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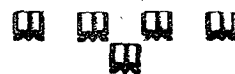
TIDINGS

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LITERATURE—IN THE FINISHING OF GOD'S WORK

A. L. HAM, *President, Southern Asia Division*

"OTHER sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." John 10:16.

As in the days of Christ so it is now. There are many, many people now belonging to other religious organizations who are truly God's sheep. The Master wants His shepherds to search out these sheep today and bring them into the fold so that there may be one fold and one shepherd. To a larger degree it depends upon pastors, evangelists, teachers, and other workers

to carry out this commission. However, it seems to me that our faithful colporteur-evangelists are in a very peculiar way the ones who most accurately fit into this promise of the Master, and it is through them that He searches out the sheep of other folds. This is done largely through the sale of our truth-filled literature. It is also done by the fine Christian lives and personal contacts of our colporteurs as they meet the people and talk to them about spiritual things. I suppose no group of workers have harder tasks to perform. The colporteur has many disappointments and personal hardships and uncertainties, but all these experiences tend to strengthen faith and increase determination in this very important soul-saving ministry.

In view of the nearness of the end it is important that we use the very best methods in proclaiming as widely as possible this last warning message. One of the very best methods is considered to be the work of our faithful colporteur-evangelists. We may not now see the results of this work, but there may come some crisis which will cause the people who have purchased the books to take them and search them for the comfort and blessing they contain. This is borne out by the following statement:

"It is true that some who buy the books will lay them on the shelf or place them on the parlour table, and seldom look at them. Still God has a care for His truth, and the time will come when these books will be sought for and read. Sickness or misfortune may enter the home, and through the

truth contained in the books, God sends to troubled hearts peace and hope and rest. His love is revealed to them, and they understand the preciousness of the forgiveness of their sins. Thus the Lord co-operates with His self-denying workers."—*The Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 6.

In harmony with the words of our text, there is this statement from the same source:

"The lost sheep of God's fold are scattered in every place, and the work that should be done for them is being neglected. From the light given me I know that where there is one canvasser in the field, there should be one hundred. Canvassers should be encouraged to take hold of this work, not to canvass for story-books, but to bring before the world the books containing truth essential for this time."

—*The Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 7.

These words impress upon us the importance of giving through this truth-filled literature, the special message for this time that must be given in the finishing of God's work. For this solemn and important work there is special need for the power of the Holy Spirit. The work of our faithful colporteurs can never accomplish what it might unless it is accompanied by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

"Let canvassing-evangelists give themselves up to be worked by the Holy Spirit. Let them by persevering prayer take hold of the power which comes from God, trusting in Him in living faith. His great and effectual in-

(Continued on page 7)

COLPORTEUR WORK IN THE EARLY DAYS

L. C. SHEPARD, *Manager, Oriental Watchman Publishing House*

THE first colporteur work in India began with the arrival of two American "canvassers" at Calcutta in 1892, fifty-seven years ago. They remained only a few months but during that time they sold several hundred copies of *Daniel and Revelation* in Calcutta and Madras. We often run across one of the books sold by these brethren.

In 1898 a small printing press was established at Karmatar and we began to publish the *Oriental Watchman* magazine. In those days the annual subscription was only Re. 1-8-0. The press was moved to Lucknow in 1909 where it remained until it came to Poona with the Division in 1924.

In the early days most of the colporteur's were Americans or Anglo-Indians. Among the names we find in the early records are C. K. Myers, one time Secretary of the General Conference, F. O. Raymond, M. M. Mattison, and P. C. Poley. Sales by Indian colporteurs were confined to small tracts, priced at up to an anna a copy. Colporteurs selling this type of literature could not earn enough to make a living; therefore in all fields salaries were paid to Indian colporteurs. The amount ranged from six rupees a month in South India to

twenty-five rupees in some places in the north. The literature sold was supplied to the salesmen free. One enterprising worker ordered much more than any of his fellows. When investigation was made it was discovered that he was selling in bulk to the merchants in the bazaar for wrapping paper! In some fields, in order to obtain salesmen, advertisements were inserted in the secular press. The men who responded had no knowledge of Adventist truth or standards.

In spite of the weak men selling the literature, it did accomplish its intended purpose. It was during this period that Pastor W. H. McHenry, veteran worker among the Marathas, and who was then in the employ of another society, purchased a copy of *The Christian Sabbath* from a hired colporteur, selling on Manmad station platform. The message of the book made a tremendous impression upon Pastor McHenry, his wife, and associate worker. In due time they were baptized into our truth.

A man by the name of Suvisethamuthu was the first Seventh-day Adventist colporteur in the Tamil field. He walked from Tinnevely to Travancore, about sixty miles. The first man he canvassed in Travancore was one Abel. To Abel he earnestly said,

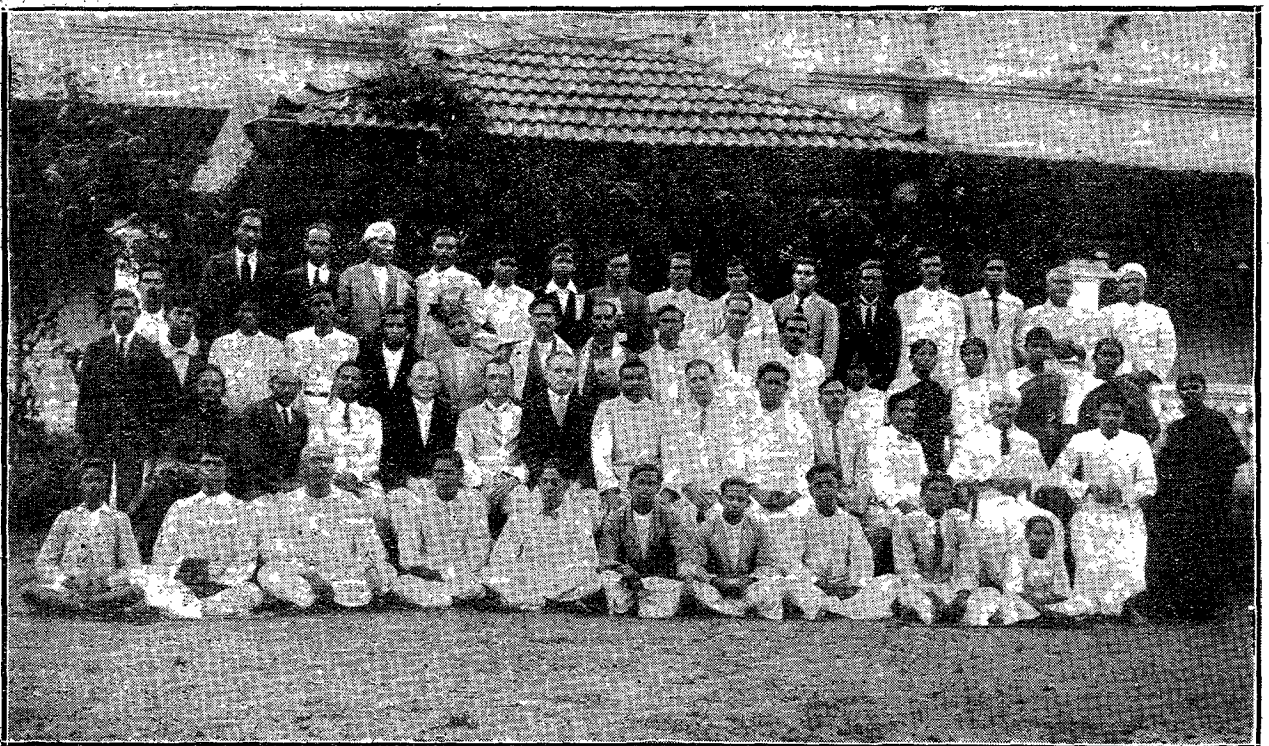
"I am planting a tree in Travancore that is going to grow until it fills the whole country. I have some sample leaves of that tree, price two pice. You had better buy and become a partner in that tree." Abel became the first believer in Travancore. His son, A. Joseph, is now the publishing secretary in the Malayalam Mission.

The first scholarship was earned by an Indian student in 1921. That year four young men from the South India Training School at Bangalore went to Colombo. They sold "crisis books" which were then priced at one rupee each. The sales of the entire party were under five hundred rupees but two succeeded in earning a scholarship. A start had been made.

At a Division Council held in 1924 at Poona plans were laid to publish *Health and Longevity* in English and in the principle vernaculars of India and to sell it as a subscription book; to abolish direct salary subsidies to colporteurs; to employ only baptized Seventh-day Adventists to sell Adventist literature, and to conduct the work on a straight commission basis. Many of the old workers were unable to adapt themselves to the new order and dropped out.

In 1924 the total sales throughout the Division including the sales of four full-time European colporteurs who were in the field at that time was only Rs. 62,819-7-0.

Certainly the tree has grown steadily through the years.



A Colporteur Institute held in Trichinopoly in the early days.



LITERATURE ~~~~~

IN THE FINAL TRIUMPH

G. B. HOAG,

*Publishing Department Secretary,
Northwest India and W. Pakistan Unions*

RAYMOND B. FOSDICK addressing a group of scientists at the recent opening of the Palomar 200-inch telescope in California declared, that, "Around the world today, laboratories are feverishly pushing their research in the development of physical and bacteriological weapons which overnight could turn this planet into a gigantic slaughter house. . . . Our generation is presented with what may well be the final choice between the use of knowledge to build a rational world or its use to arm, for one last desperate affray, the savage and uncivilized passions of mankind." *Time*, June 14, 1948. News from every corner of the world today impresses us with the fact that we do not have a temporal millennium in which to finish the work of God.

"The end is near. We who know the truth should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 8, p. 28.

God's work apparently is far from being finished. The April issue of the *Ministry* estimates that there are 2,000,000,000 people who are lost and do not know the Lord Jesus Christ. Hundreds of millions of these unwarned souls live in Southern Asia.

Our commission charges us, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." And when this is accomplished "then shall the end come." How can this be done?

The Spirit of prophecy points to the publishing programme as having a prominent and powerful part in evangelizing the earth as we near the end. "The greatest wealth of truth ever intrusted to mortals, the most solemn and fearful warning ever sent by God to man, have been committed to Seventh-day Adventists to be given to the world; and in the accomplishment of this work our publishing houses are among the most effective agencies."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, p. 138. In fact, "No other agency can penetrate so deeply, abide so persistently, witness so daringly, and influence so irresistibly as the printed page," says C. R. Watson in *The Highway of Print*.

James O. Supple one of the editors of the *Chicago Sun* affirms that churchmen "must regard the press as a vast pulpit of black ink on white paper reaching an audience far greater than that of a multitude of churches, an audience that can never be reached in the church because to the church it never goes."

C. Rajagopalachari, Governor General of India in addressing a large group of publishing men recently declared, "In you lies the power to make people good and decent and orderly. And in you lies the power to help the government to make good laws and govern wisely."—*Statesman*, May 17, 1949. Other prominent political leaders are beginning to appreciate the

THE MAN WHO'S IN LOVE WITH HIS JOB

I haven't much faith in the man who complains

*Of the work he is chosen to do.
He's lazy or else he's deficient in brains,
And maybe a hypocrite too;
He's likely to cheat and he's likely to rob—*

*Away with the man who finds fault
with his job.*

But give me the man with the sun in his face

*And the shadows all dancing behind,
Who can meet his reverses with calmness and grace,*

*And never forget to be kind;
For whether he's wielding a sceptre or swab,*

*I have faith in the man who's in love
with his job. —North Coaster.*

vast potential power there is wrapped up in the press. "We have been asleep, as it were, regarding the work that may be accomplished by the circulation of well-prepared literature."—*The Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 101.

The divine prediction is that not a few localities or a handful of readers will find God's message through our literature, but "The world is to receive the light of truth through an evangelizing ministry of the word in our books and periodicals."—*The Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 100.

Recently a colporteur-evangelist sold a set of *Bedtime Stories* to a Hindu family in Delhi Cantonment. They read the books with great in-

terest. They wrote a letter to Elder Maxwell in America asking for more of the truth. Elder Maxwell contacted us. This Hindu family has been deeply interested in the message of these books. Likewise, in spite of our lack of public evangelists, almost every corner of the Northwest Union is being evangelized with light-giving literature.

Printed pages are more potent than preached sermons. The reason is that the eye is twenty-two times as powerful as the ear in conveying impressions to the brain. Publications are more permanent. For instance, what would we do without the original manuscripts of the Bible! Printed truth suffers less changes and remains more pure in passage from one person to another than does the spoken word.

The largest audience Seventh-day Adventists have in Southern Asia is the readers of our publications. We have 30,000 families, clubs, institutions, and libraries subscribing to our magazines alone! This means not less than one hundred thousand (or one lakh) readers every month. Add to this the hundreds of thousands who are reading our books and you get an idea of the magnitude of this one evangelistic programme.

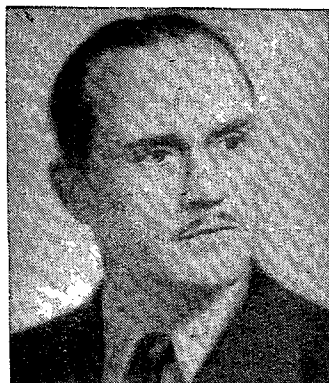
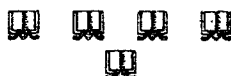
Not only is there the spiritual side but think also of the financial aspect. These hundreds of thousands of non-adventists pay cash in advance for every page of literature they receive. More than that they pay the full wages of about two hundred Seventh-day Adventist colporteur evangelists!

Yes, Seventh-day Adventist literature is divinely destined to act an ever-increasingly influential part in the consummation of the work of God. "It was established by the direction of God and under His special supervision."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, p. 138. We believe the time is now overdue for the fulfilment of that prediction that "God will soon do great things for us, if we be humble and believing at His feet. More than one thousand will be converted in one day, the most of whom will trace their convictions to the reading of our publications."—*Review and Herald*, Nov. 10, 1886.

"The truth is soon to triumph gloriously, and all who now choose to be labourers together with God will triumph with it."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, p. 135. May hundreds more of our good church members all over this division field "now choose to be labourers together with God" as *Colporteur-Evangelists*, and thus in the most efficient way possible help to finish the work and hasten the glorious coming of Jesus.

WILL YOU GO?

A. J. JOHANSON,
Publishing Department Secretary,
Southern Asia Division



THE Lord has assigned us a definite work in this earth—that is, to make His name known. Our commission is to reveal the love, righteousness, and mercy of God to humanity in a land where there are millions who know not the living God neither Jesus Christ—the Saviour of the world.

The signs of the time testify to the truth of the words of the prophet—"The day of the Lord is at hand." You who read this may answer, "We are publishing books and papers and tracts and selling them and giving them away in larger numbers than ever before in the history of our work." We thank God that this is so, but are we really as concerned as we ought to be with regard to the scattering of the printed page? "The day of the Lord is at hand," and we have to warn all the people for whom we are held responsible. You may ask, "For whom am I responsible?" Dear friend, you are responsible to give the last message from God to the people in the town or place where you live, and as a worker in the territory where you are working. We should always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is within us to all who come our way. The Master bids us, "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that My house may be filled." These words very plainly outline the work of all in the literature ministry. In connection with this bidding Sister White writes in *The Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 32, "Oh, that thousands more of our people had a realization of the time in which we are living, and of the work to be done in field service, in house-to-house labour. There are many, many who know not the truth.

"The Master knows and watches over His workers, in whatever part of His vineyard they are labouring. He calls upon His church to arouse and become acquainted with the situation. He calls upon those in our institutions to awake and set in operation influences that will advance His

kingdom. Let them send forth labourers into the field, and then see that the interest of these labourers does not flag for lack of sympathy and of opportunities for development."

Are the literature-evangelists the only ones who should enlighten the world by spreading advent literature? The Lord's servant states over and over again that where there is one who has a part in scattering the literature, there ought to be one hundred. There is a need for hundreds of men and women, who, full of zeal for the Lord, will go forth and spread the kind of literature the world needs. We are told that at this time all should be encouraged to take hold of this work, not to canvass for story books but to bring before the world the books containing truths essential for this time. We must pray that God will help us to choose the right kind of books and reading material.

Why should we be concerned about what message there is in the books we take to the people? The voice of God says, "There are 'multitudes in the valley of decision.'" We must sell and give the kind of literature that will help people to make decisions preparing them for the day of the Lord. Speaking of the literature ministry the servant of the Lord says, "This agency can reach and influence the public mind as no other means can." *The Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 28. Surely it must be for such a time as this that the facilities of printing and the scattering of the printed page have been designed!

It is important that we consider for a moment the condition of our ministry, what manner of messengers and servants we are. We may be church members, pastors, teachers, doctors, or mechanics, or whatever our employment is, all should be literature-evangelists, messengers who publish the glad tidings of salvation that souls may be saved and a peo-

ple made ready to meet God when the great day of the Lord is come.

"For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?" Joel 2:11. Remember, dear literature-evangelists and fellow-believers, the literature containing the advent message, the truth for this time will help hundreds, yea, thousands to be ready to meet their God. As they read the message-filled books and papers and receive the message into their hearts and allow it to reform and transform their lives, they will be fortified and have a faith that will give them strength to abide in the Lord's presence when He comes in all His glory to redeem all who have loved Him and prepared themselves for that great day. Today should we not remember the great love of God who sent us His only begotten Son to partake of the sufferings of men in order to be able to save to the uttermost those who accept His love? You who love Jesus Christ, will you go and tell others about Him? "Where there is one literature-evangelist there should be one hundred." Dear church members, believers, who will go for Him and warn the next-door neighbour, warn the people of the cities and villages of Southern Asia, and tell them that the great day of the Lord is at hand?

So nigh is grandeur to our dust,
So near is God to man,
When Duty whispers low, "Thou must,"
Christian replies, "I can."



Colporteur Institute held

FISHERS OF MEN!

H. E. PRESTON
Publishing Department Secretary,
South India Union



AS WE follow Jesus from the wilderness of temptation back to the towns and the people we behold His plan for the salvation of the world unfolding. Matthew 4:17 reads, "From that time Jesus began to preach, and say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." The next two verses record His call to the fishermen of Galilee. These three verses give the three phases of the Christian's experience and the three aspects of the Master's work on earth until He shall return. They are repent, follow Christ, and be made fishers of men.

The church has never improved upon this scheme revealed at the very beginning of Christ's ministry. It is still Christ's plan—it is still the church's plan. To all who hear the call of Christ to follow Him in the new life comes also the call to follow Him in soul-saving service. "He who called the fishermen of Galilee is still calling men to His service. He is just as willing to manifest His power through us as through the first disciples. . . . He invites us to come under the divine instruction, that, uniting with Christ, we may work the works of God."—*Desire of Ages*, p. 297.

"I will make. . . ." These words suggest the operation of a force which is not of the individual's own self or nature. A change of the individual's interests and desires and even his whole outlook on life is suggested. He who has been occupied about per-

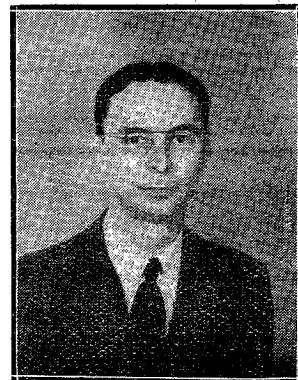
sonal gain now devotes his life to the good of others. A colporteur recently said to me, "The colporteur must be a God-fearing man." He was thinking of his dependence upon God.

Yes, the colporteur must be a God-called, a God-appointed, a God-equipped man. What a privilege it is for sinful and fallen man to be uplifted and transformed by the power of God so that he actually becomes a co-worker with his Maker! What a comfort it is to him as he goes to his work to know that he is a co-worker with the Creator of heaven and earth, that all the boundless resources of heaven are available to him and may be his for the asking!

The title, "Fishers of Men," may very appropriately be applied to the soul-saving colporteur evangelist. "Canvasser-evangelists are needed to hunt and fish for souls."—*The Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 31.

As the fisherman must know the different varieties of fish and their habits and tastes, so the colporteur must understand people and know their habits, their likes and dislikes. The fisherman catches fish because he cares for fish. He is interested in fish. The colporteur wins souls because he is interested in souls and cares for their salvation. As the fisherman often exposes himself to the discomforts and unpleasantness of the weather and circumstances, so the colporteur often endures much in order to win souls to Christ.

As the angler must watch for that first nibble so as to be ready to begin hauling in the line, so the colporteur must watch for his opportunity to advance in a more definite way after the first contact has been made. One of our colporteurs was befriended and given a place to live when he went to new territory to begin work. The one who showed this



kindness was not forgotten by our colporteur and his wife. Daily they prayed for this Roman Catholic man and his Methodist wife. Now they are attending Sabbath school and taking studies.

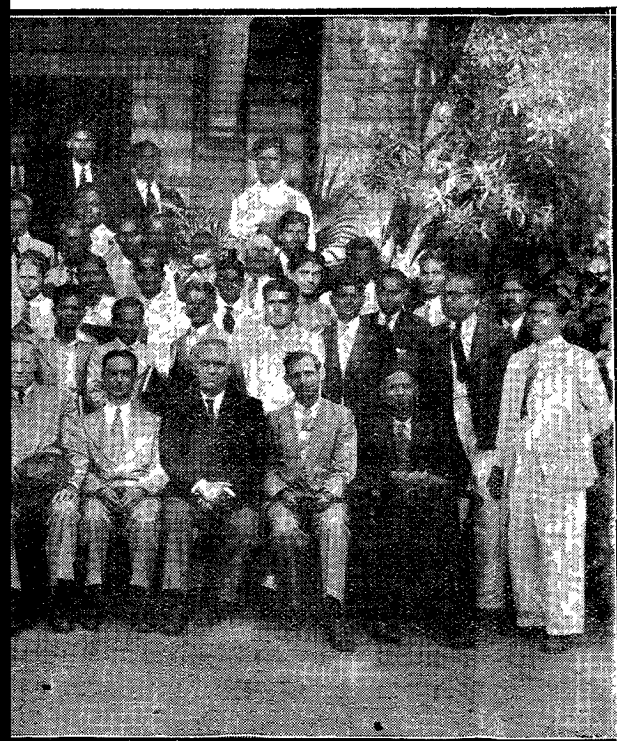
It takes tact and wisdom to lead souls to the Saviour. It takes the love of Jesus in the heart to hold the "fisher of men" to his task in spite of difficulties. It takes a passion to win souls to drive a man on energetically from day to day in his work. These qualities our faithful colporteurs have had and God is prospering their work. They are forgetful of self. Early in the morning they are out on their territory. Often they work right through the heat of the day and on into the night as they follow their Christ as "fishers of men."

Whether we are fishers, tradesmen, or professional men, the Master calls us saying, "I will make you that and more in My service and I will satisfy your every proper interest and desire if you will follow Me and give your life to Me in service."

"Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 195. This is just another way of saying, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." We are admonished, "Do not allow anything to keep you from the work of soul-saving."—*The Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 33.

As Jesus called men while He was among them on earth, so He is calling them today. He is searching out, not the idlers who have made a success of nothing and who do not know how to work, but those who, like the men on the sea of Galilee that day, are not afraid of work and of storms and of difficulties. The Master is in need of men and women who will take hold of the work assigned them and carry it forward to its finish with energy and faith and much prayer.

The results of their labour may not always be apparent here, but in the day of final rewards they will be fully satisfied that their labours were not in vain in the Lord.



Bangalore, January 1949.

THE CHALLENGE OF A TRUE EDUCATION

A. W. HOWARD,

Publishing Department Secretary,



Northeast Union.



FOR any worthwhile possession a price must be paid. How true this is of the knowledge that will equip a young man or woman to face the issues of life with confidence, poise, and certainty.

The servant of the Lord has given a concise definition of what it means to be truly educated. In the book *Education*, p. 18, she writes of "men strong to think and to act, men who are masters and not slaves of circumstances, men who possess breadth of mind, clearness of thought, and the courage of their convictions." Mere money will not procure such an education. The price is higher than that. Ample financial backing, making available the most elaborate facilities for learning and study, will not of itself ensure the ultimate attainment of the high standard set forth above. Wealth, the source of so much opportunity, often precludes much discipline necessary to the equipping of a complete man or woman.

On the other hand many have toiled long, tedious, weary, health-breaking hours to secure what the world deems best in education. Without parental support, or other favourable circumstances, they have been willing to sacrifice all in an effort to better themselves in knowledge, possessions, and the esteem of their fellows. But Adventist young people are indeed fortunate that a way is provided whereby they may not only meet the expense of an institutional training so desirable, but at the same time may gain an experience equally important to their preparation for life which cannot be purchased with money.

This way is the Student-Colporteur Scholarship Plan. Many an individual rejoicing in the work of God today, realizes his indebtedness to this God-inspired scheme. Perhaps means were lacking, but he gladly seized the opportunity to make good that deficiency. Profiting by the instruction received at the Colporteur Institute and from the publishing secretary, he bent all his energies to the sale of truth-filled books and magazines. Not only was the

wherewithal to fulfil his sanctified ambitions soon accumulating, but a new interest in his fellowmen was gradually possessing him. The need of mankind was revealed as never before, resulting in a new and enlarged approach to his acquirement of knowledge.

No form of work can so broaden the scope of a man's interests and experience as that of meeting men and women in every rank and station, of every creed and outlook, in an endeavour to sell them books that will elevate and ennoble; reform and refine. This is in itself a valuable training. To the prospective worker in the cause of God, it is an absolutely indispensable part of his education. Here is the work to develop men who will express their convictions clearly and courageously, men who will be ready for every emergency, who will face with calm fortitude the most difficult circumstances.

Why not accept the challenge of this fuller education for service? The Scholarship Plan, rightly used, offers a variety of faith-strengthening experiences, growth in a true understanding of humanity, and freedom from financial embarrassment.

WHY I BELIEVE IN COLPORTEUR EVANGELISM

E. H. J. SCOTT,

*Publishing Department Secretary,
Ceylon Mission*

"THE greatest days for the winning of souls are in the future and not in the past; the greatest days for selling our truth-filled literature are also in the future, and not in the past. The publishing secretaries and colporteur-evangelists have been given the sacred task of enlightening the world, by the distribution of our books and magazines." These are the words of one of the General Conference Publishing leaders. We, the colporteur-evangelists have a sacred task given us and with divine help we shall enlighten every corner of our territory.

I believe in colporteur-evangelism because it is, through our publications, "the public are led to search the

Scriptures," *The Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 80. Many people who have read *Toward a Better Day* and *The Way Out*, have been guided by these books and have followed the example of the Bereans and searched the Scriptures further and have been baptized.

From a recent report we learn that "In one of our largest churches in South India, half of the members were won to the message through the efforts of the colporteurs." Yes, bookmen working in conjunction with the evangelist help to build churches, and so we have another reason for believing in colporteur-evangelism.

I believe in colporteur evangelism because I know that the colporteur-evangelist visits places and homes where there have been no preachers, and no active lay members or Voice of Prophecy representatives. Recently, while canvassing in some of the towns of Ceylon where the message has not penetrated, I have been struck by the possibilities open to our colporteurs, who are exploring numerous unentered territories, of evangelizing the island. A few days ago this point was illustrated. A student-colporteur and I visited a home where a lady was very depressed after a serious accident. She felt that life held nothing for her. We worked the conversation around to the second advent, and after about half an hour's conversation, we were happy to see the gloom lift from her face and to hear her say, "The world is growing worse every day, but I am glad to know that in it there are people like you Seventh-day Adventists, who believe in God's power and the second coming of Christ, which is the only hope for humanity."

"Eighty-five per cent of the impressions made on the mind and heart come through the eyes," so we believe that the colporteur-evangelist can accomplish more through his books than what would be accomplished by listening to many sermons.

There is life in this seed sown by the colporteur. Thank God for the kernel of truth we have in all our literature. Many will read and come to a knowledge of the blessed hope. A great harvest of souls is in the making. The Government of heaven is carrying forward a great enterprise on earth through the printed page.

Printed words work miracles:

They never waver or flinch;

They never tire or become exhausted;

They never lose heart or become discouraged;

Under all circumstances, they keep on saying the

Same thing and finally bring victory.

DO WE READ OUR DENOMINATIONAL BOOKS AND PAPERS?

C. A. W. RITCHIE,

Publishing Department Secretary,

Western India Union



I REFER to the truth-filled, message-filled magazines, tracts, and books that are being produced by our publishing houses and circulated by our army of literature-evangelists. These splendid publications, prayerfully written by our experienced leaders, are being sold to the general public, and are the means under the Lord, by which they are receiving the Light, the Truth, and the Life. Jesus said, "It is not right to take the children's bread and cast it unto the dogs." The children, God's people, should first read the magazines, etc., benefit from them, and then pass them on to others.

But *do* our church members read our denominational books and papers? We would suppose that they do; we hope that they do. But what if they do not? Looking down the stream of time to these "latter days" (Hosea 3:5) the Lord in the next chapter and the sixth verse adds these words: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. . . I will also reject thee." What an alarming statement for those of us who do *not* read our books and papers to consider! Not only the loss of heaven, but destruction besides.

Surely it is not too late for us to begin now to do the right thing by these latter-day publications? Certainly I ought to provide my own children with *Bedtime Stories* and *The Children's Hour* if I consider them soul-saving reading for my customers. I ought to be using the recipes provided in the "Health" magazine if they are being so highly recommended to others. *The Way Out* ought to bring inspiration to my home, if I am sure that it will be a help and guide to people around me. The *Eastern Tidings* should convey glad tidings to my own soul, before I hand it over to another. It is *now* time, *high* time, for our church members to *read* our denominational books and papers, and after they have done so, the Lord will be pleased to note in His book, that many of His people here in India need not be destroyed, because they are not

lacking in knowledge, the true knowledge that has made His people what they are, and which will keep them what they ought to be. The writings of the Spirit of prophecy reveal the fact that through the columns of the *Review and Herald*, our leading denominational paper, the Lord will keep His people informed as to the *last moves* through which they will have to pass. He has said that "the path of the just [His people] is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." In that day, He will have a well-read, wise, and understanding people ready to return home with Him. I pledge myself to read more of our own books and papers. Come along brother, sister, do the same. May the Lord bless us in carrying out this resolution.

LITERATURE IN THE FINISHING OF GOD'S WORK

(Continued from page 1)

fluence will be with every true, faithful worker."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 340.

The urgency of this work is emphasized by the following statement:

"We are fast approaching the end. The printing and circulation of the books and papers that contain the truth for this time are to be our work."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 8, p. 89.

Sometimes there is a tendency for our colporteurs to use such literature as will sell the easiest and bring the highest remuneration. That is not unnatural. However, we wish that all our colporteur-evangelists would realize the great need of publishing the good tidings contained in the third angel's message, as well as the warnings contained therein.

This work must be done rapidly if we are soon to finish our great task.

"The great and wonderful work of the last gospel message is to be carried on now as it has never been before. The world is to receive the light of truth through an evangelizing ministry of the word in our books and periodicals. Our publications are to show that the end of all things is at hand. I am bidden to say to our pub-

lishing houses: 'Lift up the standard; lift it up higher. Proclaim the third angel's message, that it may be heard by all the world. Let it be seen that "here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Rev. 14:12. Let our literature give the message as a witness to all the world.'"—*The Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 100.

So we commend to our faithful colporteur-evangelists throughout the Southern Asia Division a very careful and prayerful study of these quotations and suggestions, and we also ask that our church leaders and believers endeavour to understand better the great place the literature ministry holds with us as a people, especially in the completion of the tasks which lie before us before the Master can come in the clouds of heaven to fulfil His promises.

May all our people pray earnestly that the Lord will greatly bless this work in this Division field. Never in the history of our work has there been a time when the people are more anxious to read and more willing to search the Scriptures for the light of gospel truth than now. We are endeavouring to publish more gospel literature and publish it in more of the languages of these countries. As this literature is produced increasingly by our publishing houses we trust that far greater results may come through this important endeavour.

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THE ONWARD MARCH OF THE PUBLISHING WORK—TODAY

C. N. ABRAHAM, *Factory Superintendent, O. W. Publishing House.*

IT BRINGS a thrill of joy to the hearts of most of us when we see the steady progress that the Oriental Watchman Publishing House has made during the past years. Those of us who have been working in the publishing house for a long time can see that it has grown year by year. The Lord is in the literature movement and He guides the affairs of the work of the institution where the literature is prepared.

About a quarter of a century ago when the printing press was moved from Lucknow and established in Poona, we were printing 300 copies of EASTERN TIDINGS bi-monthly and 3,500 copies of *The Oriental Watchman and Herald of Health* magazine each month. To meet the then existing needs of India we printed the book *Health and Longevity* in English and Burmese and a few tracts for free dis-

tribution. These were printed on an old-style Cottrel press.

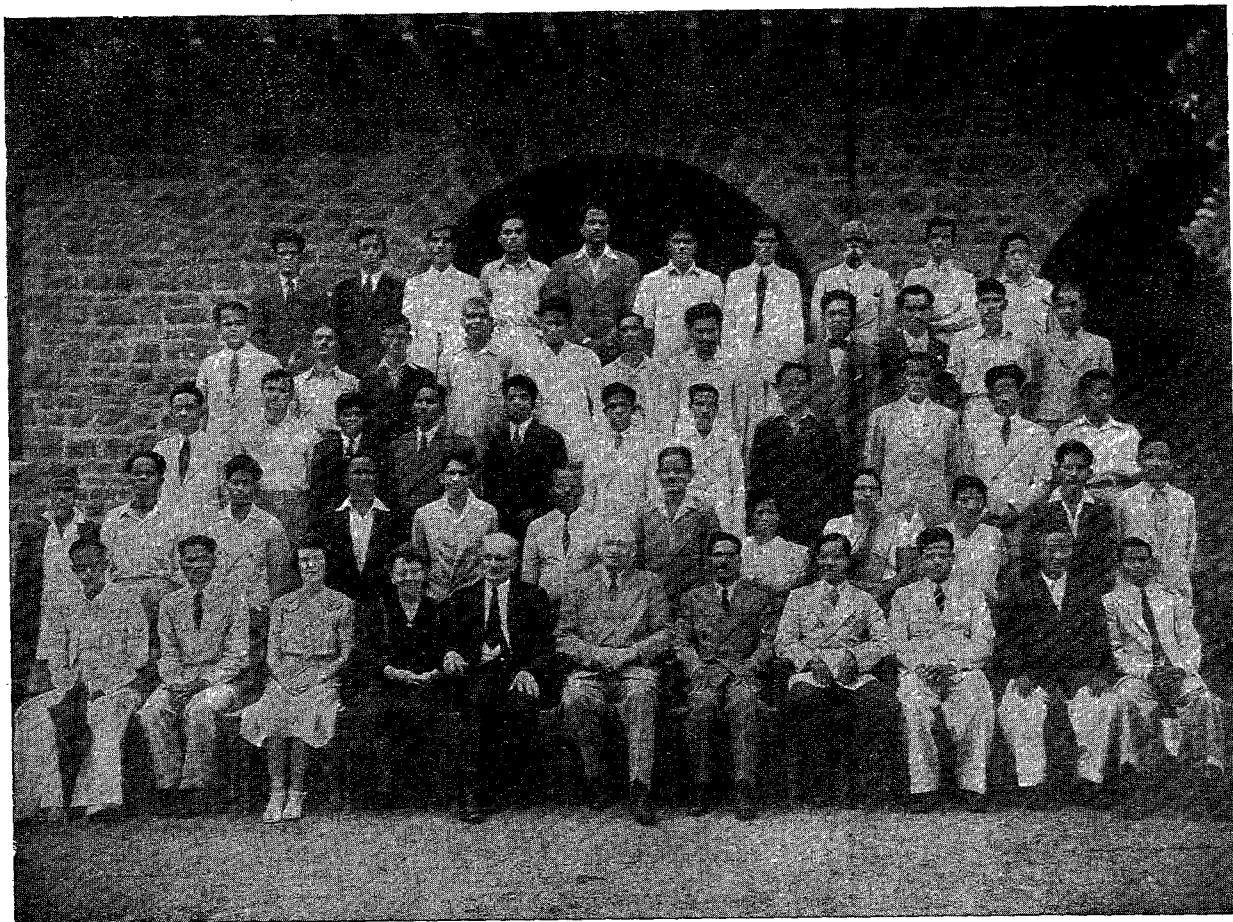
Although the mission work in India had made a start about a quarter of a century earlier, the work was still more or less in a pioneering stage and the field for religious literature was not developed.

The years 1929-32 constituted a transition period in the history of the work in the publishing house and the literature work in the field in general. During this time more colporteurs were recruited and the work expanded; the demand for literature increased. We did not have adequate machinery to prepare needed literature and so four printing machines, two paper-folding machines, a stapling machine, and a book-sewing machine, were purchased. Types in several vernaculars were added, more workers

were brought into the publishing house family, our paper stock was enlarged, and the wheels of the "iron preachers" began to move steadily. The Lord has been with us in the publishing house and we have gone forward.

We now have several colporteurs who can sell not tens of rupees worth of books but hundreds of rupees worth each month. We need more such colporteurs. Recently we have been printing 15,500 copies of *The Oriental Watchman and Herald of Health*, 10,200 copies of *Nalwazhi*, our Tamil health magazine, and 7,000 copies of *Marga Darsi*, the new Telugu magazine, every month. Plans are on hand to print magazines in Hindi and Malayalam and also several more English and Vernacular books. Bi-monthly we have printed 1,600 copies of *Eastern Tidings* besides several thousands of books and tracts. But we are not satisfied. We want to print more books and magazines and in greater numbers.

Our past production in the press is not sufficient to meet the needs of the field today. The people are becoming more and more book minded. Let us give them the right kind of literature which will enlighten them and give them the truth for these times.



The men and women who prepare the literature at the Oriental Watchman Publishing House.

THE LIGHT BEARER

AUGUST 1949

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SABBATH SCHOOL MEMBERS

ROBINSON KOILPIELAI

WE ARE living in an irresponsible world. Organizations and societies, institutions and individuals are fast becoming dead to their responsibilities. Before I step on my subject proper, I desire to deal with the sense of irresponsibility now prevalent among all classes of men and women and children. Never before was this state of irresponsibility so common as it is found today. One stands nonplused with its appalling results as found today among nations and high places of this world.

From the time, when Adam and Eve so easily and simply lost their perfection of thought and action, first, by an irresponsible state of mind, secondly, by an irresponsible act of disobedience and contradiction, millions of the inhabitants of this world have become captives of this evil. This is an inherent evil, intensified in life by yielding to rather than resisting it. Treasures of life, faculties of men, glories of humanity, strength of morality, and above all, blessings of divinity are lost and sometimes lost eternally by this evil state of irresponsibility.

As Christians, our approach to this growing evil, that possesses men in increasing numbers, is with the strength of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. While we are in the world, we are not to be of this world. The strength of the Christian's spiritual and physical faculties, solely depends upon a responsible attitude toward his Master and toward all institutions and experiences originated in Him and through Him. "All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made." John 1:3. "All things"—within and without, both physical and spiritual. I firmly believe that all societies and institutions that are made within the church are not made without Him. They are made by Him; even our Sabbath school. As members of such a divine institution, our prosperity, both spiritual and physical depends upon a responsible attitude to it.

The responsibilities of a member of a society are as many as are the reasons that have called for his membership in that particular society. So it is with the Sabbath school. Our responsibilities as Sabbath school members are as many as are the reasons that have made us the Sabbath school members. Therefore, to have a lucid discussion on the responsibilities of Sabbath school members, we should also consider the reasons. In the light of these reasons we shall discuss the responsibilities.

Reason 1.—Responsibility 1.

"Because I need a deeper and more comprehensive knowledge of the Word of God." Therefore, the first responsibility is, to study the Bible intelligently,

systematically and thoroughly, through the Sabbath school lessons. The lessons are carefully prepared to be adapted to all ages. No one is left out and we should prize this privilege. Adults and parents should study their lessons prayerfully, carefully, thoughtfully, regularly, and daily. In their busy programme of the day nothing should rob them of this privilege of drawing near to God, through the study of His word. We need to feast daily on spiritual food as we would upon temporal food. It is not difficult to find some starving souls even in our Sabbath schools. Nothing is more pathetic and tragic than to view souls (men, women and children) dying for want of food within a house which is full of food. The responsibility is entirely theirs.

In some homes, parents starve their children. Children are not taught their lessons. Listen to these words: "And even greater care should be taken by the parents to see that their children have Scripture lessons, than is taken to see that their day-school lessons are prepared. . . . If parents and children see no necessity for this interest, then the children might better remain at home; for the Sabbath school would fail to prove a blessing to them."—*Testimonies on Sabbath School Work*, page 8.

Therefore, responsibility number one is, to daily feed our children and ourselves with good, nourishing spiritual food as provided in the Sabbath school lessons. We must have a record of regular daily lesson study.

Reason 2.—Responsibility 2.

"Because I want my example and influence to help others, both young and old."

Those who are true students of God's life-giving Word ought to be living Christians. God's Word has a quickening influence and that influence should be felt in our lives and in the lives of others through our lives. Our responsibility is to yield our lives to that influence and then the responsibility of winning others through our influence and example would become a mere automatic consequence. We would do greater harm to our Sabbath school, if we fail to obey its lessons than we would if we were non-members.

Therefore, responsibility number two is to be live Christians that through our example young and old might be saved.

Reason 3.—Responsibility 3.

"Because I need the blessing and inspiration the school will bring to me for Christian service."

"Every member is a worker," is often a slogan of the Home Missionary department. But I think this slogan could be suitably adapted by the Sabbath School department also. As a Christian worker, a member's responsibility is just as great as an officer of the school. This responsibility involves visiting the sick,

encouraging the "fallen," helping the wounded and broken in spirit and teaching the illiterate, and many other phases of Christian service.

Therefore, responsibility number three is Christian active service.

Reason 4.—Responsibility 4.

"Because of the opportunity it affords me to give for the advancement of the work in needy fields."

I think that this is the noblest of all responsibilities and yet the hardest. It is divine in its nature. God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit and all created things are engaged in the act of giving. Why not man? When God has given us so great a salvation through the sacrifice of His only Son, why should we not give to Him and His cause?

I have seen money coming hard and slow despite urgent calls for help. If we do not take to heart this noble doctrine of giving, and give freely of our means, what assurance have we of eternal life? To those who ask "What shall I do to inherit eternal life," the Lord says, "Give." This He said to the rich young man and He says to all. The whole plan of salvation revolves around giving.

To help us in giving, the General Conference has recommended that we give at least three per cent of our income. This may seem small but those who desire to give more, may surely do so. "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver."

I heard the experience of a good lady, who, when in possession of some wealth, gave a goodly portion of it to a missionary lady that it might be used for the advancement of God's cause. When she went home, she thought over her gift to the mission lands for a few days and she came to a terrible conclusion. She regretted her gift and immediately sought the missionary lady and demanded that the money be returned. The gift was given back and she died a miserable death.

I hope that none of us would ever regret our gift to mission lands. The time is fast approaching when we will not have the opportunity to give, even if we earnestly desire to do so. While we have the time and opportunity to give let us give freely.

Therefore, responsibility number four is giving. "Give, that to you may be given."

Reason 5.—Responsibility 5.

"Because I need the training the Sabbath school gives to every member of the church."

The varied programme of the Sabbath school with its songs, prayers, missionary exercises, reviews, and class study, afford us ample training. If only we are willing to accept all the invitations that come to us to participate in those programmes we would receive a wonderful training for public work. At this point, I would entreat you to co-operate with the Sabbath school officers that your Sabbath school may prove to be a blessing to all, through your service.

Therefore, responsibility number five is to be willing to receive the training given in the Sabbath school by co-operating with the officers and by taking part in the programmes.

Responsibility 6.

Lastly, as it is required of the members of any organization, Sabbath school members must be regular and punctual in attendance. How beautiful it is when the house of God is full when silent prayer is offered at the commencement! If you and I keep correct time and so arrange our activities to be there on time, what a pleasant feeling is ours! Let us not get into the bad habit of being late.

We cannot maintain a deep interest in the Sabbath school if we attend irregularly. "Each Sabbath that is missed means a break in the chain and a loss of that which is vital." Let us attend the Sabbath school every week and let us be on time. The Lord is regular and punctual and He expects His children also to be regular and punctual.

Therefore, responsibility number six is to be regular and punctual in attendance.

Besides these major responsibilities there are other minor responsibilities, such as being neat and clean, watching our behaviour in the church and in the classes, and by answering questions and presenting new thoughts.

If we would take to heart all these responsibilities, and resist slackness and irresponsibility of mind, great will be the reward from the Sabbath school. I have great confidence in the following statement: "A loyal Sabbath school member can be assured of his salvation."

"Dear Sabbath school, how sweet thy memories are,
Viewed through the gates the years have left ajar;
How often has thine influence divine
Guided my feet, and kept this soul of mine.
Then help me, Lord, that I may fully see
The greatness of the task thou givest me."

THE SABBATH SCHOOL AS A NURSERY FOR THE YOUNG

DEVADASON DAVID

ONCE a shepherd was asked by his friend as to how he was able to raise such a fine flock of sheep, and he replied, "By taking care of the lambs." Yes, it is by taking care of the lambs of the church, that we can have a flourishing Sabbath school. The Saviour who gave the charge to Peter "Feed My lambs," gives the same charge to Sabbath school teachers today. If we had the same love and care for children as the Saviour had, many more would be won to the fold. What we feed them and how we feed them are of supreme importance.

The years of a child's life which precede the "teens" are the most susceptible periods for any kind of training. Our statistics reveal that the most favourable years for the conversion of the boys and girls are between the ages of eight and sixteen, when they are in the primary and the junior divisions. Our Sabbath schools should be interested in the training of children; for we know our children can receive the training that will fit them for the kingdom nowhere else. Therefore, great is the responsibility of those who have charge of the children's divisions in the Sabbath school. May the Lord grant them the wisdom that their varied responsibilities demand.

In *Ministry of Healing*, p. 380, we read, "The lessons learned, the habits formed, during the years of infancy and childhood, have more to do with the formation of the character and the direction of the life than have all the instruction and training of after years." In *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, page 52, I find the following words of the servant of the Lord, "To mould and fashion the character of children and youth is a work of the very highest importance, and in this work it is essential to present Christ in His matchless love to the mind."

"Jesus loves little children. When the mothers brought their children to Jesus,

the disciples attempted to send them away. But Jesus rebuked them, and said, 'Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto Me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.' He then gathered them in His loving arms and blessed them. Those parents and teachers who have no love or patience with children are to be pitied, for they have not the mind of Christ. Those who are seeking to gather the children into the Sabbath school are doing a good work, the very work the Master would be pleased to have them do. Teachers and parents should sow beside all waters, and if faithful they may have a harvest of souls by and by. And when they shall see the souls for whom they have laboured around the great white throne, with crowns and white robes and harps of gold, they will feel then their efforts were not lost. The well done, good and faithful servant, will fall upon their ears as sweet music." *Signs of the Times*, June 23, 1881.

May our Sabbath schools be such institutions as will make us and our children worthy to enter the pearly gates to be members of the great Sabbath school above where Jesus will be our teacher, from whose lips we shall learn the story of redemption and of His love throughout eternity.

LET THE SABBATH SCHOOL GO OUT AFTER THE LOST

THE business of the Sabbath school is soul-winning—with a capital "S." God never designed that the Sabbath school should simply be an efficient machine, operating an interesting programme, on the Sabbath day. Outside of the Sabbath school doors there are millions of human beings who have never heard of the lessons sent from heaven which are studied by Seventh-day Adventists in their Sabbath schools.

"Notwithstanding the spiritual darkness and alienation from God that exists in the churches which constitute Babylon, the great body of Christ's true followers are still to be found in their midst."—*Great Controversy*, p. 390. Says the Master: "Go out and compel them to come in..."—*Sabbath School Standard*.

COMPARATIVE SABBATH SCHOOL REPORT FOR FIRST QUARTERS 1948 and 1949

Union	No. of Organized Sabbath Schools		Branch S. Schools		Membership		Attendance		Offerings	
	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
Burma Union	35	41	5	—	1,658	2,227	1,501	1,490	Rs. 1,211-7	As. 3,746-2
Ceylon Mission	10	10	3	3	845	1,036	792	874	1,344-0	1,421-0
Northeast Union	69	68	13	11	2,225	2,143	1,969	1,354	1,856-13	2,157-5
Northwest Union	117	63	1	14	4,909	2,658	4,479	1,539	2,826-3	2,456-12
Pakistan Union	—	52	—	2	—	2,430	—	2,206	—	1,880-13
South India Union	168	180	23	61	6,895	6,885	5,393	5,392	3,218-13	2,645-5
Western India Union	24	24	16	15	1,364	1,381	1,053	1,055	2,942-7	3,478-6
TOTAL	423	438	61	106	17,896	18,760	15,187	13,910	13,399-11	17,785-11

PERCENTAGE OF ATTENDANCE TO SABBATH SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP—1948

Burma Union	Ceylon Mission	N. E. Union	N. W. Union	S. India Union	W. India Union	Division
67%	83%	73%	74%	78%	74%	78%

PERCENTAGE OF SABBATH SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP TO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP—1948

Burma Union	Ceylon Mission	N. E. Union	N. W. Union	S. India Union	W. India Union	Division
197%	336%	163%	261%	159%	196%	193%