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# Your Family Altar

## A Light



By A. F. TARR

TO THOSE of us who were born into the Advent message, some of childhood's most precious memories surround the family altar. There it was that morning and evening we would gather in the drawing room—or sometimes on cold, wintry nights, in the large, old-fashioned kitchen—to read from the good old Book and to ask for God's guidance and blessing on our home.

On Friday evenings it was with unusual anticipation that we gathered together. Always with fresh, clean Sabbath clothes, with baths taken, shoes polished, and with the aroma of the best supper of the week streaming from the kitchen, we would meet for a special blessing. The singing of Sabbath hymns ushered in its sacred hours. The reciting of favourite Bible verses would often take the place of the Scripture reading, and every member, beginning with the eldest and ending with the youngest, would offer his own petition to the throne of grace. They were simple prayers, those childhood prayers of ours, but so very intimate and full of implicit faith. They covered not only our own singular needs, but those of our relatives and friends and others who touched our daily lives, not even excluding our pets. They always concluded with the finishing of the work in all the world and being ready to meet Jesus when He comes.

Those occasions drew the family very close together, and perhaps more than any other single influence, shielded us growing children from the subtle appeal of worldly interests and friends.

But not all churchmembers were privileged in youth to surround a family altar. Many have joined the Advent family in their later years. To them this new-found institution has brought daily into their very homes the blessings they formerly sought weekly in their Sunday worship. It has brought God much nearer than He could ever have been in church. It has made Him in very truth the unseen Guest of the family, the One to whom they can go in every time of need.

It is in this daily contact with God that the spiritual strength of the family is found. And surely we have come to a day when advantage should be taken of every sanctifying influence that God has offered. The demands of the world seem so much more insistent and subtle than they used to be. And yet in this very time when prayer is so greatly needed it is so easy for everything else to be given priority, and for prayer to be the first to suffer neglect.

To those who face this climactic hour, God's gracious invitation comes ringing down the ages: "Come, My people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the Lord cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity." Isa. 26:20.

In these days when God's indignation against the mounting tide of evil is about to be unleashed, how imperative it is that the blessing of the family altar be felt in the homes of all His people and that they share the presence of One who "shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers" "before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord." Mal. 4:6, 5.

From the pen of the Lord's servant we read: "Like the patriarchs of old, those who profess to love God should erect an altar to the Lord wherever they pitch their tent. If ever there was a time when every house should be a house of prayer, it is now. . . . From every Christian home a holy light should shine forth."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 144.

Brethren and sisters, ought there not to be such a light shining in every Seventh-day Adventist home in the Northern European Division? If it has grown dim in your own home, or if perchance it has never been lighted, determine to let it shine on Family Altar Day, January 2nd, and allow its sanctifying influence from that day on to flood the lives of all who worship there.

## CONTINUITY OF THE ADVENT MOVEMENT

(A few years ago, an anxious mother wrote to the late Elder Spicer, requesting him to write to her son, who, at the time, was disconnecting from one of the deceptive offshoot organizations. We feel sure our believers will appreciate reading this letter of courage and assurance for the triumph of the remnant church from one whose long life of service was devoted to teaching and defending the Advent message.—W. E. READ.)

DEAR BROTHER,

Your mother asks me to send you a word about this Advent movement of prophecy. I am glad to respond, though she tells me you are in touch with our church in Denver and with Elder M. E. Kern of the General Conference office here. You are in good contact with our work, and the Lord has surely been leading you and your wife. That is the important thing. He will guide you by His Word. I write gladly, giving my viewpoint. But I hope you will hold to your contacts in Denver and with Elder Kern. I retired six years ago at seventy-five and cannot keep up correspondence these days. Elder Kern is having this letter copied, which will make it better for you.

I like to put the facts of this Advent movement in this way:

In Revelation fourteen the prophet John saw the coming of the judgment hour in heaven in 1844. He saw a people rise keeping the commandments of God. He saw them go to every nation and tongue preaching the judgment-hour message. And next thing in Revelation 15:1-4, he saw this same movement that rose in 1844 end on the sea of glass in the city of God. There is no change, no division, no new organization. The movement that rose in 1844 is the one that the prophecy pictures on the sea of glass.

In *Early Writings* (pages 13-20) the Spirit of prophecy gave Mrs. White the same view in 1844. She saw the movement rise in the autumn of 1844. She saw it travel on until the same movement entered the city of God. There is no separation or divergence. The Lord purified the movement by shaking out elements not belonging to it, not by leading a purer or better movement out of this one.

That is the picture both in the Bible and in the Spirit of prophecy of the Advent movement.

That is how it was in the Exodus movement, which is a type of the Advent movement. (1 Cor. 10:11.) The same movement that came out of Egypt went into Canaan.

Some started new reforms and tried to take over leadership. They perished, and the movement went through.

We are in a movement that began in 1844, at the right time. It will go through, and by God's help we must hold to it until it goes into the city.

In 1905 Mrs. White wrote to us:

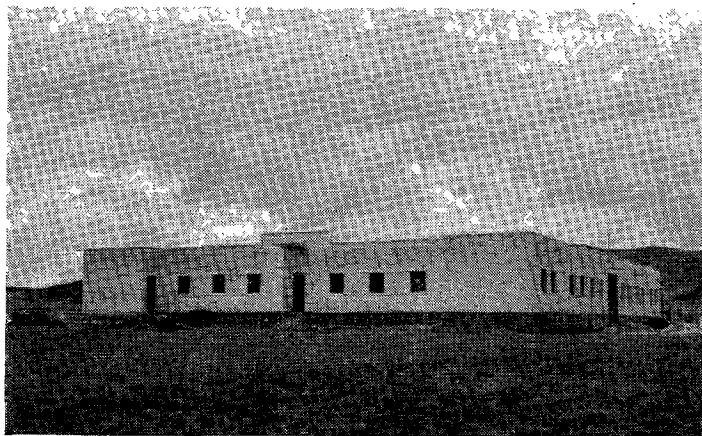
"Those who know the way-marks that have pointed out the right path . . . are not to permit the banner of the third angel to be taken from their hand. . . . We

cannot now step off the foundation that God has established. We cannot now enter into any new organization; for this would mean apostasy from the truth."—Ms., 129, 1905.

So, dear brother and sister, let us push on in the highway of the Advent pathway that we see in prophecy running straight through from 1844 to the city.

God bless and care for you both.

Your brother,  
W. A. SPICER.



## A New School in Asmara, Ethiopia

By J. H. Wollan

"THE Executive Committee of the Seventh-day Adventist Mission, Eritrea, requests the pleasure of the company of:

.....  
at the inauguration of the new school building in connection with the commencement of the current school year, on Wednesday, September 23, 1953, at 10 a.m. at the mission compound in Gaggiert, Asmara."

THE above invitation was sent out to some three hundred people of Asmara. Several weeks of preparation were needed to work out the programme to the best advantage. We thought that by inviting some of the Government officials, we would have a real chance to let them see what we were doing in Eritrea.

At 10 a.m. sharp, the first car rolled up at the main entrance to the new school building. It was the acting Chief Executive of the Eritrea Government and his assistants. Then three cars from the Imperial Palace arrived with His Excellency Ato Asfah Wolde Mikael, His Imperial Majesty's vice-representative to Eritrea, and his secretaries. Then followed representatives from the British, American,

Italian, and French Consulates, and many business people from the town, and of course many natives. The ceremony took place in the courtyard of the school. On either side of the platform were placed chairs and flags. More than 150 Ethiopian and Eritrean flags were put up around the building.

Pastor H. E. Davis welcomed the guests and introduced the speakers. The acting Chief Executive from the Eritrea Government was the first speaker. After having expressed his pleasure at being present, he addressed the students and parents as follows: "Dear Students and Parents: The Seventh-day Adventist Mission is doing a wonderful work to help us build a strong nation. In this school the children and young people have a good chance of becoming better citizens. It is wise to make use of every opportunity to obtain a good education. Do not always look toward the Government for an office job. Learn how to cultivate the fields and how to work with your hands. I know that this mission school

will help you to learn to love these things. Our country needs men and women who are not afraid to work. On behalf of the Eritrea Government I wish the leaders and teachers as well as the students a very successful school year."

Then Pastor S. A. Broberg, Ethiopian Union superintendent, gave the following address: "Your Excellencies and distinguished guests: It is a happy privilege to be with you today. I deeply appreciate your invitation on this important and historic occasion. I have been asked why the mission is willing to spend such a large sum in building such a school when the Government has good schools. The reason is that we feel it our duty and our happy privilege to help educate the young people that they may be ornaments to their country and useful to the public wealth.

"Through the education we are giving the students, we aim at the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. In other words, we aim to train the head, the hand, and the heart.

"Theoretical or book knowledge is not enough. We want to see the students trained in a practical way. They must also learn the dignity and joy of labouring with their hands. Not all students, having finished their education, can go into office work. We need young people who know how to do practical work, that they may be successful craftsmen. That will result in good homes, and good homes are the foundation of a strong and progressive nation. It is, however, not enough to train the head and the hand. We must also train the heart. We must learn to love and obey the Government. Love should be the undercurrent of all that we do and say. It is true what the children sing, 'Tis love that makes us happy, 'tis love that smooths the way, it helps us mind, it makes us kind to others every day.'

"It is true that a great deal of expense has been involved in the building of this school, but it has not been too great. Every parent desires to see his children develop a good character, that they may grow up to become true and dependable. Any sacrifice to that end is not too great. The results from our schools are the joy and reward to us as missionaries. Wherever we go, both in Eritrea and Ethiopia, we meet former students from our schools. We see them carrying great responsibilities both in the Eritrean and the Ethiopian Governments, and becoming successful, practical workers. May God in a special way bless the students and the teachers in this school."

The contractor then handed over to Pastor J. H. Wollan the keys of the school, thanking us for the way we had treated him. He also expressed his best wishes for a good school year.

His Excellency, the Imperial Majesty's vice-representative to Eritrea, was the last speaker. He reminded all of the fact that the Seventh-day Adventist Mission was operating schools and hospitals all over the world. Wherever and whenever needed, the Adventists were always willing to help. This was highly appreciated both in this country and in Ethiopia.

After the national anthem was played, the programme was brought to an end by an inspection of the building. Many words of real appreciation for the building were uttered by all present.

The building contains eight classrooms, two offices, a library, a bookshop where students can buy all the school material they need, a large dining-room, a kitchen and storerooms, three dormitories, an infirmary, and bath and toilets.

It is almost incredible that we have such a fine building in this place. Almost two hundred students are now receiving their education at this new school. We are sorry that because of lack of money we were not able to open the boarding school this year. But we hope to be able to take sixty boarding students from next year.

All the teachers count it a real privilege to teach in this new school. I know that both time and money spent on the young people of Eritrea are well spent. We shall see wonderful results if we just follow the blue-print given us by Sister White. We need fresh blood in our churches. The schools in this country have been a great help to our mission work. A large percentage of our new converts come from our schools.

Part of the mission land is now under special cultivation. Plans are also in hand to open a crate-making shop. A firm in town is willing to buy up to 2,000 fruit boxes from us each month. Here the students can work and earn enough for their school fees and books.

Five national and three foreign teachers are busy every day in teaching and directing the work of this new institution of ours. There are a thousand things to be taken care of in order to keep the wheels running smoothly. We are most happy to have Miss Sigrid Nilsen from Norway teaching six classes every day. She has a special gift, we feel, for teaching the young people and she has found a place in the hearts of both young and old. Besides the school work she is the secretary-treasurer

of the Eritrea Mission as well as having other duties. Pastor H. E. Davis is also teaching Bible in two classes. Both teachers and students send their best wishes and greetings to all who may read these lines.

We all believe that this new school will give added strength to our mission work in this needy field. Let me also express a hearty "thank you" to all our fellow believers in the homeland who are supporting the mission programme by their money and their prayers.

## FIRST-FRUITS OF ACCRA JAMES FORT PRISON EFFORT

By C. S. Okai, *Headmaster,  
S.D.A. School, Accra, Gold  
Coast, West Africa.*

Two years ago a branch Sabbath school was started among the inmates in the James Fort Prison in Accra. It began in a very small way. Voice of Prophecy students in the prison asked for a visitor to come and teach them about the doctrines of the Bible. This interest grew until a good number were attending the meetings, and then Brethren D. L. Chappell, D. N. Agboka, D. K. Amponsah, and R. E. Damson organized the branch Sabbath school.

Interest in these Sabbath afternoon meetings grew rapidly until more than 100 persons were attending regularly. Even some prisoners who were confined to their rooms were observed to be lying flat on the floor with their ears by the door in order to hear the music and the lesson study. Two of the prison Sabbath-school members were made the leader and the secretary. Each week the prison warden read and approved the minutes of the meeting.

After several meetings these Sabbath-school officers, C. H. Avio and D. A. D'Alphoncio and others asked to be enrolled in a hearers' (baptismal) class so that they might be taught the doctrines of the church and later be considered for baptism. This class was conducted in the prison on a weekday in addition to the Sabbath afternoon class.

Before being won to the hearers' class, Brother D'Alphoncio had sworn never to become a Christian again in his entire life. These were his reasons: He felt that he had been falsely accused and imprisoned

for three years of penal servitude, and his accusers swore by the Bible falsely as Christians and were allowed to go free. Henceforth, he determined never to see a black or white minister of the Gospel again. Nor did he want to hear anything of the Word of God as he had lost faith in God.

Hearing of this feeling on his part, the brethren by earnest prayer and pleading led him to accept a Bible, and gradually helped him to understand the love and patience of God as He seeks the repentance of sinners.

A wonderful transformation came over the life of D'Alphoncio. He soon was serving as the superintendent of the prison

branch Sabbath school. Later his sentence was reduced, and early in July of this year he was released from prison.

He was a suitable candidate for the baptismal class upon his release, and in late August was baptized into the fellowship of the Accra Advent church. He is now a worker in the new Advent Press, which is the West African Union Publishing House.

The story does not end here. Not long ago C. H. Avio, the other prisoner-officer of that branch Sabbath school, was baptized, even behind the prison walls. That branch Sabbath school goes on today, and more souls are being won in that penal place.

the women waxed so great at this juncture that at times the meeting was nearly broken up, for as each problem was presented they proceeded to talk it over and argue all points loudly in Ibo, all talking at the same time. The president, Mrs Ugwuala, Mrs. Brendel, the group counsellor, and the other officers sometimes despaired of restoring order in the meeting. At such times a familiar song was started and soon all seemed to forget their determined debating, order was restored, and the business went on. The next item on the programme was the presentation of a special subject, closely related to the entire plan of the women's work. I, as a guest speaker, presented several features of the Dorcas work, and Mrs. Brendel, who is also a nurse, then presented a "Health and Child Development" study, after which the meeting was brought to a close.

This was only a part of a mission-wide programme which had grown up through the years and was still developing along the lines of our West African Union's scheme of "Women's Welfare Work." In the East Nigerian field there were said to be fourteen such federations of women's groups. Nearly all the local churches have their society which meets once or twice each month. Small dues are collected and these are used in their local work.

About two years ago it was felt by some that the women's work in the churches could be greatly strengthened if certain women had a short course in "Leadership for Women's Work." Miss A. S. Nuka, the director of the girls' school at the Nigerian Training College, who has a keen interest in work for girls and women, called together a select group of women and spent several days training them for this work, giving them materials and ideas to be used in their local meetings. Since that time she has called these people back periodically for further instruction. The effective results of such purposeful training is being evidenced in the churches and in such large groups and gatherings as this one in which we had just participated.

I wish you could have witnessed them as they left the church, greeting each other with many handclasps, much bowing, and a long series of friendly expressions and inquiries.

Then they wended their way in two's and three's and in small groups into the bush and along the paths, to go to their separate places, some of which were as much as twelve and fifteen miles away. It touched my heart, but it cheered me greatly too, for these were East Nigeria's Seventh-day Adventist women in action.



## Women's Meeting in East Nigeria

By D. V. Cowin

OFF WE went in the school pick-up bumping over rough roads and through the bush to the little Advent church at Osusu. There were three of us in the front seat—Mrs. A. E. Brendel from the Nigerian Training College, Teacher Enwereji, also from the college, who was to act as our translator, and the writer. In the back of the car were the women, tightly packed together, who were going along to the quarterly meeting of the women's groups of the nineteen churches in the Ihie District of the East Nigerian Mission.

We arrived a little after the time we were scheduled to begin, to find the place deserted except for the president, vice-president, and the secretary of the group. When we inquired where the women were who were to attend the meeting, the

assuring answer was, "They will come!"

Sure enough, in true native fashion, the women began to come, some on cycles, and some on foot, just a few at a time, until more than 150 filled that little church to overflowing. There they were, a most colourful array, dressed in their carefully embroidered blouses and bright native cloths, topped off with cleverly arranged head cloths tied in a variety of designs to suit the individual.

This quarterly women's meeting followed a general programme pattern which was much like the following: First came a period of singing, in which purely native songs and some religious ones were used. It was a general friendly period. A devotional study followed, after which the business of the group was taken up and announcements made. The enthusiasm of

# Adventism Challenged not to Remain a Dead Letter

By David H. Hughes, *Station Director, Bassa, Liberia, West Africa*

NO DOUBT many were impressed when they read *The Listener*, a daily newspaper in Monrovia, Liberia, and saw the following caption: "Seventh-day Adventists Dedicate New Church Building, President Tubman Delivers Sermon."

I was an eyewitness to this unforgettable event and I am going to share with you the things I saw and heard. The time was four o'clock on Sabbath afternoon and a strange and wonderful group of personages were assembling in front of the new \$12,000 church building on Camp Johnson Road. One could see that this was no ordinary gathering. Men and women of high rank in society and in the fields of education, religion, politics, and government were pressing through the doors into the Lord's sanctuary. There was an atmosphere of anticipation everywhere, an ardent feeling of expectancy that the unusual was about to take place.

The service began with the opening of the main doors, the opening of the windows and interior doors, and was climaxed by the unveiling of the pulpit and chairs by Dr. John B. Falconer, head of the Baptist Convention in Liberia. There were doctors and bishops representing the Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, and other denominations. Indeed, there was an impressive array of men of the cloth sitting on the rostrum.

Elder P. E. Giddings, superintendent of the Konola Mission, and Mrs. Giddings, the director of the Konola Choral Group, were present. They had difficulty in getting from Konola to Monrovia. They had travelled in an open truck approximately sixty miles over almost impassable roads due to heavy rains, to render the beautiful selections that thrilled and quickened the heartbeats of the congregation.

The long-awaited moment came when William V. S. Tubman, president of the Independent Republic of Liberia, stood behind the new pulpit to preach. The President, who was a preacher before he became the president, slowly, distinctly, and solemnly made his introductory remarks. Then with great earnestness he made a statement that rocked and stunned this august assembly: "Seventh-day Adventists believe ardently, and correctly too, that this is the only Sabbath and that Sunday is not the Sabbath. We all realize

and recognize and endorse their doctrine insofar as their belief in the Sabbath is concerned." He further went on to say that there would never be peace among the nations through diplomacy or military might, but that peace will come through the church when Christ comes to establish His kingdom upon this earth.



*The new church building in Monrovia, Liberia.*

The President's opening remarks were a rebuke and a challenge to the Protestant world. His closing remarks, a rebuke and a challenge to the Seventh-day Adventist movement, were as follows: "But in this church, dedicated to the worship of God, may the laws of God and the doctrines of Seventh-day Adventists be enforced AND NOT REMAIN A DEAD LETTER."

Men of the world in all stations of life recognize the truthfulness of this eleventh hour message to the world, and feel that many of the believers have not proclaimed this message with the earnestness, perseverance, and enthusiasm that it is worthy of.

How many sincere, thinking men and women feel we are guilty of permitting Adventism to become a dead letter in our locality? The servant of the Lord writes:

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**"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart." Psalm 27:14.**

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"The Lord now calls upon Seventh-day Adventists in every locality to consecrate themselves to Him, and to do their best, according to their circumstances, to assist His work."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, page 132.

When Elder C. D. Henri, president of the Liberian Mission and pastor of the newly dedicated church, and the programme committee made plans for the opening of the new church, they calculated to shake the very foundations of Monrovia by not letting Adventism become a dead letter. "Those who belong to the higher ranks of society are to be sought out with tender affection and brotherly regard. . . . These should be the first to hear the call. To them the invitation must be given."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 230.

It was with these words in mind that the Programme Committee laboured energetically, with much faith and prayer, to accomplish God's will. Names of prominent persons were handed out to the committee members, Elder Henri receiving the President's name for visitation. When he interviewed the President, in spite of his very heavy programme, he accepted the invitation and even delayed his week-end visit to his farm to meet the appointment. Being in the rainy season the rains were very heavy, but the churchmembers prayed earnestly that the day might be fine. After one week of heavy rainfall the heavens refused to send forth rain beginning on Friday afternoon until the following Tuesday.

In response to what had been said and done, four very prominent people came forward to take up the offering, inviting the congregation to come forward and lay their offerings on the table in front of the pulpit. Mr. Dennis, secretary of the Treasury Department, in his appeal made this statement: "It is unorthodox for us to be here today [Sabbath], therefore let us give an unorthodox offering." The result of this appeal was an amount of \$600. The President then stepped up to the pulpit and said that the offering should be \$1,000, the goal that had been previously set. The congregation rallied, and with the President's very liberal offering, the total far exceeded \$1,000. This offering cleared the church completely of all debt.

Adventism is far from being a dead letter in Monrovia, Liberia. The proof of this statement has been given in the report above. This incredible event is indeed a challenge to Seventh-day Adventists throughout the world field to attempt great things for God.



## THRILLING DAYS OF EVANGELISM IN BIRMINGHAM

By Thomas J. Bradley

NOT so very far from the geographical centre of England is a group of cities numbering their inhabitants by the millions. There seems to be no ending nor beginning to the towns and boroughs, for you can just drive through mile after mile of thickly populated built-up areas. Chief in size among the important group of industrial cities is Birmingham, which is, in fact, the second largest city in England—London being the largest about a hundred miles away to the south-east.

The name of Birmingham indicates that in Saxon times the family (ING) of Berm (a man's name) made their HAM (home) there. This was probably in a clearing on the outskirts of the Forest of Arden—the largest of Britain's forests or royal hunting grounds. Birmingham is first officially mentioned in the Domesday Book, at which time, the Manor comprised 480 acres and was occupied by about fifty people, besides the entourage of the lord of the manor!

When William the Conqueror put his levies upon this land, he taxed it at about 5/- per hundred acres of arable land.

Birmingham boasts of many famous men whose names have been linked with some of the most outstanding scientific and industrial advances of the past three centuries, but it is no longer a tiny manor maintaining a few score inhabitants. Nearly two million people surge around the busy, throbbing centre of this prosperous mid-England city.

For some years now, the evangelism of this mass of people has been confined to work in the suburban areas, but the executive leadership of the North England Conference has been longing and planning for the time when a central campaign could be conducted. It seemed financially possible to launch such a campaign in the autumn of 1953, and so I was asked to associate with a strong group of evangelists and Bible instructors, in arranging this effort.

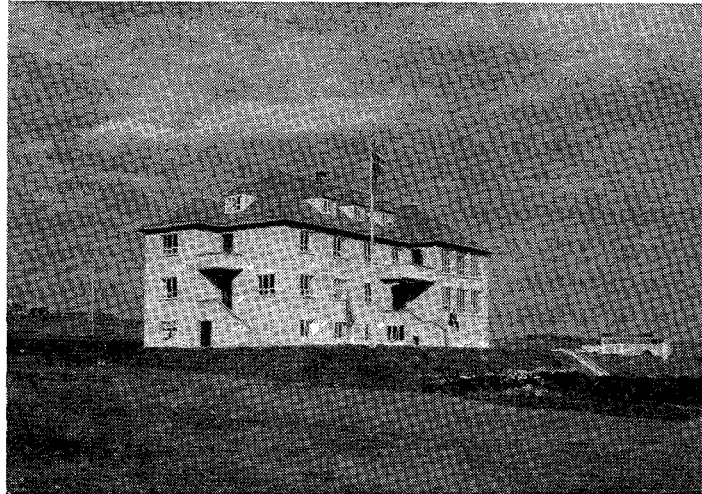
A splendid central theatre was obtained right on one of the busiest thoroughfares in the city, and for this we must express our thanks to a heavenly Father whose providences lead us better than we could plan. Strong, effective advertising was put out and we rejoiced to see at least 1,500 people comfortably filling the theatre on our opening night. We had been moving forward in faith and prayer, and though

much hard work is being infused into our united service, we join in our gratitude to God for His abundant blessing, which has maintained a large, interested audience through the weeks. Already over a thousand names form our challenging visiting list, and last night, November 8th, which was also our eighth meeting in the theatre, 1,250 people attended and the interest revealed was so encouraging.

The mid-week meetings are similarly cheering. Our central hall is packed to its capacity with nearly 300 in attendance, and here I would like to add my tribute to the helpful service of Dr. Huse, who is giving of his valuable time to present nightly his Radiant Health Talks. These are a feature indeed, and we believe that our final work will show greater strength as a result of the combining of a virile health programme with the preaching of the Word of God.

What greater joy can come to the worker's heart than the joy of leading men and women to the Christ of Calvary. If you could read the letters on my files, in which hearts, unburdened from their load of sin and despair, have told of their new-found joy, you would have some small idea of our joy as servants of the Lord, and the vital work which the Spirit of God is doing in and around Birmingham.

While it is true that some people have already decided for the truth of God for today, we now face the critical days when a fuller presentation of the message is upon us. Will you not join your prayers with ours, that Jesus may continue to be the magnetic centre and drawing power in every presentation? Remember, too, our loyal, hard-working band of evangelists and Bible instructors, as they diligently search for souls through winter's storms and snows.



*Our Junior College in Iceland. Pastor Julius Gudmundsson, principal, is aided by four teachers. There are thirty-three students.*

## A Spiritual Feast in Iceland

DURING the month of September the believers in Iceland gathered in the Advent church in Reykjavik for a great spiritual refreshing. Brethren G. D. King and Alf Karlman from the Division were present and broke the Bread of life to the people.

A large company of believers was present. It was good to see members from far-off places to the north, and from along the east coast of the country. A larger number than usual were present at this annual meeting. More and more do they seem to realize how important these gatherings are. One sister from the north coast came in by plane on Friday night and stayed for Sabbath and Sunday. Monday morning early she flew back. She has

seven small children, the youngest being but one year old, so she could not stay longer, but she felt that she had to come and receive the blessings of these meetings. Her husband is not a churchmember. Another sister who was present had recently accepted the message through the Bible Correspondence School. She asked to be put up in the conference building as she did not desire her relatives in the town to know of her presence until after the meetings. She said she did not want to be prevented from attending any of the services, so precious were they to her. We only regretted that the attendance from the comparatively large church on Westman Island was not larger, but they had expected our

visiting brethren to be with them the week-end following the annual meeting. This, however, was impossible because of the unfortunate weather conditions.

The Bible studies given by the brethren were greatly appreciated and there was a lively participation in the prayer and testimony seasons which followed the Bible studies. Free discussion also took place when the various branches of the work of the church and the best methods for the carrying on of this work were presented.

Every night Pastor King held a public meeting. The attendance was good and grew until, on the last evening, the spacious church building was packed with people who seemed to drink in every word of Brother King's timely message. The collection on that night realized Ikr. 1,600 or about £35.

After the close of the annual meetings, our people launched right into the Ingathering work, which they report is going more rapidly than ever before. The collectors found many times that the people would inquire about the public meetings that had recently been held in our church. They had noticed the advertisements in the papers and on the radio and had hoped to attend some of them had they continued.

As a result of these public meetings the conviction has grown strong among us that Reykjavik is at the present time a very promising field for public evangelism. Its population is rapidly growing. At present almost half of the population of the country—about 75,000 lives in Reykjavik and its vicinity, and many more people from other parts of the country are moving in because of the great projects of the military forces. It therefore seems evident that in order to evangelize Iceland a strong public work should be engaged in right now. Just at present our church seems to be meeting with much favour with the public. Brother Karlman and I went out one morning to do some Ingathering. We called on a number of business firms and never before, Brother Karlman said, had he been treated with greater kindness and courtesy than by these Icelandic business men.

On the first morning of our annual meeting when the visiting brethren had brought greetings from their field, they mentioned the very good atmosphere they had found in this country. And now that the annual meetings are in the past, we, too, will remember the very good atmosphere—the fine spirit which prevailed all through the meetings as well as in the board meetings which followed. There was perfect harmony and unity through-

out, not a single false note was struck, and we all felt that the Spirit of God was present.

JULIUS GUDMUNDSSON.

HEALTH REFORM—  
GOD'S GREAT GIFT

By H. Karstrom, Ph.D.

(Final Instalment)

9. *Tobacco and coffee* are dangerous stimulants and luxuries, not only because of the high percentage of nicotine and caffeine, but also because of the fact that through the excessive heat when smoking the tobacco and roasting the coffee, cancer-producing substances are formed. In the tobacco, tar-like substances are formed which the smoker inhales into his lungs, much of which is cancer-producing. Considering that a heavy smoker inhales into his lungs from three to four pounds of tobacco tar in a year, it is not at all surprising that cancer of the lungs is a disease found very frequently among smokers.

Dr. Pentti Ermala in Finland has recently proved the carcinogenic characteristics in the tobacco tar. He has experimented on white mice, the mouths of which he has painted with tobacco tar daily for several months in succession. In most of these mice was discovered cancer in the bladder. The mice had swallowed some of the tar, which the kidneys secreted in the urine and finally found its way into the bladder where it developed cancer. In the tobacco tar, by the heat of the burning tobacco, had been formed carcinogenic substances, of which Dr. Ermala pointed out one named beta naphthylamine.

10. *"Alcohol is splendid as a fuel and as a means of solution, but as soon as it runs down the throat it is nothing but a curse."* In these words Professor A. I. Virtanen characterizes alcohol. A logical and sensible temperance movement not only combats one harmful stimulant such as alcohol, but all harmful stimulants such as nicotine, caffeine and other alkaloids, as well as various spices.

"When the message comes to those who have not heard the truth for this time, they see that a great reformation must take place in their diet. They see that they must put away flesh food, because it creates an appetite for liquor, and fills the system with disease. *By meat eating, the physical, mental, and moral powers are weakened.*"—*Counsels on Diet and Food*, page 268.

"The only safe course is to touch not, taste not, handle not, tea, coffee, wines, tobacco, opium, and alcoholic drinks. The necessity for the men of this generation to call to their aid the power of the will, strengthened by the grace of God, in order to withstand the temptations of Satan, and resist the least indulgence of perverted appetite, is twice as great as it was several generations ago."—*Ibid.*, page 428.

To harmful matters, which modern men use altogether too much, can also be added various more or less poisonous drugs and medicines to which many are slaves. Avoid the use of unnecessary medicines and endeavour rather to practise rational methods which are offered by a healthful diet, water, air, light, massage, electricity, and other natural physiological remedies.

"Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power—these are the true remedies."—*The Ministry of Healing*, page 127.

"The things of nature are God's blessings, provided to give health to body, mind, and soul. They are given to the well to keep them well, and to the sick to make them well. Connected with water treatment, they are more effective in restoring health than all the drug medication in the world."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, page 76.

Among other good general health principles which are given prominence in the *Testimonies*, we briefly refer to the following:

- a. Breathe much fresh and pure air. Give attention therefore to good ventilation in workroom and living quarters, especially in the bedrooms.
- b. Take sufficient and suitable exercise daily, especially if your work is more or less sedentary.

The purpose of healthful living is to secure for us the highest possible development of body, soul, and spirit. We must always bear in mind that the laws of health are of divine origin and to transgress them leads to disease, sufferings, and misery, while on the other hand, obedience to these laws brings happiness and health in this life, as well as helping us to prepare for the life eternal.

May we therefore not regard health reform as a burden or yoke, but rather consider it as it is—a gift of God to the Advent people. May we appreciate as we should the value of this great gift, for "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." James 1:17.

## NEWS FLASH

WE have been pleased to welcome to their home field Pastor W. T. Hyde and family, who have been connected for a number of years past with the Pacific Union College in California. In this institution Pastor Hyde has served as a member of the department of Bible and Evangelism. Pastor Hyde is on his way to Australia where he has been appointed to serve for a term of two years on the faculty of the Australasian Missionary College, in connection with the new plan whereby this institution has been affiliated with the Pacific Union College.

On their way to the United States for furlough, following a term of service in the Ile Ife Hospital, we were pleased to see Dr. Wagner and his family, as they spent a few days in London. Together they sailed for America on October 26th. We wish for Dr. Wagner and his family a profitable period of rest and recuperation before they take up work in another section of the world field.

A welcome visitor to the Division office a few days ago was D. L. Chappell, Publishing and Sabbath-school secretary of the West African Union Mission. Together with his wife and child, Brother Chappell is on his way back to Accra to commence a further term of service following upon his recent furlough. We are happy to report that under the leadership of Brother Chappell, the colporteur work in West Africa is making most encouraging progress.

Our Division President, Pastor A. F. Tarr, returned to London on November 2nd, after spending some weeks in attendance at special meetings in California, connected with the College of Medical Evangelists, and the Autumn Council held in Washington, D.C.

We extend to the West Danish Conference our congratulations on the excellency of their attainment in the 1953 Harvest Ingathering campaign. Every church in this Conference has attained its goal. The amount gathered—Dkr. 100,000—represents an attainment of 134 per cent of the Conference goal. An outstanding collector in this field, a colporteur, gathered in by his personal work Dkr. 5,000.

The annual meeting of the Division committee convened in Amsterdam from

November 18th to 25th. In addition to the general field representatives who will assemble for this gathering, we look forward with pleasure to the coming of two General Conference representatives. These are Elders R. R. Figuhr, Vice-President, and C. W. Bozarth, Assisant-treasurer. We look forward to a happy period of association with these brethren from the General Conference office and the delegates who will assemble from all parts of our Division.

W. G. Till, president of the North Nigerian Mission, in a letter to A. F. Tarr on October 20th writes:

"The Sabbath before last (October 10th) we had the largest baptism ever held in this field when fifty-seven precious souls were baptized in the river about three miles from here. This shows the faithful work that has been done by the workers during the past two years. An examination was held for five days before the Sabbath to make as sure as possible that the candidates were ready, not only as regards the head knowledge, but also in the Christian experience. Seven persons were asked to wait until the next baptismal service as there were little things that it was considered should be attended to. So we expect to hold a second baptismal service at the end of the year for those who were kept back and also as there are a few more that should be ready by that time.

"From the effort that Dr. Hyde held last year we have twelve persons attending Sabbath school, so we are thankful for that. Two places have been visited this year and efforts conducted. Some work had been done previously in these villages and Sabbath schools organized, but one place about fifty miles from Jengre was comparatively new. Now we are glad that the Sabbath school attendance has grown from a total of forty-seven in the two places last year to 130 now, an increase up to date of eighty-three. There are now eighty-six persons in these places who have joined the Hearers' Class, so we look for a good baptism in two years' time. In the field at present we have 242 in the Hearers' Class. We are praying and working that many of these may go the full way."

It is with deep regret that we pass on the following telegram from Dr. A. Andersen of the Skodsborg Sanitarium which reached us on November 10th:

"Miss Thea Nielsen of Kenya killed yesterday evening on Strandvejen by auto."

This message brings to us tragic news of the sudden passing of a worker on furlough from the East African Union Mission. Miss Thea Nielsen was a trained nurse who has given many years of service to the mission fields of Africa. She is a sister of Miss Karen Nielsen, a missionary of thirty-five years' experience, mostly in Africa, and of Pastor N. B. Nielsen of Ethiopia and West Africa. Our Christian sympathy goes out to the bereaved relatives who have so suddenly and unexpectedly suffered this tragic loss. E. B. RUDGE.

## A HISTORY OF PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE

To former P.U.C. and Healdsburg Students and Teachers:

A history of Pacific Union College in word and picture is planned for publication in 1957, P.U.C.'s seventy-fifth anniversary year. Though most of the alumni have been contacted, the help of all former students and teachers is desired. The College History Committee will be happy to send details on the types of material and pictures wanted. Postage both ways will be paid on material sent in. Please write at once to: The Editor, "History of Pacific Union College," Box 373, Angwin, California.

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