. White, D. H. Kress, M. D., Uriah Smith, Geo. McGready Price, C. A. Russell, Ernest Lloyd, Chas. M. Snow, W. W. Prescott, Chas. T. Everson, John L. Shuler, Chas. A. Longacre, Wm. F. Martin, J. C. Jackson, M. D., Wm. H. Branson, Geo. B. Thompson, F. M. Wilcox, Frederick Lee, Roy F. Cottrell, L. A. Hansen, G. H. Heald, M. D., H. W. Miller, M. D., John M. Hopkins, H. E. Robinson, H. H. Votaw, Edison Driver, Geo. B. Starr, J. O. Corliss, and James White.

Outside Contributors

The following is a list of well known unquestioned writers whose articles are used in the current series of *Present Truth*

H. L. Hastings, Henry Van Dyke, Robert Pollock, Daniel March, J. R. Miller, J. Wilbur Chapman, Chas. G. Trumbull, C. H. Spurgeon, D. T. Taylor, H. Gratton Guinness, John G. Wooley, Earnest H. Charrington, John B. Gough, Geo. R. Stuart, M. R. Patterson, Will H. Brown, and James T. Ringgold.

The above list of contributors is a guarantee of excellence of material.

The Big Week Effort

One of the fifty-two enterprises to be helped this year is in Nyasaland. Here surrounded by suffering humanity Dr. Marcus is located. His mud and pole hut is not mosquito or rain proof. Not a pleasant home for wife and baby. A home for the doctor and a dispensary are to be built with extension money.

The thousands of lepers in this part of Africa will look to this place as an oasis in the desert. Here they may come and be cured. Other thousands will pass through the hospital and receive aid while words of truth will be uttered that will turn the honest in heart to Jesus who is the Great Physician.

Can you think of an enterprise that calls for means that is more worthy than that of curing leprosy? Every church member can help in this place. All the profit on Big Week books is used to promote God's work in some part of the earth.

By selling a few dozen sets of these up to date books one can have the satisfaction that he is helping in 52 projects in 31 countries and that whether it be a publishing house, a school or a dispensary that it all is for the uplifting of humanity and that in all places where help is given, the Man of Calvary will be held up as the only one who can take away sin.

Not only are people blessed in the 52 sections, here at home all who have a part in the extension effort will be blessed for we read, "Church members awake to the importance of the circulation of our literature and devote more time to this work.....When the Church takes up her appointed work she will go forth fair as the moon, clear as the sun and terrible as an army with banners." C. S. p. 147.

E. A. M.

A Soul Winning Institute in Norfolk

A part of this institute was devoted to the spiritual interests of our church members. All present were helped and in the consecration service on Sabbath a forward move was inaugurated that placed the church members where God could use them as channels through which He can reach out after souls.

Sabbath afternoon was devoted to church activities. In the Fifteen Minute Service at the close of Sabbath school a club of 100 *Signs* was taken, which will be distributed from week to week.

A Home Nursing class was organized with a graduate nurse in charge. The Bible reading class will be carried forward by the pastor. Sunday morning found several church members ready to go out with literature. Elders Prout, Martin, Gauker, Brother Mead and the writer were present to give instruction and go out with the members.

The rain was falling while 400 homes were visited and the people given literature and an invitation to attend the evening service.

Our Portsmouth church joined with the Norfolk church in this institute. Two of the members came out in the rain on Sunday and joined the workers. Others worked nearer home.

The Columbia Union and the Potomac Conference greatly appreciated the help given us by the General Conference in the person of Elder C. S. Prout.

The soul winning institute plan is a success and every church that has been privileged to have one of these conventions is in a position to do more efficient work for the Master.

E. A. Manry.

If You Have

a place to send that club of *Signs* you have ordered in this year's annual missionary effort, then *do not* read this, for we are trying to reach only those who do not know the best place to send their papers.

Among the most important calls for more *Signs* to help in their work, are those from our foreign fields. Quite a few clubs have been supplied through our cooperation corner plan, but still there are many either unfilled or only partly supplied. Some of the places where there is great need are:

Rangoon and Maymo, Burma, at least 100 copies; Hongkong and Shanghai, China, 100 or more to each place; Cristobal, Canal Zone, 100 or more; Philippine Islands—five or six different stations could use from 10 to 50 or more each; the Virgin and Leeward Islands, Jamaica, Trinidad, and other West India points could use several hundred; and there are insistent calls from India, Africa, South America, Japan, Malaysia, and other countries.

There is also a great need in many of our home conferences with small membership and scattered population, and in many of these fields, the conference office will follow up any interest shown with other literature or visits.

Clubs to any of these foreign fields, and single copies mailed to individuals in any of these needy home fields, will cost you only \$1.50 a copy; ten for \$15.00; twenty-five for \$37.50; fifty for \$75.00. You may send your order to your book and Bible house office, and if desired we will see that you are put in personal touch with the field or worker using the papers.

Signs of the Times.

The Girl Problem

Many an anxious mother is today asking, "What shall I do with my daughter?" Ruth Lee Olson has approached this problem in a most sympathetic and helpful way in her article in the April color *Signs*. Your Bible house will gladly supply you. Only four cents each in lots of ten or more.

Whoever You Are

The VISITOR wishes to thank the one who sent \$5 for missions, and a letter over the initials A. F. C. We do not know who, nor where you are, but the God Who knows us all will bless the gift you made for foreign missions. Is the Spirit of God working on your "conscience", too, dear reader?

Our Exchanges Please Copy

The College Press of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, wishes to state that orders for *Fitch's Bible Games* cannot be filled owing to the fact that all our stock, etc. was destroyed in the fire.

Big Week and Its Possibilities

Once a year the church members of the Columbia Union Conference have the privilege of taking the newest printed Crisis books to their neighbors and friends, telling them of the latest extension work in building schools, dispensaries and publishing houses. As these people hear about the work their hearts throb to have a part in furthering these enterprises. Sets of Crisis books are readily sold.

Who could listen to a recital of what is going on around Lake Titicaca and not be moved to help. At present we have 110 schools with 5,000 pupils and a normal school with over 500 students. Some of our Big Week money has been used in this region to make this possible. The large number of graduates each year are going into the field to aid their countrymen in getting a knowledge of Jesus.

APRIL				1928		
SU	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	A BIG WEEK FOR MISSIONS				
1928		MAY				1928
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5

In the Trinidad area are nearly 1,000 Seventh-day Adventist boys and girls who have had no opportunity to attend one of our training schools. In the budget for this year \$8,500 will be given to establish a training school for them.

In fact there are 52 enterprises scattered throughout the world that will be aided by the Big Week effort.

Last year 24,000 sets of books were used in the raising of \$11,000 dollars. Could we visualize the influence of these truth filled books in the homes of the people, our hearts would rejoice. Courage has been brought to thousands and a few have already taken hold of the truth.

Let us sell these new books by the tens of thousands and see to it that we double what we did last year in the extension work.

"Papers and books are the Lord's means of keeping the message for this time continually before the people." Vol. 6, p. 315.

E. A. M.

No man or woman of the humblest sort can really be strong, gentle, pure and good without somebody's being helped and comforted by the very existence of that goodness.—Phillips Brooks.