

Columbia Union VISITOR

REPRESENTING THE FOLLOWING
CONFERENCES
ALLEGHENY • CHESAPEAKE • EAST
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW JERSEY • OHIO
POTOMAC • WEST PENNSYLVANIA
WEST VIRGINIA

Vol. 60

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No. 12

President's Quadrennial Report

To the Delegates and Friends, to our esteemed General Conference representatives, and our host of believers scattered abroad throughout the Columbia Union Conference—greetings.



Another four eventful years have swung into eternity. With the advent of the atomic age a new world, as it were, has come into being. Distress, perplexity, and fear

have gripped the hearts of mankind everywhere, no less the hearts of the very men—the scientists—who are responsible for this destructive invention. As one scientist aptly puts it: "I am a frightened man." In their helplessness, leaders and statesmen stand frustrated and baffled before the ever-threatening world trends. Is not this what the servant of the Lord meant when she wrote: "Those who hold the reins of government are not able to solve the problem" (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. IX, p. 13).

It is in such tragic and ominous times that we here gather to open this Ninth Quadrennial Session of the Columbia Union Conference. We gather here not with a defeated spirit, but with hope and faith; not with an attitude of fear and frustration, but with courage and confidence. Why not? We have God and His host on our side.

First of all, we deem it fitting and proper to pay our sincere respect to those of our fellow laborers who have gone to their rest during the past four years. I

By D. A. OCHS

President, Columbia Union Conference

mention with deep respect Elders F. H. Robbins, W. M. Robbins, H. J. Detwiler, Ray Spencer, Sr., T. W. Thirlwell, L. G. Cornelius, and J. G. Dasent, and also an intern, Ray W. Simpson. Others, though not ministers, might be mentioned.

During this period several changes in the administrative personnel occurred. Elder J. H. Wagner went to the South Atlantic Conference, and Elder W. L. Cheatnam accepted the presidency of the Allegheny Conference. Elder W. B. Hill went to Illinois, and Elder E. F. Koch of our Union Conference staff was called to the presidency of the New Jersey Conference. These two new adminis-

trators entered upon their work in a strong way.

In the departments we experienced some changes. Elder O. S. Hershberger, War Service and Industrial Relations Secretary of the Union Conference, requested to be released from his heavy responsibilities. Then, too, we were happy to welcome Brother E. F. Willett into our family circle, filling the post of auditor left vacant when Brother Rudolph Reinhard responded to a call for overseas service. Don A. Roth of the East Pennsylvania Conference responded to a call from the Union Committee to serve as Public Relations Secretary.

Tithe and Offerings

The loyalty of our members is marked by the tithe income during



SESSION SITE. View of the Sheraton-Gibson Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio, where the Ninth Quadrennial Session of the Columbia Union Conference is being held this week.

the past four years, the total being \$14,459,514.50, an increase of 41.9 per cent over the previous period. The total amount of missions offerings was \$4,971,076.27, a gain of 27.3 per cent. The Sabbath school offerings reached an all-time high total of \$2,350,508.92, a gain of 26.4 per cent over the previous four-year period.

We compliment our conference administrators, their workers, and all believers in the wonderful achievement in Ingathering results. The total received during the past four years is \$2,317,548.71 as against \$1,722,442.99 over the previous four-year period, a gain of \$595,105.72, or 34.5 per cent. Six of our eight conferences achieved the Minuteman goal in 1954. Two of these, New Jersey and West Pennsylvania, have the distinction of reaching this goal for eight successive years; Chesapeake, seven successive years; West Virginia, seven times in eight years; and East Pennsylvania, four Minuteman goals in eight years. Ohio, one of the large conferences, set a record in reaching it during 1953 and 1954.

Young Workers and Ordinations

Our policy, adopted by the Union Conference about six years ago,

has made it possible to employ more ministerial interns than the quota designated by the General Conference internship policy. Thus sixty-four interns were taken on in the previous four-year period and thirty-seven during this period, or a total of 101 in eight years. From time to time, as these young men prove themselves in soul-winning endeavors, the various committees recommend them for ordination. Thus forty-five were ordained to the gospel ministry during this period.

Evangelism

The Columbia Union Conference consists of seven states and the District of Columbia with a total population of thirty-four million. Years ago the servant of the Lord wrote: "Instruction has been given me that the message should go again with power in the cities in the Eastern States" (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. IX, p. 98). Again we have endeavored to take this and similar messages seriously. Every method possible was employed to reach the millions in our congested cities and populous areas. Hundreds of efforts were conducted in halls, theaters, tabernacles, tents, and church buildings. The total cost of these efforts was

\$607,368.33, not including workers' salaries and expenses. It will be interesting to note that for every \$47.06 spent in evangelism we baptized one soul. Radio and television are filling a very important place in evangelism. Then too, the hundreds of newspapers utilized by our public relations personnel are a wonderful means.

Membership and Baptisms

As a result of the united soul-winning crusade our membership gain over the years has been constant and steady, but by no means as large as the lateness of the hour demands. The membership at the close of this four-year period reached an all-time "high" of 34,143. This was a gain of 3,849 over the previous period, or 12.7 per cent. By baptism and profession of faith 8,669 were added. This was a gain of 476 over the previous four-year period.

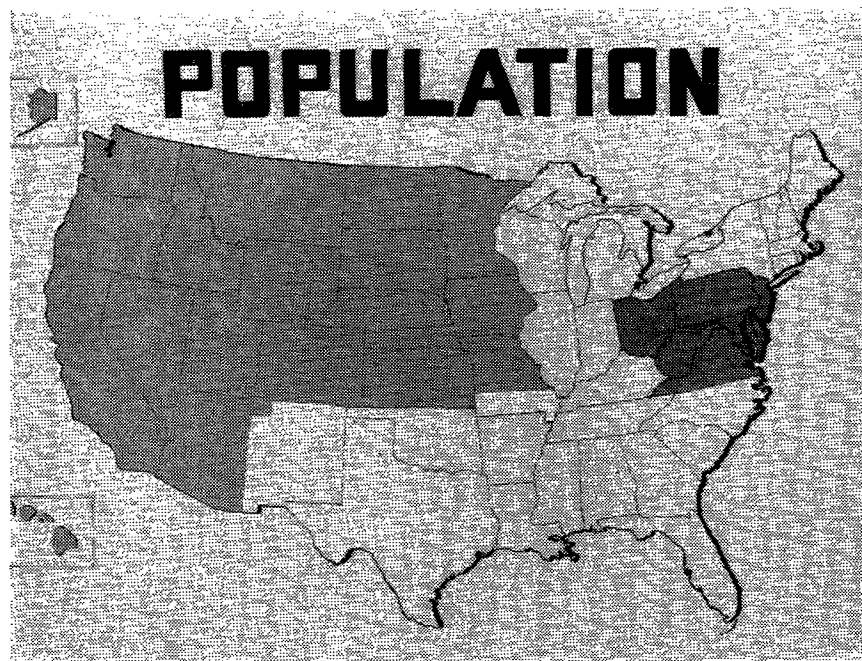
Building Projects

This membership, as of December, 1954, comprises 401 church organizations. Three hundred and seventeen of these congregations meet in their own places of worship, whereas eighty-four are still confined to rented quarters. This must not so remain. One of our major endeavors has been to provide adequate church housing. This poses no small financial undertaking.

During this period just closed seventy-seven new churches were either built or purchased at a total cost of \$3,984,960, and, including seventeen church schools, the total cost was \$4,466,000. The average cost per church erected during this period was \$51,750.

Home Missionary and Sabbath School

Our home missionary personnel in union and local conferences and in our local churches have rallied to an "all-out" lay soul-winning program. Seven hundred and twenty-five Gospel Light-Bearers are going from house to house, leaving literature with the view of finding openings for Bible studies. As a result, 10,734,529 pieces of literature were distributed. Moreover, 389 S.A.V.E. units and hundreds of smaller projectors were pressed into service. One thousand and forty-four enrollees in the seven Bible schools were baptized. The 411 Sabbath schools likewise are wielding a strong influence in winning and holding new converts.



COMPARISON

FOUR WESTERN UNIONS

1. 19 states and 23 conferences
2. 32,270,243 population
3. 1 SDA to 259 population
4. 1 SDA church to 27,939 population

COLUMBIA UNION

- 8 states and 8 conferences
- 32,067,464 population
- 1 SDA to 975 population
- 1 SDA church to 80,978 population

Missionary Volunteer and Temperance

The 412 Missionary Volunteer societies are a real asset to the churches. The number of our junior camps tripled during this period. Our young people, ever sharing their faith under the direction of the Missionary Volunteer Department, made an average of 188 missionary visits per day, and conducted an average of fifteen Bible studies a day. Of the total baptized fifty per cent were young people. The many Pathfinder clubs in our churches are proving a real blessing in winning and holding thousands of juniors among us.

A keen interest is disclosed in our churches and institutions in the temperance cause. All our academies and Washington Missionary College have well-organized American Temperance Society chapters. In recent years three Union-wide temperance oratorical contests were held.

Education

The Columbia Union Conference Committee a year ago voted to allocate \$10,000 a year for an Elementary Teacher-Trainee Scholarship Fund. This is already beginning to bear results in our endeavor to obtain more and well-qualified teachers.

On the secondary, as well as on the elementary, level we were forced to launch a number of major expansion projects in order to accommodate the tremendous increase in children of school age. Seventeen new church schools were erected. The new Blue Mountain Academy is now being erected, and will begin operating this fall on September 6.

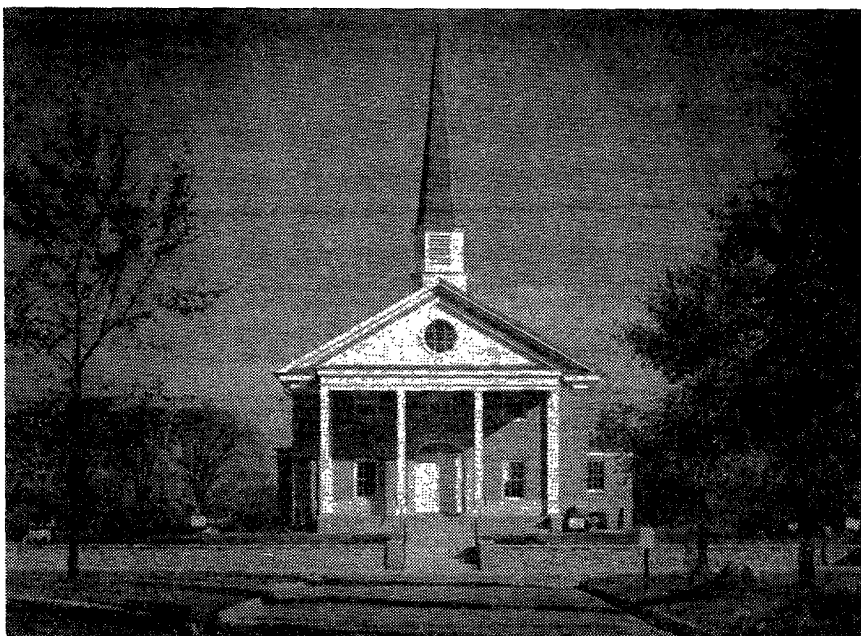
For a number of years Pine Forge Institute has carried on in old, inadequate buildings. At the present time a new, modern, brick administration building is nearly completed.

This Issue Contains REPORTS

for the
Ninth Quadrennial Session
of the

Columbia Union Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists
Given at the Sheraton-Gibson
Hotel

Cincinnati, Ohio
Monday, March 21, 1955



ADVENTIST CHURCH. This beautiful church in Worthington, Ohio, is one of seventy-seven new churches built in the Columbia Union Conference during the past quadrennium.

Mount Vernon and Shenandoah, our two older schools, have been unable to accommodate all begging for admittance. The facilities are just not adequate. Thus larger costly expansion projects are under way. Moreover we must have more academies and church schools to meet the ever-pressing need.

Washington Missionary College has carried on in a very strong manner. The cooperation, loyalty, and teamwork of the faculty is a constant inspiration. The science hall and music annex, begun in the previous period, are now a reality. We thank God for these havens of refuge for our youth.

Literature Evangelism

Our army of literature evangelists, as always, have had as their main objective soul winning. During this four-year period we averaged 238 full- and part-time literature evangelists. These delivered \$2,534,074.65 worth of literature, a gain over the previous four-year period of \$326,238.89. This represents an hourly average of \$2.39. For the year 1955 the district and conference publishing leaders set a delivery goal of \$1,004,500 and a goal of 375 souls.

Religious Liberty, Industrial Relations, War Service

The proposed calendar change impetus has given us much concern. Our workers and laity have rallied to our endeavor to stem the tide. Thousands of letters have been written to legislators on ev-

ery level protesting. Our faithful Assistant Religious Liberty Secretary, strategically located in his work, keeps us informed.

Every effort has been exerted to come to the aid of our believers in their difficulty when their work conflicts with Sabbath observance. Several cases were settled in the courts. The opportunity of witnessing for this truth was marked.

Scores of Medical Cadet training camps and cadet organizations in our schools have prepared our boys in serving their country. Then, too, the Civil Defense project is a vital one and great headway has been made in this regard.

Medical Work

The Washington Sanitarium with a large group of Christian physicians and employees is wielding a wonderful influence for good. Moreover, we are very appreciative of the scores of doctors in our territory—graduates of our medical college; also of the many dentists; and of the many privately operated medical units ever witnessing for God and His truth.

Conclusion

Here we desire to mention our untiring members who make up our Union office family. These secretaries faithfully carry on day by day with a sincere spirit to see the work finished. We owe them our heartfelt thanks.

We express our sincere and deep appreciation to the conference presidents, all administrators, in-

(Continued on page 5)

Report of Secretary-Treasurer

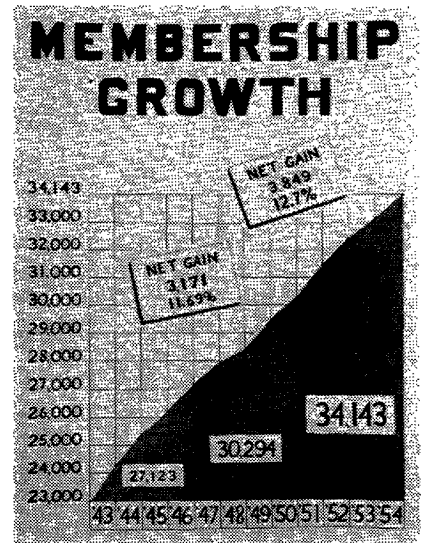
By C. H. KELLY

FOUR years have elapsed since our last report to the Constituency of the Columbia Union Conference, years during which inflation has vied with recession, with all of the economic stresses which come under such conditions. In the early part of the period unprecedented prosperity with tremendous business expansion was the order of the day. This was followed by a mild recession which was finally halted and the tremendous booms have, as a whole, tapered off during this past year.

During this time the Columbia Union Conference has reached

heights never before attained in our financial situation. This union conference was organized in 1907 with a membership of only 5,717. It took fourteen years to double its membership. During this past quadrennium we have gained 3,849 members. When we came to you four years ago we reported a gain in membership of 3,171, or 11.69 per cent over the preceding period. Now this 3,849 membership gain is 12.7 per cent, so we have increased our rate of acceleration in membership during these past four years. We now have a total of 34,143 believers.

We are including, as a part of this report, a history in figures in a statement on page 7 showing the tremendous increases along all lines—membership, tithe, missions,



WARREN ADAMS, ARTIST

Sabbath school, and Ingathering. A glance at these figures will indicate that during the life history of the Columbia Union Conference over \$48,037,000 was turned in by our people as tithe, and at the same time over \$20,366,000 was contributed to our world-wide missions program. I am sure we can all rejoice in these accomplishments, for the results as shown in the accompanying statements are due largely to the faithfulness and zeal of our people.

We would not forget in this report the splendid leadership of the more than 1,000 ministers, teachers, literature evangelists, and other workers scattered throughout the 401 churches and eight conferences of the Columbia Union Conference.

The Condensed Comparative Operating Statement visualizes the result of our operation over the period covered, and shows the operating gains which total \$145,560.45. The Comparative Balance Sheet reflects the general trend in increased assets and net worth over the four-year period. Our net worth has increased \$124,594.45.

It is remarkable how our people support the world-wide missions program with ever-increasing per capita gifts. Our average per capita of tithe for the four years was \$115.63 as compared with \$91.83 for the previous four-year period, and our average per capita to missions for the past four years was 76.4 cents per week as against 67.4 cents for the previous period. We all recognize when we make this comparison that we are not increasing our per capita of missions giving in proportion to the increase in per capita of tithe.

The total amount of tithe paid by

COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET—1951-1954

	1951	1952	1953	1954
Assets				
Current:				
Cash and Bank	\$158,071.86	\$255,614.24	\$370,457.03	\$271,144.54
Accounts Receivable	103,326.62	118,872.49	102,666.46	177,207.45
Notes Receivable	40,000.00			
Securities	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Supplies	4,398.22	5,779.65	5,591.45	5,102.91
Prepaid Expense	84.94	2,946.04	25.00	4,966.50
Total Current Assets	311,381.64	338,212.42	483,739.94	463,421.40
Fixed:				
Equipment	7,297.96	10,503.49	15,818.37	16,727.31
TOTAL ASSETS	\$318,679.60	\$398,715.91	\$499,558.31	\$480,148.71
Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	\$ 5,518.99	\$ 7,336.91	\$ 4,756.95	\$ 3,097.02
Trust Funds	48,534.60	50,045.53	63,106.01	33,575.33
Total Liabilities	54,053.59	57,382.44	67,862.96	36,672.35
Regular Net Worth	185,259.16	223,841.58	259,506.18	260,908.50
Reserves	79,366.85	117,491.89	172,189.17	182,567.86
Total Net Worth	264,626.01	341,333.47	431,695.35	443,476.36
Total Liabilities & Net Worth	318,679.60	398,715.91	499,558.31	480,148.71

COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET BY QUADRENNIUMS 1947-50 and 1951-54

	12/31/50	12/31/54	Increase	Decrease
Assets				
Current:				
Cash and Bank	\$295,008.97	\$271,144.54		\$23,864.43
Accounts Receivable	45,560.13	177,207.45	\$131,647.32	
Notes Receivable	40,000.00			40,000.00
Securities	5,000.00	5,000.00		
Supplies	6,104.23	5,102.91		1,001.32
Prepaid Expense	1,172.53	4,966.50	3,793.97	
Total Current Assets	392,845.86	463,421.40	70,575.54	
Fixed:				
Equipment	5,700.79	16,727.31	11,026.52	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$398,546.65	\$480,148.71	\$ 81,602.06	
Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	\$ 3,009.18	\$ 3,097.02	\$ 87.84	
Trust Funds	76,655.56	33,575.33		43,080.23
Total Liabilities	79,664.74	36,672.35		42,992.39
Regular Net Worth	145,082.24	260,908.50	115,826.26	
Reserves	173,799.67	182,567.86	8,768.19	
Total Net Worth	318,881.91	443,476.36	124,594.45	
Total Liabilities & Net Worth	\$398,546.65	\$480,148.71	\$ 81,602.06	

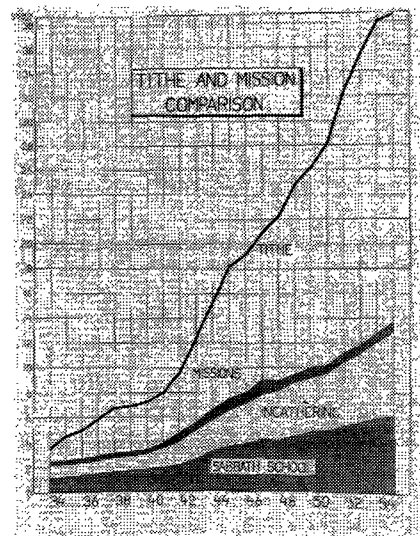
our people during the past four years was \$14,459,514.50, a gain of \$4,270,668.80 over the previous period, or 41.9 per cent gain.

During this same period \$4,971,076.27 was gathered in for our world-wide missions program. This is an increase of \$1,066,953.18, or 27.3 per cent over the previous period.

You will recall that four years ago I gave you a breakdown of the \$10,672,400 which was the total amount received by us from all sources during the period 1947-1950. During the past quadrennium this has been increased to the sum of \$13,828,134.85. Would you be interested in what became of these moneys? Well, first of all, we have had some gains and increases in our total net worth amounting to \$197,992.00, or 1.43 per cent of the over-all amount. This could be compared to the 1.8 per cent which we increased in this item during the previous quadrennium. The operating cost of maintaining the Union office—salaries and all overhead expenses for the four years ending December 31, 1954, was \$421,413.26, or 3.05 per cent of the total amount which we received. This could be compared with the 3.5 per cent which represented our costs as reported four years ago.

During this period we have been glad to be able to pass back to our educational institutions in the union conference for all purposes a total of \$905,895.61, or 6.54 per cent of the total. During the previous quadrennium this amounted to 6.2 per cent of our total.

We have also passed back to our local churches and conferences for buildings, educational work, etc., \$2,045,596.73, or 14.79 per cent of the total, whereas 12.2 per cent was the amount four years ago.



DRAWING BY ROLAND JOHN

COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE COMPARATIVE CONDENSED OPERATING STATEMENT 1951-1954

	Income			
	1951	1952	1953	1954
Tithe from Conferences	\$324,566.65	\$354,464.33	\$382,163.01	\$384,757.46
Interest	1,038.31	589.70	281.00	349.17
Miscellaneous	149.01	244.23	341.53	3,746.35
TOTAL INCOME	\$325,753.97	\$355,298.26	\$382,785.54	\$388,852.98
	Expenses			
Workers Salary and Expense \$	70,539.52	\$ 79,773.14	\$ 77,627.46	\$ 83,499.40
General Expense	10,865.75	11,037.33	9,665.60	14,837.66
Appropriations	56,078.23	62,742.32	53,679.38	52,597.08
Administrative	10,832.28	12,252.68	11,866.43	15,775.25
Tithe Percentages	58,568.11	63,980.62	68,980.80	69,459.35
Depreciations	2,286.75	1,777.59	3,224.44	3,700.54
Total Operating Expense ..	209,170.64	231,563.68	225,044.11	239,869.28
Operating Gain Without Subsidy	116,583.33	123,734.58	157,741.43	148,983.70
Appropriations and Subsidies	4,735.25	3,463.92	3,463.92	3,607.99
Total Operating Gain	121,318.58	127,198.50	161,205.35	152,591.69
Non-Operating Expense	81,141.66	88,616.08	125,540.75	151,189.37
Net Increase to Net Worth \$	40,176.92	\$ 38,582.42	\$ 35,664.60	\$ 1,402.32

COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE COMPARATIVE CONDENSED OPERATING STATEMENT BY QUADRENNIUMS—1947-50 and 1951-54

	Income		
	1947-1950	1951-1954	
Tithe From Conferences	\$1,018,884.57	\$1,445,951.46	Increase \$427,066.88
Interest	1,556.95	2,253.18	Decrease 701.23
Miscellaneous	1,627.51	4,481.12	2,853.61
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,022,069.03	\$1,452,690.75	\$430,621.72
	Expenses		
Workers' Salary and Expense \$	210,419.73	\$ 311,439.32	\$101,019.79
General Expense	34,997.15	46,406.34	11,409.19
Appropriations	142,846.90	225,097.01	82,250.11
Administrative	38,329.52	50,726.64	12,397.12
Tithe Percentages	183,777.72	260,988.88	77,211.16
Depreciations	7,111.42	10,989.32	3,877.90
Total Operating Expense ..	617,482.44	905,647.71	288,165.27
Operating Gain Without Subsidy	404,586.59	547,043.04	142,456.45
Appropriations and Subsidies	12,167.08	15,271.08	3,104.00
Total Operating Gain	416,753.67	562,314.12	145,560.45
Capital App. & Transfers ..	362,879.80	446,487.86	83,608.06
Net Increase to Net Worth \$	53,873.87	\$ 115,826.26	\$ 61,952.39

The balance of \$10,257,236.70, or 74.19 per cent has gone out from the Columbia Union Conference to the support of the world-wide work of this denomination. We rejoice with you today in this encouraging report. Surely the constituencies of our various conferences are to be commended for their faithfulness and liberality. Such reports do not just happen. They are made possible only by the combined efforts of conference workers and members alike.

As we stand here today on the brink of a new quadrennium may the Lord richly bless all our efforts. May we unitedly press forward to finish the work which the Lord has given each of us to do in this generation that we may all have the privilege of going home with our Lord and Saviour when He comes. Let us remain faithful to the calling whereunto we are called that we may have the right to enter into that city which has been prepared for the righteous.

President's Report

(Continued from page 3)

cluding those in our institutions, and all workers, for their prayerful and sympathetic cooperation as together we have earnestly endeavored to solve the many and varied problems and to promote the cause of God.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to our dear believers in all churches for their loyal support, earnest prayers, and self sacrifice, to make our work in the Lord's vineyard prosper.

Above all we, with humble hearts, pause and gratefully acknowledge the guiding hand of our heavenly Father for His influence in our personal lives; for His direction in our daily efforts; and for His leadership in our endeavors to promote every phase of His cause.

PREVIOUS UNION SESSION SITES
1951—Philadelphia, Pa.
1947—Cincinnati, Ohio
1942—Pittsburgh, Pa.

Growth in New Churches and Schools

By E. F. WILLETT

Auditor

THE membership of the Columbia Union Conference is now 34,143. There are 401 organized churches in the Union Conference, 317 congregations owning their own properties, and eighty-four con-

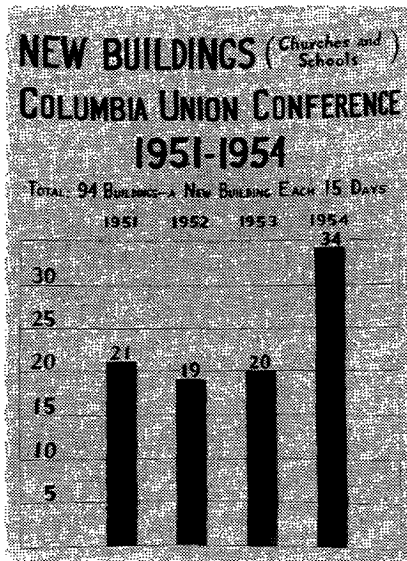


gregations occupying rented quarters. During the past four years ninety-four new buildings, churches, or schools were either purchased or built, which means that during that period a new church or church school was acquired each fifteen days. For this we must be justly proud.

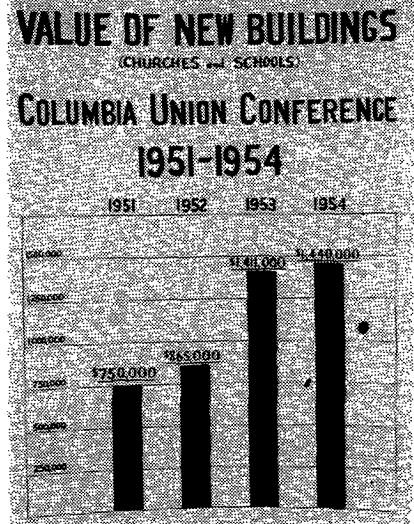
In this four-year period of 1951-1954, seventy-seven new churches were built or purchased at a total cost of \$3,984,960, or an average cost of \$51,750 for each new church. These new buildings now adequately house congregations which in the past have been worshipping under crowded and congested conditions, or have been located in less desirable surroundings. We are certain these new church buildings will serve as

God's lighthouses for the presentation of the truth in the communities which they serve.

During this same four-year period, seventeen new church schools were erected at a total cost of \$480,500. This figure does not include the new Blue Mountain Academy in the East Pennsylvania Conference which is scheduled to open in September, 1955. When



WARREN ADAMS, ARTIST



WARREN ADAMS, ARTIST

completed this new boarding academy will mean an additional investment of approximately one million dollars. Additional new church school facilities are being planned for the future. This is imperative because of present crowded conditions in some areas, and in others no facilities at all. A recent survey indicates that we are serving only one-third of the potential number of church school pupils in our churches. Practically every academy in our union conference is full to overflowing with students. The operating boards of these schools are planning for additional facilities so our youth can be served.

Value of Church Properties

The value of Seventh-day Adventist church properties in the Columbia Union Conference now totals \$7,872,550. Our 129 church schools and seven academies, including land, buildings, and equipment, show a total investment of \$2,652,594. The total investment in churches, schools, and academies gives a grand total investment of \$10,525,144. We thank God for what has been accomplished in the past, but we believe that even greater accomplishments lie ahead. Some congregations are still inadequately housed. Some of our elementary schools are greatly crowded, and some occupy quarters which have been condemned. Plans are being made to change these conditions. New churches and new schools are being built. Let each one dedicate his life and his means that every agency may be used to quickly give the message for this time so our Saviour may come to redeem His faithful people.

Total Tithe, Columbia Union—by Conferences

	1947-1950	1951-1954	Gain	Per Capita 1954
Allegheny	\$ 1,094,639.50	\$ 1,647,581.60	\$ 552,942.10	\$ 77.13
Chesapeake	703,325.70	1,061,215.30	357,889.60	129.72
East Pennsylvania	1,370,925.70	1,854,101.80	483,176.10	122.10
New Jersey	929,731.70	1,244,909.30	315,177.60	135.80
Ohio	2,246,565.90	3,198,244.10	951,678.20	124.21
Potomac	2,915,083.30	4,228,509.00	1,313,425.70	139.86
West Pennsylvania	564,797.80	715,369.10	150,571.30	99.90
West Virginia	363,776.10	509,584.30	145,808.20	88.07
Totals	\$10,188,845.70	\$14,459,514.50	\$4,270,668.80	\$117.75
Gain			41.9%	

Total Mission Funds—by Conferences

	1947-1950	1951-1954	Gain	Weekly Per Capita 1954
Allegheny	\$ 408,863.69	\$ 593,998.64	\$ 185,134.95	\$.591
Chesapeake	305,408.43	390,107.40	84,698.97	.904
East Pennsylvania	538,923.78	645,460.63	106,536.85	.837
New Jersey	398,357.55	490,080.17	91,722.62	1.012
Ohio	854,631.68	1,084,582.67	229,950.99	.837
Potomac	995,416.07	1,273,632.02	278,215.95	.821
West Pennsylvania	252,264.74	293,820.75	41,556.01	.788
West Virginia	150,257.15	199,393.99	49,136.84	.702
Totals	\$3,904,123.09	\$4,971,076.27	\$1,066,953.18	\$.799
Gain			27.3%	

Delegates

General Conference

R. R. Figuhr, W. B. Ochs, J. I. Robison, D. H. Thomas, C. E. Moseley, H. A. Morrison, F. D. Nichol.

Columbia Union Conference

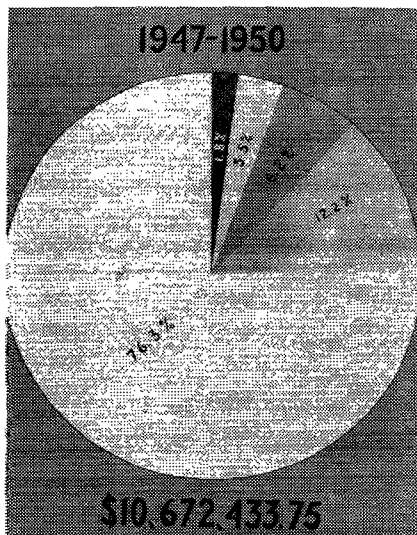
D. A. Ochs, C. H. Kelly, J. F. Kent, E. A. Robertson, R. A. Hare, K. H. Wood, Jr., A. J. Patzer, E. F. Willett, D. A. Roth, W. H. Hackett.

Allegheny Conference

W. L. Cheatham, delegate at large; M. S. Banfield, delegate at large; G. Anderson, F. D. Beatty, E. D. Brantley, J. R. Britt, C. D. Brooks, P. Cantrell, D. L. Davis, E. Dorsey, W. M. Fordham, Mrs. N. Harris, J. J. Johnson, N. Bliss, L. W. Brantley, A. N. Brogden, M. A. Burgess, Miss M. Cheatham, L. G. Cox, W. L. DeShay, J. E. Farrow, V. Gibbons, R. T. Hudson, J. Justiss, J. H. Lester, R. W. Newman, G. E. Peters, L. R. Preston, C. E. Street, M. Thomas, C. B. Tivy, J. H. Wagner, Jr., C. A. Morgan, C. Norman, A. V. Pinkney, W. R. Robinson, J. Thomas, W. A. Thompson, A. S. Wagner, H. D. Warner, U. S. Willis.

Chesapeake Conference

C. V. Anderson, delegate at large; A. B. Butler, delegate at large; S. L. Dombrosky, D. G. Fleagle, W. H. Grotheer, G. B. Hoag, C. G. Jackson, T. J. Jenkins, D. Miller, D. B. Myers, T. N. Neergaard, A. E. Neil, A. J. Purdey, W. B. Robinson, D. K. Smith, A. W. Wennerberg, C. L. Wilber, T. V. Zytoskee, G. W. Frederick, alternate; F. E. Johnson, alternate; T. H. McCartney, alternate; H. F. Wilkens, alternate.



HISTORY IN FIGURES—COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE							
Year	Member-ship	Tithe	Tithe Per Capita	Missions	Weekly Missions Per Cap.	Sabbath School	Ingathering
1907	5717	\$ 71,621.01	\$ 11.81	\$ 14,262.67	.048	\$ 6,633.05	
1908	6376	87,638.75	12.52	24,720.04	.074	8,207.12	
1909	6359	90,221.82	13.29	21,984.49	.066	9,755.40	
1910	6456	97,842.78	14.47	29,681.25	.09	10,411.11	
1911	6576	106,554.81	15.40	29,002.28	.082	12,028.49	
1912	6649	120,375.08	17.10	51,648.22	.154	20,063.36	
1913	6949	131,542.96	18.18	57,298.18	.165	26,625.64	\$ 7,839.84
1914	7405	142,744.18	19.28	70,085.25	.20	31,469.86	6,413.77
1915	8174	153,541.67	18.78	73,573.03	.20	36,104.61	8,416.10
1916	8613	190,315.86	22.09	83,672.82	.22	41,257.34	18,722.57
1917	9605	244,489.09	25.45	99,733.74	.24	48,599.99	26,685.30
1918	10203	355,743.82	39.02	150,092.72	.335	66,068.42	41,548.09
1919	10852	416,731.70	43.38	191,801.42	.385	90,358.83	64,717.42
1920	11182	532,773.20	52.21	283,050.12	.53	128,966.56	104,765.62
1921	11456	456,596.80	42.08	257,520.16	.46	133,084.83	94,478.24
1922	11627	461,459.40	41.27	267,894.71	.465	122,339.26	90,678.70
1923	11828	538,246.00	46.98	294,082.24	.494	142,976.84	90,192.37
1924	11837	546,056.80	46.96	290,322.24	.481	153,133.87	85,842.34
1925	11879	552,454.80	46.71	296,710.69	.482	150,383.06	93,713.97
1926	12123	550,979.10	46.35	337,045.35	.55	164,682.98	108,150.61
1927	12337	563,727.10	47.45	322,355.82	.521	160,034.68	109,850.74
1928	12585	555,174.60	44.11	339,409.49	.538	163,995.03	119,824.02
1929	12746	585,997.20	47.51	354,859.10	.553	175,905.48	126,732.08
1930	12863	534,884.60	42.49	339,255.86	.518	169,217.15	120,439.45
1931	13303	483,783.00	37.95	317,869.56	.48	155,701.48	114,654.85
1932	13888	399,350.70	31.04	276,107.14	.412	140,570.50	100,379.50
1933	14766	373,737.60	28.09	245,155.48	.354	119,571.79	93,308.64
1934	15647	455,780.00	32.81	267,868.69	.371	128,677.28	106,483.51
1935	16592	499,663.50	33.83	276,266.76	.36	132,355.40	112,385.06
1936	17388	587,628.10	37.55	295,085.88	.362	146,454.40	118,056.16
1937	18108	657,038.90	40.58	313,324.81	.372	158,981.87	119,141.13
1938	19005	687,695.90	38.97	322,205.62	.355	161,792.37	130,894.67
1939	20187	715,410.10	40.10	344,337.08	.371	169,362.02	141,019.81
1940	21262	804,257.80	42.72	395,177.36	.403	191,082.17	151,029.19
1941	22053	967,314.00	48.82	466,429.54	.453	215,333.20	193,455.22
1942	23122	1,263,298.60	60.08	555,437.94	.508	261,536.36	220,858.87
1943	24300	1,568,957.60	72.00	667,720.60	.589	325,243.81	244,844.15
1944	25463	1,828,486.10	77.40	760,968.38	.608	374,496.07	284,235.36
1945	26253	1,936,606.30	78.32	804,134.04	.625	390,519.54	321,150.36
1946	27123	2,112,261.90	82.16	904,139.56	.676	424,937.94	360,083.06
1947	27894	2,230,822.70	83.60	898,177.23	.647	421,218.28	389,656.40
1948	28443	2,499,562.90	91.32	961,104.70	.675	460,078.25	421,019.51
1949	29455	2,627,003.60	93.80	1,009,980.85	.68	480,907.21	449,208.31
1950	30294	2,831,456.50	98.61	1,034,860.31	.693	496,677.37	462,559.77
1951	31453	3,245,666.50	109.16	1,130,267.20	.731	546,282.97	506,440.75
1952	32405	3,544,643.30	115.49	1,196,682.19	.75	581,114.96	535,503.66
1953	33196	3,821,630.10	120.13	1,287,160.33	.773	600,669.18	612,474.24
1954	34143	3,847,574.60	117.75	1,356,966.55	.799	622,441.81	665,130.06
		\$48,037,271.93		\$20,366,989.60		\$9,777,459.29	\$8,171,398.60
TOTAL TITHE, \$48,037,271.93; TOTAL MISSIONS, \$20,366,989.60. Tithe exceeds missions by \$27,670,282.33.							

East Pennsylvania Conference

T. E. Unruh, delegate at large; V. A. Fenn, delegate at large; W. R. Bornstein, E. Bradley, O. A. Botimer, H. L. Calkins, L. R. Callender, J. B. Chrispens, H. Christensen, J. M. Clemons, Mrs. J. W. Curtis, C. C. Ellis, F. S. Fowler, R. M. Gardner, J. L. Hamrick, Jr., H. E. Hass, F. Hilliard, W. C. Jen-

sen, A. W. Kaytor, L. F. Myers, A. W. Ortner, L. E. Rafferty, H. C. Reading, E. Sterner, H. A. Toms, R. Valerio, J. A. Wasenmiller, F. W. Wernick, D. Woolever, R. D. Fear-

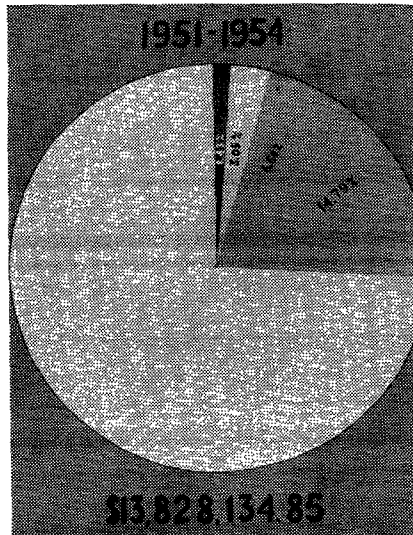
New Jersey Conference

E. F. Koch, delegate at large; W. M. Nosworthy, delegate at large; A. Besenyei, S. W. Burrows, W. E. Haase, J. M. Haynal, E. F. Herzel, W. C. Hewes, T. P. Ipes, J. F. Jeffreys, B. J. Mondics, E. Niemann, W. B. Quigley, B. L. Raith, A. F. Reynolds, W. H. Smith, G. B. Suhrie, R. A. Tyson, J. A. Terzo, alternate; W. L. Wellman, alternate; G. M. Woodruff, alternate.

Ohio Conference

M. E. Loewen, delegate at large; J. O. McLeod, delegate at large; E. J. Barnes, N. W. Becker, F. F. Bush, J. W. Clarke, R. E. Dickinson, Mrs. C. H. Diehl, F. J. Dittmar, C. L. Duffield, H. E. Fagal, R. F. Farley, E. C. Feltman, O. W. Fowler, Mrs. M. Fulkerson, H. L. Gray, W. Hackleman, J. L. Hagle,

(Continued on page 23)



WARREN ADAMS, ARTIST

Sabbath School

By KENNETH H. WOOD, JR.

Sabbath School Secretary

"THE life of Christ that gives life to the world is in His word . . . As our physical life is sustained by food, so our spiritual life is sustained by the word of God. And every soul is to receive from God's word for himself."

These two sentences from *Desire of Ages*, page 390, point up clearly the basic reason why the Sabbath school is important to the life of each individual church member. There week by week God's Word is opened and things new and old are brought from its hallowed treasures, strengthening, edifying, and building up one's soul in the most holy faith. Beyond all argument, every Seventh-day Adventist needs the Sabbath school if he is to grow in grace, for not only is God's Word studied on Sabbath, but daily study throughout the week is encouraged as a necessity for spiritual power and character development.

We are happy to say that the membership of our Sabbath schools is approximately 2,000 above that of our church total, being 35,068 at the close of 1954. This represents an increase of 5,604 during the four-year period. Not all these individuals are regular in attendance, however, as the records indicate that on the average some 7,206 are missing week by week. This number would make

a good-sized conference and their absence should cause us serious concern. As we think of the manifold temptations and snares which Satan is setting for their souls, we recognize that unless they can somehow be brought back under the influence of God's Word and the Sabbath school, it is likely that they will at last be lost to the church and for eternity. With a passion for these souls who are in danger, can we not devise and execute plans which will bring them within the fold where they can be fed the Bread of life? In this connection it would not be out of place to point out that not only is the absence of these individuals causing loss to their own souls, but the missions program of the church was deprived of an estimated \$280,169 in offerings also, figured by the average gift of those who attended regularly. "Will a man rob God? . . . Yet ye have robbed me. . . . In . . . offerings" (Malachi 3:8).

While it has been necessary to take note of these weaknesses that need correcting, it is a real joy to record many evidences of progress which have been made under the Lord's blessing. Total offerings for the four years have for the first time topped the two million mark, having reached \$2,350,508.92, a gain of \$491,627.81 over the

\$1,858,881.11 of the previous quadrennium. This exceeds the In-gathering returns by some \$30,000, and represents an increase of \$2,363 for each Sabbath of the four years. If these Sabbath school missions offerings were converted into one-dollar bills and stacked one upon another, they would form a monument of generosity 783 feet high, one-third taller than the 550 feet of the Washington Monument.

This demonstration of liberality toward our missions program serves not only to underline the willingness of our people to follow leadership, but also serves notice on the world that unitedly we are determined to carry out the gospel commission with no slackening of interest or pace.

In spite of the fact that the dollar value has been fairly stable during the past four years and we have thus had no help from inflation, it is encouraging to note that the Sabbath school offerings have increased from a per capita of thirty-two cents a week to thirty-six cents. We are still some distance from the fifty-cent General Conference goal, but at the close of 1954 we stood second among the ten union conferences of North America in per capita. By God's help we are determined to reach the full goal during the next four years.

A breakdown of the total shows that there was a gain in all regular Sabbath school offerings. Birthday offerings showed an increase of \$17,000, reaching \$58,375.89; Investment is up \$32,000, to \$206,659.37; Thirteenth Sabbath offerings up \$76,000, to \$484,423.01; and Twelve Sabbaths offerings up \$370,000 to \$1,601,051.01. We are especially pleased for the large gain in the regular Twelve Sabbaths offering, for this indicates regular rather than spasmodic giving.

Sabbath school achievements which depend on unusually large Thirteenth Sabbath offerings, for example, may be disappointing when severe weather keeps attendance low. Moreover, unusually heavy promotion for a certain offering may produce spectacular results for the one time, but this is not the best motive from which to give.

Inspired counsel states: "The spirit of Christian liberality will strengthen as it is exercised, and will not need to be unhealthfully stimulated. All who possess this



PHOTO BY ROTH

SABBATH SCHOOL INVESTMENT RECORD. Typical of the wonderful Sabbath school records set in the Columbia Union Conference is that of the Sligo Church in Takoma Park which last year raised a record \$7,341 for Sabbath school Investment. Shown above are the leaders of the Investment project. Pictured (left to right) are W. M. Buckman, Truman Hendryx, Dr. Albert Koppel, Jewel Peeke, and Mrs. A. J. Patzer, all leaders in the Sligo Sabbath School last year.

spirit, the Spirit of Christ, will with cheerful alacrity press their gifts into the Lord's treasury. Inspired by love for Christ and for the souls for whom He has died, they feel an intense earnestness to act their part with fidelity" (*Review and Herald*, May 16, 1893). Giving should be a spiritual exercise, and it is our belief that when the church fully comes into oneness with Christ the offerings which flow into the treasury will be many times greater than at present.

Sabbath School Evangelism

It was the great evangelist, Billy Sunday, who once stated: "The only way on God's earth you will ever solve the problem of reaching the masses, is by getting hold of the children. You get boys and girls started right and the devil will hang crepe on his door." One of our greatest denominational agencies for saving our boys and girls is the Sabbath school. We are pleased with the constant improvement which we see in our children's divisions, and the general willingness on the part of the churches to supply the visual aids, room furnishings, and work materials necessary to hold the attention of the children and make their weekly time at Sabbath school the most looked-forward-to experience of the entire seven days.

As a means of improving all levels of the Sabbath school, the Union Conference and the local conferences cooperated in sponsoring two Sabbath School Evangelism Camps during the summer of 1953. These two meetings were held on the campgrounds of Westcoesville and Parkersburg for four days following camp meetings.

Elder Hare and Miss Meyer of the General Conference gave excellent help in training the 361 delegates who attended. Six main workshops each day made it possible for all to produce devices for Bible teaching, illustrating action songs, and holding attention. The impact of these workshops and camps is still being felt, and continual requests are coming in for similar camps to be conducted again on either the union conference or local conference level.

One of the most effective avenues for reaching the unchurched children of the neighborhoods surrounding our churches is Vacation Bible School evangelism. Although this successful plan has



EVANGELISM IN ACTION. This enthusiastic group of children from Cincinnati, Ohio, is typical of those attending vacation Bible schools. Over 100 Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish children were enrolled in this evangelistic venture sponsored by the Shiloh Sabbath School.

for years been used by other denominations, only recently have we adopted the idea. Last summer thirteen such schools were held in our Union Conference territory, with 768 children in attendance. The Ohio Conference alone sponsored seven. This summer a full line of denominational materials for the conducting of these schools will be available for the first time as part of a three-year cycle, and as a result we anticipate a greatly expanded program of Vacation Bible Schools in every conference. It is cheering to observe some children attending regular church schools and Sabbath schools as a result of last summer's efforts.

As we consider the counties throughout our Union Conference which must be entered and lightened with the truth, we are reminded that branch Sabbath schools have in the past been successful instruments for such spearhead evangelism. According to a recent survey, thirty-two of our churches began as branch Sabbath schools. There are now forty-two active branch Sabbath schools, compared with thirty-seven four years ago. During this same time active schools have varied between a "high" of sixty-two and a "low" of thirty. If churches adjoining "dark" counties would immediately lay plans to operate branch Sabbath schools in these unlighted areas, how quickly would the work go! Souls would be won, companies and churches would be raised up.

Baptisms

The Sabbath school has been raised up by God to enlarge and strengthen the church. Its aim is to win souls, then to help fit them

for active service. God's purpose is that it "should be one of the greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in bringing souls to Christ" (*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, page 10). While there is still much room for improvement, we believe that our Sabbath schools essentially are filling the place for which they were designed. During the past four years 4,747 members of our schools were baptized. Doubtless evangelistic meetings, the efforts of our laymen, the church schools, radio and television, home influences, the work of literature evangelists, and other factors have combined with the Sabbath school in assisting this large number to decide for the Saviour. We are grateful, however, for the opportunity of sharing in the results which represent an average of more than three baptisms a day for the entire period.

The Future

We long for a great revival of personal devotion and missionary zeal to possess our Sabbath school members so that greater results might be seen. This hope will not be in vain, for *Testimonies on Sabbath School Work*, page 9, declares: "There is a most precious missionary field in the Sabbath school, and if there are now omens of good, they are only indications and beginnings of what may be done."

May the day be hastened when our Sabbath schools, together with their entire membership, will be translated to heaven above, there to be thrilled by the angelic choirs, there to be taught the precious lessons of salvation by Jesus, the Master-Teacher.

Report of the Home Missionary Department

By KENNETH H. WOOD, JR.

Home Missionary Secretary

It is with a deep sense of the goodness of God that I present this report covering a few high lights of Home Missionary Department activities for the past four years. Whatever gains and successes it



reflects are to God's glory, and have been the result of His power working through the members of our churches and their leaders in the local churches and conferences.

The Greek poet Homer once wrote, "Light is the task when many share the toil," and truly this has been our experience as unitedly our laymen and ministers have cooperated to master even the most difficult assignments.

Ingathering

Undoubtedly the greatest missionary undertaking of the church each year is the Ingathering campaign. Although the challenge of this task tests our spiritual sinews to the utmost, the compensations in character growth alone would be reward enough for the effort. When to this, however, are added the blessings of personal witnessing, the resulting enrollments in Bible correspondence school studies, and the desperately needed funds which thus flow out to the mission fields, it is easy to see why this annual endeavor has assumed such a large place in the advance of our work around the world. We are pleased to say that the total Ingathering funds raised during the past four years have reached the stratospheric total of \$2,317,548.71. This is a gain of \$595,105.72, and is the first time we have gone past the two-million-dollar mark.

If this large amount of money were converted into one-dollar bills, and these were laid end to end, there would be a continuous green band extending 220 miles, or approximately the distance from Washington, D. C., to Newark, N. J. It took the Columbia Union twenty-seven years (1913-1939) to equal in Ingathering the

amount brought in during the past four. During this period we have consistently led the North American division in the amount per capita each year, and have achieved an average per capita amount of \$18.51 for the past four years as compared with \$15.53 in the previous period. During 1954 this climbed to a record \$20.29, just thirty cents per capita short of the Minuteman goal for the Union Conference. This was the first year also in which the Columbia Union Conference not only led the division in the amount per capita, but also in the total amount, being some \$40,000 above the next highest field.

Our gratitude goes out to each faithful member who has helped make this record possible. Six of our eight conferences—Chesapeake, East Pennsylvania, West Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, and West Virginia—regularly reach Minuteman status each year, and we are happy that both Allegheny and Potomac are also aiming to reach this objective during 1955.

The personal soul-winning part of the work can not be measured so accurately, but occasionally like a spring in a desert we have received information from our pastors which show that not infrequently individuals who were first contacted during Ingathering

have been followed up and baptized. In several instances whole groups have been interested in the message, with bright prospects for the organization of new churches.

Dorcas Welfare

It was Cicero who said, "In nothing do men approach so nearly to the gods as in doing good to men." This truth is supported in Matthew 25 where it is made apparent that in the judgment we stand or fall on what we have done for Christ in the person of the world's needy. Unless the spirit of unselfish love can so possess us that we take a decided interest in the needs of others, then, regardless of our profession of truth, we shall not be successful candidates for heaven.

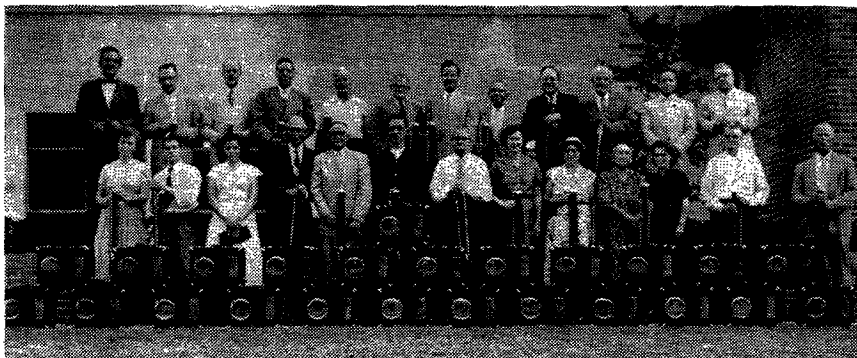
For this reason we believe that God has not only ordained the Dorcas welfare ministry as an essential feature of every church, but that this work will continue to expand as the spirituality of the church rises to meet earth's final conflict. At present we have 235 Dorcas welfare societies, but this number should be increased to over 400, an average of at least one per church.

Interest in this phase of missionary work is at an all-time high level in our field. As this quadrennium commenced, only one city had a representative location where the needy poor could come and receive assistance. Now, however, we have twenty-eight welfare centers with bright prospects for opening eleven more in the immediate future. These are enabling us to reach not only the poor but the rich as well. The



PHOTO BY ROTH

WELFARE PROJECT. A high light of the welfare program of the Union Conference was a convention of Dorcas welfare presidents in Takoma Park last fall directed by K. H. Wood, Jr., Home Missionary Secretary. Part of the group is shown here inspecting the Washington, D. C., Welfare Center.



SOUL WINNERS. These laymen from Dayton, Ohio, are part of the growing army of Gospel Light-Bearers throughout the Union Conference who are uniting with the ministers to evangelize their communities.

mayors and leaders in community welfare work who hitherto were scarcely conscious that Seventh-day Adventists existed have not only expressed genuine appreciation for our welfare work, but have come to view our whole denominational program with favor. These welfare centers have not only proved valuable as locations from which to conduct a more representative and organized effort for the needy, but have also aided us in retaining Ingathering privileges and removing prejudice.

Added impetus was given to this practical Christian work by a Welfare Leaders' Institute conducted in Washington last August. Through the sympathetic interest of the Union Conference and local conference committees, approximately 150 federation presidents and officers, local society leaders, and ministers were brought together for a four-day intensive study of the welfare work. Thus a skeleton force of workers throughout the Union Conference possess the "know-how" for guiding this expanding missionary activity.

At least five new federations have been organized in the past four years—three in the West Virginia Conference, and two in the Potomac Conference. Already strength and increased results are evident.

During the past four years 526,940 persons have been helped; 1,115,701 pieces of clothing have been distributed, and total welfare services rendered represent an estimated cash value of \$3,730,133, compared with \$1,276,199.60 for the previous quadrennium.

The mistaken idea that Dorcas is primarily a convenient money-raising group for church expenses is gradually giving way to the belief that she can be a dynamic asset to the soul-winning program of the church. And with the growth

of this understanding of true Dorcas work more and more of our churches and members are happy to provide both personal and financial help to make such ministry successful.

Laymen's Evangelism

Nearly four years ago the first North American Laymen's Congress was held at Grand Ledge, Mich. This signaled the commencement of a mighty revival of interest in laymen's evangelism. Many of the delegates who attended that meeting returned with a renewed zeal for helping to finish God's work. Souls were won and baptized even before the year ended. In general, our ministers throughout the Union Conference have been quick to recognize the vast soul-winning potential of our church members, and have given guidance and encouragement to their endeavors.

As a result, we now have 725 capable laymen who belong to our Gospel Light-Bearers organization, and who are encouraged to report monthly to the conference Home Missionary Secretary. At least 389 of these individuals have made heavy personal financial investments in Bible study machines in order that they might have a part in giving the truth to others. Fruitage is already being seen, but if it is true, as Thomas Wentworth Higginson said that "noble discontent is the path to heaven," we must confess our discontent with present results. Rather, we have only begun to harness the power for a completed work which is latent in the membership of our churches. A clearer understanding needs to be gained that the minister is to be the leader, the educator, the foreman, the ranking officer of the group under his command, leading them forth in exploits for God.

This Spirit of prophecy concept

is also reflected by Dr. Robert Speer: "The minister is to be simply colonel of the regiment. The real fighting is to be done by the men in the ranks who carry the guns. No idea could be more non-Christian or more irrational than that the religious colonel is engaged to do the fighting for his men while they sit at ease; and yet perhaps there is one idea current which is more absurd still. That is, that there is to be no fighting at all, but that the colonel is paid to spend his time solacing his regiment or giving it gentle educative instruction not destined ever to result in any downright manly effort on the part of the whole regiment to do anything against the enemy."

We are indeed in a great conflict with the enemy, and to capture souls for Christ will take the united efforts of minister and laymen alike. At present, a large number of classes are being conducted throughout the Union Conference in the two laymen's Bible evangelism courses entitled, "Training Light-Bearers," and "Christ-centered Lay Evangelism." From these courses the laymen will be led into active soul winning. Doubtless many of these individuals will be selected as delegates to attend the second great Laymen's Congress at Grand Ledge, August 30 to September 3. This will provide further training and inspiration for better results.

Typical of the enthusiasm our laymen feel for sharing the work is this expression which was recently sent to one of our conference Home Missionary Secretaries: "I'm bubbling over with joy. It's the result of my Bible studies. Some of my students have been coming to the evangelistic meetings with me on Sunday nights. Last night there were sixteen of them that came, but I had to make two trips in order to bring them all. I had the pleasure of seeing two of my contacts going to the altar when the call was made.

"I have been bringing some of my Bible students to Sabbath school. I told Elder ——— that I would turn over to him my large group for a branch Sabbath school. I have written to a school board member requesting the public school building. He wrote back saying that it would be all right if the seats were large enough. We will bring along some folding seats of our own.

"Elder ———, I've never been so satisfied with anything as giving Bible studies. It has brought me

closer to God and I am learning more about the Bible through these studies. I hope to devote my life in telling others about Jesus and His soon coming. With God's help I hope to reach a goal of fifteen souls for 1955."

Although far from what might have been done, we are glad to report 266,012 Bible studies given since 1950, compared with 224,834 during the previous period. This is an average of only eight and a half studies per person for the four years, or approximately two a year. Obviously this is but a small beginning. In the field of literature evangelism 10,734,529 tracts and periodicals were distributed—an all-time "high." This is nearly 1,700,000 pieces above the 9,092,648 reported for the prior four years, and is one piece every eleven seconds for the entire four years, 330 pieces per member, one piece per member for each four and a half days.

This is far from adequate in view of our tremendous population of 33,000,000. At this rate, even in four years only one out of every three persons in our territory would receive a tract or magazine of any kind. Surely the time is here when every church should endeavor to cover its entire territory systematically with a series of tracts which might be followed up with personal visits and Bible studies.

As a further aid to increased soul winning, we should double our circulation of the *Signs of the Times*, which has averaged less than one per member for many years. Several of our conferences have made good gains, for which we are grateful, but there must be a general advance if we are to make a substantial increase. At present we are in sixth place among the ten union conferences in North America, having only eighty-six subscriptions for each 100 members as against 155 for each 100 members in the number one union conference—nearly double our attainment.

Bible Correspondence Schools

Seven of our eight conferences are operating Bible correspondence schools. These schools have reported 1,044 baptisms during the past four years, an average of one baptism for every day and a half of the quadrennium. This figure could be greatly increased if every member were encouraged to distribute more enrollment cards and if better follow-up methods were adopted.

ed. The West Pennsylvania Conference is now launching a drive for each member to give out ten cards a week. During the month of September it is planned that a coordinated drive throughout the Union Conference will be carried on with the aim of doubling enrollments in our Bible schools.

The Future

As we consider the unwarned millions of our territory who must be reached before Jesus can come, we cannot help feeling terribly burdened. Only by a more complete dedication to service and by the reception of the Holy Spirit can the work be finished on schedule. At present 141 of our 352 counties are still dark, with no church and fewer than one Adventist for each 1,000 of population; 124 counties have churches and at least

one Adventist for each 1,000 of the population; fifty-two have churches, but only one member for between 1,000 and 2,000 people; twenty-eight have churches but only one Adventist for upwards of 2,000 population; seven are without churches but do have one Adventist for between 1,000 and 2,000 people. While this breakdown shows the magnitude of our assignment, it is not an impossible task by any means.

Good organization *plus* full enlistment of our devoted membership *plus* God's power will *equal* a finished work. If taken seriously, it could be accomplished in less than a year's time. Will we fulfill God's expectation for us and arise to meet the challenge? "Go ye," He says, and "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19, 20).

Department of Education

By E. A. ROBERTSON

Secretary of Education

SOME time ago a friend of mine, a Lutheran minister, wanted me to explain to him how a denomination as small as ours could carry on the extensive work that we do, and how we were able to raise the



huge sums of money needed to meet our expanded budgets. He seemed to feel the vast extent of our work is all out of proportion to our numbers.

I was trying to explain when he broke in with this significant remark, "The strength of the Adventists lies in their schools." I agreed; and down in my heart I wished that every Seventh-day Adventist could catch the vision of my Lutheran friend and realize fully what strength and effectiveness Christian schools add to our ministry.

He went on to explain that he considered the lack of church schools in the synod that he represented a grave weakness, and again I said to myself, "I wish all Seventh-day Adventists realized that, too." Many of them do, and that is the reason I am able to bring you this good report.

Just as a parent studies his child for indications of progress

and normal growth, we in the Department of Education have watched for these same signs of development in the educational work of the Union Conference. This child of the church seems to be growing normally. Many indications of progress are evident. In this brief report we shall be able to point out a few of these as well as to mention some of the things this growing child will need as he grows larger and stronger and prepares to render greater service to the church.

This educational child has reached the same point in its development which your child reaches when he outgrows his old clothes and progresses to where he requires an expanded environment in which to develop. For example: four years ago in our church schools we had 3,243 pupils; today we have 1,000 more. Four years ago we had 820 academy students; today we have 250 more. Four years ago all our schools, including Washington Missionary College, enrolled 4,935 students—just under 5,000; today we have 1,300 more. Our total enrollment is now about 6,250.

You have noticed how your child seems to grow faster sometimes than at other times. This school child is at that age now. During

this quadrennium he experienced almost six times as much growth in enrollment as during the preceding period, for the total growth during the last period was 224 as compared with a little more than 1,300 during this period.

Of course, just as with your child, all this growth has caused increased costs. For example: during the closing year of the preceding quadrennium the annual operating cost for the church schools was \$441,000; today it is over \$550,000. Likewise, the value of our investment in church school properties and equipment rose from \$950,000 to more than \$1,550,000.

Similar increases have affected the academies and Washington Missionary College. The annual operating cost of the academies increased from \$465,000 at the close of the previous period to \$710,000 now. The annual operating cost of Washington Missionary College increased from \$1,066,000 to \$1,281,000. You can readily understand these increased costs because they coincide with your own experience with your own children.

In your home as the number in your family increased, you either had to add new rooms or build a bigger house. We have had to do that, too. During the four-year period we have added sixty-one new church school rooms, including nine new modern school buildings, the one purchased at Monnett, Ohio, and many others that are included in church buildings. This number also includes many additions to existing buildings such as the \$65,000 addition to the John Nevins Andrews school in Takoma Park; Spencerville, Md.; Blooming Grove, Ohio; and others.

Some of the latest new buildings are those at Dayton, Ohio; Hatboro, Pa.; Suitland, Md.; Patuxent, Md.; and Charleston, W. Va. Eighteen more new buildings are planned for the near future, some of which are already under construction and will be in use next September.

One of the greatest needs is for more academies. If we were to limit our academy enrollment to two students to a room in the dormitories, we would have to send home about 200 of our 1,070 academy students. Each year many must be refused admittance. Similar crowding exists when it comes to classroom space.

Much has been done and is being done to solve this problem. The first major step was the building of the \$260,000 Takoma Academy. This building, now only three years old, housing 300 students, is already proving to be too small.

The East Pennsylvania Conference, which has needed an academy for so many years, purchased a beautifully situated tract of 670 acres, fully equipped and stocked, and is now in the process of building the new Blue Mountain Academy. Eventually this school will accommodate more than 300 boarding students. At present the two dormitories are under roof, an industrial building has been built, and a spacious cafeteria building is being constructed. When this academy opens in September it will be able to accommodate about 160 students the first year. The cost by that time will be about \$650,000. Other buildings to follow are: an administration building, physical education building, another industrial building, a campus church, and a new wing on each dormitory which will approximately double their capacity. Philadelphia Academy will merge with the Blue Mountain Academy at the close of this school year.

The new \$175,000 administration building at Pine Forge Institute is one of the finest, most modern in the Union Conference. It is the first unit—to be followed later by a chapel unit, physical education building, music students, and two new dormitories.

Shenandoah Valley Academy is completing the first phase of a broad expansion program which includes faculty housing, a large industrial building, a physical education building, additional classroom space, a new boys' dormi-

tory, and a wing on the girls' dormitory. To date more than \$150,000 has been expended. A book binding industry is already in operation.

Mount Aetna Academy has added two more classrooms to provide for their expanded enrollment, and the New Jersey Conference is now studying the need for a new boarding academy to meet the increasing demand which Plainfield Academy was not designed to accommodate.

We mentioned before that we had added 250 academy students in the past four years. This is enough to fill one large academy or two medium-sized ones. With our greatly increased church school enrollment the demand should be much greater in the next four years. We need a new medium-sized academy every two years to take care of the increased demand.

Washington Missionary College has also had to expand. The almost \$1,000,000 expansion program begun during the previous quadrennium has been completed and some smaller projects are being carried out, the largest of which is the new swimming pool, now under construction to complete the physical education facilities. You can readily see that large steps are being taken toward the solution of our problem.

Our schools are in a better position to serve the field now than they have ever been—not only as far as physical plants are concerned, but we have the best-trained, most efficient staff of teachers that have ever served in the Columbia Union Conference, 377 in all, 240 of whom teach in the church schools. Our college and most of our academies are

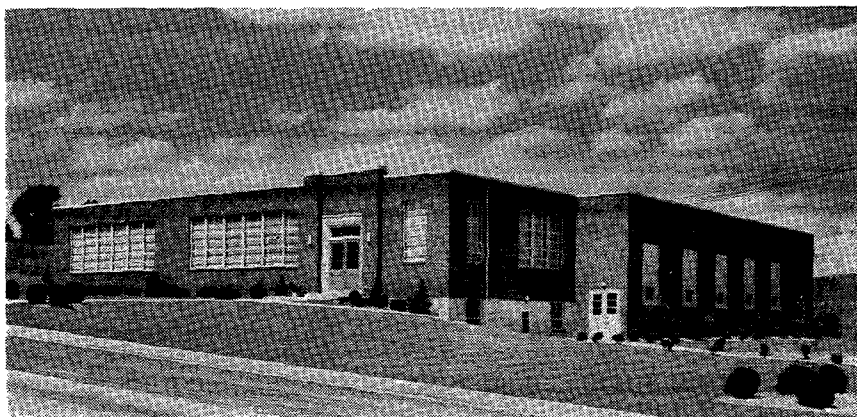
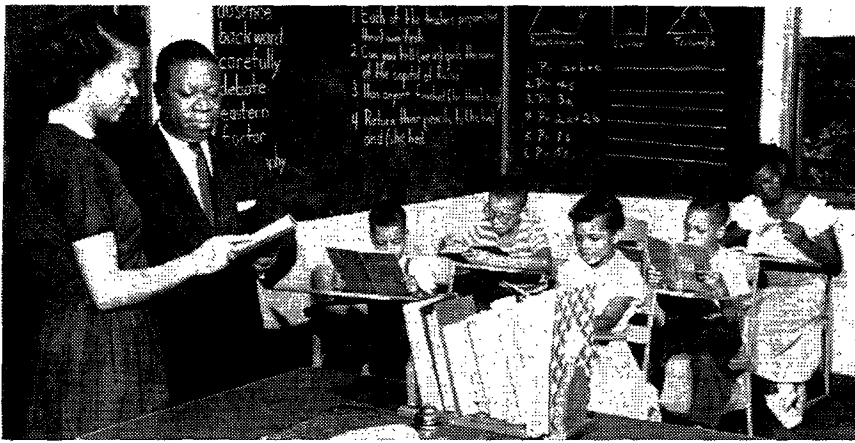


PHOTO BY ROTH

NEW SCHOOLS. This is typical of the many new schools built in the Columbia Union Conference recently. Representative structures are filling a big need in the educational program.



SCHOOL ROOM. Scenes like this are duplicated every day throughout the Columbia Union Conference as Christian teachers work in cooperation with pastors for the right education of young people. This school is in the Allegheny Conference school system.

well accredited not only by the denominational Board of Regents, but by state and regional accredited associations.

One factor that has made possible such substantial gains is the stability of key personnel in the educational field. We still have six of the conference superintendents which were serving in 1951. We have three of the same academy principals, the same college president, and the same skilled help of our elementary school supervisor, Miss Ethel Johnson. Our progress has not been slowed by constant change.

You may wonder what results are being achieved by this huge educational program. One of the first achievements to come to mind is that a very large segment of the workers in the Columbia Union Conference received either part or all of their training in Columbia Union Conference schools. Then we think of the scores and hundreds more who are serving in fields afar, many in mission lands; in the General Conference; in local, union, and division conferences; in medical institutions; in churches and communities everywhere, who were trained in these schools.

Then, too, there is a more immediate result which is most important. During this quadrennium we baptized 1,192 of our students, 790 in the previous period. Today, in our church schools alone, we have 3,200 children who are not yet baptized—the largest baptismal class in the Columbia Union Conference. Most of these will be baptized before they graduate. We only wish the other 4,600 school-age children in our Sabbath schools could be in church school, too; and that the almost 2,000 more youth

of academy age in our churches could be in our academies.

I believe our prospects for the future are better than they have ever been before. The gains of this quadrennium will be small compared to the one just ahead. For

The MV Panorama

By A. J. PATZER

Missionary Volunteer Secretary

THE nearly 7,000 youth in 412 societies within the territory of the Columbia Union Conference are a mighty, moving, marching army of Missionary Volunteers.

To God we give the praise for His many blessings, His guidance and direction, and for permitting us to be associated during the past four years with the splendid youth, their respective, well-qualified conference youth leaders, and the conference administrators.



As we adjust the lens of our MV projector, permit us to bring to you a few highlighted activities on the MV screen. We see Bethel, Pa.; Warren, Pa.; Toledo, Ohio; Washington, D. C.; Bridgeton, N. J.; Lewistown, Md.; and Bluefield, W. Va., coming into focus with SYF and Outpost Evangelism being emphasized by Youth in Action.

Let us continue with our panoramic MV scene. The youth throughout the entire Columbia Union Conference are busy for the Lord. During the past four years our youth have distributed a staggering reported amount of

one thing our foundations are stronger, we have expanded our base of operation; our membership is expanding rapidly; our work is to be accelerated as we near the end; our people are more alert to the dangers of worldly education; our pastors, executives, and educational leaders have caught the vision; and our people have demonstrated their support. Under the blessing of God, who made possible the present gains, there is no limit to what we may achieve.

Session News Coverage

Complete coverage is being given the Ninth Quadrennial Session of the Columbia Union Conference in the local newspapers, and on radio and television stations. In addition, reports are going out through the wire services and "back-home" stories are being sent all over the Union Conference territory. The Public Relations Committee consists of D. A. Roth, D. H. Thomas, A. V. Pinkney, W. H. Hackett, and S. W. Burrows.

literature—yes, they distributed 1,868,153 pieces. These "silent messengers" were "scattered like the leaves of autumn." Please notice that four and a half pieces of literature were distributed by our youth every five minutes during this four-year period.

In still other branches of service we find our youth active. Look just a little closer and you will see that our young people made 274,782 missionary visits during the past four years, or an average of 188 every day. They also gave 22,398 Bible readings, which means an average of fifteen Bible studies were given by our youth every day. Isn't it marvelous what our young people are doing!

Something new has been developed, and we call it the Pathfinder Club. We now have fifty-three clubs in our union conference and 1,015 boys and girls are receiving training which will assist in developing the mind, heart, and hand.

As the MV projector illuminates our MV screen the next scene spotlights our youth in their summer camp activities. In this area there has been phenomenal growth. During the four-year period preceding this past quadrennium, the highest number of camps held dur-

ing any summer was eight. In 1954 we had twenty-four camps, or three times as many as the record high number of the previous four-year period. We wish to pause here and pay tribute to the many individuals who have given, and are still giving, freely and gladly of their own time as counselors, instructors, and Pathfinder leaders in our Pathfinder Clubs and summer camps. Therefore, with the regular eight camp meetings during the summer, plus all the various camps, the three summer months are packed full of activity for our youth of all ages.

This past summer we also conducted a Columbia Union Conference Senior Youth Camp for an entire week. The 100 young people present felt that God was good, and the inspiration, instruction, and fellowship, unsurpassed. Truly, it was a grand experience for those privileged to attend.

Since we are all human, questions will arise in our minds as to results. Are there any results of all of this MV activity? Yes, indeed! Now, as we view the MV screen for the last climactic scene we notice that 4,182 young people were baptized in the Columbia Union Conference during the past four years. This means that 50.4 per cent of the total number baptized in the entire Union Conference during this four-year period were youth. We praise God for this glorious accomplishment.

For me to visit the young people in their homes, societies, churches, schools, camps, and camp meetings in our Columbia Union Conference is a genuine privilege and it continually brings joy and satisfaction. Associating with youth is spiritually invigorating and mentally stimulating. It has been my personal experience to be with our youth at our academies, churches, and church schools for eighteen Weeks of Prayer during the past four years. As I pause and reflect, even momentarily, I cannot help but remember the precious decisions that were made by our wonderful youth. May God bless them and keep them until He comes.

I wish personally to pay tribute to Elder D. A. Ochs, our Union Conference President, for his genuine support of MV projects; to the world youth leaders in the General Conference for their consecrated and capable leadership; and to my illustrious associates, who are the MV leaders in the

eight conferences; A. V. Pinkney, Allegheny; T. V. Zytoskee, Chesapeake; L. R. Callender, East Pennsylvania; R. A. Tyson, New Jersey; W. N. Wittenberg, Ohio; C. H. Seitz, Potomac; L. L. Philpott, West Pennsylvania; and D. M. Ingersoll, West Virginia.

To the assembled delegates may I appeal that we as the spiritual leaders, and all the fathers and mothers—yes, the entire membership, join hands in winning, holding, and saving our youth for this message and for the kingdom so soon to come as—“We March Along Together!”

Temperance Department

INASMUCH as Seventh-day Adventists are to stand in the front ranks when it comes to matters of Temperance, we in the Columbia Union Conference have taken this admonition seriously.

There are now American Temperance Society chapters in all our academies. Owing to the influence of these chapters, new interest has developed as far as youth and Share-Your-Faith is concerned. Through the orations and posters young people have been able to find a new source of expression, developing poise and ability to convey ideas, which has brought about an avenue of service that is highly commendable.

As a result of the academy temperance weeks and contests we

now have a Union-wide oratorical contest, which brings the winners from each of our seven academies to meet at a central place. The first Union-wide oratorical contest three years ago was held in Reading, Pa.; two years ago it was at Mt. Vernon, Ohio; and this year it was held in Trenton, N. J. Each contest has grown in enthusiasm, response, and attendance. These week ends have become a mighty influence for good in behalf of “Youth and Temperance.”

The same enthusiasm is found on the campus of Washington Missionary College where each year, under the direction of a faculty sponsor and student leadership, the College A. T. S. chapter is organized, students are invited to become members, and an oratorical contest is held, which creates enthusiastic interest.

The film, “One in 20,000,” has been shown hundreds of times to thousands of high-school students, service club members, patients in hospitals, and members of other Protestant churches, as well as to our own people. As a result of the information received from this factual, and informative film, many determined to leave tobacco alone. We personally feel that much good has been done in behalf of temperance in the Columbia Union Conference. A new interest has developed and our own youth, as well as others, are being encouraged to abstain from the “twin evils.”



PHOTO BY ROTH

SHARE YOUR FAITH. Youth all over the Columbia Union Conference are sharing their faith in outpost evangelistic efforts. The group shown above conducted a fruitful youth lay effort in Bethel, Pa., led by Charles Bennicoff, a delegate to the 1953 Youth Congress in San Francisco.

Literature Evangelism

By J. F. KENT

Publishing Secretary

ADVENTURING FOR CHRIST. During the past four years our consecrated literature evangelists of the Columbia Union have not only adventured *for Christ*, but they have adventured *with Christ*.



"The Lord Jesus standing by the side of the canvassers, walking with them, is the Chief Worker." Day after day as these valiant soldiers of the cross march onward and still onward into the enemy's territory, just what are they accomplishing and what will be the final results of their heroic labors? Note carefully the answer from God's servant: "They will plant the standard of truth upon fortresses till then held by Satan, and with shouts of victory take possession of them. They bear the scars of battle, but there comes to them the comforting message that the Lord will lead them on, conquering and to conquer."

We can truly thank God for the shouts of victory that have come forth from various parts of our territory. Literally hundreds of Satan's fortresses within hearts and homes have been totally demolished as a result of placing great "time bombs" in the form of our literature, which have exploded in God's own way and time.

It is a privilege to call attention briefly to some of the accomplishments of these house-to-house evangelists during the past four years. The average number reporting each month during this time was 238, and the hours worked amounted to 1,057,981. Under the blessing of heaven they delivered a grand total of \$2,534,074.65 worth of literature, making a gain of \$326,238.89 over the previous period. The book deliveries were \$1,774,060.19 and the magazines, \$760,014.46.

Looking at the accomplishments from still another angle we continue to rejoice and to take new courage. During these four years there were 588 baptisms as a result of literature evangelists' contacts; sermonettes given in the form of demonstrations, approximately \$1,100,000; number of "silent mes-

sengers" placed in the form of books alone, about 300,000. Almost 500,000 homes heard the voice of prayer, undoubtedly many for the first time. Thousands were enrolled in Bible correspondence courses. Hundreds were personally invited and encouraged to attend Sabbath school, church services, and evangelistic meetings. Many thousands of free pages of literature were given away. Last, but not least, there was the personal influence of the godly life:

"The people who purchase a book will read it, having before them a mental photograph of the face, conduct and spirit of the man who sold it to them; and this silent



PHOTO BY ROTH

LITERATURE EVANGELIST. The lady in the picture above is one of 588 persons baptized during the past four years as a result of literature evangelism in the Columbia Union Conference. The literature evangelist is Sterling Bloss.

influence will weigh heavily in the decisions they make for or against the truth." Yes, through the combined influence of the consecrated life and the truth-filled literature souls have been brought to a full knowledge of God's saving message. Eternity alone will reveal all the final results of such influences. For all the blessings so bountifully showered upon us as leaders and literature evangelists alike and for the deep and far-reaching results of our combined labors we give thanks to our heavenly Father and

say from the depths of our hearts,
TO GOD BE THE GLORY.

I personally acknowledge with sincere thanks my deep appreciation for the faithful and untiring efforts of my fellow publishing leaders throughout the Columbia Union Conference. The cooperation of the officers of each conference, together with their committees, is worthy of note, and we are not unmindful of the help our pastors have given. We pause to say—thank you so much!

The timely counsel and inspiration brought to our field from the brethren in the General Conference Publishing Department has been gratefully received and greatly valued. The wholehearted, continuous support and encouragement given by the general manager of the Review and Herald and his able associates have always been **THE VERY BEST**. They are noted for working earnestly and closely with the field and upholding our hands in every way possible.

We must never lose sight of the fact that the greatest and most powerful, visible means God has given to His church for the finishing of His work during this dark, crucial, and challenging hour are these great publishing houses. The powerful influence of these institutions will be felt in the field just to the extent that the publications are widely circulated.

The divine blueprint calls for an army of consecrated, well-trained literature evangelists who are ever on the march. In order to recruit and maintain such an army we need to heed God's message sent to us through His servant:

"The church *must* give her attention to the canvassing work." "God calls for workers from every church among us to enter His services as *canvasser evangelists*." "Then will she go forth 'fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.'"

We note that when this divine instruction is carried out by the church she will then go forth "fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners."

We are earnestly looking to our churches to carry out God's plan in this respect, thus making it possible for each church to be represented in this special army of literature evangelists which is destined to play a great and important role in the finishing of God's work in this part of His vineyard.

COLUMBIA UNION VISITOR

War Service and Council On Industrial Relations

By O. S. HERSHBERGER

War Service and Industrial Relations Secretary

THE War Service Commission includes Medical Cadet work and Civil Defense. During the past four years several thousand of our men were stationed at Fort George Meade in Maryland and Camp



Pickett in Virginia, and at about thirty-four other camps, forts, and posts within the territory of the Columbia Union Conference.

The officers of the armed forces are very considerate of our men and have done everything they could to make it possible for them to follow their religious convictions. However, many contacts had to be made by representatives from the Union Conference with these officers; but never once did an officer refuse the requests made by our young men concerning the bearing of arms or Sabbath observance.

The exact number who were helped cannot be given because many times when one man was given privileges, the same applied to the rest of the men in the company, and, on some occasions, to all our men on the post. I could give many examples, but one will suffice.

On one occasion orders were given for all the medics in Fort Meade to go out on bivouac on the Sabbath. After we had a brief talk with the commanding officer, he issued orders that all Seventh-day Adventists would go out on bivouac the next Wednesday instead of on the Sabbath. We never could find out just how many were affected in this one experience.

Many times one man in the company was helped, and in this way all the other men in the company received the same privileges.

During the first part of the quadrennial period, the Army medical training was given at Fort George Meade, and later it was transferred to Camp Pickett. While our men were at Fort George Meade the Columbia Union Conference provided bus transportation for them so they could attend church services. After the

close of the Sabbath, the same buses returned the men to the Fort. While the boys paid a small fee, most of the money for this transportation was furnished by the Union Conference.

I wish to thank the Washington Sanitarium and Hospital for allowing us to use one of their buildings in which to house the men at night. We also appreciate what the faithful church members did in providing the men with food.

Most of our young men, and some of our young women, have availed themselves of the opportunity to take the Medical Cadet work at our national camp at Grand Ledge, Mich., and also in our schools. Mount Vernon Academy and Shenandoah Valley Academy have done outstanding work in teaching Medical Cadet work. This training is of great value to our young people as they enter the strange environment of the armed forces. Those who have had this training fare much better, as a rule, than those who enter without it.

Most of our churches have given the Servicemen's Bible Kit to our men just before they were inducted into the armed services. However, some men did not receive these, and the Columbia Union Conference has given many of the kits to men regardless of the location of their home churches.

Many of our churches have cooperated with the Red Cross in setting up Civil Defense units. The American National Red Cross has given us the privilege of having instructor-trainers in first aid.

These instructor-trainers are authorized by the Red Cross to conduct classes for those who want to become first-aid instructors. Many of our members should avail themselves of this opportunity.

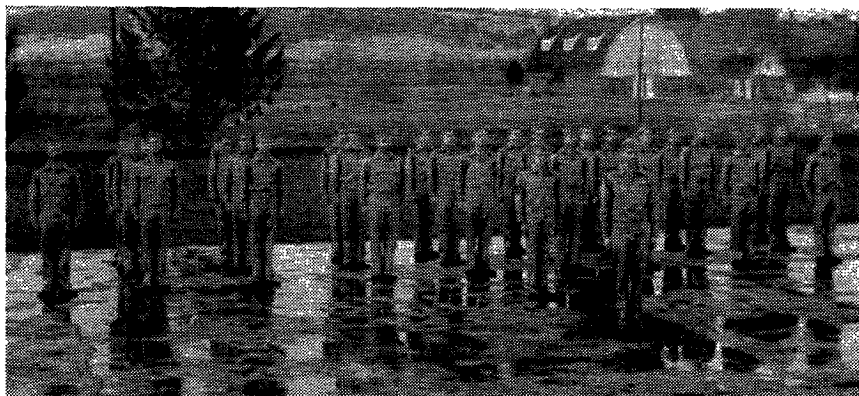
The civil defense program gives us a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate to the world that we are ready and willing to serve the physical man as well as the spiritual. Whenever possible, our churches should cooperate with the local Red Cross chapters. Let us make every effort possible to prepare our people for a place of usefulness in the civil defense program, always striving to bring glory and honor to our heavenly Father.

The labor unions have been very cooperative during the past few years. Some have signed our denominational agreement, while others agreed verbally and allowed our people to work without joining the union. To my knowledge only three individuals lost their positions because of labor unions, while a large number have been permitted to work under the terms of our denominational agreement.

It is impossible to give the number that were helped, because when an agreement is signed it covers every Seventh-day Adventist in that shop or factory, and also those who begin work later.

During the past few years we have had some difficulties with the employers who did not wish to grant our people Sabbath privileges. However, in all cases except one, satisfactory arrangements were made, both in private business and with the Government.

I wish to thank my associates in the Columbia Union Conference and the officers in the local conferences who have all cooperated in every way possible. Especially do I want to thank our heavenly Father for His intercession and manifold blessings.



TRAINING FOR SERVICE. These teen-agers at Shenandoah Valley Academy train for army service in the Medical Cadet Corps.

Public Relations Department

By D. A. ROTH

Public Relations Secretary

THIS quadrennial report of the Public Relations Department of the Columbia Union Conference is largely the work of Elder Kenneth H. Wood, Jr., who served as Union Conference Public Relations



Secretary from 1951 until late summer of 1954 when the writer assumed the post.

God has blessed the humble efforts of lay press secretaries, conference leaders, and the Union Conference Public Relations Department during the past four years. Their work enabled millions of people to learn about Seventh-day Adventists through the great publicity media of our age—newspapers, magazines, radio, and television.

Various means of evangelism have been utilized by the Seventh-day Adventist Church through the years, but it has been only recently that we have realized the possibilities of utilizing these agencies for the proclamation of the gospel.

We believe that these modern means of communication in the world have been in God's plan of development for one purpose—that of proclaiming the "good news" of the gospel of Jesus. We are happy to report to you the progress that has been made in endeavoring to

reach men and women in darkness with a message of salvation.

The task of reaching the more than thirty-two million people in the Columbia Union Conference through the working staff and resources of our comparatively small membership is almost overwhelming, but God has given us every conceivable means of carrying out the Great Commission.

We would not be following God's will if we did not utilize every means at our disposal for the proclamation of the truth. God wants us to let our "lights shine." For too many years our work has struggled under the cloak of obscurity. Forces of ministers and laymen alike work more successfully when the public is enlightened and prejudice is eradicated with a knowledge of the people whose task it is to warn the world.

Mrs. Ellen G. White said many years ago: "Men will misrepresent the doctrine we believe and teach as Bible truth, and it is necessary that wise plans be laid to secure the privilege of inserting articles into the secular papers, for this will be the means of awakening souls to see the truth" (*Evangelism*, p. 129).

Newspaper Coverage

During the past four years approximately 125,000 column inches of space in newspapers in the Columbia Union Conference area were devoted to news about Sev-

enth-day Adventists. The years 1951-1954 were the first years that a record was made of what local church press secretaries were able to do. Converting this into cash value in terms of advertising charges, it represents more than \$250,000 worth of free space. This is far from a complete picture. Many thousands of column inches of space have not been officially reported through our regular channels.

A total of 1,607 newspapers are printed in the Union Conference territory. Of these 355 are daily papers and 1,352 are weekly papers. Compared to other union conferences in North America, the Columbia Union Conference ranks at the top in newspaper circulation with 11,469,488 for daily papers and more than 4,000,000 for weekly papers. This is more than the combined circulation of papers in the Canadian, Central, and Pacific Union Conferences. This is, of course, a great challenge to our membership in this large union conference territory.

Responsible for most of the success of the Public Relations Department is the local church press secretary. These laymen play a prominent part in the gathering and handling of church news. However, these folk need training. To meet this need instructional workshops have been conducted in all areas of the Union Conference. Already during 1955 more than twenty such workshops have been conducted. The ideal plan is to have each press secretary trained and functioning in his territory.

Help is supplied to local secretaries through materials sent from the General Conference, the Union Conference, and the local conference offices. Large meetings in conferences are handled personally by the local conference or Union Conference Press Secretary.

Our local conference Press Secretaries deserve special mention for the work they have done: A. V. Pinkney, Allegheny; D. G. Fleagle, Chesapeake; S. W. Burrows, New Jersey; G. W. Liscombe, Ohio; H. W. Bass, Potomac; Stephen Paully, West Virginia; and L. E. Reed, West Pennsylvania.

Television

Realizing the tremendous influence of television today, the Department of Public Relations has fostered a special project in this field. Many people would rather stay at home and watch television programs than go to church, much



PUBLIC RELATIONS. Scores of fair displays were held throughout the Union Conference territory during the past four years, an excellent public relations project for each church. The one shown above was at Elizabethtown, Pa., sponsored by the Lancaster, Pa., Church.

America's FOREIGN MISSIONARIES



C. R. Coffey of the General Conference Pub. Rel. Bureau is the writer.

Kata Ragoso was determined to keep the Japanese from capturing the mission ship. It had brought a new way of life to the Solomon Islands.

How he exercised the simple faith learned from Seventh-day Adventist missionaries and thus saved the ship is one of the most heart-warming stories to come out of World War II.

Don't miss "Ship of Faith."

in April **Coronet** now on sale

less attend an evangelistic meeting. With our wonderful television program, Faith for Today, we have an opportunity to reach millions of people in their homes with the message of God for today. With careful planning and close cooperation with Pastor W. A. Fagal of New York and our local pastors and influential laymen, we have been able to contact many powerful television stations in our Union Conference territory.

At the present time twenty-five stations are carrying Faith for Today, more than in any other union conference and nearly one-fourth of the total station coverage. All but two of these stations carry the program on a sustaining basis. Time given to us for the programs in the Columbia Union Conference in one year would have cost us more than a third of a million dollars if we had been required to pay for this service.

Most of the larger cities of this



GOVERNOR. Typical of the good contacts made by church press secretaries is the one above. S. R. Jayne, pastor of the Charleston, W. Va., Church, talks about a favorite Bible verse with the Governor of West Virginia during a Bible-verse contest conducted by the church press secretary.

union conference are covered by this program—Cleveland, Columbus, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Washington, Baltimore; and many smaller cities—Roanoke, Altoona, Ashtabula, Bethlehem, Charleston, Danville, Erie, Fairmont, Harrisburg, Johnstown, Parkersburg, Akron, Reading, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Wilmington, Harrisonburg, York, and Zanesville. We are now working on other key stations—Richmond, Norfolk, Bluefield, Huntington, Wheeling, Steubenville, and others. We solicit your support of this project by writing to the station directors, asking for the Faith for Today program.

Displays, Fairs

Another way in which the Public Relations Department is trying to influence public thinking about Adventism is in displays at fairs. Scores of booths have been sponsored in county and state fairs in the past four years. We are thus able to distribute thousands of pieces of literature and enroll people in the Bible school.

Highway Signs

Another project which has begun to gain momentum in the past two years is the church highway sign plan. A uniform sign has been designed. Many churches now are endeavoring to make their church easy to find in the community with welcome signs and directional posters. We hope that eventually every Seventh-day Adventist church will be well-marked in its community with highway signs.

Denominational Coverage

Internal public relations is also a definite part of our program. This department is constantly endeavoring to supply Adventist church news to our various church publi-

cations, including the Columbia Union *VISITOR* and the *Review and Herald*. We are especially interested in making our Union Conference paper, the *VISITOR*, a real news medium, reporting evangelistic activities of laymen and clergy alike.

Camp meetings supply wonderful opportunities to utilize the newspapers, radio, and television in telling the world about Seventh-day Adventists. Within the past few years at least two conferences—East Pennsylvania and Allegheny—have had special issues of newspapers published in connection with their camp meetings.

Conclusion

It is the constant aim of the Public Relations Department to cooperate with every other department of the denomination in doing everything possible to win souls for the kingdom of God. It is our hope that this new department of our organization will continue to grow and prosper and that the scope of Adventism may be widened as the result of publicity in newspapers and on radio and television stations in the territory of the Columbia Union Conference.

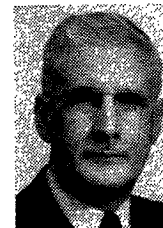
General Conference Delegates At Union Conference Session



R. R. Figuhr



W. B. Ochs



F. D. Nichol



C. E. Moseley



J. I. Robison



D. H. Thomas

Welcome to these General Conference delegates to the Ninth Quadrennial Session of the Columbia Union Conference at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Washington Missionary College

By WILLIAM H. SHEPHARD

President, Washington Missionary College

To report growth and progress is a pleasant task. Washington Missionary College has grown perceptibly and progress is evident in the fulfillment of the fundamental objectives of a Christian college.



To begin at the beginning is to begin with the students. They come from the Middle Atlantic states, from the eight conferences of the Columbia Union Conference. They come from high

schools, from six excellent academies, from many states and foreign countries. They make up a stable enrollment which has varied very little during the past four years. Two hundred and forty freshmen have come from the high schools; 634 from the six academies; and fifty-six from schools outside our local area. These first-year students comprise about one-third of the enrollment of Washington Missionary College.

Total enrollment for the quadrennium stands just under 3,000 students. Statistically, we can report the highest enrollment in the history of the College for the present year 1954-55. This represents a large number of young people, but it does not represent *all* the

young people of college age within the membership of the Columbia Union Conference. The goal of our church, yet unrealized, is to have *all* its youth in our own schools.

We are told by the statisticians that a big wave of students soon will be descending upon schools and colleges. *Time* magazine reports that if the birth rate continues as it has in the past few years there will be a seventy-five-per-cent jump in enrollment on the college level by 1970. Washington Missionary College enrollment has generally followed the trend of the eastern colleges. Except for housing, the College may accommodate a considerably larger number of students without an increase in staff or facilities.

The students of the College are a devoted group of young people whose activities are filled with unselfish service. Ingathering campaigns, personal evangelism crusades, and Missionary Volunteer activities are proverbially successful at Washington Missionary College. The sense of mission is strong.

From the vantage point of denominational headquarters and the world center of the nation's capital these students have a perspective of our world-wide program and a close focus of those who direct it. This fortunate circumstance promotes the growth and development of the students, which takes

place in an environment much like that in which they will labor and work upon graduation. The mores established are their own, thus assuring them of a stability and balance so necessary in the successful worker.

An educational institution is not a factory where characters are manufactured for profit, but rather a pattern of culture into which students are placed where they absorb information and receive inspiration which makes them dynamic entities equipped to render service as they live in this world of erratic change. The most important part of that culture is known as the faculty.

The staff at Washington Missionary College are mature individuals with a continuity of service which not only adds academic respectability but contributes to a continuing inspiration. These men and women are professionally well equipped. Their scholastic attainments are enviable, but they are most desired for their devotion to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the spreading of the gospel.

The past four years have brought changes in some departments. Dr. F. E. Wall has lightened his teaching load in the humanities and assumed the heavy responsibilities of Academic Dean. In this new office Dr. Wall is making an excellent contribution. Mr. J. W. Peeke became the Business Manager just as this quadrennial period began. He has brought to his office an unusually active interest in the business affairs of the College and a very desirable understanding of the academic role of this office. Mr. M. E. Loewen, and Mrs. Mercedes Dyer have filled most excellently the Home Deans' responsibilities.

Elder Leslie Hardinge, whose peerless Bible teaching is well known, became head of the Theology Department three years ago. He has been joined by two excellent scholars, Elders Arlyn Stewart of California and Robert Olson, formerly Bible teacher at the College of Medical Evangelists. Dr. E. I. Mohr, formerly a missionary in South America, joined the staff this year as head of the Physics Department. Professor Lester Harris and Dr. John Keller are giving to the Biology Department a very real service in their specialties. New this year is Miss Marilyn Christian who is assisting in the Nursing School as well as the Health Service. Mr. Charles Read and Miss Geraldine Hale joined

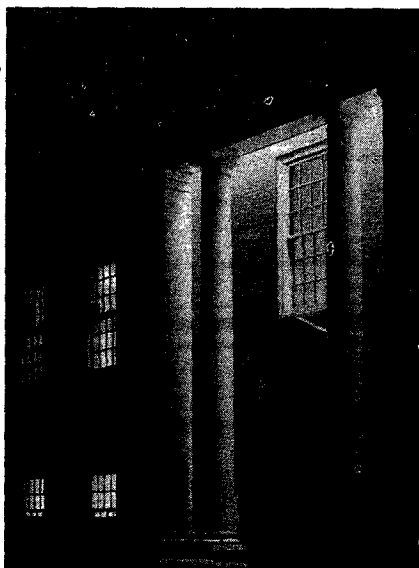


GIRLS' HOME. This is Halcyon Hall, one of the newer buildings on the campus of Washington Missionary College.

the Business Administration Department two years ago. They have filled an urgent need in this rapidly growing department.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilton H. Wood have returned from the mission field and Mrs. Wood is again bringing heavenly inspiration to students and church members alike with her voice students and choirs. Mr. Wood will join the staff as director of guidance services and assistant professor of education. Mr. Harold Doering returned to the College during this quadrennial period as instructor in organ. Dr. Merton Christensen is the new head of the English Department. He brings a heritage of good scholarship.

During the years the Columbia Union Department of Education and the College have been concerned about the shortage of elementary teachers. The lack of teachers in general is widespread. A National Education Association representative told a group of interested people recently that every fifteen minutes there is need for a new elementary teacher and a new classroom. The need is urgent in our own church. This problem has been studied by the Union Conference officials and \$12,000 was made available for scholarships for elementary teacher trainees. The College secured the services of Dr. J. E. Weaver, formerly of the General Conference, to head the Department of Education. Dr. LaVeta Payne also joined this department less than four years ago. These staff members have organized the department to meet the certification requirements of the State of Maryland.



STUDY HALL. This is the College Library at night.

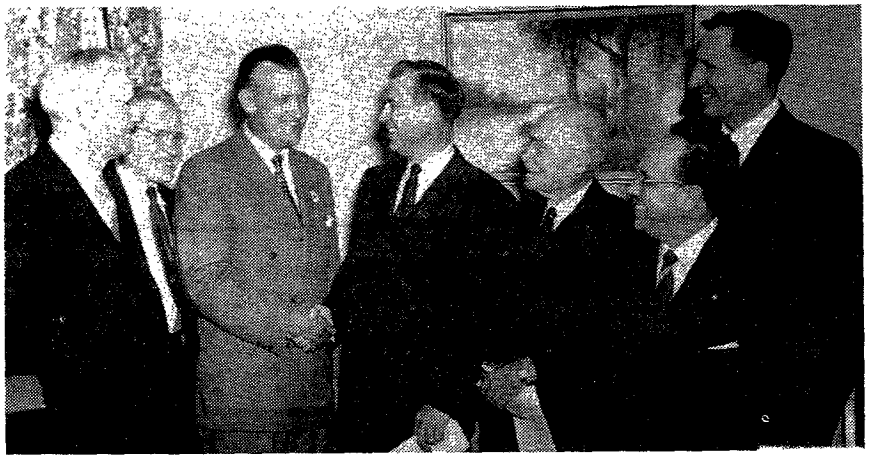


PHOTO BY ROTH

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER. The Governor of Maryland, Theodore McKeldin, spoke at the Fiftieth anniversary convocation of Washington Missionary College last fall. W. H. Shephard, President, is shown greeting him along with leading church officials who took part in the service at the Sligo Church.

While the above-mentioned staff members have been with us less than four years, those of longer service have kept pace with the advancing scholastic requirements. Their professional growth is much to be admired, but perhaps more gratifying to the constituency of the Columbia Union Conference is the high sense of mission possessed by all these faculty members. The evangelistic fervor has not been dimmed by growth in scholastic achievement, but, rather, has become more virile and progressive. Many students are now rejoicing in this precious message who came to the campus with backgrounds wholly different from those of our Seventh-day Adventist youth, a change brought about by association with God-fearing teachers. The constituency of the College can be assured of a very loyal and fundamental Seventh-day Adventist staff at Washington Missionary College.

The placement of the 375 graduates during the past four years has been unusually high. This high percentage of placement is due, perhaps, to the advantageous location of the College, and, we would like to think, due also to the superior talent which the College produces.

During the past four years the Alumni Association has been active in a scholarship campaign which has resulted in assistance to more than 100 students. This program is just beginning and will continue to expand its benefits.

The total assets and net worth of the institution have increased by almost a half-million dollars during the past four years. The net worth now stands at two million

dollars, or an investment of \$3,287 for every student presently enrolled. Some of the additions which have been made during this time are a new gymnasium; an addition to the science hall with new equipment, laboratory, and chemistry tables; a new music hall; the complete renovation of the basement of Columbia Hall and the College Store; the expansion of the stack room of the College library; the new seating in the College chapel; and, in process of completion, the new swimming pool. These projects have necessitated the re-surfacing with hard topping all the drives and parking areas about the campus.

The operating gain over the four-year period is approximately \$3,000, which is small but indicative of a stability which is desirable in an academic institution.

Financing the church-related college is always a matter of concern to the board of management. The rising costs of insurance, labor, materials, and services of all kinds, without a corresponding increase in income, brings the board face to face with an unsurmountable problem. The industries of our college continue to do well, and have been a necessary support to the College through the years, but there is a limit to the amount which they are able to contribute. The problem is one of two alternatives: (1) increasing the enrollment; or (2) reducing the academic advantages to the young people of the Columbia Union Conference. The first alternative we are straining every nerve and fiber to do; and the second one we must not do.

During this quadrennium the school reached the half-century

(Continued on page 23)

Coming -- a Greater Laymen's Congress

"THIS is one of the greatest meetings since Pentecost." In these words Elder W. H. Branson summed up the impact of the first laymen's congress held four years ago. Ten thousand and more Adventist laymen and ministers in attendance at Grand Ledge concurred.

To those present at that meeting came a tremendous spiritual experience never to be forgotten. The Spirit of God touched men and women and they went home charged with power. A new wave of evangelism swept through the churches and through the land. Not only is Grand Ledge still remembered, its influence is still at work.

Within six months, on August 30, another great laymen's congress will open in Grand Ledge,

By C. E. GUENTHER

Associate Secretary, Home Missionary Department, General Conference

Mich. Why another laymen's congress? How is it possible for this meeting to have an even greater impact on the people and the work of God?

1. By holding this congress in three sections, one for the central west, another for the far west and a third for the east—twice as many delegates and visitors will be able to attend.

2. Important lessons were learned in the first congress which are being applied to help make the coming congress even more effective than was the first.

3. The instruction given at the first laymen's congress at Grand Ledge dealt primarily with the problems of finding and develop-

ing interests in the third angel's message. This next congress, while developing further these points, will focus mainly on leading interested ones to a decision and reaping a soul harvest.

4. This congress will build on the fruitage of the first congress. It will open with a report of specific results achieved since 1951. The daily program will include reenactment of soul-winning experiences. The congress will close with the assignment of a new objective and with a new challenge.

5. The evening programs will honor pioneer lay soul winners of yesterday, challenge the laymen of today, and present a panoramic view of the future of lay evangelism and the finishing of the work. These evening programs have been planned with the view of making them the most colorful, inspiring and challenging meetings ever held for Adventist laymen.

The Tuesday-night meeting will begin with a procession based on a new theme. This will be followed by a report by conferences, with the presentation and testimony of trophies, the unveiling of the congress panel and theme, and other special features.

On Wednesday night the Good Samaritan will live again, as the touching drama of health and welfare evangelism is unrolled in picture, song, and story.

The program on Thursday night will feature Adventist laymen of yesterday, of today, and tomorrow. The theme of the evening is "Shining as the Stars." For two hours this program will move from climax to climax as the past, present, and future of lay evangelism is portrayed.

The closing meeting on Saturday night will include the commissioning of a large group of laymen and a commitment to service that is unique. A new feature will be added to this closing meeting which cannot yet be revealed.

These great evening programs, together with the daily workshops, the elective classes and classes in decisions, the new problem clinics, and the spiritual messages by world leaders have all been planned with a view to giving new impetus to lay evangelism and to accelerating the program of finishing the work of God. We invite all

Jesus Calls
YOU
THE WORLD
NEEDS YOU

Come to...
NORTH AMERICAN
Laymen's Congress

East
AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 3
GRAND LEDGE, MICHIGAN

West
AUGUST 2-6
GLADSTONE PARK, OREGON

Central
JUNE 21-25, 1955
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

H M
HOME MISSIONARY
HOLY BIBLE

our believers to unite in prayer that under the blessing and Spirit of God this glorious purpose will be fulfilled.

This congress will not be restricted to delegates alone. It is open to all. Everyone is welcome. You cannot afford to miss this meeting! I'll see you at Grand Ledge, August 30!

Washington Missionary College

(Continued from page 21)

mark of its experience, with many celebrations during this fiftieth year of operation. One of the outstanding high lights was the visit of the Governor of Maryland, Theodore R. McKeldin, who spoke to the students, faculty, and friends of the community in the Sligo Church.

The courage and pulse of the school are good. There is an excellent tone on the campus. We have an abiding confidence in the power of God who established this institution, and we are convinced that He will not fail us, but that the College will continue to serve the young people of our constituency with the same high standard and efficiency which have marked it through the years. The administration wishes to pay tribute to those loyal and understanding men who have spent long hours and have given much of their time and energy in the solution of heavy problems which confront the College during these days of financial stress, the board of trustees, and to the chairman, Elder D. A. Ochs, who has kept ever upon his consciousness the best interests of Washington Missionary College.

The conferences have made great sacrifices in order to place upon our campus the necessary facilities with which to educate the youth of this union conference. For these many sacrifices the administration of the College is thankful. The far-seeing vision and large faith of our board members assures to Washington Missionary College a continuing progress which will provide for the achievement of those objectives made plain to us by the founding fathers.

Delegates

(Continued from page 7)

J. F. Hamrick, E. V. Harris, L. M. Heifner, R. B. Hill, R. W. Hines, J. A. Jarry, J. R. Johnson, W. J. Keith, L. C. Lee, S. K. Lehnhoff,



MEETING ROOM. Ballroom of the Sheraton-Gibson Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio, where Union Session meetings are being held. Nearly 300 regular delegates and many more visitors have been attending.

N. A. Lessner, G. W. Liscombe, Mrs. R. Lindsay, R. T. Minesinger, B. F. Mowry, A. D. Nagy, D. W. O'fill, C. A. Paden, O. H. Pitts, D. S. Robbins, H. V. Shafer, F. Smith, W. E. Sooy, J. Spicer, D. V. Steinman, R. L. Vaughn, W. N. Wittenberg, S. A. Yakush, J. F. Young.

Potomac Conference

C. J. Coon, delegate at large; W. H. Jones, delegate at large; N. S. Ashton, H. W. Bass, A. C. Becker, W. M. Buckman, T. G. Bunch, O. A. Canada, W. J. Cannon, W. H. Carey, E. E. Christian, W. H. Coffman, M. G. Conger, K. S. Crofoot, J. C. Dean, C. H. Dougherty, W. W. Eastman, D. C. Fockler, J. W. Ford, R. F. Frey, G. L. Goodwin, C. M. Gruesbeck, E. L. Hanson, R. E. Harris, F. B. Holbrook, O. L. Jacques, J. E. Kelchner, J. Klim, E. S. Knecht, H. M. Lindsay, R. W. Link, W. P. Lockwood, J. R. Loor, T. K. Ludgate, L. R. Mansell, A. C. Marple, J. W. McGraw, J. G. Mitchell, J. L. Neil, A. L. Page, J. L. Price, C. Quackenbush, R. Quackenbush, E. J. Reading, V. D. Rees, C. H. Seitz, G. Sharman, E. H. Shull, W. T. Smith, C. I. Soles, F. E. Thompson, J. H. Toppenberg, F. C. Webster, D. S. Weinberg, C. L. White, R. M. Whitsett, R. F. Woods.

West Pennsylvania Conference

A. J. Robbins, delegate at large; C. B. Green, delegate at large; E. A. Beavon, J. Dobias, C. W. Guenther, J. F. Hamel, J. S. Hold, J. S. Keeler; R. E. Knox, H. R. Larson, L. L. Philpott, L. E. Reed, G. E. Smith, R. M. Spencer, G. W. Valentine, O. G. Carnes, alternate.

West Virginia Conference

A. F. Ruf, delegate at large; M. L. Hale, delegate at large; E. D. Calkins, J. E. Hoffman, D. M. Ingersoll, S. R. Jayne, J. H. McHenry, G. C. Mowry, S. Pauly, F. J. Strunk, R. E. Wallace, C. A. Yarnell.

Institutional Delegates

C. E. Palmer, H. S. Nelson, W. H. Shephard, T. H. Jemison, J. R. Shull, E. I. Watson, W. T. Weaver, J. P. Laurence, G. P. Katcher, H. K. Christman, P. D. Gerrard.



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W. F. Adams Editor

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Subscriptions and notices of change of address should be sent by way of your local conference to avoid delay.

All copy for publication in the *Visitor* should be submitted through the local conference in which the contributor holds membership. Copy should be typewritten and double-spaced.

Why Tithe?

By S. L. DOMBROSKY

Pastor, First Seventh-day Adventist Church,
Baltimore, Md.

WHY do thousands of Christians regularly give one-tenth of their earnings into the Lord's treasury? The answer is simple. It is Satan's purpose to get men to forget that God is their creator. But those who



pay tithe recognize God as their Father, as well as the fact that He is owner of the world and they are merely stewards. "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." (Psalms 24:1).

As we search the Scriptures we find that God's faithful people have paid a tithe from the very beginning. Abraham paid tithe to Melchizedek, Moses was instructed to teach Israel tithing, Jacob promised God a tenth "of all that Thou shalt give me," and Nehemiah and Malachi speak very definitely concerning tithing. In the New Testament Paul endorses tithe paying (1 Corinthians 9:13, 14), and Jesus himself endorses the practice—"this ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other [tithe paying] undone." (Matthew 23:23).

When we use the tithe for our own personal benefits, it is definitely an embezzlement of the Lord's goods, and Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10 that extortioners shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

A great blessing is pronounced upon those who prove faithful in their obligations to God, their owner both by creation and redemption. The rewards may be delayed, but they are sure and abundant. A few weeks ago while visiting the York, Pa., County Fair I stopped at the booth where Kerr Fruit Jars were displayed and talked with the agent there regarding the paying of tithe by his company. He assured me that the company had paid tithe for many years and was still doing so, and that the example of Mrs. Kerr, the president, was a great inspiration to all the employees.

Why tithe? Because the Scriptures teach us to do so, and because Jesus, our example, endorses the teaching, and pronounces a blessing upon all who do so. Surely God's divine blessing should be coveted by every Christian.

A Word to the Wise . . .

At this time we deem it expedient to inform our believers throughout the Columbia Union Conference that there are a number of individuals and organizations who are promoting many and various kinds of enterprises,

making contact with many of our people and endeavoring to get into our churches with a financial view in mind. Some have endeavored to sell shares, others endeavor to borrow money.

I am sure that our people will be on guard and keep in contact with conference officials for counsel and direction.

D. A. OCHS

Appreciation

We wish to express our appreciation to the Union Conference executive officers, the departmental secretaries, the staff of the College Press, and all others who assisted in the publication of this special Union Session issue for distribution to delegates at Cincinnati, Ohio, Monday afternoon, March 21, at the Ninth Quadrennial Session of the Columbia Union Conference.

D. A. Roth
W. F. Adams

**Come to
CLEVELAND**

**COLUMBIA UNION
Youth
CONGRESS**

JUNE 16-17-18, 1955

**PUBLIC AUDITORIUM
Cleveland, Ohio**