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# FOURTH WINTER COUNCIL

November 18 to 25,  
1953

*Council motto photographed in  
Amsterdam church by A. W.  
Lethbridge.*



## The President Opens The Council in Holland

TWELVE months have past since last we met in Division Council, and during that time we have all been busy in our varied ways advancing the work of God. We have laboured earnestly to lead men and women from the world into the Christian way and our own fellow-workers and members into a more effective and fruitful service.

Tonight, as we meet together, I believe it is with a deep consciousness that we, too, have needs that should not be ignored. We have perhaps been the more aware of those needs when called upon in some particular crisis to bring special help to others. It may have been at the bedside of a sick one who had earnestly sought prayer and anointing. Have you not at such times longed that your own personal walk with God had been so close that He could use you as He willed, as a mighty channel for His blessing? Would it not be tragic for any who have come

to this Council sensing such a personal need, to leave again with that need still unmet?

At this very first meeting I wish with our own needs in mind to present to every one of you the appeal that 2,500 years ago God extended to those of His ministers who would be proclaiming His last warning message in the very days to which we have come: "O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!" Isa. 40:9 (margin).

### A CLOSER WALK

This call of the ministry to the mountain top involves first of all a call to separation. A separation from the low plains of failure, disappointment, des-

pondency, and fear, to the clear heights of deliverance and of joyful, invincible service. A call from the entanglements of the world to a separation so complete that it is as death to the life that was formerly lived. "I am crucified with Christ," "For ye are dead," "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin." Brethren, let us at this meeting enter into such a life of separation, leaving all behind that pertains to the old life of sin, making the new one permanent and complete.

Our Saviour, after miraculously feed-



ing the five thousand, ascended the mountain to be alone with His Father. We, too, after our small and oh, so unfruitful service for God, must come again into His presence, there to be charged anew with the power that He alone can give. That is what we mean when in our motto we appeal first of all for a closer walk. This should be our goal. I should like to see this Council go down in our records not as having distributed the greatest budget in our history, but as having brought every member to a closer walk with God.

I realize that I am talking with leaders in our work, men who are busy with budgets, with the direction of workers and the problems of administration. Nevertheless we can pray no greater prayer at this meeting than the one in that grand old hymn: "Oh, let me walk with Thee, my God, as Enoch walked in days of old." It is not physical distance that separates us from God. I think we all know the barriers in our own lives—those pet sins of ours, pretence, selfishness, pride, envy, wrong motives, even in our spiritual service. Ought we not tonight to lay all these aside and enter into that closer walk that our motto presents? This involves also a more constant communion with Him, a listening to His voice as He speaks through His sacred Word. We need more and more of that personal devotional life which is all so necessary as we lead others into His presence. "It is time to seek the Lord," wrote Hosea, and I believe that we live in that very time. There would not be the need of many more Councils were we only to heed that earnest admonition.

**A RICHER FELLOWSHIP.**

This call to the mountain top constitutes a call also to fellowship. Our motto calls it "a richer fellowship." And is there not incalculable wealth in our fellowship one with the other? Like the man seeking goodly pearls, there is much that must be surrendered as we reach out for this richer fellowship, such things as fault-finding, distrust, the tendency to belittle or disparage. In some countries in our Division we have learned to know what devaluation means. It has not been pleasant to see our money lose its worth, but much worse than devaluating money is the devaluating of fellow-workers and members. It was this that God condemned in ancient Israel when He said: "Let none of you imagine evil in his heart against his neighbour." To heed this admonition is to take a long step toward that richer fellowship which our motto presents. Was it not General Booth who said: "I am so



*Seventh-day Adventist church in Amsterdam, Holland, where the Fourth Division Winter Council was held.*

busy fighting the Lord's enemies that I have not time to quarrel with His friends"?

And has it ever occurred to you what a wonderful opportunity our system of organization affords the development of this richer fellowship? Here we come to meet in annual association with brethren from so many and varied countries; we differ in language, nationality, customs, and sometimes our countries are separated by war, yet we ourselves are bound together in one great, united family. Let us protect and treasure this precious fellow-



*A Closer Walk  
A Richer Fellowship  
A Mightier Witness*

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ship and let its influence reverberate to the farthest corners of our Division.

**A MIGHTIER WITNESS**

To heed the call to a closer walk with God and a richer fellowship one with the other, constitutes the greatest preparation we can make for that mightier witness which the church, in this climactic hour, is called upon to bear before the world. And brethren, do we not need such a call? Are we satisfied with the witness of the past? You who have witnessed in the far reaches of the northlands, or on the hot plains of West Africa, on the plateaus of Ethiopia, or in the many crowded and mighty cities of the homeland, is your witness being borne like that mighty "angel come down from heaven, having great power" and crying "mightily with a strong voice"? And through your witness is the earth being "lightened with His glory"?

It is to such a witness that God calls His people today, a people who in their spiritual lives have ascended the mountain top with God. Only from these spiritual heights can we see and know God's plan, and lift up our voices with strength. Such an experience on the part of God's messengers will constitute that "loud cry" for which we have waited so long, and which must sound forth from every department within our organization.

In our publishing work, colporteurs with faces illumined will go from door to door heralding their message. In the Home Missionary department, practical deeds will witness to the effectiveness of the Gospel. Among our Missionary Volunteers, the spirit of the Waldenses will live again. In our Sabbath schools, there will be a re-enactment of the ancient prophet's testimony: "Thy words were found, and I did eat them." In our schools, pupils will be found sitting at the feet of the Master-teacher. In our health institutions, the presence of the seamless dress will again be felt beside the beds of pain. Through the public press and radio, increasing evidence will be presented that ours is a work and a message of the utmost urgency and that in verity it is the universal Gospel commission which in this very hour must be proclaimed to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people.

Let us therefore, during this Council, make the mountain top our goal, and have our lives charged with such power as will enable us to go forth adequately equipped for that mighty witness to which God has called us in earth's closing days.

## GLEANINGS HERE AND THERE

FIFTY-SIX representatives from all parts of the Northern European Division gathered in our church in Amsterdam from November 18th to 25th, for the Division Winter Council. The General Conference representatives were Elders R. R. Figuhr and C. W. Bozarth.

Each evening of the Council was devoted to receiving reports from the various sections of our field. Brethren Figuhr and Bozarth occupied two evenings in presenting coloured slides of the work in the Southern African Division and the Australasian mission field. The delegates were also privileged to see an interesting coloured film depicting scenes in Greenland at the time of the visit of the king and queen of Denmark a year ago.

The youth of our Division will be interested to learn that an action taken at Amsterdam calls for the holding of a Division-wide Youth Congress in August, 1955. No definite action has been taken as to location, but study is being given to convening this Congress at Västeräng, our youth camp in Sweden.

The Sabbath-school secretary of the Division reports that at the end of the second quarter, 1953, the Division Sabbath-school membership exceeded 67,000. There are 1,140 Sabbath schools functioning in the Division, with 192 branch Sabbath schools. In the period covered by the secretary's report 2,662 members of the Sabbath school were baptized.

The Sunday-school work being conducted in the West Nordic Union is of outstanding interest. In these Sunday schools—mainly in Denmark—there are some 1,500 children gathered in from the streets of the various centres where we have established churches. This work is already beginning to prove a fruitful source of soul winning.

Dr. A. Andersen, reporting for the medical work of the Division, stated that during the year 1952, almost 14,000 patients had been cared for in the various institutions of his department. These institutions have a bed capacity of 990. Nineteen doctors are employed, together with 132 nurses and 566 other workers. In the Division there are operating seven clinics and dispensaries. These cared for 114,444

patients during 1952. They employ 107 workers, including three physicians and forty-five qualified nurses.

During the Council reference was made to the opening up of the work in Greenland. Pastor Andreas Nielsen was the pioneer worker. In two months in Greenland, Pastor Nielsen sold £200 worth of our literature, distributed 1,000 tracts in the Greenlandic language and 250 in the Danish tongue. It is estimated that one-sixth of the population has thus had access to the Advent message.

The Division radio secretary had some inspiring things to tell us about the success of the radio and Bible Correspondence school work. This work began in some fields in 1947 and in 1948 in others. In the few years since these schools began their work, 2,442 students have been baptized. For the first six months of 1953, 9,693 students were enrolled; 6,250 completed the course of studies. Over 3,000 of these show a definite interest in the message. During the six months, 340 baptisms have been reported.

The colportage work has continued to hold a highly valued place in the work of the Division. During the first nine months of 1953, in the various unions of the Division, 353 colporteurs sold literature to the value of \$504,006.

The secretary of the Missionary Volunteer Department reports that at June 30, 1953, there were 541 active Missionary Volunteer societies, with a membership of almost 17,000. Of this number, 6,500 reported a faithful observance of the "Morning Watch." During the same period, 1,070 of the young people received the insignia of the various honours available in the Missionary Volunteer Department. It is interesting to note that the young people of these various societies conducted more than 25,000 Bible readings or Gospel meetings during the eighteen months from January 1, 1952, to June 30, 1953. In addition, they made almost 14,000 missionary contacts. The summer training camps for the youth were also very successful, approximately 3,500 young people attending the thirty-six camps held in the Division during the period covered by the report.

Sabbath, November 21st, was a memorable day for hundreds of the believers in the Netherland Union. This was the high day of the Division annual gathering. The meetings were held in the Krasnapolsky Hall, near the Dam. This hall, which seats about 1,200 people, was comfortably filled for the various functions of the day.

In characteristic Adventist manner the day began with a very inspiring session of the Sabbath school, led by E. L. Minchin, the Division Sabbath-school secretary. At 11.15 a.m. the morning preaching service was conducted by Elder R. R. Figuhr, vice-president of the General Conference. In the afternoon at 2.45 p.m. Pastor A. F. Tarr, Division president, addressed a large congregation. At 4.15 p.m. the closing service for the Sabbath hours convened, when Elder C. W. Bozarth preached on the messages of Revelation fourteen.

One outstanding feature of the day's services was the excellent musical items rendered by a group of young men from Zandbergen school, led by one of the teachers, Brother G. Oosterwal.

A special feature of the late afternoon service was the ordination to the Gospel ministry of Dr. L. M. Hamilton, the Division Educational secretary. This followed the action of the annual meeting in recommending Dr. Hamilton for ordination and ministerial credentials. The ordination sermon was preached by C. W. Bozarth of the General Conference, the ordination prayer was offered by E. B. Rudge, the charge was given by R. R. Figuhr of the General Conference, and the welcome to the ministry by A. F. Tarr. Preceding the ordination Pastor Tarr briefly outlined the call of Dr. Hamilton to the work more than twenty years ago, and gave a brief history of his association with our education work in the senior colleges of America. The ordained ministers present joined at the conclusion of the service, in extending a most cordial welcome to Dr. Hamilton as he now enters upon the broader sphere of service within the ministry of our church.

One of the closing actions of the annual meeting was to place on record the sincere and heartfelt appreciation of the delegates to the president of the Netherland Union, F. J. Voorthuis, the members of the Amsterdam church, and certain workers within the Netherland Union, all of whom contributed so helpfully to a most successful annual gathering. E. E. RUDGE.

# THE UNFINISHED TASK — As The Secretary Sees It

NINE years before the first preacher began his work in Denmark in 1877, the servant of the Lord made the following statement:

"There is a great work to be done in Europe. It may seem to move slowly and hard at first, but God will work mightily through you if you will only make an entire surrender to Him."—*Historical Sketches*, page 128.

These words have often been in my mind as I have visited the work in different parts of the Northern European Division and have realized something of the great accomplishments that have come through the years. This report is intended to be a brief review of what has been accomplished in this Division in broad terms of membership, worker force, and member relationship to population. This particularly applies to the home sections of the Division. The territory of our Division extends from the Arctic regions to the Equator. Twenty-eight different countries are found within this territory and our workers are using in proclaiming the message no less than thirty-five different languages. The home base comprises the church membership of ten countries which we speak of somewhat loosely as Northern Europe.

Our work commenced in Northern Europe in the following countries and at approximately the times listed:

| Year                | First Conference Organized |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Denmark .....       | 1877 1880                  |
| Norway .....        | 1878 1887                  |
| British Isles ..... | 1878 1898                  |
| Sweden .....        | 1880 1882                  |
| Finland .....       | 1892 1909                  |
| Netherlands .....   | 1893 1901                  |

Now, after more than seventy years, it is interesting and inspiring to see what has been accomplished in the name of the Lord. The following table gives the church membership of the Division as it was on January 1, 1950, and as it stood on June 30, 1953.

| Field                            | Membership 1/1/50 | Membership 30/6/53 | Net Gain | Percentage Gain |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------------|
| British Union .....              | 6,493             | 7,157              | 664      | 10              |
| East Nordic Union .....          | 7,932             | 8,489              | 557      | 7               |
| Ethiopian Union Mission .....    | 488               | 980                | 492      | 100             |
| Iceland Mission .....            | 317               | 366                | 49       | 15              |
| Netherland Union .....           | 2,114             | 2,241              | 127      | 6               |
| Polish Union .....               | 2,862             | 3,150              | 288      | 10              |
| West African Union Mission ..... | 8,408             | 14,388             | 5,980    | 71              |
| West Nordic Union .....          | 8,051             | 8,543              | 492      | 6               |
| Total .....                      | 36,665            | 45,314             | 8,649    | 23              |

## THE UNFINISHED TASK

The population of our Division stands at 159,300,000. One third of this vast population is crowded within the British Isles. The West African Union has within its territories 42,000,000 people, or approximately one-fourth of the Division's population. Thus, with the church membership standing at 45,314 at June 30th last, we have the equivalent of one member to every 3,500 of the Division's vast population. Spread over the field by organizations, the relation of the members to population is as follows:

| Union                            | Population | Church Membership | Approximate Relation |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| British Union .....              | 53,000,000 | 7,157             | 1 in 7,400           |
| East Nordic Union .....          | 11,135,000 | 8,489             | 1 in 1,300           |
| Ethiopian Union Mission .....    | 12,400,000 | 980               | 1 in 13,000          |
| Iceland Mission .....            | 156,000    | 366               | 1 in 426             |
| Netherland Union .....           | 10,000,000 | 2,240             | 1 in 4,460           |
| West African Union Mission ..... | 42,180,000 | 14,388            | 1 in 2,930           |
| West Nordic Union .....          | 7,198,000  | 8,543             | 1 in 820             |

## WORKER FORCE

The total worker force in this Division numbered 1,704 at June 30, 1953. This number included all-licensed workers and certain institutional employees. The number of workers increased by 377 in the three and a half year period, January 1, 1950, to June 30, 1953. There now follows a list of workers employed in the different sections of our Division, excluding colporteurs and those classified as "other workers." The figures show the increase of workers in each field.

| Field                            | Total 1/1/50 | Total 30/6/53 | Net Gain | Percentage Gain |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------|-----------------|
| British Union .....              | 162          | 165           | 3        | 2               |
| East Nordic Union .....          | 113          | 130           | 17       | 15              |
| Ethiopian Union Mission .....    | 31           | 95            | 64       | 206             |
| Iceland Mission .....            | 5            | 7             | 2        | 40              |
| Netherland Union .....           | 30           | 27            | -3       | -10             |
| Polish Union .....               | 27           | 45            | 18       | 66              |
| West African Union Mission ..... | 554          | 592           | 38       | 7               |
| West Nordic Union .....          | 95           | 116           | 21       | 22              |
| Northern European Division ..... | ...          | 17            | 17       | ...             |
| Total .....                      | 1,017        | 1,194         | 177      | 17              |

## GAINS AND LOSSES, JANUARY 1, 1950 TO JUNE, 1953

During this three and a half year period, 12,702 persons were baptized, 945 were admitted to membership by vote, and 2,896 by letter of transfer, a total of 16,543 additions to membership. The losses were 2,020 by death, 2,716 by apostasy, and 3,153 by letter of transfer. By letters of transfer we lost 257 members more than were admitted by the same means. This loss is probably accounted for by the young people going abroad to study and by emigrants proceeding overseas. The total of 2,716 apostasies is heavy and should occasion concern and investigation. These apostasies equal 21.38 per cent of the baptisms over this period. One-third of this loss has occurred in the mission field, where we have the largest membership. Out of total gains of 16,543 members in three and a half years, we have lost by death, apostasy, and transfer, forty-seven per cent of our total gains.

WORKER RELATIONSHIP TO CHURCHMEMBERSHIP

Worker relationship to church membership and population in the various fields is approximately as stated below:

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| British Union .....              | 1 worker to every 42 churchmembers.<br>1 worker to every 321,000 of the population. |
| East Nordic Union .....          | 1 worker to every 65 churchmembers.<br>1 worker to every 85,600 of the population.  |
| Ethiopian Union Mission .....    | 1 worker to every 10 churchmembers.<br>1 worker to every 130,000 of the population. |
| Netherland Union .....           | 1 worker to every 83 churchmembers.<br>1 worker to ever 373,000 of the population.  |
| West African Union Mission ..... | 1 worker to every 24 churchmembers.<br>1 worker to every 71,250 of the population.  |
| West Nordic Union .....          | 1 worker to every 74 churchmembers.<br>1 worker to every 62,070 of the population.  |
| Iceland Mission .....            | 1 worker to every 52 churchmembers.<br>1 worker to ever 22,300 of the population.   |

FACING THE FUTURE

A huge, unfinished task lies before us. The work can only be finished in God's appointed way and time. He expects His church to follow His counsel and commands. He encourages us to press on with the work. The work will be finished only when the church officers and church membership unitedly strive together for the attainment of this purpose. In association with the outpouring of God's Spirit upon His church, our hopes for the completion of the work in this generation centre in a trained and working church membership.

"If every churchmember were a living missionary, the Gospel would speedily be proclaimed in all countries, to all peoples, nations, and tongues."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, page 32.

The Lord has told us how to accomplish this. "The greatest help that can be given our people is to teach them to work for God, and depend on Him, not on the ministers."—Vol. 7, page 19.

THE PURPOSE OF GOD

In conclusion, I wish to remind ourselves that God intends to finish His work. He plans to do this through an enlightened and spirit-filled church. He looks to the leadership of His work to carry to completion the task entrusted to His church.

"God has qualified His people to enlighten the world. He has entrusted men with faculties that adapt them to extend and accomplish a work that will belt the earth. . . . All should do their best, making their boast in the Lord and blessing others by their good works."—Letter 121, (1902).

"The work is fast closing up, and on every side wickedness is increasing. We have but a short time in which to work. Let us awake from spiritual slumber, and consecrate all that we have and are to the Lord. His Spirit will abide with true missionaries, furnishing them with power for service."—*Christian Service*, page 80.

E. B. RUDGE.

Excerpts from the Treasurer's Report

LOOKING back over the year that has gone since our last Winter Council in Skodsborg, and studying closely the reports that have come to our office, featuring the various attainments in our activities, I feel we have great reason to thank God for His wonderful leading and abundant blessings.

These reports are more than ordinary financial statements; they are indeed glad tidings. They speak of devotion and love and sacrifice of means by hard-working, self-denying brethren and sisters in the rank and file of the denomination. I happen to know how hard-earned are the gifts that come from one widow, an invalid, who annually brings in a sum equivalent to about thirty dollars for missions, in addition to her regular Sabbath-school offerings. This gift arrives from the sale of some knitting for missions that she endeavours to do in spite of her fingers and hands being crippled with arthritis. It helps one to spend more wisely the funds entrusted to our handling, when we bear in mind how some of this money has come in. They are sacred funds for sure.

TITHE

The total amount of tithe income from 41,456 members in 599 churches in 1952 amounted to \$968,097.50. It would have been very nearly a million dollars had not the fixed rate of exchange been changed for Finland in 1952, thus devaluating the Finnish mark by twenty per cent, causing the report here to show a loss in tithe in the East Nordic Union of \$17,000. The facts are, however, that the tithe increase in the East Nordic Union in local currency compares very favourably with any other field in the Division.

The tithe receipts for nine months of 1953 we see are \$65,000 ahead of the nine months in 1952, and here it should also be noted that the fixed rate of the pound was changed this year from \$2.85 to \$2.80 to the pound, so that there is a slight disadvantage in the comparative reports of figures for the sterling area of the Division. But that has been absorbed by the all-round increase.

A comparative report of the total tithe income in the various union fields for the

HARVEST INGATHERING GOALS for 1954

| UNION                    | Goal in Local Currency | Goal in Dollars |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| British Union .....      | £ 38,000               | 106,400         |
| East Nordic Union .....  | Skr. 285,000           | 57,000          |
| Ethiopian Union .....    | E\$ 2,100              | 861             |
| Iceland Mission .....    | Ikr. 62,000            | 3,875           |
| Netherland Union .....   | Fl. 30,000             | 8,100           |
| West African Union ..... | £ 5,500                | 15,400          |
| West Nordic Union .....  | Nkr. 385,000           | 57,750          |

years 1951 and 1952 and a similar report for the first nine months of 1952 with the same period of 1953, might be of interest to you.

MISSION OFFERINGS

The mission offerings are steadily on the increase, for which we are glad. Naturally, however, the final figures for 1952 are affected by the change in the fixed rate of exchange for Finland. But even with that, the total increase for the whole Division in 1952 was \$26,436.65, or just about six per cent. For nine months of 1953, when compared with the same time of the preceding year, there is an increase of \$21,350.47, or an increase of 8.5 per cent. The Ingathering shows the largest increase, even though the Sabbath-school

offerings come very close to it. We invite all readers of NORTHERN LIGHT to study the statistical number issued last May.

The Week of Prayer and Sacrifice offerings have registered a slight decrease since they were joined into one offering. It seems that it was much easier to give to the Week of Sacrifice offering when it came in the spring of the year. The Annual Offering at the close of the Week of Prayer has always been a very good offering. We hope that a little more promotion on the part of the local church leadership will greatly increase this offering in the coming years.

For your study I am here including a brief comparative statistical report of the mission offerings for the years 1951 and 1952, both by unions and as different offerings.

| Tithe                          | 1951         | 1952       | Increase   |
|--------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| British Union .....            | 248,747.45   | 268,658.06 | 19,910.61  |
| East Nordic Union .....        | 288,266.71   | 271,084.54 | -17,182.17 |
| Ethiopian Union Mission .....  | 14,328.77    | 15,205.21  | 876.44     |
| Iceland Mission .....          | 17,921.93    | 19,272.41  | 1,350.48   |
| Netherlands Union .....        | 61,673.83    | 59,897.10  | -1,776.73  |
| Poland Union .....             | .....        | .....      | .....      |
| West African Union Mission ... | 44,213.40    | 45,031.66  | 818.26     |
| West Nordic Union .....        | 262,406.66   | 288,948.52 | 26,541.86  |
| Total                          | \$937,558.75 | 968,097.50 | 30,538.75  |

| Tithe—Nine Months              | 1952         | 1953       | Increase  |
|--------------------------------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| British Union .....            | 195,762.90   | 211,945.67 | 16,182.77 |
| East Nordic Union .....        | 194,322.18   | 212,167.16 | 17,844.98 |
| Ethiopian Union Mission .....  | 9,784.81     | 13,598.22  | 3,813.41  |
| Iceland Mission .....          | 13,079.09    | 15,083.02  | 2,003.93  |
| Netherlands Union .....        | 43,757.04    | 45,678.58  | 1,921.54  |
| Poland Union .....             | .....        | .....      | .....     |
| West African Union Mission ... | 30,343.95    | 39,087.88  | 8,743.93  |
| West Nordic Union .....        | 200,646.99   | 215,090.76 | 14,443.77 |
| Total                          | \$687,696.96 | 752,651.29 | 64,954.33 |

| Total Mission Offerings        | 1951         | 1952       | Increase  |
|--------------------------------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| British Union .....            | 152,862.20   | 159,379.47 | 6,517.27  |
| East Nordic Union .....        | 117,302.92   | 117,285.76 | -17.16    |
| Ethiopian Union Mission .....  | 5,136.39     | 3,677.17   | -1,459.22 |
| Iceland Mission .....          | 9,888.09     | 8,999.43   | -888.66   |
| Netherlands Union .....        | 16,878.18    | 17,592.55  | 714.37    |
| Poland Union .....             | .....        | .....      | .....     |
| West African Union Mission ... | 28,084.80    | 35,474.79  | 7,389.99  |
| West Nordic Union .....        | 112,476.97   | 126,657.03 | 14,180.06 |
| Total                          | \$442,629.55 | 469,066.20 | 26,436.65 |

| The Different Offerings                     | 1951         | 1952       | Increase  |
|---|--------------|------------|-----------|
| Sabbath School .....                        | 100,603.23   | 108,378.88 | 7,775.65  |
| Thirteenth Sabbath .....                    | 31,778.85    | 35,754.19  | 3,975.34  |
| Birthday Offerings .....                    | 1,381.34     | 1,511.17   | 129.83    |
| Investment Fund .....                       | 558.05       | 59.12      | -28.93    |
| Week of Sacrifice and Annual Offering ..... | 42,527.64    | 39,268.47  | -3,259.17 |
| Miscellaneous .....                         | 4,621.77     | 2,464.01   | -2,157.76 |
| Missions Extension .....                    | 10,164.26    | 10,332.17  | 167.91    |
| Ingathering .....                           | 250,994.41   | 270,828.19 | 19,833.78 |
| Total                                       | \$442,629.55 | 469,066.20 | 26,436.65 |

In closing my report I want to express on behalf of the Division Committee our sincere gratitude and thanks to our faithful membership for their willing and strong support of the cause we all love so well and which we desire to see extended to the regions beyond the present borders. We are also so grateful to the General Conference for their very generous appropriations to our Division in order that we may do efficient work in the mission lands and at home. Personally, I also want to thank you all as leaders and administrators for your kind and wholehearted co-operation. It has made our work easy and happy.

G. A. LINDSAY.

Plans and Resolutions

(Continued from page 15.)

WHEREAS, There is a plan to supply our publishing houses with such material, as has in the past been in *World Review*,

*Voted*, That our unions and conferences give study to the possibility of enlarging their local church papers with the view or including in them as much as possible of this valuable material, thus keeping our constituency informed of the progress of the Advent message throughout the world field.

MV CONGRESS

WHEREAS, Great blessing and new impetus are brought to our youth work by occasional united congresses, and

WHEREAS, requests have come from many parts of our Division for a Division-wide Youth Congress.

*Voted*, That plans be made as early as possible for the holding of a Division-wide Youth Congress in August, 1955, suggesting as a possible venue Västerång Youth Camp, Sweden.

O Friend, hold fast,  
 This gloomy night  
 Is but the presage to  
 A day of joy.  
 Our present life may be all overcast,  
 But never fear,  
 Heaven's peace has no alloy.  
 'Tis not for naught you bear  
 So great a load.  
 'Tis not for naught you tread  
 So hard a road.  
 "Take up My cross," He said,  
 "So shall you be,  
 Worthy to wear My crown  
 Eternally."

Mary J. Vine in "Good News."



# A TOUR WITH OUR UNION PRESIDENTS

## WEST NORDIC UNION

WE HAVE far from doubled our membership in the West Nordic Union, but we are glad to report that compared with last year, we have increased the number of souls won by thirty-three per cent. Last year our workers and churches brought in 303 souls during the first ten months. This year this most important figure increased to 402.

Our membership at the end of the third quarter was 8,542.

With five active soul-winners as conference presidents in our five conferences, all forces are united for a steadily growing soul-winning campaign. From the work for babies and children in our Sabbath schools and up to the care of old people in our two old people's homes, we concentrate all our efforts to win souls and to keep those we have won.

In our Sunday schools for outside children we have 1,500 prospective Seventh-day Adventists. We already have many of them attending our camps, and one of the students at our College has come from this grand Sunday-school work. This student is eagerly taking part in the religious activities of the College.

Four hundred children in our sixteen church schools are being educated to take their place in the church and in the kingdom of God. Twenty-eight teachers are employed in these church schools.

In our mission school at Vejlefjord we have 123 students. Last year the Bible teacher led thirty-four of the students into church membership by baptism. This result at the school is comparable to any of the best results obtained in the public efforts by our evangelists.

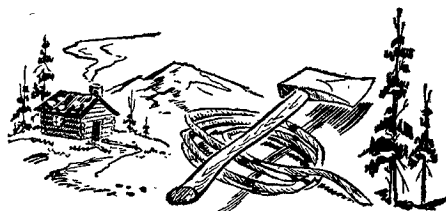
When it comes to the literature sales, our two publishing houses this year have placed 50,000 books and more than 1,500,000 tracts and magazines into the homes of the people. A great proportion of the books are doctrinal books that doubtless in time will give a rich harvest of souls.

Newspapers all over Denmark and Norway are carrying more and more stories about our work. Alert press secretaries and publicity-minded workers feed the

papers with all sorts of good reports and articles.

One businessman read a story about one of our missionaries in a newspaper. At once he telephoned our conference office and asked permission to support the good work mentioned in the newspaper. The next day he sent us kr. 100, and he promised to send more later.

In Denmark we have the big Skodsborg Sanitarium with a working force of 260 persons, and 257 beds for patients. This sanitarium is having a great influence for good on hundreds of prominent people. When we go Ingathering to



the richer people and mention Skodsborg Sanitarium, we find the doors open.

Norway is also getting its sanitarium established. The opening of the new treatment rooms early this year marked the beginning of a new era for Skogli Sanitarium. Patients from all over Norway beg to get in, but every day sick people are refused admittance, because of no vacant beds. The sanitarium has only fifty beds at present.

A doctor who was a patient at our sanitarium a short time ago, wrote to us that in medical circles in the capital, they have the highest regard for the treatments and care the patients receive at our sanitarium.

Recently one of the patients was baptized, and he is now one of our most successful colporteurs.

Ninety-nine other small clinics and treatment rooms all over the West Nordic Union do wonderful health work for thousands of sick people.

This year the Ingathering goal was reached within the six weeks. By the end of October the figures looked like this:

|             |         |          |
|-------------|---------|----------|
| 1952        | 1953    | Increase |
| Kr. 387,000 | 415,000 | 28,000   |

It is very encouraging that the young people so eagerly take part in the campaign. At Vejlefjord College the teachers and students gathered kr. 15,800 in three days. In Oslo the MV society reached

kr. 10,800. I think this is a record for a MV society that will be hard to break.

We have two Bible Correspondence Schools, one in Denmark and one in Norway. During the first three quarters of this year 645 persons have finished the course and received their diplomas. At present 2,058 students are active.

When it comes to results, it is difficult to decide who has won who, but in co-operation with the ministers, many souls are being won.

This work seems to open the way for everybody to take part. A girl seven years old gave out invitations for the Correspondence School in Denmark. A young man got one of her invitations and took the course. He received the truth, and today he is a student at our College in Denmark.

A young man in Greenland studied the lessons and wrote in that he wanted to be baptized and join the church. Unfortunately he died before he could be baptized. But he died in the faith. His parents wrote a good letter to the Bible Correspondence School and thanked us for what the lessons did for their son.

Two new churches have been dedicated so far this year, one having a seating capacity of 250 and the other, 100. Two others are under construction and will be dedicated early next year.

We are glad to report an increase both in tithe and mission offerings. After three quarters of the year the figures look like this:

|                         |                   |  |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--|
|                         | 1952              |  |
| Tithe .....             | Nkr. 1,339,646.60 |  |
| Mission Offerings ..... | Nkr. 518,805.92   |  |
|                         | 1953              |  |
| Tithe .....             | Nkr. 1,433,938.39 |  |
| Mission Offerings ..... | Nkr. 593,785.98   |  |
|                         | Increase          |  |
| Tithe .....             | Nkr. 94,291.79    |  |
| Mission Offerings ..... | Nkr. 74,980.06    |  |

The Lord is richly blessing our people as they give and as they work. Our wish and earnest prayer as workers is that we in our work and planning may permit the Lord to take full control. When He is the Master and we His tools, we know that He has still greater things He will do to the honour and glory of His name.

ALF LOHNE.

## EAST NORDIC UNION

IT IS with gratitude that we can report this year a better result in our soul-winning efforts than last year. Up to now we have added to the church 495 new members, and we believe that before the end of the year we shall reach the goal of 500 new members. At the beginning of this year the membership was 8,290, and at the end of the third quarter it was 8,528, showing an increase of 238.

### TITHE AND OFFERINGS

The financial result causes joy and gratitude, too, even though it is quite a normal increase in proportion to the number of members.

The tithe has increased from Skr. 970,000 last year to Skr. 1,060,000 this year, an increase of Skr. 90,000.

The mission offerings have also increased, from Skr. 336,000 in 1952 to Skr. 366,000 this year, or an increase of Skr. 30,000.

The Harvest Ingathering this year has been a great success. All conferences have passed their goals, one by 30 per cent and another by 100 per cent. The last report received for the whole union shows Skr. 315,000 collected. We give God the honour for what has been done by our faithful workers and church-members. One of our workers in the North Swedish Conference collected Skr. 8,050.

### OUR LITERATURE WORK

Our literature sales this year have not reached the brilliant total that we had last year. We have to note a decrease in sales from Skr. 1,464,000 to Skr. 1,202,000, or a decrease of Skr. 262,000. The extraordinary result in Finland last year has not been repeated.

### OUR SCHOOLS

At our two schools this year we have 185 students enrolled; at Toivonlinna 98 and at Ekebyholm 87. Even this year Ekebyholm has shown a good result in the Harvest Ingathering, having collected a sum of more than Skr. 22,000.

### THE MEDICAL WORK

Our three sanitariums, operating throughout the year, have all attained good results. Hultafors and Nyhyttan in Sweden together have had 2,439 guests cared for by a total of 187 employees. The turnover for both institutions amounts to Skr. 1,603,246.

Hopeaniemi, Finland, is our smallest sanitarium, but it keeps the light shining; and in spite of its smallness it has no operating loss, but a little gain. They have had 324 guests, with a staff of sixteen persons, and a turnover of Skr. 125,636. Besides, we have our two summer sanitariums, that is to say our schools. Together they have had 804 guests—a turnover of Skr. 33,300, and a staff of 75. Then we have two more clinics owned by the denomination, one in Stockholm and the other in Helsinki. In these we have 16 workers employed, and they have given treatments to 2,307 persons.

All these medical institutions do a remarkable work. They are all light-bearers that bear witness to our faith and hope. We thank God for these faithful co-workers. In our Union we have also many privately owned clinics and they too do a very blessed work.

In this connection I would like to emphasize that our health work in Finland needs to be strengthened. There are many of the essential requirements for success, if we could only develop and improve that which we already have.

There is another institution that I should also like to mention—the Old People's Home at Ekebyholm. I am quite certain that it is a work that our Lord looks upon with pleasure. And I dare say that those who work at this home do a more self-sacrificing work than most other mission workers.

It is also a great pleasure to us that this year we have been able to dedicate two small churches in Finland. Maybe these church building are the cheapest ones we have ever built. But then, the church-members have given much of their time toward these buildings. One is in the Finland-Swedish Conference, in a little town named Kaskö, and it is the first church there built specially for its purpose. It also stands on Church Street.

The other belongs to the East Finnish Conference, and is located at a place where our most successful lady evangelist, Elsa Luukkanen with her assisant, has been working. Miss Luukkanen considers it her duty to erect a church or chapel building at every place where she works and where she has founded a church. She has rightly understood the appeal of the *Testimonies* to field workers, that an effort is not complete until the church has also received a spiritual home.

What the future has in store for us we do not know, but we plan for our efforts in faith and confidence. Our workers and our people are of good cheer. God will give us victory.  
C. GIDLUND.

## ICELAND MISSION

THE most important feature of our work in Iceland the past few years has been the building and establishment of the training school. Now everybody will realize that such an undertaking is a great step for a small field with a membership of 370. It means great sacrifice for the members and large appropriations from the Division. Some of this sacrifice has been made, and what has been the outcome?

We are now in our fourth school year. During these four years the average attendance has been twenty-five students. Last spring the first graduation class, made up of twelve graduates, left the school. They are not old yet, nor mature, but they have caught the vision to stay in the church and most of them are preparing themselves for some work in the cause. It could also be mentioned that several young people who came to the school right from the world have been won to the truth.

Another side of this question is that the hard work and the sacrifice which the school building has required has done our members good, and with the public it has created an interest in our work, and good will which is quite outstanding.

At the school we conduct a summer sanitarium in the summer time and many of the most important persons of the country have been there as guests. Among





them I could mention the Chancellor of the University of Iceland, and several of the professors. A former minister of education has been there several times and recently he asked for detailed information about Adventist education, as he has come to realize that our educational system had something which could be helpful to the educational system of the country.

The population of Iceland is very scattered, and it has always been a problem how to reach these people with our message in a strong and effective way. But now suddenly this problem has been solved, to a certain extent, for it seems that most of the population is going to crowd together in one spot. When my wife and I moved to Iceland about fifteen years ago, only about twenty per cent of the population lived in Reykjavik, but now at least fifty per cent of the population lives either in the city or in its vicinity and every year they are moving in by the thousand, and whole districts out in the country are deserted. This moving of the nation is of course to a great extent caused by the large amount of work offered by the American military base.

Another fact which has paved the way for a strong evangelistic work in Iceland is the favourable attitude of the public toward our work. I might mention some few facts to prove this.

1. About a year ago one of the professors of the Theological department of the University attended a funeral service in our church in Reykjavik. After the service he asked me if I would be willing to give a lecture on the faith and work of Seventh-day Adventists in his department at the University. This was done some months later.

2. A similar invitation to speak on our beliefs and our work was given last summer by a medical doctor who wanted such a talk to be given one night to his guests and patients in a summer sanitarium which he conducted out in the country.

3. Last I might mention a request for religious services extended to us by the jailor of the State's prison. We had our first service there on Saturday night, a week ago, with a group of young people from the school, and it was really thrilling to see these poor young fellows drinking in the message given—and also to notice the enthusiasm among our own young people for such work.

Only a few days ago I received this letter from the headmaster of a school in North Iceland. The letter reads as follows:

"Recently I came across a magazine published by Seventh-day Adventists.

"I was so impressed with the message which this paper contained, that I would like to be a regular subscriber to it.

"Also I would like to ask for information about your school which you conduct in this country. I am not merely asking out of curiosity, but because I know that this institution is doing a work of real cultural value with which I would like to be acquainted."

I mention these things to show you that new opportunities have come to build up a stronger work in Iceland than we have done so far. But in order to work we must have workers. Our present worker force is as follows:

Ordained ministers—1, who is the Conference president and the principal of the school.

A secretary-treasurer who also does all the printing of our books and papers.

Licensed ministers—2, one of them leads all the departments, including the publishing work; the other one is leader of the Bible Correspondence School.

One office worker—a young lady, a new graduate from our training school.

This gives a total of five workers.

Besides these we have four teachers who are doing a splendid work instructing more than eighty children and young people who are attending our two church schools and the training school.

From this you will see that our possibilities for doing a strong evangelistic work are very limited.

Lastly I would say this. The Iceland field seems to be white for harvest. But as we have no evangelist our only chance for winning souls as far as evangelism is concerned, is through the work of our lay members. And surely they are doing a fine work.

The welfare work of our Dorcas societies is widely known in the country. Every year our sisters use about Ikr. 30,000, or \$2,000 to help the poor. In this year's Harvest Ingathering the goal was passed by twenty-five per cent.

But when it comes to evangelism, laymen's work is not sufficient to win the Icelanders who are ready to turn their backs on everything which is not of the highest standard. The Vikings always were proud. That is why some of them left Norway 1,000 years ago and settled in Iceland. It seems that their descendants have lost none of that trait.

If, however, you can do something for them which appeals to them they will respond heartily with all their frankness

and willingness to give themselves and their money.

These days we see plenty of war preparation in Iceland. It seems that the clouds of war are hanging low over the country—the winds are still being held back. And it seems that new opportunities are urging us to hasten with our work and finish it before the Lord shall come.

J. GUDMUNDSSON.

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## NETHERLANDS UNION

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IT IS not easy for me to bring a full report of the Netherland Union, because the former union president left our field for New Guinea in August, 1953, and so I have had only a few busy months to get acquainted with every branch of service in our union.

As you know, Netherland has ten and a half million inhabitants and we have in our union two conferences—the North Netherland Conference, with their office at Apeldoorn and the South Netherland Conference, with their office at Huis-ter-He'de. In both conferences we have altogether 2,245 members in 37 organized churches and 29 groups scattered over the whole country.

In the North Netherland Conference seventy-two believers were baptized in the period January to the end of September, and forty-seven in the South Conference. We must consider that in the past years about 150 members emigrated to Australia and Canada, and there are many who still want to go.

At the moment our ministers are holding strong efforts in several cities. Both our conference presidents, Brethren van Oossanen and Brinkman, have set a good example in soul-winning work, and each one has efforts in a few cities. Brethren Slond, de Ruiter and Contant and other ministers are working also in more than one city. The young ministers who have no public efforts, are working from home to home with two new pamphlets. We printed 100,000 copies of each one. Our workers and members try to enrol families in our Bible Course. We hope to get many addresses in this manner and our ministers keep contact with the students and we expect to have a good result in soul-winning.

Our members are faithful in paying their tithe to the Lord. In the nine months of this year we had an increase of F7,716. We received a total up to September 30,

1953, in both conferences, of F166,800.32.

Our Sabbath school work also shows progress. We have thirty-eight organized Sabbath schools in our union, with a total membership of 1,863 members. We received in Sabbath school offerings in the first nine months of this year F13,128.90—that is about F200 more than last year in the same time.

We have not received the final figures of our Harvest Ingathering for this year, but we know for sure that we have F26,000, and we expect a still higher total amount. It is necessary to give here a short explanation. It was our plan to have our Harvest Ingathering campaign this year in March and April, so the Ingathering paper was ready at the beginning of the year. Then came that terrible disaster over our country. On the night of February 1st, our dykes were broken at the islands of South Holland and Zeeland, and the North Sea water ran over our villages and cities. I will not say more about the flood, but you can understand that it was impossible for us to sell our papers for the Mission, as there was such a great need in our own country. So, our Union Board decided to prepare immediately a new paper with pictures of the flood. Our churchmembers sold 20,000 of this number. We paid 25 per cent from the sale to the Disaster Fund and the rest was for the Big Week. The Harvest Ingathering papers were sold in August and September. You can understand that after the enormous offering for the flood victims it was harder to receive money for the Mission, but we hope to reach our goal next year.

Here I would like to express our most hearty thanks for the help which we have received for our flood victims from the countries represented by the delegates present. We are deeply impressed by the great love and rich fellowship of our believers for our small country which has fought so many centuries against our mighty enemy—the North Sea.

Our youth work is under the special care of our youth secretary, Brother Vink. We have in our field a good, strong group of boys and girls who want to follow in the footsteps of our Master. We have twenty-one organized youth groups with about 400 members. We have a monthly paper specially for our youth, and our youth secretary prepares every month a youth manual as a help for our youth leaders in the churches. This year we had two youth camps, one for the seniors and one for the juniors, nine week-end camps

and one camp specially for youth leaders. Brother Vink invested thirty boys and girls as Master Guides.

Our Bible Correspondence School, the Voice of Prophecy, is very active. The leader, Brother Peter Voorthuis, and his staff, are doing a blessed work. Since the foundation of the Bible School in 1946, about 50,000 people have asked for the lessons. This year 3,672 people asked for the first lessons, and 1,053 of these are enrolled as active students. The leader of the Bible School reports that this year forty-three students, with the help of our ministers, have become members of our church. We believe that the Bible Correspondence School will be a great blessing and a great help in winning souls for the Lord.

Every week our Dutch radio programme The Voice of Hope is broadcast from Radio Luxembourg. Since January 1, 1950 we have enrolled 2,146 listeners—and it is

A KIND, courteous Christian is the most powerful argument that can be produced in favour of Christianity.

—*Gospel Workers*, page 122.

interesting that the radio listeners are the best students. The Bible Correspondence School this year made some statistics which show that from the addresses which came from the canvassers and other members twenty-five per cent became active students, but that from the addresses of the radio listeners thirty-seven per cent became active students.

We know, brethren, that the radio work is a great blessing. The musical part of our programme is really artistic because the quartet of the High church at Hilversum sing our songs. Our radio work is a great help to our ministers and canvassers.

Our Junior College, "Oud-Zandbergen," has two courses—a secondary education and the first two years of the theological course. At the moment there are thirty-two students. It is not easy for a small union to operate such a big property, but Brother Schmutzler, as principal, and his staff do their best to manage the whole business as economically as possible, and we hope that the financial position will be better each year.

During the years since the opening until 1953, nineteen students finished their studies and graduated. Thirteen of them are now in the ministry. At the moment, six other students are doing a year of practical training, after which they will return to the school to finish their studies.

Three students are following our Bible course and the medical course at the university at Utrecht. These promising young men hope, when they are ready, to serve in the mission field. We changed our curriculum this year in co-operation with the programme of the senior college in England.

Our children's home, "Zonheuvel," is still doing a splendid work for orphans and other children. This year—I mean until September 30th—we had 188 children in our home. This institution is nearly self-supporting.

This year we opened an old people's home. Twenty-one old brethren and sisters are very thankful for the peace and the good care which they receive. Now we are building a new wing and next year we hope that we can take another twenty old people into our home. We should have a few more of these old people's homes, because so many good old members are waiting for a quiet place. Now they are in homes of the high church or of the Government, and have trouble with clean food and Sabbath-keeping, so it was a real need to have such a home in our field.

Our Publishing House is also doing strong work. We have seven periodicals, five each month and two each quarter. Our small staff is doing a lot of work. This year we have published *Our Home and Health* in Dutch, and now we are publishing the first volume of *Testimonies and Treasures* and our *Church Manual*. During the first ten months of this year our sales totalled F78,750 which is F7,750 more than for the same period last year. We are very happy that our small Publishing House is self-supporting. We have only sixteen regular canvassers and about twenty part-time colporteurs in our union. This small group's sales totalled F73,525.81.

We have in our country many problems. Our special need is for more church buildings. We are thankful to the brethren of the General Conference and the Division for the generous help which we have received in the past years, and because the brethren are well acquainted with the problems in our field it is not necessary to say more about this.

We feel that we need in our field a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We are praying for this and our ministers and members are working for a big harvest of souls. We need very much your intercession to God, and we will remember you always in our prayers.

F. J. VOORTHUIS.

## BRITISH UNION



THIS year our first old folks' home was opened as the result of a splendid large house being presented at a nominal rental by one of our lay members. The same brother also gave about £600 of furniture to the home.

Our Hyrdo is still battling against socialized medicine and heavy taxation in the country, but nevertheless it is on the upgrade financially. Granose Foods Limited, is encountering heavy problems due to governmental derationing of many foods. To solve this problem and the problem of labour shortage, the manager is busily employed in mechanizing the whole plant and putting out a strong advertising programme.

Our publishing house is still flourishing and for the first nine months of this year there is an increase of sales to the extent of £4,303 over the same period in 1952. It is a record financial report. The periodical, *Our Times*, received annual subscriptions from our members to the total of 7,935 which resulted in our churches receiving free 130,000 of the new tract *What Is a Seventh-day Adventist?*

Financially the union is up considerably both in tithes and offerings. The In-gathering almost reached the splendid total of £42,000, or nearly £6 per member.

Baptisms for the nine months totalled 416 compared with 356 baptisms for the whole year 1952.

The Voice of Prophecy Correspondence School continues to be a strong evangelical factor in the life of our union. For the first nine months of this year there were 7,062 applications to take the course, of which 1,633 graduated. Of these 117 were baptized which is twenty-eight per cent of the total baptisms of the union.

Two strong campaigns were completed in Scotland resulting in over ninety mem-

bers being added to the church. These were conducted at Glasgow and Dunfermline. At the latter place it was virgin territory. A church building was also erected to house the new church.

In Ireland much opposition still is faced by our workers to the extent that no hall has been possible for hire in the city of Belfast. Nevertheless twenty baptisms were reported as the result of patient personal work.

In Wales the spirit of evangelism is strong and at the moment of reporting four good campaigns were in progress at each of which 500 to 800 people were attending each Sunday evening.

The same report is true of the North England Conference. Of the campaigns in progress we make special mention of those being conducted in Birmingham and Sheffield where Pastors T. J. Bradley and K. Elias are preaching respectively. Over 1,600 are attending these two campaigns where also more than 400 Voice of Prophecy students are enrolled.

In the South England Conference fourteen campaigns are now in progress. For

the third year a campaign is being conducted in Ipswich where a good work has been done. Eight hundred are now attending the meetings there.

The purchase of the New Gallery was discussed, and an expression of thanks to the General Conference was made for the very generous gift made to the British Union which is, however, bearing a not inconsiderable part of the initial cost and renovations. The influence of the campaign run by Pastor G. E. Vandeman has reached many of the important people of London. In fact, our standing has been improved in all parts of Great Britain and our name and work has become known to thousands who previously did not know us. Our workers associated with the School of Evangelism last year have profited considerably in many directions and a new power is being seen in their preaching and influence upon the workers in their teams.

We are deeply thankful to God for all of His blessing received, and return thanks to Him for all the success we have seen in the last year. W. W. ARMSTRONG.

ETHIOPIAN UNION  
MISSION

WITH profound gratitude to our heavenly Father, the Ethiopian Union Mission, its 34 overseas workers, 62 national workers, and 1,012 churchmembers bring Christian greetings to the leaders assembled for the annual Division meeting and to the Constituency of the Division that so generously and loyally supports our mission.

In 1950 we had 557 churchmembers in our union. Today the membership is 1,012. There has been a steady growth. In 1951 there were 654. In 1952 there were 790 and this year there are 1,012. As you will see from this, we have nearly doubled our membership in the past three years.

We have focused our energies upon strong evangelism, and God has blessed our labours. We are laying plans to erect a new church building in the city of Addis Ababa which will enable us to carry on a constant evangelistic programme in that colourful city where we have freedom to preach but no hall in which to preach.

We have five elementary schools and a training school in the making. In these schools we have an army of promising young people—975 young men and 282 girls. What a help it would be if we had

a young people's and Educational secretary to help this army of youth!

From every side there are coming requests for us to open up new work. A few months ago a police captain came to us from the Guragi Province begging us to send a worker to teach and preach among his people. He has given the necessary land and the school building. From other places there are coming to us urgent requests for workers.

We value the influence of our four hospitals and five clinics. Our doctors and nurses are a real asset to our work, and we appreciate their influence for good. They are standing side by side with our evangelists.

We express our deep and sincere appreciation to the mission and institutional administrators for their prayerful and sympathetic co-operation as together we have earnestly tried to solve the many and varied problems.

Above and beyond all, we here pause to gratefully and humbly acknowledge the leading hand of our heavenly Father. To Him we express our thanksgiving for His overshadowing providence. We bring to Him our heartfelt gratitude and praise for His present help in every time of need, and for His guiding influence over His work and cause, and over our workers during this past year. S. A. BROBERG.

## WEST AFRICAN UNION MISSION

MEETINGS from over 800 workers and 38,000 Sabbath-school members in West Africa. While 1953 has been a very trying year in many ways, yet we thank God for the blessings which He has given us. Our workers and members, on the whole, are of good courage, in spite of the many difficulties.

### THE URGENCY OF OUR TASK

Less than a month ago under "World News" in Gold Coast's *Daily Graphic* we read the following:

"The Right Reverend Cyril E. Stuart, former Bishop of Uganda, has told the diocesan conference in Bangor, Wales, that the situation in Central Africa was urgent. 'We may have another five or ten years or possibly fifteen to establish the Gospel in that part of Africa.'"

West Africa on the whole, and Gold Coast in particular, has been receiving much attention during the past year. The Africans are arising. As one writer puts it:

"The tide of human restlessness now threatens to inundate Africa. Rising in Europe less than two hundred years ago, this tide, swept over America and the teeming nations of the Orient. Today we are witnessing the awakening of Africa."

West Africa today is demanding the world's attention. Within a few months from now the Gold Coast is to have a complete cabinet of African ministers. So far the ministers have on the whole done a good job, but time alone will reveal just what developments will be when they take the full power into their hands. While we hope for the best, yet we are jolted a bit when we read the report in the July, 1953, *Ministry* regarding India's policy of limiting evangelical work to natives. Indian officials state that what their country needs today is technical rather than evangelical workers. Brethren, we must note the handwriting on the wall and face up to the task before us.

### PRESS OPENING

Pastor G. D. King has already reported on the Press opening. The new press building is an exceptionally fine, modern building and is on one of the main roads going out of Accra.

We wish to express our gratitude to Brother J. H. Craven for his valuable

help during his visit and to The Stanborough Press for their gift of a much-needed Linotype machine. We thank God that at last this beautiful building is complete, the equipment is running, and Gospel literature is being produced.

### SECONDARY SCHOOL

We are happy that this year we were able to add the second year at our secondary schools at Ihie, Nigeria, and Bekwai, Gold Coast. At Ihie the administration building is being completed and the elementary school block is under construction.

At Bekwai the modern secondary school administration block will be completed within a few weeks' time. Dormitories and other buildings are badly needed in order to care for the students adequately in the secondary school.

### DEPARTMENTS

Brother D. L. Chappell, in charge of our Publishing, Sabbath school, and Press Relations departments, has been out of the field for a good part of the year. In spite of this, the colporteur sales have been even greater than in 1952.

We have had 2,600 column inches of  
(Continued on page 13.)



## Accra MV Leadership Training Class

By D. V. Cowin, *MV Secretary, West African Union Mission*

"You are invited to the compound of D. V. Cowin at 4 o'clock on Sunday afternoon." Thus read the personal invitation which was given to about forty persons in the Accra Seventh-day Adventist church. By way of further explanation the sheet told more about the purpose of the meeting. It said that the plan was to train in church youth leadership and that the MV progressive classes would be studied.

When the appointed time came, more than forty interested persons were present. Carefully the whole scheme of MV leadership training was outlined and explained and at once the group launched into the study plan. Guiding the whole programme was a committee of six, chosen by the church board, as follows: Brethren Cowin, Hulbert, Okai, and Ahwa, and Sisters Pearce and Adams.

Regularly each Sunday afternoon

through the weeks more than thirty persons came to the appointed place for instruction and for passing the various requirements. Some recreation was a part of the total programme with one evening being given over to a social and another evening for cinema pictures.

Sister Pearce, a nurse, led out in a First Aid class while Brother Hulbert conducted a class in training to be Light-bearers.

After nearly four months of training, twelve persons were found to be ready to be invested as Friends. Pastor Hulbert planned this programme and led out as these persons gave their presentations and were invested. It was truly an important event in the West African Adventist programme for youth. The group is now carrying on in their preparation for leadership.

(Continued from page 12.)

articles about our work in the public press during nine months of this year. That is nearly three times the amount we had in during the whole of 1952.

We are on the Liberian radio twice weekly. We hear many favourable comments on this programme. The Bible Correspondence Course is reaching a class we cannot otherwise reach. Enrolment forms are coming in by the thousands. Our active list of students has increased over seventy per cent this year.

We have 9,500 Missionary Volunteers in our societies. We have over 14,500 pupils enrolled in our 119 mission schools and 421 youth have been baptized this year.

EVANGELISM

In West Africa we do not keep evangelism in one department, but we endeavour to inject it into every department. Each of our institutions is a centre of evangelism. We thank God for the splendid spirit among the workers in and around these various centres. At our Ife Hospital Dr. S. A. Nagel has been conducting a Bible class for some time and some of the leading people of Ife are deeply interested in our message. The nursing sisters are taking an active part in the MV work and holding branch Sabbath schools in nearby towns.

Pastor R. W. Coon of the Voice of Prophecy is arranging to start a Bible class among some of the better class of people in Ibadan, Nigeria.

On November 6th, Pastor H. S. Pearce, the manager of the Advent Press, held his first meeting in a series of evangelistic meetings on the press compound. After this series of meetings he hopes to develop a Bible class which will run on indefinitely.

OUR LAYMEN

Our West African laymen are on fire for Christ. In May of this year a Lay Workers' Institute was held in the Gold Coast and 140 laymen attended. The Gold Coast laymen alone report 646 converts won during 1952. Some 1,700 have been won by laymen in our union. Nineteen efforts were conducted entirely by laymen this year.

AUGUST EVANGELISM

These all-out efforts were conducted in the Gold Coast during the month of August, but will be conducted in some of the other fields before the end of the year. In the Gold Coast 408 souls were won to Christ in one month!

## Special Days and Campaigns for 1954

|  |   |
|--|---|
| January 2nd .....  | Family Altar Day                                      |
| January 16th .....   | Tithe Sabbath   |
| February 6th .....   | Sabbath School Rally Day                              |
| March 6th to 13th, Missions Extension Week and Home Visitation (Britain)                             |   |
|  | —Offering, March 13th                                 |
| March 20th to 27th .....   | MV Week of Prayer—Offering, March 27th                |
| April 3rd to 10th, Missions Extension Week and Home Visitation (except Britain)—Offering, April 10th |   |
| May 8th .....  | Colporteur Day (except Britain)                       |
| April 24th to May 29th .....   | Ingathering (Britain)                                 |
| June 5th .....   | Education Day—Offering                                |
| July 3rd .....   | Health and Temperance Day                             |
| September 4th, Bible Correspondence Day and Home Visitation Day (Britain)                            |   |
|  | —Offering   |
| October 2nd .....  | Magazine and Tract Campaign (Britain)                 |
|  | —Offering and Subscriptions                           |
| October 2nd .....  | Ingathering (except Britain)                          |
| October 16th .....   | Bible Correspondence Day (except Britain)             |
| October 23rd .....   | Dorcas Welfare—Offering                               |
| November 6th .....   | Colporteur Day (Britain)                              |
| November 6th .....   | Magazine and Tract Campaign (except Britain)—Offering |
| December 4th to 11th .....   | Week of Prayer and Sacrifice                          |
|  | —Offering, December 11th.                             |

NOTE.—We recommend that the special days for 1955 follow the same general plan.

Over in the Ivory Coast, where we have had so many setbacks, we see the dawn of a brighter day. We have the land at Bouake which is about 200 miles inland, and Brother J. R. Buzenet already has a double garage built and has moved into it. The house is under construction and we hope it will be finished by the year end.

In Liberia, the president of the Republic has promised Pastor C. D. Henri the use of the Centennial Pavilion free of charge for an effort starting in December. This is probably the nicest hall in all of West Africa.

When the new church at Monrovia was dedicated, the president came out and gave the sermon. He gave very generously to the collection and a total of over \$1,000 was raised. Among other things in his speech he made the following statement: "Seventh-Day Adventists believe ardently and correctly too, that this is the only Sabbath and that Sunday is not the Sabbath, so we all realize and recognize and endorse their doctrine in so far as their belief in the Sabbath is concerned."

Throughout West Africa the fields have reported holding eighty-two efforts this year and plan on holding thirty-five more before the end of the year.

DOUBLING OUR MEMBERSHIP

Last year we told you that our motto was "With God's help, double or more by '54." We still have that as our goal. It will take much prayer and much work, however, to accomplish this task. Our baptisms this year have not been as heavy as they were a year ago. As at September 30th there were 11,413 in our baptismal classes. This is an increase of nearly 3,000 over last year. We thank God for the good number of converts. If we are to double our membership we will need about 2,500 more baptisms before the end of the first quarter of next year. We hope to have half that number before this year closes, and we shall work and pray for an equal number during the first quarter of next year so that we will have doubled our membership by General Conference time.

The workers in West Africa feel very humble as they press forward with the Gospel among the more than 42,000,000 people in our territories. We are praying for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in order that the message may go quickly and that we will not only double our membership but that it will be multiplied many times and that the work will be finished and Christ will come.

J. O. GIBSON.

# Behold He Comes!

## Church of God

# ARISE!



### THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

**BELIEVING**, That the Lord has greatly blessed His cause in this Division territory during the past year, as seen in the number of souls added to the church, in the loyalty of our faithful membership both in their service and sacrificial giving, and in the generosity of our General Conference brethren in the liberal appropriation of funds to this part of the world field, we, the delegates attending this 1953 Winter Council of the Northern European Division assembled at Amsterdam,

*Record and Express*, 1. Our deep appreciation to our loyal and faithful membership throughout our Division territory for their continued heartening response to the many appeals that come to them as the church endeavours to face the challenge of a task that must be speedily finished.

2. Our sincere gratitude to the General Conference for the generous appropriation of funds toward meeting the many pressing needs and entering the opening doors in our home and mission territories.

3. Our dedication to God and His cause, giving ourselves afresh to Him for unselfish service that the Gospel message might be swiftly carried and the work completed throughout our Division territory.

### THANKS

**REALIZING** that we have been the recipients of many blessings, both physical and

spiritual, while gathered here in Amsterdam at this 1953 Winter Council of the Northern European Division, therefore

*Voted*, That we express our sincere thanks to all who have contributed to our spiritual and physical blessing during these days—having in mind especially our visiting brethren from the General Conference, the brethren of the Netherland Union for their hospitality and efficient service, and the local church whose building and facilities we have been privileged to use.

### EVANGELISM FOR WINTER AND SPRING OF 1953 AND 1954

**WHEREAS**, There is need for frequent short revival and evangelistic efforts to be held in all our churches; and,

**WHEREAS**, Such combined short revival and evangelistic efforts are a mighty factor in establishing our members in the faith as well as in leading many to a definite decision who have been on the verge of the kingdom but who have not taken a definite stand for Christ; and,

**WHEREAS**, Through this means many backsliders are reclaimed and hundreds of children of Adventists are gathered into the churches,

*Be it resolved*, 1. That during the coming winter and spring a supreme effort be made to conduct revival and evangelistic meetings of some seven to ten days' duration

in every Seventh-day Adventist church throughout the Division, in a mighty effort to gather as many as possible into the church during this period.

2. That as far as possible, these meetings be launched on Friday, January 1, 1954, and that this work be carried forward until every church is reached.

3. That wherever possible, church officers and qualified laymen be associated with the ministry to assist in home visitation, Bible work, etc.

4. That where churches are located in remote places making it impossible for a minister to visit during this period, consecrated laymen from larger churches be requested to go two and two to conduct such meetings.

5. That an effort be made to conduct a baptismal service in every church as soon as possible after the close of the meetings.

6. That offerings be taken in the respective churches to defray the expense of these special meetings as far as possible.

7. That such subjects as the following be covered:

- The Church Triumphant.
- Signs of the Approaching End.
- The Hope of the Resurrection.
- Righteousness by Faith.
- The Perpetuity of the Law.
- The Sabbath and Its Meaning.
- The New Birth.
- The Spirit of Prophecy.
- The Second Advent.
- The New Earth.
- The Judgment.



8. That our entire office force in the respective fields, and as far as possible institutional workers, be urged to join our pastors, evangelists, and laymen in conducting these meetings.

9. That in the Northern European Division we set a goal of gathering 2,000 new members into our churches during the period between January 1, 1954, and May 1, 1954.

10. That public efforts be conducted wherever possible in every district during the winter and spring preceding the General Conference session, as may be arranged by the respective committees involved.

*Be it further resolved*, That beginning with the first Sunday in January, 1954, a supreme endeavour be made to have an evangelistic sermon preached in every Seventh-day Adventist church throughout the Northern European Division where it is possible to hold public meetings, and regularly thereafter.

#### BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, The reports from the Bible Correspondence Schools within our Division territory clearly indicate that the Lord is richly blessing this means of soul-winning evangelism,

*We recommend*, 1. That within each union territory where schools are operating, administrative attention be given to increasing the efficiency of the schools, both as to operation and material sent out, so that public confidence in our methods and in our message will be enhanced, and

2. That administrative attention within the union and local conferences be given to encouraging the workers energetically to pursue the interests that are aroused by our Correspondence Schools and that the follow-up work be carefully supervised within the conference territories; and

3. That we continue to encourage our faithful lay members and colporteurs in the use of Correspondence School cards and promotion material in their evangelistic witness.

#### LITERATURE MINISTRY

BELIEVING that "our publishing work was established by the direction of God and under His special supervision," and that "the book work should be the means of quickly giving the sacred light of present truth to the world,"

*We reaffirm* our determination to promote vigorously throughout our Division territory a progressive programme of publishing attractive, message-filled literature, and that every endeavour will be made in each union and local field to maintain an adequate publishing department personnel, with a view not only to maintaining our present colporteur forces, but of increasing them both in numbers and efficiency.

#### PRESS RELATIONS

BELIEVING that the public press exercises a great influence on the thinking and attitudes of men and women in all countries, and that increasing opportunities are com-

ing to us as a denomination, to secure favourable relations with the public press,

*We recommend*, 1. That in each union and local conference, Press Relations secretaries be appointed to foster this profitable avenue of approach to the public mind, and

2. That in our churches, in counsel with the Conference Press Relations Secretary, local Press Relations Secretaries be appointed and that these secretaries be encouraged and instructed in their work with a view to making the best possible use of the public press in the interests of our cause.

#### BIBLE COMMENTARY

WHEREAS, The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary now being prepared by the *Review and Herald* marks publishing history, in that it is the first comprehensive Commentary that has been brought out in the last hundred years by a conservative Protestant body in America; and

WHEREAS, This Commentary meets a very great need, which until now has been unsupplied in our denominational literature; and

WHEREAS, This Commentary, which may finally involve an investment of a quarter of a million dollars, represents a genuine measure of faith and vision on the part of the publishing house that is producing this valuable work, therefore,

*Resolved*, 1. That we urge all our English-speaking workers to secure this Commentary, the first volume of which is the Ministerial Book Club choice for the first quarter of 1954.

2. That we request all our workers to encourage our lay members to secure this Commentary. Very particularly, that we ask our pastors and elders to take time, when making their announcements on Sabbath, November 28th, as far as possible to call special attention to the Commentary pre-publication offer, which expires December 31st, and to place in the hands of the church-members the information leaflet on the Commentary that is being sent to the churches.

#### WORK FOR JEWS

WHEREAS, Many years ago the Lord gave the following counsel concerning the special efforts that should be put forth to take the message to the Jewish people:

"When this Gospel shall be presented in its fullness to the Jews, many will accept Christ as the Messiah."—*Acts of the Apostles*, page 380.

"Among the Jews are some who, like Saul of Tarsus, are mighty in the Scriptures, and these will proclaim with wonderful power the immutability of the law of God. The God of Israel will bring this to pass in our day."—*Gospel Workers*, page 399.

"There will be many converted from among the Jews, these converts will aid in preparing the way of the Lord, and making

straight in the desert a highway for our God. Converted Jews are to have an important part to act in the great preparations to be made in the future to receive Christ our Prince."—*Evangelism*, page 579.

"As they see the Christ of the Gospel dispensation portrayed in the pages of the Old Testament Scriptures, and perceive how clearly the New Testament explains the Old, their slumbering faculties will be aroused, and they will recognize Christ as the Saviour of the world. Many will by faith receive Him as their Redeemer."—*Acts of the Apostles*, page 381.

"The time has come when the Jews are to be given light. The Lord wants us to encourage and sustain men who shall labour in right lines for this people; for there are to be a multitude convinced of the truth, who will take their position for God. The time is coming when there will be as many converted in a day as there were on the day of Pentecost, after the disciples had received the Holy Spirit."—Mrs. E. G. White in *Review and Herald*, June 19, 1905, and

WHEREAS, We are now publishing a series of thirty-six tracts, written especially for the Jewish people, for use in regular missionary work, and also as lessons in the Jewish Bible Correspondence Course, and

WHEREAS, We now have a quarterly journal for the Jewish people, bearing the name, "The Sabbath Exponent," and

WHEREAS, Arrangements have been made for the special promotion of the Jewish literature in our churches, and for the distribution of a special four-page tract during the regular Visitation Day in the spring of 1954,

*We recommend*, 1. That a strong appeal be made to our workers and believers in centres where there is a large Jewish population, for renewed and increased efforts with our literature on their behalf in the respective areas of our churches.

2. That we encourage our members to subscribe for suitable literature for their Jewish friends and neighbours.

3. That in the local fields plans be developed with a view to the widest possible coverage of the Jewish populations in our Division territory on the 1954 Special Visitation Day, and that instead of mere contacts being made with the Jewish people on that occasion, earnest endeavours be made to enrol them for the Jewish Bible Correspondence Course.

#### WORLD REVIEW

WHEREAS, The *World Review* is to be discontinued at the close of the present year, and

WHEREAS, The material of this special edition of our chief church paper has been of great help and blessing to our people in these lands; and

(Continued on page 6.)

# NEWS FLASH

NOVEMBER, December, and January are very busy months in the West African Union Mission, when in each section of the field annual camp meetings are held and also business sessions of the various mission committees. Our Division representatives to these annual meetings for 1953-4 are A. F. Tarr, G. D. King, and E. L. Minchin. These men will spend from ten to twelve weeks in West Africa.

L. M. Hamilton, G. A. Lindsay, and E. B. Rudge have been appointed to represent the Division in the Ethiopian Mission for their annual business meeting, convening in Addis Ababa from January 17 to 25, 1954. Visits will also be made to each of the various mission stations and hospitals at this time.

Elder A. W. Cormack, one of the associate secretaries of the General Conference, passed through London on December 2nd, *en route* to West Africa, where he expects to spend eight weeks visiting the various mission centres. He reports being most favourably impressed with his visit to the New Gallery Centre, London.

Pastor J. O. Gibson, president of the West African Union Mission, who has been with us for the annual Division committee meeting in Amsterdam, passed through London on his way back to West Africa, on December 2nd. Together with his associates in the Mission headquarters, he will be spending a strenuous period in camp meetings and mission committee work during the next two months.

G. L. Annis, secretary-treasurer of the West African Union Mission, sailed for Accra on December 3rd. Mrs. Annis is remaining for a little time longer before rejoining her husband. Brother Annis reports having had a happy and interesting period of relaxation while visiting the churches in the British Union.

The president of the Ethiopian Union Mission, Pastor S. A. Broberg, visited London for several days *en route* to Amsterdam for the annual Division committee meeting. This was Pastor Broberg's first visit to the Division office since his appointment to the presidency of the Ethiopian Union Mission two years ago. Pastor Broberg was happy to have the

privilege of spending several days with his daughter Esther, who is a student nurse at the Peace Memorial Hospital, Watford.

From Eritrea we continue to receive encouraging reports indicating progress in the work in that difficult field. On several occasions recently there have been baptismal services and quite a number are being added to the church. Plans are in hand for the organization of two new churches at an early date. Pastor J. H. Wollan, superintendent of the Mission, also reports that the Ingathering campaign in Eritrea has yielded much encouragement. In two days he succeeded in gathering 1,000 Ethiopian dollars, and Brother H. E. Davis, the evangelist in Asmara, also had a most encouraging re-

MEMBERS of the Division office family extend to readers of the NORTHERN LIGHT and to all workers in the Northern European Division, their heartiest wishes for a happy New Year. May your lives and service be richly blessed as you enter this new period of service for God and your fellowmen.

response to his appeals. The Eritrean Mission goal of 2,000 Ethiopian dollars is already in sight and will be exceeded before the campaign closes.

Encouraging reports continue to reach us concerning the evangelistic campaign in the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, North England, under the leadership of Pastor T. J. Bradley. We are happy to learn that more than 1,000 people have been attending these meetings regularly from their inception some ten weeks ago. The group of ten workers in this special campaign are all fully taxed in caring for the interested people.

We are happy to report that Pastor S. G. Hyde, of the South England Conference, is conducting for the third year in succession a most successful campaign in a hall in the city of Ipswich. Some seventy people have already been gathered out in this city. Prospects for a further growth are indeed bright.

Our Division field secretary, Pastor O. J. Olsen, was unable to be present at the annual meeting of the Division in Amsterdam owing to pressure of work connected with a public evangelistic campaign he is conducting in the city of Bergen, Norway. Brother Olsen reports that

the interest is good and he is being warmly supported by the churchmembers in that city.

A recent letter from Pastor W. Till, president of the North Nigeria Mission, reports that on a recent Sabbath they had the pleasure of baptizing fifty-seven new members. These have been added to the churches in Jengre and Jos. This is the largest baptism yet to be held in North Nigeria. There are also a number of other candidates preparing for baptism who, it is hoped, will be added to the church before the end of 1953. We rejoice with Brother Till and his associates in this excellent harvest of souls.

A welcome delegate to the recent annual meeting in Amsterdam was Pastor J. Gudmundsson of Iceland. He brings a most encouraging report of success in the development of the new mission training school. He also states that there is a growing interest among the general public in Iceland in the teachings of our message. He reports an unprecedented opportunity in the city of Reykjavik at the present time for a strong public evangelistic campaign. His mission committee has placed a request with the Division for the services of an experienced evangelist to assist in taking advantage of this fine opportunity. E. B. RUDGE.

## DIVISION DIRECTORY

A. F. Tarr ..... *President*  
E. B. Rudge ..... *Secretary*  
G. A. Lindsay ..... *Treasurer*  
Alf Karlman ... *Auditor and Asst. Treasurer*  
O. J. Olsen ..... *Field Secretary*

## DEPARTMENTAL SECRETARIES

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G. D. King ... *Publishing, Press Relations,  
Radio, and Religious Liberty*  
E. W. Pedersen ..... *Home Missionary*  
T. J. Bradley ..... *Ministerial Association*  
L. Mark Hamilton, Ph.D. .... *Educational*  
E. L. Minchin ... *Sabbath-School, Missionary  
Volunteer, and Temperance*  
EDITOR ..... MRS. A. F. TARR

## NORTHERN LIGHT

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