

INDIA UNION TIDINGS

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Day of Fasting and Prayer

October 6, 1917

A deep sense of the needs of God's work throughout the Division and of the responsibilities of God's people relating thereto led the Asiatic Division Committee to call for a special day of fasting and intercession to God. The day set for this special service is the first Sabbath of October, 1917. In God's word we are taught to pray. Days

over half of the world's population. The greatest non-Christian centres of the globe are in this territory—many millions of heathen, many millions of Mohammedans, and great island populations of pagan peoples. Against the strongholds of the enemy God is leading His people. The present opportunity in Eastern lands is one of great

Our Greatest Need

"Deeper than the need for men; deeper, far than the need for money; deep down at the bottom of our spiritless life is the need for the forgotten secret of prevailing, world-prayer. Considering the fearful consequences of it all, something like criminal negligence has marked for years the attitude of the Church toward the matchless power of prayer for the world. But if fifty men of our generation will enter the holy place of prayer and become, henceforth, men whose hearts God has touched with the prayer passion, the history of the Church will be changed."—*Dr. R. Speer.*

of fasting and prayer are mentioned. They are very special seasons of drawing near unto God. At crises in their history God's people were led to humble their souls and repent of their sins. God drew near upon such occasions and blessed His people.

Many reasons might be enumerated for appointing this day of special intercession. A few will be given:—

1. The war-maddened world presents a situation which is a call to prayer on behalf of every Christian. Should we not very specially pray that God will interpose to "cause war to cease from the earth," so that His work may be finished,

2. The darkness of the heathen world. Within the bounds of our Division live much

urgency. It is a time of comparative peace but the glints of light on the horizon and the distant thunderings tell of the gathering storm. When it breaks it may be a time of fearful trial to the missionary workers, and perhaps an omen that the night has come when work is done. It is a time of urgency. Here is found a call to prayer. When Jesus was upon the earth and saw the multitudes, He was "moved with compassion on them; and said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore that the Lord of the harvest will send forth labourers into His harvest." Matt. 9:36-38.

Were Jesus here to-day, certainly the same statement of conditions and the same

call to prayer could be given and emphasized. A world to be loved and how few the lovers! Let us pray for missionaries stirred with the world's need and filled with holy zeal.

3. Pray for our native constituency. Burdens of a rapidly advancing work must be carried more heavily by them than heretofore. They need a special fitness and realization of their responsibilities. We must expect more in the way of self-support from our native constituency, and it will take God's Spirit to teach them to co-operate. Our colporteur work in Eastern lands is proving a blessing along the line of self-support. Pray that the door for this kind of effort may continue open. Pray also that our native evangelists may be strong spiritual leaders.

4. Prayer for our foreign missionaries. Many of them are sorely tried. Many are constantly subjected to the depressing influences of heathenism. Most all are in

unfavourable climates and are often under great physical danger through disease or other causes. "Pray one for another."

And ministers and missionaries most need to pray. We are leaders of the flock. "Let the priests, the ministers of God, weep between the porch and the altar." We need a spiritual awakening, a deepening of our consecration. God lives and longs to display His power through us in these foreign lands. "There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God." So let us pray for fitness and power. The present favourable opportunity, the swiftly passing hour, the uncertain future, the terrible darkness of heathenism, our unpreparedness spiritually and otherwise, and the meagreness of our numbers, are all a trumpet call to prayer.

J. E. FULTON.

South India

The later part of last month I had the privilege of visiting some of our workers and brethren in the Telugu field. The work in that part of the field, although not very well organized and somewhat scattered is moving on well. While there I visited three places where an interest has been aroused by our literature. I also heard of many other places where people are studying the truth and are calling for us to come and teach them.

Heretofore, two of our Telugu brethren have been carrying on evangelistic efforts at different places, but in order to concentrate, we have arranged for only one effort for the present, and have asked brethren Solomon and Benjamin to work together. They are working at Rajahamundry, a good sized town, one night's journey north of Madras. A hall has been rented and fitted up for public meetings and the brethren have begun their work. This is the

first public effort that has ever been made in this great field, and we ask an interest in your prayers that the effort may be a success. The rest of the brethren are going out as colporteurs.

Bangalore

At the last meeting of the committee it was voted that we rent quarters at Bangalore for the South India Training School with the idea of locating there permanently later on. So after my trip to the Telugu field I went to Bangalore and spent three days in looking for a suitable place. I found one or two places that would suit our purpose and am now planning to secure one of them.

Madras

From Bangalore I went to Madras to visit the church and to attend to some business matters in connection with the printing work. While there I had the

privilege of speaking to both the Tamil and English companies. On Friday evening at the Tamil service the house was well filled with an intelligent class of people. There are many in Madras now who are interested in the truth, and some we feel sure will take their stand with us soon. On Sabbath morning I attended the English and Tamil Sabbath schools. After the Sabbath school we went to a river near Madras where a young man, who has been waiting for some time to come into the church, was baptized. He has had many difficulties to overcome in leaving the Roman Catholic church. His relatives especially have done all they could to keep him from taking the step. He seems firm though and is determined to stand for what he knows to be the truth.

Sabbath evening, the members of the English company were organized into a church. Brother P. C. Poley was elected

and ordained as elder, Brother Gibson was elected treasurer, Mrs Poley was asked to act as clerk and organist. We had a good meeting and all went away feeling that God had been with us. The church is small, but a good, earnest Christian spirit prevails and I feel sure that it will grow and develop as the brethren work in an organised way in that great city.

Coimbatore

We have just finished up the first quarter of the school year. The examination and one week's leave is now in the past, and we have begun the second quarter's work. All are busy and of good courage. During the leave nearly all the students did some active missionary work. Many papers and books were sold during the week, and some villages were visited by the preacher's bands.

G. G. LOWRY.

Monywa, Burma

Monywa is situated on the left bank of the Chindwin river about 40 miles above its junction with the Irrawaddy, and about 70 miles from Mandalay by rail. It is the headquarters of the District and is an exchange market for boat traffic between the Upper Chindwin and the Irrawaddy. The population is a little below 100,000.

We arrived here about the middle of February and immediately started on our second year's language study. For some time we were not very successful in getting a good teacher, but we are pleased to report we have secured a good man and already our second examination is in sight.

After our return from our change in the hills, we organised a Sabbath school with six members. We have had regular Bible studies every Sunday evening and sometimes have as many as 16 present, most of them being Karens. There is a Karen company here of the Burma Military Police.

One man manifested a keen desire to study further and to him I have given studies twice weekly besides the Sunday evening studies. He is deeply interested and has written to three of his former pastors on the question of the Sabbath, thinking they might have Scriptural proof for their Sunday observance. One of them replied as follows:—

"I understand you are in doubt on account of the words of the Sabbath-day observers. I hope I can be able to reply in order to get rid of your trouble, but in reality I can only say this, There is no definite authority to observe the first day as the Sabbath. I can at present only remember one verse which some people regard as proof that the Apostles observed that day as the Sabbath. See 1 Cor. 16:2. The mention of the first day of the week here for the gathering leads us to think that the disciples were accustomed to assemble

for religious worship on that day. If it is so, it obviously indicates that the observance of this day was prevalent in the time of the Apostles. But I cannot say whether it is a fact. I have to say as above, There is no definite authority. Though there is

none, we should not be in a doubtful state. I say so and believe I can give several points but there is no room for them in this letter."

We ask the readers of TIDINGS to join us in prayer for this inquirer. W. CARROTT.

Tinnevely, South India

It has been sometime since I have sent a report to the TIDINGS, but this delay is not owing to lack of interest or nothing to report.

After the midsummer vacation, our school opened in the middle of June. At present, it has an enrolment of 86 students, of whom 36 are boarders. Two students from our training school at Coimbatore have taken teaching work in our school at this station since the beginning of this term. They have been under our instruction for the past eight years. Their present help in the school is invaluable and has been very much appreciated by all the other workers and students.

Some of the brethren of this church are at Neyyoor in South Travancore and Mattra in Ceylon, where they own shops. These brethren have been doing good missionary work besides their trade. Very encouraging reports have been received of late from them.

We have again asked Brother Santhavam

to develop the interest in our old out-station at Arumuganari. So he has moved into that village with his family. Since the first of August they have been working very steadily and expect a good harvest of souls in due time.

On the second Sabbath of September it was my privilege to baptise five earnest people in the beautiful lake by our mission bungalow. It was an occasion of great blessing to all who witnessed that solemn service.

We are all of good courage. We plan to hold our next Ingathering service about the close of October. All the members of the church are again hard at work. We have had no rain for a long time. Everywhere it looks dry: no leaves are to be seen on the trees at all. We all feel very anxious to see a good rain pouring down. We hope the next month will bring better weather. Kindly continue to remember us at Nazareth.

E. D. THOMAS.

Careful With Words

In the June 18th issue of the *Australasian Record*, the following prophecy, given by Sister E. G. White a number of years ago, was quoted.

"The time will come when unguarded expressions of a denunciatory character, that have been carelessly spoken or written by our brethren, will be used by our enemies to condemn us. These will not be used merely to condemn those who made the statements, but will be charged upon the

whole body of Adventists. Our accusers will say that on such and such a day one of our responsible men said thus and so against the administration of the laws of this government. Many will be astonished to see how many things have been cherished and remembered that will give point to the arguments of our adversaries. Many will be surprised to hear their own words strained into a meaning that they did not intend them to have. Then let our workers

be careful to speak guardedly at all times and under all circumstances. Let all beware lest by reckless expressions they bring on a time of trouble before the great crisis that is to try men's souls."

A striking fulfillment of these very words was given on another page of the same issue regarding the military situation in New Zealand.

"Notwithstanding the clear evidence presented, *we have reason to believe that the attitude of a former conference official in New Zealand which was subversive of the principles we hold, has been treasured*

up against us and have given the military authorities some ground for rejecting our appeal to be classed as non-combatants, and so we were accordingly notified to that effect."

This is a timely lesson for every Adventist in India. Perfect silence on all political subjects not concerned with the exposition of prophecy and the salvation of souls will be golden in the future if not at the present. At the same time, we, as Christians, should do our duty in upholding law and order as vested in "the powers that be."

R. B.

Some Wonderful Records

A most interesting communication from Brother C. E. Weaks, formerly of this field, came to us a short time ago, telling of the wonderful way in which our publications are going throughout the world. We have not yet, as a people, awakened to the importance of the Gospel in the printed page but this report shows there is a greater effort being put forth than ever before in the history of the denomination. It is nothing short of marvellous how this branch of the Cause is being forwarded by God. Are we not entering the "loud cry" of the third angel?

It will be noticed in reading these items that a large amount of this literature is being circulated by our lay members. This has a striking significance for the Spirit of Prophecy has said that when the laity do their duty the gospel will quickly be carried to the world. Let us remember that "the world is to receive the light of truth through the evangelizing ministry of the Word in our books and periodicals." Let us unite in India to prepare and use more and better literature.

Colorado Camp-meeting

"One hundred were baptised; *fifty thousand dollars raised for missions*, and our book sales have been the best they have

ever been in this field, so be encouraged. The Lord is stirring our brethren here in the homeland to contribute of their means to the great, needy foreign fields."

(One dollar equals Rs. 3-2)

California-Nevada

"To-day, at 11 o'clock, Elder McElhanev gave a stirring talk and ten of us followed up the rush as fast as hands were raised for 'World War,' and our total was 3,585."

Western Oregon Camp

"Not counting a single dollar's worth of charge business, I have checked out from my special camp-meeting bank account to the Tract Society Department, \$1,860.76 actual cash business and the cash is still coming in every day. . . . We can't keep enough 'World War' on hand."

North Dakota

"Our literature sales at camp-meeting closed up as follows, —

Cash	\$2,509,95
Charges	412,28

Last year's record, \$1,768,00,

Massachusetts

"We have had a good camp-meeting; sold 12,000 'World War,' about 80 full sets

of the Testimonies, raised \$4,000 for—missions beside much real estate; 39 baptized. *Over \$6,000 in book sales.*"

Portland Branch Pacific Press

"You will notice that our sales for the month of June this year are about the same as for the first five months of 1916, and the total gain for the first six months of this year greater than *all the sales* for the first six months of 1916."

Germany

"Elder Spicer brings to us the astonishing report that our publishing house in Hamburg turned out more literature during 1916 than during any previous year of its history, and all in spite of the fact that sixty employees of the publishing house, including the manager, the assistant manager, the heads of all departments, and nearly all the editors, were called into the army, *leaving the work mostly in the hands of our sisters*. Out in the field ten out of fifteen of the field agents were also called to the front. Our general agent was called into the army, but was given non-combatant service in Hamburg. He has continued his work in charge of the colporteurs, securing release from time to time whenever he needed to attend general meetings or canvassers' institutes. He keeps up his letter writing, report system, etc., in addition to his work as a soldier."

World War

Brother Palmer writes: "You will be interested to hear of our success in handling Brother Daniells' new book, 'The World War.' During the past three months we have sold about 350,000 copies in the United States, and it is still going like a whirlwind. Nothing like it has ever been seen before in the circulation of our literature. 'The World's Crisis' was a great seller, but we have sold more copies of 'The World War' in three months than we sold of the 'World's Crisis' in a year."

Southern Union Conference

"Now who are the winners this month? You have been anxiously waiting to see. You remember we said we were going to make the winner this month sell \$1,000 worth of books, and put in 250 hours. Well, no one reached the time requirement, but two exceeded the \$1,000 in sales. They are A. L. Ham and Virgil Smith, both of Mississippi, with \$1,634.25 and \$1,202.05 respectively."

A Record

"Last week an Arkansas colporteur, working alone, took *eight hundred and fifty dollars* worth of orders. . . . Book, 'Daniel and the Revelation.'"

China

Space forbids my telling you of all the good things that are coming to us from many parts of China. But from the most distant provinces good tidings come to us. Brother Blandford sent in 500 yearly subscriptions for the *Signs* with the statement that they were taken in the city of Yunnan, Yunnan Province, in eleven days by two of their Szechwan workers. We can soon join hands with the Burma workers on the Burma-Yunnan border. These same men have done good work in Kweichow. Other than work done by the colporteurs, these two provinces are still unentered.

"Poor Honan." Yes, that was one of the arguments used when we talked about raising the price on the Chinese paper. It was feared that the increased price would be the death knell to the paper work in Honan. Brother Blunden writes, "Even 'poor Honan' sent us a report last month of \$640—a record thus far for a single province since we organized our Union." This, too, in spite of the fact that the paper has been increased in size and the commission to workers cut to forty per cent.

Students from the Shanghai school entered Kiangsi. One of these boys took orders to the value of \$86 his first week. The small-

est record for the province for the week was \$26. Another worker in Kiangsu took 63 orders for the health book in five days.

Pastor Lillie writes that he has placed an order for 1,000 August number of the Japanese paper for use in Shantung. As a result of work already done with the Japanese paper, he says that a Japanese lieutenant is coming to him almost daily for Bible study.

The second edition of 8,000 of the Mandarin health book has quickly left our shelves and a third edition of 4,500 is being rushed through to keep the canvassers going until other books can be brought out. "World war" will be ready within a few weeks. We anticipate a big sale on this. The Pacific press has already placed an order for 1000 of this Chinese edition of "World War" to be sent as soon as it comes from the press.

Manchuria

When I was in the Mukden office a few weeks ago, one of our colporteurs there came in with a roll of money to pay up his account. His profits for the previous twelve days had been more than \$50. His tithe alone would go a long way toward supporting an evangelist for those twelve days. Can't you see plainly that self-support is to a very large degree dependent upon our developing a strong publishing department throughout the field? Colporteurs not only bring in souls but they can send out workers. Brother Gjording has been away North as far as Tsitsihar where he has a colporteur working. I accompanied him as far as Harbin. Colporteurs have gone away north-east up the Sungari river to the borders of Siberia. They have also followed the Yalu and are ready to shake hands with the fellow-workers across the line in Northern Korea.

Japan

These are great days in Japan. June 1st the paper doubled in price and commissions dropped from 90 to 50 per cent.

Quite a change, but it meant the doubling of the circulation too, so we do not feel downcast over the change. Just a few days prior to June 1st. it was voted to translate "World War" into Japanese. Now comes the word that it will soon be ready for the canvassers.

Philippines

Brother Finister writes, "we were quite shocked last week to get a report from Bernabe Cupino for one week amounting to Pesos 339.50, and another from Issac Mendoza for Pesos 209.00." This was done by native boys working among Roman Catholics with a religious book. Considering conditions I consider this almost equal to the Arkansas record breaking report. (A peso equals Rs. 1-9)

Previous to 1917, our Tagalog paper sold at fifty centavos a year. The subscription list stood at less than one thousand. At the time of the Manila meeting in December last we increased the price to one peso, and began to talk 5,000 subscribers. As the Tagalog field only numbers about a million and a half, this seemed to many a task beyond us. Under date of July 18, Brother Stewart writes, "I hope that I can report those 5,000 subscriptions in my next letter. We are now nearing 4,000."

A Warning

We wish to warn our members of a certain disease that is becoming quite prevalent in the world to-day. It is called "Morbus Sabbaticus." The disease is peculiar to church members. The symptoms vary, but never interfere with the appetite. It never lasts more than twenty-four hours. No physician is ever called. It always proves fatal in the end—to the soul. It is becoming fearfully prevalent, and is destroying hundreds every year.

The attacks are usually about seven days apart. The first symptoms are felt Friday night. The patient sleeps well, but wakens late. He eats a hearty breakfast, but

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about Sabbath school time the attack comes on and lasts until the services are ended for the morning. The patient then feels better and eats well at tiffin. In the afternoon he feels so much better that he is able to take a walk and read a paper. In the evening he often has another attack, and stays from church again, but later is able to eat a dinner. In the morning he awakens, feeling refreshed and able to go to work, and does not have any of the symptoms of the disease until the next Sabbath. Some doctors have advised as a preventive the vaccination of Gal. 6:7, "Be not deceived: God is not mocked."

—Sabbath School Worker

October Sixth

"Turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping: and with mourning." Joel 2:12.

The day of intercession appointed for us on the 6th of this month, we believe, should be observed very strictly by all our churches in India. In the early days of this message it was a common thing for days of prayer and fasting to be observed, but as the church has grown in numbers that early spirit of devotion, especially fasting, has been cast off to a great extent, with a corresponding dearth of spirituality and power.

Indian conditions demand a consecration and zeal in us as labourers not experienced in the past. Time is short. The *Statesman* commences its editorial in the issue of September 25th as follows:

"It is well to recognise the fact that the political situation in India is as grave as it has ever been in the history of British rule."

What does this mean to us? Are we going to wait in this country until our efforts must be carried on under great difficulties? If ever there was a time in India when we need the power of the Spirit in the lives of every believer it is now. Probation is soon to close. Is the blood of India's people still on our garments? Let us, as a united body of believers, earnestly and conscientiously observe this day with both fasting and prayer for renewed zeal and heavenly wisdom and power in every individual.

Every Member at Sabbath School Every Sabbath

It is a fact for gratitude that 968 members are enrolled in our Sabbath schools in this field. But when we compare the attendance, 772, with the membership, we find that the per cent of attendance is 79. It is not so good as 90 or 95 per cent of attendance would be, is it?

Every member is a valuable asset to the Sabbath school which he attends; he has a definite place that no one else can fill, whether the Sabbath school be large or small. If he is absent, he is missed. His

absence has an effect on his friend, on his class, on his teacher, on the entire school. The danger is that his absence, unless caused by illness, or some other unavoidable reason, will grow to be a habit. If each member will decide that he, personally is responsible for, and essential to, the success of his Sabbath school, there will be 968 members in attendance, and a 100 per cent Sabbath school report for the India Union Mission.

MRS. I. F. BLUE,