

# MISSIONS

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THE OVERFLOW OFFERING THIS QUARTER WILL HELP  
ESTABLISH A TRAINING SCHOOL IN HOLLAND,  
RE-ESTABLISH OUR SCHOOL IN POLAND,  
ENLARGE OUR MISSION SCHOOL IN FINLAND



Zandbergen—Our New School at Zeist, near Utrecht, Holland

## SABBATH, JULY 3

### Greetings From the Northern European Division

PASTOR ALF. LOHNE

[Sabbath School Secretary, Northern European Division]

When the war swept over Europe, all the countries of the "Old" Northern European Division, except Sweden, were caught in the whirlwind of destruction and disorganization. Names like England, Finland, Norway, Poland, and the Baltic States surely remind you of fierce battles and the fury of war. As enemy troops occupied most of the Northern European Division, communication was made almost impossible. And while the iron curtain was lowered over most of this field during those fearful years, the wheels of our division organization came more or less to a standstill.

When the division was reorganized in 1946 it comprised the following countries: Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Iceland, the Faroes, and Greenland. Among the 53 million inhabitants of these countries, 19,102 Seventh-day Adventists send their greetings across the sea to you this quarter.

A great work has been done in creating order out of the chaos of war. Especially is this true in Poland where mass deportation, mass murder, and inhuman cruelty was shown by the invaders. Our workers there had to start the work from the bottom again, gathering together the members one by one. This huge task is being done by one-third of the workers we had before the war. The other two-thirds were killed, or deported, or have simply disappeared.

It is said of our workers in that country that "they travel in the night and work in the day." Poland has a religious freedom they never had before and our brethren feel they have to make full use of it as long as it lasts.

Of course conditions differ greatly in the Northern European Division, as the field stretches from the Netherlands in the south to the Arctic regions of Northern Norway. Not only are there great differences in climate, but also in the ways of living and thinking of the people. In Poland, for instance, more than 90 per cent of the population are Catholics, while in Norway the 4,600 Seventh-day Adventists outnumber the Roman Catholics in a population of 3,000,000.

Even if our believers in this division are separated by borders which many times are hard to cross; even if we speak differently and live differently; even if nationalistic feelings, stronger than ever, are keeping the people apart, the Seventh-day Adventists in this part of the world still feel that they belong to the same family. This feeling was manifested when representatives of ten different countries met at a young people's camp in Norway last summer. Thirteen hundred young people camped together for twelve days. There was a wonderful unity throughout the gathering, and the Spirit of God worked on every heart, melting away national differences and making the young people feel as one in Christ. It is no wonder that such a gathering made a marvelous and favorable impression on the sturdy mountain farmers who lived where the camp was held.

The young people take an active part in spreading literature over all the field,



but we have difficulty in getting enough paper for printing purposes. There is a great lack of schools, however, where the youth in the Northern European Division can be trained as soul winners. We have missionary schools in Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and Finland. But in Finland and Norway a large percentage of the applicants have to be refused because they have far too little room for the students. At the time I write these lines, in Poland and Iceland there are no schools at all. In the Netherlands they are just starting. You will, therefore, understand that when the General Conference decided that the overflow of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter should benefit the work in the Northern European Division, it was decided to use the money for the strengthening of the school work.

I am happy to present now, our division president, Pastor G. A. Lindsay, who will describe briefly our projects that will benefit by the overflow of the coming Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

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## **We Must Save Our Youth**

G. A. LINDSAY

[President, Northern European Division]

Ever since the reorganization of the Northern European Division was effected in the autumn of 1946 one of the great tasks with which the newly-appointed division committee had to grapple was the establishing and re-establishing of training schools in fields within the division where either there were no schools, or the schools which we had were not yet functioning at full strength.

Two important factors forced this issue upon us at the very dawn of our new organization, and either one of these factors would be a sufficient reason for an immediate action on our part. I must not catalogue these factors as *first* and *second*, for truly they are both of first importance. Let me simply say that one of the factors was the dire need of workers for the fast ripening harvest of souls in those countries concerned. The other factor was the fact that hundreds of our Seventh-day Adventist young people do not enjoy the privilege of Christian education as other Adventist young people do in more fortunate countries. Many, many of these promising young people are lost to us each year, because they have been forced to sit at the feet of worldly-minded and often infidel teachers to receive their education.

We must save our youth. The task before us in the Northern European Division, therefore, is to establish schools in Iceland and in the Netherlands; and to re-establish our school in Poland, and to greatly enlarge our school in Finland.

When the good news reached us that we were to receive the overflow of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for the third quarter 1948, it seemed to us a direct answer to our earnest prayers that God would, in His own good way, come to our help in executing the plans that we have had to adopt after counseling with the Educational Department of the General Conference. We, therefore, voted immediately to dedicate the overflow to the strengthening of the educational work in Finland, the Netherlands, and Poland, the funds to be equally divided among these three fields. We

hope to be able to assist Iceland, which is a smaller field, in another way.

We shall let the brethren from Finland, the Netherlands, and Poland themselves tell you of their needs during the course of this quarter. Let me here briefly introduce to you the three projects that we shall ask the Sabbath school family throughout the world to think about from week to week.

In the Netherlands, with a present membership of about 2,000 and many hundreds of young people, we have *never* had a school. Before the war, young people who gave promise of becoming missionary workers, were sent to Germany for their education. Due to conditions existing in Europe today, students cannot go so freely from one country to another for their education. Today we need many workers in the Netherlands in order to give the Advent message to the 10,000,000 people living there.

We have already secured a property well suited for a school in the vicinity of Utrecht [ü-trecht], and we have already started the school there in a small way, but there are great needs that must be cared for before the school will be able to do a strong work.

In Poland our school suffered great damage during the war, but was not altogether destroyed. The school underwent a much needed renovation in 1939, but just a few weeks before the school was to reopen, the war broke out. Since then the school has been overrun, first by the German Army in 1939, and then by the Russians in 1945. Everything that was loose has been carried away, and the building has suffered greatly.

In the fall of 1947, a Bible institute was opened in Krakow right in the city,

but we must have a school. Whether we shall rebuild the old school, or build in a better location, it is too early to say at the present time.

The need of workers in Poland is great. Before the war we had sixty workers employed in the Polish Union. Today we have about twenty. Many have had to be repatriated to Germany. Some are left with the membership living in the territory which has been annexed to Russia, and some have died. Several of our present workers have never had the privilege of attending one of our own schools. Some of the young workers, therefore, will be among the first to enroll in the Bible institute, or school as soon as it opens again.

Lastly, I will briefly mention Finland. In 1932 we secured a fine place for the school near the old city of Abo, and we equipped it to accommodate about 50 students. This provided ample space and facilities at that time. The enrollment has now grown; last year ninety were admitted. The dining room, the chapel, and the classrooms are altogether too small now. Many more young people want to come to our school. They are so eager for a Christian education; and we know what cities of refuge our schools are for our youth.

Dear brethren and sisters, pray to God for these needy fields this quarter. Also lay aside an offering for the thirteenth Sabbath that there may be a great overflow for our schools.

**Make  
Thirteenth Sabbath  
Dollar Day**



**SABBATH, JULY 10****The Early History of Our Work  
in Finland**

A. Y. RINTALA

[President, East Nordic Union Conference]

Far in the North there lies the little republic of Finland, with a population of four million industrious, freedom-loving people. During the centuries of her earlier history, the country was a part of Sweden; and even in our days, a Swedish-speaking remnant is found in the country. But the vast majority of the people speak Finnish. After the Napoleonic wars, Finland was annexed to Russia as a grand dukedom, but secured her independence again after the first world war.

Like the neighboring Scandinavian countries, the majority of Finland's population hold to the Lutheran religion, but other protestant denominations as well as the Catholics, are also active in the country.

For us Adventists it is interesting to know that as early as the time of the Reformation there was unrest among the Finnish people, because the seventh day of the week was not being kept according to divine precepts. This season of unrest ceased only after several edicts from the emperor had been issued.

The proclamation of the Advent message in Finland began in 1892 when Brother O. Johnson and some other Swedish workers were sent over to this new field. Their work was hard, as they were met with much suspicion. However, they were blessed with success, and several were baptized.

The very first person won to the cause in Finland was a man known of old as an earnest Christian and ardent

defender of his faith. When he heard of the arrival of the "Swedish Jew" in Finland, meaning Brother Johnson, he decided to go and convert him from "the bondage of the law." The outcome of the visit was, however, far different. He returned home to his relatives with the astonishing news that henceforth his day of rest would be Saturday and not Sunday. Soon he was joined by his wife and his aged mother, as well as the person who had informed him of this "Swedish Jew" holding religious meetings in his home. Later, this ardent convert became a faithful colporteur.

Some time later Brethren Fred Anderson and John Hoffman were sent from America to carry on the work started by Brother Johnson. These pioneers for the cause in Finland laid a strong foundation for the progress of the message, and although they are now resting in Christ the work is going forward.

The hand of God can clearly be seen also in the call of the first local workers to enter His vineyard. In the harbor of Helsinki, the beautiful capital of our republic, some copies of our literature fell into the hands of a young officer, who had just graduated from the navigation school. He became an Adventist, and immediately started off for America, intending to become a doctor and to enter our medical ministry. On the voyage he met with a Finnish Methodist minister who was on his way to America to secure means for erecting a church building in Helsinki. These two passengers soon became fast friends, and during the voyage they diligently studied the Bible, with the result that the preacher became interested in our message, and he

also attended one of our schools in America for some time; then he returned to his homeland and became an enthusiastic preacher of the Advent message. At his first meeting with his former fellow-believers his text was taken from the words of Peter, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee." Means for the church building he did not bring, but he did bring the precious Advent truth instead.

And this is the way the second Finnish preacher was obtained. A certain fiery-tempered young man had, under the rule of the Czar, become the object of political persecution, and to avoid this he escaped to Sweden in a small fishing vessel. There, after many adventures, he became an Adventist, attended our Swedish school, and soon after that returned to his homeland to proclaim the message of the second coming of Christ.

The wonderful guidance of God, experienced during the first phases of our work in Finland, has continued.

Multitudes in Finland have gathered to listen to the Advent message, and in many places a great awakening has been aroused. Probably the largest meetings among the Advent believers in the North have been held in Finland with thousands of listeners in attendance. The literature work has likewise been strong from the beginning. Our faithful colporteurs have crossed the country several times, distributing much of our literature. Numerous people have thus been brought into the Advent truth.

Although Finland is a land of freedom and cannot be compared by any means with the intolerant Catholic countries, our work even here has met with heavy opposition, especially on the part of the Lutheran State Church.

In the early years our workers met with direct opposition, open scoffing, and ridicule. The multitudes were aroused against us, and, therefore, it was often very hard to obtain meeting halls. Sometimes even the authorities were persuaded to oppose us. In a certain city our enemies planned to prevent an announced baptism. Early in the morning, when the ceremony was to take place, the highest police officer in town rode to the place with his assistants, but he arrived after the last candidate had been baptized. And while he was threatening the brother who had officiated with heavy sentences, one of his assistants came to our local workers and whispered that the place for the baptism was outside the area of the police master's jurisdiction, and he therefore had no authority. The matter was dropped, and at the next baptism the wife of this assistant policeman was one of the persons baptized.

Such are the experiences of our early workers. During the independence of the country there has been a law for religious liberty, but it has not been followed according to its spirit. However, our denomination has now been legalized in Finland, and we have fair privileges.

The latter phases of the development of our work have not been touched, for they are a chapter in themselves. Be it mentioned though that our work during and after the second World War has had greater success than ever before. God has opened a door for the Advent people in Finland to do a great and fruitful work. The door stands open. May the Lord help His people to enter and finish their great task.



**SABBATH, JULY 17****The Fortress of Hope**

H. KARSTROM

[Principal, Toivonlinna Mission School]

Our denominational mission school in Finland bears the beautiful name "Toivonlinna," which means "The Fortress of Hope." This school has indeed been a fortress where the Advent youth have been preserved from the increasing moral corruption often found in the worldly schools at this time, and where they have been taught the wonderful message God has given to us. Many young people at this school have taken their stand for God and consecrated their lives to His service. We Adventists here in Finland are deeply thankful to our heavenly Father that He has given us the Toivonlinna Mission School and that it has been such a great blessing to the Advent people in this little northern country. The school is beautifully situated near Abo in the southwest corner of Finland. In summer, when the school is not in operation, we run a sanitarium that has been very much appreciated by the public.

During the last few years, even during the war, the Advent message has gone forward with great force in many places in Finland. The hard and bitter experiences of war have led people to seek a true and consistent faith in the Bible, because the "tradition of men" has not been able to satisfy. Many have gladly accepted the third angel's message and joined God's remnant people. In Finland, which has a population of four million, our membership is now about 3,600. One thing that has been of special joy to us is that so many young people have turned away from the

world and are now rejoicing in this wonderful Advent hope. These young people, who have accepted the message with the enthusiasm of youth, have in ever larger numbers begun to come to our mission school to receive a more thorough knowledge of the Word of God and of the message for our time. The number of applicants has increased to such an extent that we cannot come anywhere near accepting all those who desire to be admitted. Thus, in the fall of 1946, 149 students applied for admission, and in the fall of 1947, 152 applied to be admitted. We could, however, accept only ninety of these. During the last two years about forty per cent of all applicants have been turned away.

Many young people have for years awaited their turn to be admitted to our mission school. To some the waiting has been too long, and they have had to attend worldly schools, or else abandon all thought of further education. In many an Adventist home there has been sorrow these last few years because our school has become altogether too small. Many letters and interviews bear witness to this fact. A mother writes to us pathetically, "We are troubled about our children. They are not saved. We wanted to send our daughter to Toivonlinna, but is it possible for her to go there? She wishes to go to the school, for the Lord is working upon her heart. If she could only go to Toivonlinna I am sure that she would surrender herself to God. But I fear that if she cannot go to the school now, the time of her interest may pass by. We believe that if Iris could go to Toivonlinna now, then her brothers would like to do the same later on.

Oh, that they all could go to our own school and belong to God! Is there room for my girl? Tell me, what shall I do?"

And as my heart is wrung with sadness at what I must reply, I pick up another letter and read: "My 15-year-old daughter wept for a whole month last fall after she had been informed that she had not been accepted as a student in our school. This fall Seija is applying again for admission to the school, and we are very anxious for her in case her application should be rejected once more."

You cannot imagine the heart-breaking work the school board has in choosing just which students can enter the "fortress of hope" for this school year. The replies have just been mailed and little Seija, together with about sixty other young people, has been turned down because there is no room for her at the school. There is sorrow in many Adventist homes. This sorrow has lately become still greater because the education authorities in the public schools in Finland have made it very difficult for Adventist children to be absent on Sabbath. Some parents who have refused to send their children to the elementary schools on Sabbath have been fined, and in a few cases some have even been put into prison.

All these conditions have forced us to do our utmost, in spite of the enormous difficulties in the construction line, to erect a larger school building that will answer our need. As early as last fall we began to lay plans for the realization of this project. After many difficulties, and several months of persevering work with authorities, architects, and engineers, we have now, by the aid of some

influential friends, come so far that we have started erecting the new school building that will accommodate about 250 students. By utilizing all available means we hope to be able to get the roof on our school building, but we need at least six million mark (44,000 dollars) to have the building completed. Where we are to get this money we do not know, but trusting in God's help, we have started on the school building.

We read in Mrs. White's writings, "A great work must be done all through the world, and let no one conclude that because the end is near, there is no need of special effort to build up the various institutions as the cause shall demand. . . . Schools must be established, that the youth may be educated, that those engaged in the work of the ministry may reach higher attainments in the knowledge of the Bible and the sciences."—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 440.

Dear brethren and sisters, let us work "while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." Let us give of our means for the finishing of God's work, that we may soon see our beloved Saviour coming in the clouds of heaven to gather His waiting people. And when you give your offerings, then think of our many fine young people in Finland, and also of their greatest need at the present time: *to get the new school building at the "Fortress of Hope" completed.*

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"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matt. 24:14.

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**SABBATH, JULY 24****The Conversion of a Motion  
Picture Theater and a  
Communist**

G. A. LINDSAY

[President, Northern European Division]

The cruel and the heavy losses that Finland sustained in the conflict has, as it were, both plowed and harrowed the minds and hearts of the people, and prepared them for the reception of the seeds of truth. The opportunities for successful evangelism have never been better than they are right now. The Spirit of God has subdued hardened hearts and convicted great sinners. Revivals have sprung up here and there and the results have been gratifying.

During the years of the war most of the ministers were drafted for various kinds of national service. This left the women Bible workers to work alone. The conference committee there decided to send them out two and two to preach and teach. Most of the time they were sent to new places where there were no Adventists. These sisters met with wonderful success.

I will take time to relate only the experience of two young sisters who held four evangelistic efforts in a rural district, where there were no Adventists before, and they had the joy of seeing over one hundred accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and unite with the Advent people. They were instrumental in organizing a new church in that district. And more than this, they were also the means of "converting" a motion picture theater.

How all this came about is quite a story. After they had arrived in their

district and had made a good start in the town where they were living, they looked around for another town or village near by where they could also hold meetings two or three nights a week. Now their landlord was in the motion picture business, and he was running motion picture theaters in several towns around there. Together with his wife he had become so greatly interested in the meetings, that when he heard that his tenants, the evangelists, wanted to branch out to another town, he came with the suggestion that if they could arrange to hold their meetings in a certain town on the same night that he went there with his films, he would give them free transportation. There was no other means of transportation except by bicycle, and in the winter months with the heavy snowfalls of the North it was impossible to go by bicycle. So the young ladies thought seriously over the landlord's proposition and prayed earnestly about it.

The next day, on meeting the man, they expressed their appreciation for his very kind offer, but they said, "When we start our meetings in that small town, there will be a revival, and you will not have very many coming to see your 'movies.' Then you may not like it, and you'll be sorry you helped us get started. Then you will not take us along, and we simply cannot go on our bicycles all winter. If we start we will certainly want to keep going."

The landlord replied, "I will take care of that. I give you my promise that no matter what happens, I will take you there two nights a week all winter."

So the meetings were begun. The

crowds came. A revival followed. Soon there were more people attending the revival than attended the movies. The landlord became curious, and, after starting his show, sneaked into the revival meetings himself. A large number accepted the message, and among them were the landlord and his wife. He stopped his shows. He joined the church, then gave his theater to the Lord. With great rejoicing the members set to work to transform the theater into a church, and before long it was thoroughly changed, and today it is a fine Seventh-day Adventist church.

Here is another experience the same two evangelists had just last year, 1947. This time the women evangelists were sent to a small city of about six or seven thousand inhabitants. Their meeting hall was packed full at every meeting. This greatly disturbed the Lutheran minister in that town, and every Sunday he warned his people from his pulpit not to go to hear the Adventist preachers. One Sunday morning a young man, who was a Communist, chanced to pass by the church. A voice seemed to tell him to go into the church. Now he had not been in a church for many years. But he went in out of curiosity. The minister was in the middle of warning his people about those terrible Adventists, but as soon as the young man heard the word "Adventist," he recalled having heard about Adventists from his uncle, when he was visiting his place while only a boy. A neighbor and this uncle had been discussing various denominations, and his uncle had said, "All the churches have some truth, but the *Adventists have all the truth.*" All through the years that little seed had

been in his heart. "Now," the young man said to himself, "I am going to hear the Adventists tonight," and he did. After much trouble he found the meeting hall and attended the meeting. From then on he never missed a meeting. The Adventists did have all the truth, and he too became truly converted. Now this young Communist had a revolver that he had hidden away for the day of revolution to come, but now that he was an Adventist, he would not have any more use for a revolver, so he went to a swift flowing river and threw it into the rapids.

Yes, the truth of God is powerful and able to regenerate unbelievers and infidels, and make of them new creatures in Christ Jesus. Today this young man's ambition is to prepare himself to become an ambassador for God. He is in our school studying with that thought in mind.

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## SABBATH, JULY 31

### The Outpost of the North Atlantic

PASTOR OLAF J. OLSEN

[Field Secretary, Northern European Division]

Iceland is a land of contrasts; the interior is filled with fire and boiling water, and on the outside are beautiful valleys, rivers, great waterfalls, glaciers, and lava streams. The area is about the size of Ohio, or 39,709 square miles. The population, three people to each square mile, is scattered all over the island. The climate is very harsh, stormy, and wet, as low pressure points from



Greenland sweep in over the island from time to time. A person can travel for miles and miles without seeing a tree worthy of the name.

In 1897 a young man from Denmark, David Ostlund, sailed away to open our work in Iceland. One day during the voyage he overheard a passenger who was an Icelander discussing religion with another passenger. He was so earnest, and all that he said was so scriptural, that at last Brother Ostlund went up to him and said, "Excuse me, but are you an Adventist?"

"Yes, I am," said the Icelander, "and my wife is one also."

"And where did you learn about the truth?" inquired Brother Ostlund.

"In America," he answered, "we read ourselves into the message and have been keeping the Sabbath for a year and a half."

"And what are you going to do in Iceland?" continued Brother Ostlund.

"Well, it's like this," replied the brother, "we read in the Danish paper called *Sendebud* that a missionary was to be sent to Iceland, and we thought how difficult it would be for him to get along all alone among strangers. Somehow God impressed us that it was our duty to do something for our countrymen, so last spring we sold our little farm in America, and here we are on our way to Iceland. We intend to find this Seventh-day Adventist missionary, and offer him our services." "I am that missionary," said Brother Ostlund, as he extended his hand and shook hands warmly. "God has surely led us both, and this is a sign that He will greatly bless our labors."

God did bless their labors together. Meetings were held, believers accepted

the message and an Icelandic paper, *Fraekorn* (Seed Corn), was started, which had the largest circulation (4,000) of any paper in Iceland.

It was my pleasure to follow Pastor Ostlund in the direction of the work, and little by little it has been built up till today we have eight churches with 390 believers.

When our work began on the island, about fifty years ago, there was hardly a road to be seen; now a person can travel from one end of the country to the other and choose between busses, ships, and airplanes.

The Icelanders are a very independent people. They want the island of their own "sagas" for themselves, and they do not care to interfere with the political business of any other country. On the other hand, they are not mute when they see the need of the afflicted ones in the war stricken parts of the world. They have collected money by the millions of kroner (the kroner is worth 16 cents U. S.) for the relief work in Central Europe. Our own Seventh-day Adventist Dorcas societies have sent clothing, cod-liver oil, and other necessities by the thousands of pounds through the Red Cross to these countries.

The population of Iceland is not religious; the tendency of the Lutheran State Church is mostly toward Spiritualism. But when these good people find the path of righteousness, they respond wholeheartedly and gladly accept almost any kind of duty for the Master. We are the largest religious body with government recognition outside of the State Church, and I do hope that we shall always continue to be so.

I wish you could follow a colpor-

teur on his trail through the remote valleys of the interior of the country with his books on his back, walking and walking for hours and hours with a hundred pounds and more in his knapsack delivering his books. I wish you could see our church members building their own meeting places in the different towns. First of all, they put aside money from week to week; next, they go to work and erect the building; and then, when the house is finished, they turn it over to the conference without debt, and free from all charges. The same is true of the church schools. Speaking of the church schools, I will say that they have been of special blessing to our work for the young people of Iceland. We have been blessed with God-fearing teachers, with the result that many of the young people have given their lives to the Master.

Recently the government of Iceland has passed a law that a child must stay in school until the age of sixteen, and as we are only able to educate our children to the age of fourteen in our present church schools, we *must plan for an academy* in the very near future. If we have to send our children to these Spiritualistic schools for two years, we will lose many of these precious blossoms. We have already had some sad experiences.

We have purchased a place in the country where we plan to erect a building. We have gathered thousands of kroner for the purpose, something over a hundred thousand. We have pledged ourselves for years for a certain amount each month, and we expect to continue this pledging for years to come. Last summer our young people

from Reykjavik [Rā'kyá-vēk'] and other near-by places spent week-ends out on the farm doing preparatory work. One of our builders took his wife and fourteen-year-old daughter along and went out there to direct the work. They stayed there for three months, toiling on from day to day without charging the conference for a single hour of work done.

You learn to love such people and find it difficult to leave them. Having spent more than half of my life with them, I can say with all my heart, "I love them all."

But coming back to the academy; the lift is somewhat too heavy for the little group up there and we must ask for some help from the outside. Please do not forget the outpost of the North Atlantic when you pray and when you give!

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## SABBATH, AUGUST 7

### The Early Work in the Netherlands

PASTOR J. WINTZEN

[Retired President, Netherland Union Conference]

At the end of the last century there were already Sabbathkeepers in the Netherlands. They believed in baptism by immersion even before they were visited by any ministers or missionaries. These isolated Sabbathkeepers came in contact with our church by means of Adventist literature from North America and South Africa.

About 1890 the first Seventh-day Adventist minister called upon these scattered Sabbathkeepers. He stayed at the home of a sister, whose husband was



not a believer, but who willingly opened his door to receive this Seventh-day Adventist minister. Conversing was somewhat difficult, but as the people of the Netherlands near the frontier understood some German, they were able to make plain one to another the truths of the Bible. The sister, at whose home the preacher stayed, had already discovered the Biblical baptism and the true Sabbath, and had observed them. She had also been studying for a long time the book of Revelation, but the greater part of it had been hidden from her. So she had often prayed to God for light about Revelation 14. She also prayed that someone able to understand this book might come and visit her. She now turned to the visiting preacher and wonderingly asked, "What kind of message are you preaching?" Can you imagine her unbounded joy when he answered, "Please take your Bible and read Revelation 14:6, 7." This sister repeatedly told me how this answer moved her deeply, as she could see how the Lord had fulfilled her prayer so strikingly. She became really the first Seventh-day Adventist in the Netherlands, for the other Sabbath-keepers could not agree upon the Millennium and some other doctrines. They remained isolated until their death.

About 1893 Brother R. G. Klingbeil, a young American missionary to Germany, settled in Rotterdam. He prayed earnestly that God would lead him in making the right contacts. One evening he was walking down town to buy a few things at the store. Without knowing why, he passed several shops where he could easily have bought all he needed, but was suddenly impressed to enter the very next shop.

He did so, and soon another man came in and looked at him quite earnestly. He saw some papers poking out of Pastor Klingbeil's pocket and asked, "Are those religious papers?" "Yes," said Brother Klingbeil, "would you like some?" "I would be very grateful," he replied. Brother Klingbeil gave him some papers, visited with him a little while, took his name and address, and as a result, he was the first man to accept the truth in Rotterdam. God greatly blessed the labors of Pastor Klingbeil, and churches were raised up in Amsterdam, Den Helder, and Utrecht. Many of the early believers entered the colporteur work and thus greatly helped the spread of the message.

It was my privilege to begin preaching this message in 1897, the same year the first Dutch students left for our German missionary college. The prospects were good, and at a conference meeting held in Amsterdam in 1902, the Netherlands mission field was organized under the leadership of R. G. Klingbeil. Later Brethren Wibbens and Schilstra joined the force of workers, and today there are thirty-three churches with almost two thousand members in the Netherlands Union Conference. The prospects for a larger expansion are good. The gospel workers are strongly supported by loyal committee members and by willing brethren and sisters.

It may be of interest to you to know that the name "Netherlands" was given to the country of Holland because "Nether" means *low*, or *below*, and the country of Holland is situated at the mouth of the great Rhine River, where the soil is very fertile, but where

the land is so low that large levees called "dikes" have been thrown up to keep the high ocean tides from overflowing their gardens and farms.

Of the ten million inhabitants, about 15 per cent confess no religion, 2½ per cent are Jews, 40 per cent are Roman Catholic, and the remaining 42½ per cent are members of the two great Protestant churches and various smaller denominations. There is much dissension in this country, and we receive new members from all churches and denominations.

The Voice of Prophecy is doing a remarkable work in this land. Over 7,000 are enrolled in the Bible correspondence course, fifty-five are already keeping the Sabbath, and forty others are about to make their decision.

The Netherlands is still the classic country of liberty. The preaching of the gospel is free, as is also the colporteur work. But the powers of darkness are working. Therefore, a quick work must be done. The children of our members are free from school on the Sabbath day. Our young brethren may serve in the medical troops of the army. We thank God for these privileges and we pray earnestly and sincerely for our good government.

Our prayer is that we may gather thousands of new loyal members within the next few years. Our principal needs are: A good training school for ministers and missionaries and for other branches of our work, and above all, a mighty outpouring of God's Spirit upon us and upon all flesh that the work of the Lord may soon be finished.

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**WE MUST ENLARGE OUR  
FORTRESS OF HOPE.**

## **SABBATH, AUGUST 14**

### **Sorrows and Joys of the Days of War**

MRS. F. J. VOORTHUIS

[Wife of Netherland Union President]

Holland used to be rich, and could always give to others. After the first World War we gave much help to Germany, Austria, and Hungary, and nearly every family took one child of those who were starving into their home. Then when we could not give, God provided for us, and we received twenty tons of clothing from our brethren in America. What joy there was in the little church in The Hague as we unpacked the big boxes and bundles, and prepared to supply all who were in need. It was indeed blessed to receive, but we know from experience that "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*"

The first years of the war were not quite so bad as the last when we really had nothing. In our church we tried to help the old people and children. We made soup from tulip bulbs, sugar beets, and a few beans. The children and old people came three times a week for soup. We had a little fuel in the church, and the old people came three times a week to warm themselves.

But finally we had no more tulip bulbs. One man promised to give my husband some, but he lived a long way off. A brother in our church, sixty years old, said he would try to get the tulip bulbs. He took a sleigh on the snow and started about four o'clock in the morning for them. He came to our house, and said he had nothing to eat on the way. I gave him the last bread we had, and he took that



along for his meal. He was supposed to get 200 pounds, but could find only 100 pounds. He started on his way back, and when he was about half way he was so tired and so weary that he could not go any farther. He lay down in the snow next to his sled and fell asleep. Now you know that when you lie in the cold snow you die. While he was sleeping, two ladies came along and awakened him and said, "What are you doing?" He told them he was so weary he had to sleep. The two ladies picked him up and set him on the sled, and he returned with the tulip bulbs, but was so ill that he was placed in the hospital for three weeks.

We were bombed fourteen days. The night before the bombings started, we moved from our home into the publishing house in another part of the city. Just across from our house a big bomb fell, and all the windows in the whole street were broken. I had my sick father in my house, and he could not walk. The streetcars and railway trains were not running. My brother, who is a doctor, came on his bicycle, and we put my aged and ailing father on the bicycle while the bombs were still dropping in the city.

We went to the church, and on the way we saw all the people walking in pajamas and night clothes. The whole city was dark and seemed to be on fire. At the church many people were crying because this was the most terrible bombing we had had in our city. My husband said, "We must make this a morning of prayer." We had a short prayer meeting, and all the while bombers came very low. We could hardly hear a word.

When we came to our house after

the bombing, *there was nothing left*. My husband said, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." I can tell you from my own experience that *it is very hard to lose everything*. But through this experience we have received many blessings we never would have had if this had not happened to us.

Before we were free, millions of people were facing starvation. We had had absolutely no food for four days. There was no way to get food, and we all thought we would die. But on Sunday morning we were told that airplanes would bring food. I could not believe it. But it was wonderful when we saw the lights going up from the airfield and saw the food dropping down. We were very excited. The Canadians came just in time and brought jeeps and trucks to distribute the food to the 500,000 inhabitants of our city.

In 1934 we started a home for children and named it "Zonheuvell" (Sun Hill) and the Lord blessed this undertaking from the very beginning. During the years hundreds of children have been helped.

During the hard days of war we almost despaired of being able to carry on, but God was with us, and all through the occupation we were able to care for the children, and at the present time about fifty children are charitably provided for at Zonheuvell. The "father" and "mother" who care for this large family are doing a great and blessed work. The children, often from very destitute families, find here a nurture which not only helps them physically and mentally, but spiritually as well. Some of those who spent a number of years in our institution have already

become baptized members of our church. They found their way to Jesus at Zonheuvcl.

One little boy was sent to our children's home by the Juvenile Welfare and Social Service Board. He came from a Roman Catholic family. In our home he received much more than just food, clothes, and a good bed. After leaving our home he was placed in the home of a Roman Catholic family. However, the love of Christ had found a dwelling place in his heart, and he faithfully came to Sabbath meeting, although he was strongly forbidden to do so. To make these visits impossible he was at last sent to a Roman Catholic institution to live under severe supervision. Yet, he still succeeded in secretly visiting our meetings. His heart goes out to Jesus and he has determined to follow Him and keep His commandments and His holy Sabbath. We hope that when he grows up and becomes independent, he will become a fruitful follower of the Saviour. We have recently built a new annex to our children's home, and we hope to double the number of children cared for within a short time.

So while you sacrifice to help us establish our new school this quarter, rest assured that we are sacrificing with you, too.

## SABBATH, AUGUST 21

### A School for the Sons and Daughters of the Reformers

F. J. VOORTHUIS

[President, Netherland Union Conference]

In the days of the Reformation, nowhere were the reformed doctrines more

generally received than in the Netherlands, and in few countries did their adherents endure more terrible persecution. To read the Bible or even hear it read was enough to send one to the martyrs' stake. Men were frequently slain by the sword, and women were buried alive.

Wylie, the historian, describes the unflinching courage of the people by saying: "'Wives would take their stand by their husband's stake, and while he was enduring the fire they would whisper words of solace, or sing psalms to cheer him.' 'Young maidens would lie down in their living grave as if they were entering into their chamber of nightly sleep; or go forth to the scaffold and the fire, dressed in their best apparel as if they were going to their marriage.'"—*The Great Controversy* p. 240.

But under the reign of the noble king, William of Orange (1533-1584), the revolution of Holland brought freedom to worship God as they chose.

At the opening of the seventeenth century when the king of England began persecuting the Puritans in an endeavor to make them conform, many of the Puritans found refuge on the friendly shores of the Dutch republic. When it was time for the first angel's message to be given in all the world, about 1830, God raised up Hentzepeter in this country to preach the Second Advent by giving him an impressive dream. He began at once to study and to publish, and while Miller was preaching the first angel's message in America, Hentzepeter was preaching it in Holland.

Why should we not expect that God would use the sons and daughters of these reformers and martyrs to help



preach the third angel's message?

Let me give you a little survey of the situation in our country with regards to the training of gospel workers as it has been up until now.

Thus far our young people who have felt themselves called to the gospel work have received their education at one of our colleges abroad. The eldest of our ministers attended the missionary college, "Friedensau," in Germany, which served as the educational center for all of Central Europe, the Balkans, and Eastern Europe for a long time. Later, the missionary college, "Neandertal," was founded in the Western German Union. After the establishment of the Nazi government, it became more and more difficult to send our young people to Germany, and finally at the outbreak of the war it became altogether impossible.

During the war years we have had no training center for our future gospel workers. Immediately after the capitulation of Germany we contacted our brethren in England, and as a result our young people received a hearty invitation to attend the Newbold Missionary College. We were very grateful for the compliance of our brethren in England. But some great difficulties arose, in that traveling expenses were very high, export of money was not allowed by the government, and foreign students were not permitted to work to reduce their tuition expenses during the school year.

Then there was another difficulty which has always existed at our foreign training schools. All the young people studying in a foreign country fail to receive the instruction in their own language, and they are not able to study their Bible lessons in the language of

their own country thoroughly enough.

The gospel work in the Netherlands at this time is in great need of evangelistic workers; we have about twenty gospel workers and a population of nearly ten million people. And because the want of laborers in the Dutch East Indies was so great in 1947, we sent two brethren, one an ordained minister, and the other a colporteur who has taken up duties as a field secretary; for, although the Dutch East Indies belongs to the Far Eastern Division, we, as people of the Netherlands, always think of the inhabitants of our overseas territories affectionately, and it is only natural, where the heartbeat of the home country is strongly felt, for the people to look to us for workers.

A fervent wish has now been fulfilled through the purchase of a home called "Zandbergen" in the neighborhood of Zeist [Zist], which lies on the road between Utrecht and Amersfoort. This will become the training school for the Netherlands. It is surrounded by state-ly oaks and a beautiful green lawn. In that part of our country the torch of war did its most destructive work. Some bombs fell in the park of Zandbergen and destroyed the lodge and damaged the main building. But as I am writing this, diligent hands are wiping out the traces of war and preparing the place for its high and noble purpose. Both college and academy work are to be conducted in this new institution. We plan to open the school this year. We sincerely hope and pray that God will richly bless the efforts that are being put forth, and that Zandbergen will become a place where many young people will come to know their Saviour better and learn to reflect His image.

The property covers 94 acres. Besides the main building there are several houses on the grounds. A large wood, meadows, beautiful footpaths, fields, greenhouses, and a mushroom nursery make this estate an ideal abode for those who are looking for spiritual, intellectual, and physical development.

We are urgently in need of good, consecrated, and well-educated teachers; moreover, a heavy financial load is pressing on our property. The Advent believers in the Netherlands are doing their utmost to get the school free from debt, but the burden is very heavy. Therefore we thank the brethren of the General Conference and the Northern European Division for the privilege of calling on all our fellow believers the world over by way of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

Dear friends, the Advent believers in the low countries by the sea are stretching out their hands to you, asking your cooperation in getting their own unencumbered school. Please accept beforehand our thanks for your affection, your prayers, and your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. May the Lord bless His people greatly and may your hearts be ready to receive the promised latter rain so that the Lord can do great things with all of His children and bring His blessed work to a glorious finish.

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## SABBATH, AUGUST 28

### Poland

JAN KULAK

[President, Polish Union Conference]

Away back in the days when the message was being preached in Germany,

Sabbathkeepers began to appear in Poland.

One of the first to become a Seventh-day Adventist was convinced of the Sabbath truth by a member of another seventh-day movement that arose in East Prussia. But this Polish man could see from reading his Bible that he had not found all the truth yet. So, convinced that there must be a people somewhere who had all the truth, Sabbath after Sabbath for two years he fasted and prayed that God would bring him in contact with those who had the full truth. God did, and for years that man was elder of one of our Polish churches.

As the early workers began holding meetings, churches were raised up in Warsaw, and other large cities, and in 1920 the Polish Union Mission was organized with L. Mathe as president.

When the Northern European Division was organized in the year 1929, the Polish Union was one of its constituent parts, and has remained as such even to the present time, except during the time of the German occupation.

Previous to the war the Polish Union consisted of three local conferences and one mission field. There were four and one-half thousand baptized members, and several hundred more Sabbath school members. The evangelistic work and the canvassing work were very promising, and we expected the work to go forward in all its phases, but the war broke out and everything changed.

During the war Poland was treated mercilessly by its invaders, and consequently it suffered great losses both materially and spiritually. About five million of its citizens died a violent death, being exterminated in the concentration camps, or by public execu-



tions. In this way Poland lost a great number of its intellectual people—statesmen, professors, teachers, engineers, manufacturers, and students. Many valuable libraries, museums, schools, and factories with their equipment have been lost. Whole areas have been devastated and the inhabitants transferred or dispersed. But the heaviest blow fell on the heart of the country, the city of Warsaw, which was completely burned by the invaders.

At the liberation of the country, the victorious allied armies formed a new democratic government. In all branches and spheres of public and social life there came a new breath of freedom, especially religious freedom. The government has made all its citizens equal under the law; all may profit by the same privileges, but all must bear the same responsibilities.

With reference to religion, the government has given to all denominations the same rights of freedom of worship, education, and charity work.

Our work, which during the war suffered many setbacks with regard to the possibility of doing missionary work, revived after the war. Immediately after the liberation we began to reorganize the churches, then the local conferences, and last the union conference. Then we began the publishing work, and once more we were able to distribute our tracts and periodicals among our churches. We resurrected the canvassing work and the church laymen's work. In spite of the lack of preachers and Bible workers, we are endeavoring to work with the forces that we have, and God has blessed us and the work in a wonderful way. In all lines and departments the work is developing nicely.

We have had a considerable increase in church membership and in literature sales. We have forty full-time colporteurs who are selling our literature to an amount of several hundred thousand Zlotys every month. (In 1939 the Zloty was worth 18 cents; now it is worth only one cent U. S.)

The General Conference and the Northern European Division have given us great help during the last three years. We were able to purchase several buildings, some of them partially destroyed, which will constitute our basis of operation in the respective provinces in the immediate future. We have also received great quantities of excellent food and shipments of clothing. For all this we express our most sincere and hearty thanks to our heavenly Father and to our beloved brethren and sisters in America, as well as to the Northern European Division. We were also thankful for the personal visits made by the brethren of the General Conference and the division. They have seen our work, as well as our needs, and with their experiences they have helped us in public meetings and conference sessions.

But as the work goes on and the possibilities multiply, we need further help. We are in need of a suitable building for the training school in order to educate enough young men for the evangelistic and departmental work in Poland. We started a little school last autumn, but it must grow and develop to full capacity and greater efficiency.

We also need a printing plant where we can print our evangelistic literature which must spread out over the whole country. Only in this way can we finish the work among the many millions living in the towns and villages of Poland.

Further, we are in need of a hospital or sanitarium for the many sick and diseased people, both poor and wealthy, but mostly for the poor and helpless, benighted and neglected, forsaken and ignored. But to reach and to achieve all this we need help from the outside—from our dear and faithful brethren all over the world. We turn, therefore, to you and beg you to understand our needs and to help us by bringing your liberal gifts and offerings on the thirteenth Sabbath of this quarter.

We thank God for His wonderful providences in behalf of, and His care for, His cause and His people up to the present time. We thank Him for the ceaseless workings of the Holy Spirit in leading and protecting the last exodus movement of our time, and we believe that He will lead it through all difficulties and dangers even to the heavenly Canaan. We also thank our dear and faithful brethren for their love of the cause of God in the whole world as well as in Poland, which has suffered so heavily during the last world war. May God unite our hearts in brotherly love and in love to Him and His holy cause that we may soon finish the work and enter in to His everlasting kingdom of peace and happiness, is our prayer.

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## SABBATH, SEPTEMBER 4

### Sowing the Seed in Poland

G. A. LINDSAY

[President, Northern European Division]

A few years before World War II a young man in Poland 18 years of age received into his hands a tract entitled,

"Christ or the Pope." He became deeply interested and sent for more literature, and soon felt impelled to testify about his new-found faith in the small rural town where he lived.

The Catholic priest sent for the young man and tried to reconfirm him in the Catholic faith, but to no avail. Then he called in three more priests, one of whom was a missionary among Protestants, but still the young man remained steadfast. Then a general meeting was called, and our brother had to face the four priests in a meeting hall with hundreds of people of the parish present. After a lengthy meeting in which the priests did all the talking, except for a few answers that the young man was called upon to give, our brother asked for the privilege of giving a testimony before the audience. This they permitted, and our brother spoke for about twenty minutes. God blessed his testimony that day, and within a year, twenty-four persons who were present, including the mother of the young man and two of his sisters, had joined the Adventist church.

Having been brought to the truth through the printed page, our brother naturally believes in the literature ministry. Before the war he was just starting out as a publishing department secretary, but during the war this good work had to cease because there was no more literature to sell. When we reorganized, this good brother was chosen to be one of the local conference presidents. But now that we can print tracts, small books, and our magazines again our brother has resigned from the conference presidency, which he ably filled for some time, and has returned to the publishing work.



Some few months ago one of our young colporteurs called at the house of a lady who was a seamstress. She was not interested, but one of her customers who happened to be in, bought two small books. Six months later the colporteur came back to the same village, and while reworking his territory came to the same house where the seamstress lived. "Weren't you here six months ago?" she asked as she recognized the way he talked. "Yes, I was," he answered courteously. Then the seamstress continued, "You should have come back earlier. Much has been lost because you tarried so long. Now I will not let you go until I have had a chance to talk with you."

Then she told how that customer who had bought the two little books from him six months earlier had recently died of tuberculosis. She had wanted to see the colporteur again and talk with him. She had accepted the message contained in the books and was happy. Before she died the Catholic priests came and wanted to comfort her, but she told them that she had peace with God and was happy, and that she did not think they could give her any better comfort than she received from the books she had read.

"Now," said the seamstress, "you just wait here—till I call in some of my friends, for I am not going to let you get away this time, till we know more about what was in those books that gave that dying woman such peace and comfort." So the colporteur waited while she called in ten or twelve people who were interested in the Advent message, and he gave them a good Bible study.

We are glad to report that already a Sabbath school has been organized in that place, and who can tell what the final results will be of the seed that was planted by those two little books in the heart of a dying woman.

Surely her works follow on.

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## SABBATH, SEPTEMBER 11

### The Spirit of Poland

L. H. CHRISTIAN

[General Field Secretary of the General Conference]

To give you a picture of the courage, the faith, and the devotion of our 2,282 church members in Poland today, I am going to tell you something that happened away back in 1925, after the first World War.

As in World War II, Poland was in between the warring nations, and their land was twice overrun, first by one army and then the other. Church buildings, if not destroyed, were used as barracks, and suffered much at the hands of the rough soldiers.

So it happened, in one little town, after the war clouds had blown over, that our own little church building stood desolate and ruined, its windows all broken, its doors torn from their hinges, the yard overgrown with weeds, and its congregation scattered to the four winds. Then back from the war came one of our young men—a Polish soldier. He looked for his friends—they were gone! He looked at the church—and it broke his heart to see its sorry condition, and to realize that its light had gone out. But what could he do? He was only a soldier boy, with very little education—he had

never been in one of our own schools. But he was a Seventh-day Adventist, and he had a Bible, and he could read.

And as he read his Bible and wept and prayed that God would relight the light of truth in that little town, God talked to him in a dream, and said, "Arise and build!"

"What shall I build?" asked the young man tremblingly.

"My church," came the voice.

"But a church is more than a building, it is also the people," said the young man. "I might build the church, but how can I build the people?"

"My Word builds," came the voice.

The young man awoke, but he could not forget his dream. It seemed that the God of heaven had made him responsible for rekindling the light upon the broken down altar. He felt weak and helpless, but he set to work. He repaired the broken windows, reset the doors, washed and cleaned the interior of the church, and pulled the weeds from the garden. *That* he could do, but what could he do next? He couldn't preach! He had no hymn books, he had no tracts, he had no lesson quarterlies. What could he do?

"My Word builds." That is what the voice had said in the dream, and the words kept coming to his mind again and again until slowly the idea of going from door to door and reading the Word of God to all who would listen, came to him. The more he thought of it, the more courage he received. And at last off he went with his Bible under his arm. Trembling all over, he knocked at the first door, but when the good lady of the house opened it, he was speechless. He opened his mouth, and closed it again. Once more he tried and fi-

nally stammered, "Would—would—you like—me to read the Holy Scriptures to you?" What kind of a man would go around reading the Holy Scriptures, thought the lady to herself. He must be an angel! so she said, "Yes, come in!" Once inside, the young man opened his Bible, but where should he read? What should he read? Nervously he opened to the first chapter of Genesis and read the story of creation. He then invited her to come to the little church on Sabbath morning if she would like to hear some more from the Holy Scriptures. He then had a word of prayer with her.

When he got outside he wiped the cold perspiration from his brow and said to himself, "The story of creation was not very appealing; it would be better to read from the New Testament next time."

Again he timidly knocked on a door. Again he was invited inside by a very surprised lady, in response to the strange question, "Would you like me to read the Holy Scriptures to you?"

This time he opened to the New Testament and began reading the first chapter of Matthew: "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham."

Suddenly he realized that he had made another mistake, and was lost in a wilderness of big names. But he labored courageously on:

"And Aram begat Amin-Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Na-Na-a-Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon."

The cold perspiration broke out all over him, and the lady said, "We don't understand all those names." Hopelessly the young man looked up and said, "I don't either." It was all he could say,



and because he didn't know what else to do he went on reading: "And Mattan begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ."

At last he was out of the wilderness, a warm glow broke over him. It came easier now, and soon he was reading earnestly.

"And thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins."

As soon as he began to read about Mary, the little woman of the house had become interested, but when he read about Jesus saving His people from their sins, she began to sob. "Oh," she said, "that's what I need. I need Jesus to save me from my sins."

The young man invited her to the Sabbath morning Bible reading. He had a word of prayer in that home; then on his way he went.

And thus from home to home and from family to family he went reading the Holy Scriptures.

On Sabbath morning he opened the little church, and waited to see what would happen. "My Word builds," still thundered in his heart. And surely enough, soon they began to come. Up the street, down the hill, around the corner, in twos and threes, till there was a goodly congregation. And when they all got there, he opened the Holy Scriptures and read. It was all he knew how to do, but he did it with all his heart and soul and strength.

The next Sabbath they came, and the next and the next. They kept on coming and then after about two and a half months the conference workers came to that little town hoping to find one or two believers whom they

could reorganize into a church.

But what was their amazement to find this young soldier, with forty-one people keeping the Sabbath and waiting for baptism!

Don't you worry one minute about the work in Poland, dear friends. They will do the work.

But surely God will hold you and me responsible if we do not help them to educate and qualify their workers, as they are begging us to do this quarter.

## SABBATH, SEPTEMBER 18 Our Young People in Poland

G. A. LINDSAY

[President, Northern European Division]

Our young people and juniors in Poland love the Advent message, and they remain true to its principles in spite of the spirit of the world and bitter persecution. They are also faithful witnesses for Jesus Christ and the Advent message wherever they are.

Recently I attended an annual meeting in the South Polish Conference. I happened to remember some young people and juniors, whom I had met in a certain little church in that conference about fifteen years before, and now I thought that I would check up on them and see how they had fared during these awful years of war and occupation. As I began my inquiry about them, I learned that of all the eleven charter members of the Missionary Volunteer society that was organized in that little church shortly before my visit there, eight were still faithful to the truth and lived in that same conference. One had not returned since he was taken prisoner of war, and

only two had been overcome by the temptations of the world.

The young people's department had not been able to function during the war, but the young people had held together and encouraged one another to be faithful and to press onward toward their goal without any conference help. They were all married now, and on the Sabbath afternoon during the conference, through the initiative of one of these former young people, we had a little reunion with all those who were attending the conference. Counting their children who were also present, we were now a group of nineteen. How wonderful it was to see these happy Christian families that have emerged out of the little group of young people in that little country church.

When they could begin to print literature again in Poland there was great joy in the hearts of the old colporteurs. They love the literature ministry and they were so eager to go out again with the Advent message to the people. But in addition to these, many new recruits are also enlisting for service, and they also are meeting with good success.

A boy, fourteen years of age, living in a large industrial city in central Poland where he attends high school, goes out with our literature on Sundays and in the afternoons. He handles mostly our monthly magazine, *Signs of the Times*. A refined lady, the wife of a leading official in the city, was attracted by this clean young boy and his polite manners as he came to her house month after month. She asked him one day what church he belonged to, and he replied that he was a Seventh-day Adventist. Then she wanted

to know if his minister would pay her a visit. The boy promised to arrange that for her.

A few days later, when our minister called on this lady, she said almost at once, "I was so impressed by the bright and refined boy who came to my door several times. I felt that he had a message for me, and if your church can bring up boys like that, I wish you great success here in Poland." Then she went on and told our minister her own sad experience. She said, "I was raised a Catholic, but now I am an Atheist. Maybe I can renew my faith in God. I long for that, and I will attend your services and read more of your literature." This lady comes faithfully to Sabbath school and our church services now, and she will surely join the Advent people soon.

Another good Adventist family lives in a small town not far from Warsaw. They are highly respected by all. Even the Catholic priest admires them. They have a little daughter attending the public school in this place, and she has to attend the religious instruction along with the other children, even though it is Catholic. It is compulsory for all. One day the priest came in for an inspection. He wanted to know what the children had learned. He asked how many knew the Ten Commandments by heart. Only one hand was raised, and that was the hand of the little Adventist girl. He asked again and with the same result. Then he asked her to give the Ten Commandments. She had hardly begun before there were protests from the other children. They said almost in chorus, "She does not say them right." Then the priest replied calmly, "Don't trouble her. She



does not read them from the Catechism but from the Bible, and that is all right too. There they are much longer, and still she knows them. You ought to know your Catechism as well as this little Adventist girl knows the Bible." The teacher, although a devout Catholic, was so proud of the girl that she told this little experience to her mother.

On my first visit to Poland after the war, I visited the home of one of our faithful church members. I had been in this home several times before the war, and knew them quite well. It was on Sabbath afternoon and there were several others present. In the course of our conversation I asked the wife of the home where her younger sister, whom I had met a few years ago, was. I was so surprised and also embarrassed when she pointed to one in the room and said, "There she is. Do you not recognize her?" No, I didn't recognize her. I had recognized everyone else that I had known before. She was so old. She seemed to be 50 or perhaps 55 years old, instead of about 35. Why had she aged so fast? When I asked her, she told me a sad story. She was one of those many thousands of innocent victims, who had suffered inhuman ill-treatment and torture in one of the terrible concentration camps, whose very name, when we hear it mentioned, sends horror and consternation to our hearts. She was fortunate to be still alive when V E day dawned in Europe, and she was soon released. I shall not make mention of any of her sufferings in the prison camp. She wants to forgive and forget, and we should also forget. There were no ill feelings in her heart toward her tormentors. She seemed to radiate

something of the love of Christ on the cross, when He prayed for those who persecuted Him. But there was one thing that she said, which is worth repeating again and again. She said, "It was my faith in Jesus and in the blessed hope that gave me physical and spiritual strength to hold out and live. I just knew that my Saviour was ever present with me in the camp, and He shared it all with me. That was why I didn't mind the torture as much as many did. Many cursed and swore and many took their lives because they had no faith and no hope."

During the many months in that prison camp our sister was able to pray with many, and speak words of comfort to her comrades. Some learned to pray and some, who were also released, later looked up the Adventists, and there are a few who have already accepted the Advent message. Eternity alone will reveal what this sister and many other Adventists who were faithful and true in their tribulation have accomplished for God in the salvation of precious souls.

Pray for the work in Poland and for our youth there. Plan also to give a liberal offering on the thirteenth Sabbath that there may be a large overflow for the educational work in this needy field.

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## SABBATH, SEPTEMBER 25

### The Lord Provides

E. RYE ANDERSEN

[Director of Seventh-day Adventist Relief for Poland]

For some time Brother Niedoba, Mrs. Andersen, and I have been busy seeking and finding many of our scattered believers in the Mazurian Province of Eastern Poland. Many of these dear fellow-

believers have had no connection with our organization since the Russian armies invaded Poland, and many believe they are the only Adventists left in the country.

One cloudy, cold January morning we started off in our jeep on one of our errands of mercy. The temperature was 23 degrees centigrade below zero, (9 degrees below zero F.) and it looked very much like snow before evening. We had trouble starting the jeep; the watery synthetic petrol was freezing in the pipes. After an hour's work we got started and were soon traveling through a very thinly populated district. After some hours of searching we found the leader of a small group. He was of course very glad to see us and in a short time we met with some of the believers who were living near by. Most of them live in ruined houses and each family has only one room, or perhaps only part of a room at their disposal. Food was very scarce, and they were truly thankful for the food and clothing we brought them. After reading the Word of God and having a season of prayer, we left these dear people for our next destination.

We were told that an old brother and his family should be found living right on the Russian border. No one had heard from them for over eighteen months and our brethren were anxious to know what had happened to them. Nobody knew exactly where they lived, and the best information we could get was that eighteen months previously our brother and sister were at their little farm, located about ten miles from the village Z—. We decided to seek them at once as it was very uncertain that the jeep could go through the snow if the storm broke. We all prayed that the Lord would hold back the fury of the elements until our work was finished for the day. After several hours traveling over narrow and bad roads, always in danger of running into mine fields, we almost gave up hope. It was quite dark and it was snowing heavily. No one in the scattered villages knew our brother, and we could get no information from anyone. Stopping at the cross roads, we talked the matter over, and almost decided to turn back. In the dark we could easily by mistake cross the border into Russia, and that would be very unpleasant indeed. We had just decided to have one more try, and then if not successful return home. But a woman came along. To our great joy this woman knew our brother, and she offered to guide us if we would take her along in the car. So off we went, jeep and trailer plowing through the snow that was now getting deep. After a four-mile drive across fields and along narrow tracks, we at last found our goal.

The little family was dumb with amazement when we came out of the dark and the snow, and introduced ourselves. After three years of separation, without personal contact, without Sabbath school lessons and church papers, they could hardly believe their own eyes and ears. Soon we

were seated in the kitchen enjoying a hearty meal of plain black bread and pea coffee.

Our brother told us some of their experiences during the war. Battles raged all around them, and everything was utterly destroyed, but God had wonderfully protected and cared for them. The German army retreated and left only destruction, but by the mercy of God the little farmhouse was spared. The military transports dumped vast amounts of grain in the fields, but as there was no one to care for it, the rats and the birds soon devoured and spoiled it all. The Russian army advanced and this time all the cattle still living vanished from the face of the earth. Still God provided, so they suffered no actual starvation even if they only had a little rye and a few potatoes. In the summer of 1946 a very severe drought damaged all the crops, and that which the drought left, hordes of mice devoured before the harvest time. But even when the future looked black and without hope, they did not lose faith or courage. Firmly they trusted in their heavenly Father to fulfill His promises.

One day our brother saw great flocks of birds hovering over a field a short distance away. He was curious and went over to investigate, and there he saw the answer to their earnest prayers—a ripe rye field. He knew that no one had plowed or sown, so it could only have been the birds which had carried the seed from the military dumps to this field, and only God had been able to protect it from the hungry mice. Now he could reap, and he had soon gathered 800 pounds of rye—enough to last through the winter. It does one good to see the faith of our brethren and sisters and to realize that when we trust God He always fulfills His promises.

We left the remainder of our clothes, blankets, and food parcels with these dear people and after the evening prayers, we commenced our return journey. It was almost midnight, the snow was thickening, and it was blowing hard from the east, but our mission for the day was completed and though weary in body, our hearts were rejoicing, for we had new witness that the days of miracles were not yet past.

## A Word For Poland

F. D. NICHOL

[Editor of the *Review and Herald*]

Our Polish brethren are far too modest in telling of the indescribable conditions under which they are laboring. I visited them last year, and I saw their conditions with my own eyes. Let me speak a word for them today.

I arrived by plane in Warsaw, the very heart of Poland, and you can hardly imagine the "relief" it was to me in that strange land, in the midst of people speaking a strange language to see a jeep



parked near by, with the words in bold letters on the front "S. D. A. RELIEF." In a moment I was shaking hands with our relief worker, Brother Rye Andersen.

I wish you could have been with us as we drove through Warsaw to the small meeting place where all of our workers in the Polish Union Conference were gathered for their union meeting. The ride was anything but comfortable. As you know, jeeps are built for durability and not for comfort, and the roads were full of ruts and uneven cobblestones. I thought Berlin was almost a synonym of desolation, but it was outdone by Warsaw. Here the destruction was nearly complete. An unscathed building was an exception, and if you looked closely at such a structure, you would see it was pockmarked with bullet-holes. One section a half mile square, where many thousands of Jews lived, was only a series of low hillocks of broken brick! We rode on, and I had to keep on reminding myself that this was not a bad dream, but a reality.

Do you want to know what Warsaw actually looked like? Turn to a picture in one of our books that shows the earth during the millennium, and you will have it. The one difference is that during the millennium only Satan and his angels will stalk amid the ruins, whereas in these bombed cities, pathetic children of Adam picked their way through wreckage to some hovel. I went down into some of the dark basements. In one tiny room an old couple were living, and he was a war cripple. In a near-by dark hole lived a widow and her two-year-old baby! How tenacious of life are human beings!

A stray dog scurried out of our way. "We're beginning to see dogs again in Warsaw," my driver remarked. "What happened to them?" I inquired. "Probably eaten," was the laconic explanation.

Quite suddenly, the monotony of destruction was broken by one street where the buildings were almost intact for several blocks! In one of these buildings was located the chapel where for years our church in Warsaw has met. Though we do not own the land, we at least have a place to worship.

We were in time for the evening meeting, and I could only marvel at the faith and the courage of our dear brethren as they faced their stupendous problems. After the evening service, I noticed the brethren folding up the chairs, and stacking them to one side.

"What is this for?" I inquired.

"In a moment you will see," replied Elder Lindsay.

And I did see! I saw those workers unrolling their blankets, and lying down on the hard floor to sleep, and I cried, "No! No! Why must this be? Are there no hotels?"

"There are a few hotels left," replied Brother Lindsay. "but it is impossible to find rooms for so many, and the brethren are so happy to attend this meeting that they do not mind sleeping on the floor."

"Then I shall sleep on the floor with

them," I said. "No! No! They would not permit that. With great trouble and after great difficulty, they have found a room in one of the hotels where you will be comfortable. To please them you must go and sleep there," he replied.

I went, but my heart was troubled. I was embarrassed with, and ashamed of, our American softness and comfort, and sleep did not come easily.

Isn't this time of destruction exactly what Adventists have predicted? Haven't we the very message that can give hope amid this chaos? And what are we doing to bring to men that message as persuasively and as fervently as we should? Strong and subtle forces are at work in many lands today to capture the minds of bewildered people in behalf of some earthly program for creating an ideal world. If ever we bestirred ourselves for God, we ought to do it now.

## The Cry of Finland

W. HOMER TEESDALE

[President, Home Study Institute]

In the city of Helsinki stands a monument. It is a man of bronze standing on the ruins of his boat. Hungry waves leap through the shattered deck while his wife, despairing yet hoping, clings to his knees. At his side stands his son of twelve years looking confidently into the father's face. A little girl of three years rests safely in her father's left arm. His muscular right arm raised above his head bears a fluttering signal of distress. His glittering eyes search the horizon for help. His lips are shaped into a desperate, commanding cry for help. Unless someone comes quickly, all will be lost. That bronze group accurately presents the situation for many of our own families in Finland today. They need help now.

## A Drill for Children

GRACE STONES

Have seven children line up on the platform, each carrying a poster which displays the name of a country in Northern Europe. Either the young age group in the primary, or the older group in the kindergarten will be the most appropriate ages.

**FIRST CHILD**, holding poster for Greenland:

"From Greenland's icy mountains,  
You know the old refrain,  
They call us to deliver  
Their land from error's chain."

**SECOND CHILD**, holding poster for Iceland:

Up north in far off Iceland,  
The children need a school,  
So let us share our blessings,  
And live the golden rule.

**THIRD CHILD**, holding poster for the Faroes Islands:

Perhaps you have forgotten  
These islands far away,  
Just how have you been planning  
For giving gifts today?

**FOURTH CHILD**, holding poster for Finland:

Our training school in Finland  
Is now too small we hear;  
Let's build a new addition,  
And bring our workers cheer.

**FIFTH CHILD**, holding poster for Norway, Sweden, and Denmark:

In Norway, Sweden, Denmark,  
The truth must go to all;  
Wherever help is needed  
Let's answer every call.

**SIXTH CHILD**, holding poster for Poland:

We lost our school in Poland  
While war was raging there,  
We now must re-establish  
Our work with gifts and prayer.

**SEVENTH CHILD**, holding poster for Netherlands:

The Netherlands are calling;  
For training schools they plead.  
May everyone give freely,  
And help supply their need.

**ALL** bow their heads and repeat this prayer together:

Our Father up in heaven,  
Bless all these lands today;  
And may our gifts of money  
Help save some souls, we pray.

## The Laplanders

GRACE STONES

Up above the Arctic circle,  
In the land of midnight sun;  
Where the Lapland people wander,  
Many souls must still be won.

There the children ride the reindeer,  
Follow too, as far they roam,  
Where wild buttercups are growing  
Pitch their tents, and call it home.

East to west—and north they travel,  
Ever searching grazing ground;  
Snow and ice may threaten hunger,  
Where no growing plants are found.

Over northern fields of Sweden,  
Other Arctic nations too,  
These Nomadic tribes are drifting;  
Is there something we can do?

Why not give a little extra,  
On this thirteenth Sabbath day?  
It will help to spread the gospel  
In these countries far away.

## FOR THE CHILDREN

### They Called Him a Coward

ONNI MAATANEN

[Teacher at Toivonlinna Mission School]

In 1879, Sister White wrote, "Many persons scattered all through Northern Europe were presented to me as being ready to accept the light of truth."—*Evangelism*, p. 423. This prophecy has proved to be true also with regard to Finland. Among those "many persons" have been a group of young men and women who have been true to the Lord under difficult circumstances.

During the years of war the young people often had to go through many trying experiences. It was then made manifest how steadfast they were in the present truth. And thanks be to God most of them stood the test. The young people of Finland generally overcame the temptation of being heroes in the eyes of the world. But they were heroes in the sight of the Lord, for they were often called cowards, and it takes a real hero to stand being called a coward for Christ's sake. Oh, how thankful we are that our young people have not allowed nationalization to poison their minds. They have been happy even under difficulties.

One of my former students from Toivonlinna Mission School has written to me about his experiences during the war. He was sentenced to one year's imprisonment because of the Sabbath and his non-combatant principles. In passing, it must be admitted that the authorities in Finland were generally quite obliging and humane toward the non-combatants. But this brother was sentenced anyway. He had, however, to wait for a while before the sentence was executed, so he



prepared himself for the prison physically by fasting now and then, for he knew that food was scarce there. He kept up his courage by reading God's word and by praying and witnessing of the truth to others. And he was so calm and happy when he was brought to the prison, and the prison doors were closed behind him, that he says he felt as if he were entering into heaven. When his name was written in the big prison book, he felt as if his name were being written in the book of heaven.

In prison, however, he came into trouble concerning the Sabbath, and then he knew he was not in heaven yet. He was beaten, and was not given sufficient clothing in the cold of the winter. But when he stood firm and was faithful, before long the circumstances were changed, and he became a trustee in the prison. The Lord helped him as He helped Joseph of old.

During the war, and afterwards as well, the young Finnish sisters have been faithful and zealous evangelists and have won hundreds of souls for the truth. The words as found in the Revised Version for Ps. 68:11 read: "The Lord giveth the word: The women that publish the tidings are a great host." This has proved to be true also in Finland.

If you could see the fine group of young people we have in Finland, you would think of the words of Sister White, "With such an army of workers as our youth, *rightly trained*, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come, —the end of suffering and sorrow and sin!"—*Messages to Young People*, p.

196. But at the time of this writing, we cannot here in Finland give all the young people who want it, the opportunity to prepare for the Lord's work in our own school. Our school is altogether too small as Brother Karstrom, the principal of the school, relates in another reading. But we believe that the school building already begun will be completed. All our brethren and sisters in the whole world, I am sure, will help us here in Finland.

### She Gave Her Life for Children

ERKKI LUUKKO

[Sabbath School Secretary, East Nordic Union]

A train started its long journey into the country from the railway station of Helsinki, the capital of Finland. The train was crowded with small children. The hometown had become a dangerous place for them. Planes with heavy bombs had spread fear, tears, and death over their homes. Fathers and mothers were anxious to get their dear boys and girls away from the danger zone.

Nurses had taken the place of parents on the train. Fathers and mothers were standing on the platform waving goodbye to their little ones. Tears were running from their eyes while the train slowly increased the distance.

Several hours passed. Looking out of the windows at the beautiful hills and lakes helped them not to be homesick for a while. But suddenly a terrible crash was heard, and at once the whole train was in confusion. A collision had taken place. The fearfulness of the situation was indescribable. The horror of the accident was increased by fire which quickly spread from one coach to

another. A nurse in one burning coach succeeded in clearing a way of escape for herself. Out she came from sure death. She stood at the side of the burning and damaged coach a short time listening to the cries and groans of the children who were inside. She had rescued herself, but the children under her care were in danger of the flames. In a very short second her decision was made. She forced her way back into the burning car and many boys and girls were saved by her efforts. But the fire did not hesitate in its work. Nearer and nearer it came to the brave nurse who was frantically passing the children out of a broken window to safety. At last its fiery tongues licked at her face, her hands, and her clothes, and she perished in the flames. She gave her life for the children.

Dear children, Jesus came to this world in order to save us. But in saving us, He Himself died on the cross of Calvary. He gave His life for us all, like this good nurse gave her life for many boys and girls. Jesus will soon come again. Then, says the Bible, the world will burn. There are many, many boys and girls who do not know Jesus at all. Will you not help us tell them that Jesus can and will save them from the world which soon shall perish, by giving a good offering today? In the kingdom of God there might be some whom you have guided from death to life in this way. Will that not be wonderful?

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**"Those whom God employs as His messengers are not to feel that His work is dependent upon them. Finite beings are not left to carry this burden of responsibility."—*The Mount of Blessing*, p. 175.**

## **"I Hope That Jesus Will Not Come at Night!"**

ARVO ARASOLA

[President, West Finland Conference]

Eee—EEE—eee—EEE—eee—The sirens are sounding an alarm. People are running to the bomb-proof shelters. Listen! The planes are coming—r-r-r-r-r-r-r-r-r-r. Now they are over the city! Whee!—whee!—whee! The bombs are falling! Hold your breath! Crash! Crash!

This was like daily bread for a certain city on the Gulf of Finland during the war, where little Arja, a small girl, 6 years of age, had her home. Her parents were Adventists. There were sometimes 15 to 20 alarms a day. Many times they had to run in the darkness of the night to find some shelter during the air raids. But because there were no real bomb shelters in their part of the city, Arja's parents had to stay home during the air raids and find their shelter in God. Every evening little Arja prayed to Jesus, the children's best Friend, to protect their home during the night. Then she slumbered in peace. Air raids came during the night. Bombs exploded. Anti-aircraft guns shot their shells into the air, but little Arja slept in peace. In the morning she would hear her parents telling about the nightly air raids, the long fingers of flame made by the tracer bullets of the anti-aircraft guns, and the brightness of the explosions. But Arja never saw a thing.

One evening her mother told about the coming of Jesus. She told about His glory, and the brightness of the angels who would accompany Him. It was a wonderful story for Arja. Jesus would put an end to all wars and sufferings and take all good children to heaven. But



what do you think little Arja said when she heard about the coming of Jesus? In her little heart there was a longing for that wonderful event, but there was also a fear that she might not see Him, and she said, "Oh, I hope that Jesus will not come at night!" Her mother asked, "Why so, my darling?" "I am afraid that I will not wake up, because I don't wake up for the air raids either. So I hope that Jesus will come in the daytime, so that I can see it all!" But the mother told Arja that when Jesus comes, even the dead shall awake and hear His dear voice. So little Arja was quite happy and contented.

Dear little friends, are you prepared to meet Jesus? Do you hope to be with the saved ones that day? Give your heart to Jesus today!

## Wonderful Protection

T. SELJAVARA

[President, East Finland Conference]

During the winter of 1944 there was a terrible night in Helsinki, the capital of Finland. More than 600 bombers came time and time again to bomb the city. I was just on my way to a revival meeting where I was to preach that Sunday night at 7 o'clock. My wife had gone before me to have choir practice. Our children, Sinkka and Seppo, remained alone at home on the fifth floor of the building.

At a quarter of seven we heard a deafening alarm of air raid sirens. People ran everywhere seeking air raid shelters. Scarcely had the first alarm sounded when the bombs began to fall in the city, and the anti-aircraft guns began to thunder. Houses fell in flames.

The buildings and the ground shook all over the city, and a great many windows for miles around were broken, with glass falling into the streets. A large number of both children and adults were wounded and many died. Death and destruction visited many homes that evening.

I did not know where my wife was, nor did she know where I was, but we both were greatly worried about our children. We did not know where they were. Where were our children? Frantically I ran back home, and where do you think I found them? They had been in our bathroom—praying. At the same time a sister was also praying in the house next to ours. She was a nurse and was keeping a nursery, and she was worried for the sixty children under her care, and while they were all praying a 700 pound bomb fell in the yard of the nursery *BUT did not explode!* If it had exploded it certainly would have killed both of our children as well as those in the nursery. God heard the prayers of that nurse and of our children. God is indeed a prayer-hearing God, whose eyes always follow His children and whose ears are open to their prayers.

For more stories from Northern Europe, see "Pioneers and Builders" and "Sons of the North," by L. H. Christian; "Our Story of Missions" and "Miracles of Modern Missions," by W. A. Spicer; "Pioneer Stories," page 175, by A. W. Spalding.

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## NORTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION

	Population	Churches	Members
EAST NORDIC UNION CONF.	10,600,000	103	6,826
WEST NORDIC UNION CONF.	6,700,000	145	7,701
NETHERLAND UNION CONF.	10,000,000	23	1,903
POLISH UNION CONF.	25,000,000	117	2,282
ICELAND MISSION	141,617	8	390
DIVISION TOTALS	53,000,000	406	19,102