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ETHIOPIA — *of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah*

By E. B. Rudge

FOR MANY years our people, particularly in Northern Europe, have taken a deep interest in the development of our mission work in Ethiopia. The Italian invasion prior to the second world war, and all that grew out of it, brought very serious disruption to our general mission activities. Most of our missionaries during those years were compelled to leave the country.

In the past three or four years, as workers have again been able to re-establish themselves strongly in various parts of this interesting field, much encouragement has come to all those who labour in the Ethiopian Union. Ethiopia is a country rich and varied in its territory. A spirit of progress is taking hold of the people and everywhere there are indications of changes and developments that point to new attainments. Recently the country of Eritrea federated with the kingdom of Ethiopia.

Our work in this most interesting part of the world is organized into five missions. They are as follows: Begemder Mission, with its headquarters at Debra Tabor, forms a part of the northern area of Ethiopia; the Wollega Mission, which has its centre at Gimbie, is located in the western portion of Ethiopia; the Wollo Mission, the centre of which is Dessie, and where the work has recently been reorganized, is located in the eastern portion of Ethiopia; the Shoa Mission, which includes the city of Addis Ababa, has its headquarters in that city and is supervised by the union president; the Arussi Mis-

sion, in which is located our Ethiopian training school for workers, lies 150 miles to the south of Addis Ababa. The Eritrea Mission has its headquarters in the city of Asmara. These various missions have a combined staff of workers totalling 173. Of these, 120 are national workers who have been trained in our mission schools.

Educational Work

For many years the main school in this field was the one located at Akaki, where at the present time eight grades of work are being given, and where we have an enrolment of some 300 young people. Schools also are conducted in connection with the mission stations at Debra Tabor



Pastor S. A. Broberg, President of the Ethiopian Union Mission.

and Gimbie. Earnest efforts are now being made to establish a training school for workers in the Shashamana district, where we have obtained from the Government a fine piece of land and on which now steps are being taken to provide the needed permanent buildings for the successful conduct of this training school.

Medical Work

Hospitals are being operated at Debra Tabor, Gimbie, Dessie, and Addis Ababa. The Addis Ababa hospital is our largest and also is the centre at which a training school for nurses has been operated for the past three years. Many thousands of patients are cared for year by year in these institutions. In them we employ six European doctors and ten European nurses, in addition to a large number of national assistants.

Evangelism

In recent years the work of evangelism has received increasing attention, and the missionaries find gratification in seeing the membership steadily increasing from year to year. This feature of the work was very gravely interrupted during the war years. Now that peace and prosperity are again manifest, our workers find themselves able increasingly to carry on an active evangelistic programme. As reported elsewhere, in this Mission the membership gain over the past four years has exceeded 100 per cent.



Wilken Svarre Jensen and family, Secretary-treasurer of the Ethiopian Union Mission.

The most heartening development is the practical interest taken in this phase of our work by an increasing number of our Ethiopian young people.

On this last visit, made in company with G. A. Lindsay and L. M. Hamilton, we were all deeply impressed with the splendid way in which young workers are being developed for evangelism and school work, all of whom are deeply interested in the

soul-winning phase of the work. We found this to be so at Debra Tabor, Gimbie, Kuyera, and Asmara, where strong school work is being conducted. For example, in the Gimbie district the students are responsible for having developed interests among the dwellers in some nine or ten villages.

In connection with the Annual Meetings, we were privileged to share in the ordination of three Ethiopian young people to the Gospel ministry. These were Dessie Kassahun, Tebedje Gudaye, and Takale Bezuneh. Each of these men in recent years has met with success in public evangelism. They vary in talent and in qualifications, but share one common quality—that is, the spirit of dedication and devotion to the work of God. It was a great privilege for us as visitors to have a share in the setting apart to the Gospel ministry of these three consecrated workers.

In assuring you that the work in Ethiopia is onward, and in sharing with you these few brief impressions of my recent visit, I am also encouraged to request that our people everywhere carry on their hearts a burden for this work, making mention in prayer before the Lord of the needs of these people and all the workers who serve them.

hardly came into their thinking. We surely admire these brave pioneers for their courage and endurance.

When finally the day came for them to begin their work they had to fight superstition and opposition. I would like to quote a few lines from Sister Marie Haseneder's book, *A White Nurse in Africa*. Sister Marie was the first nurse in the Dessie Hospital.

"Six months after my arrival the hospital was opened. It offered the only medical help to inhabitants in a radius of about 150 miles. In spite of that it was difficult to get a footing. One could have assumed that the patients would pour in to be relieved from their many sufferings. We wondered why this was not the case. From ten to twenty patients a day was the limit, and whenever the doctor suggested an operation to a patient, the patient would have an excuse and disappear. Finally we did find a few sick persons whom we could convince that they would enjoy being cared for in our beautiful wards and comfortable beds."

How different was the opening of our hospital this time. Just after our arrival people came wanting to make appointments to see the doctor. After the clinic was opened the patronage increased daily.

When Dr. Bergman went home on furlough after his first term of service, Dr. Purlmal came out to take over the responsibility of running the hospital. At the same time a Swedish nurse, Miss Hedlund, came out to release Sister Marie. However, Miss Hedlund became ill and had to return home after a short period of service. Dr. Purlmal also returned home soon afterward to complete his medical studies. This left the hospital without a doctor and to remedy the situation Dr. Scott from Norway was called to fill the vacancy. Another nurse was called from Norway, Sister Petra, and again the hospital was staffed. Later when Dr. Scott

WOLLO MISSION

By E. Palm

Report presented at the Union Session

WOLLO MISSION is one of the first districts where mission work was started outside of Addis Ababa. In fact the Dessie Hospital was for a long time the only medical institution we had in Ethiopia. Permit me to give a brief review of how the work began and was carried on in Dessie.

In 1927 Dr. George C. Bergman was called to build up the mission station on the land given to us by Ras Tafari. We sometimes think there are great difficulties in erecting buildings in this country due to lack of qualified workmen and shortage of building material, but in those days everything had to be made by hand. Boards were hewn or sawn by hand and carried to the place where the building was to be erected. Lime had to be burned in a pit several miles away and brought by donkeys. Corrugated iron for the roofing was brought by caravan from Addis Ab-

ba, a procedure taking several weeks. Our missionaries had to travel by caravan from Addis Ababa to Dessie and such a journey took fourteen days. Today we have roads and can make the same distance in one day, not to mention the air service which

Main building of the new Dessie Hospital which was opened in 1952



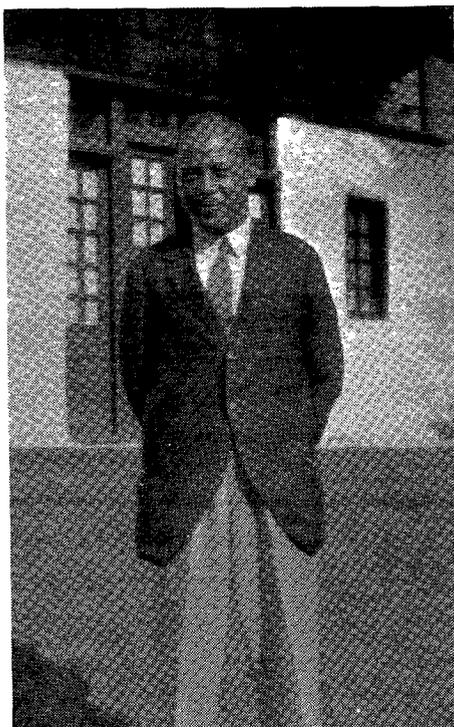
returned home there was again a need for a doctor. By this time the hospital had built up its reputation and was always full of patients. For some time Sister Petra was the only one in charge of the hospital until Sister Stadin came out from America to take charge. Dr. Stadin stayed at our hospital until the Italian troops were just outside Dessie. At the last minute our missionaries were able to get transportation to Addis Ababa, thereby escaping being captured by the enemy.

After the hospital was built a boarding school was established. Brother and Sister Frede Nielsen from Denmark came out to take charge of the school work. Even today people come and tell us that they used to attend our school and to ask about their former teachers.

After the liberation of the country until recently we have had no work or workers in Dessie. One of our churchmembers, Gobasie Tafeta, first worked as a teacher in one of the Government schools and later became the Educational Director of the Wollo Province. He has been a faithful and loyal churchmember and has done good work up here. When Pastor Bjaanes and I stopped over on Sabbath on our way north, we were happy to see Ato Gobasie gathering about twenty-five children and friends and conducting Sabbath school for them in his own home.

About one and a half years ago Brother Dessie Kassahun was sent to do evangelistic work in Dessie. Brother Kassahun did good work in spite of opposition from the Coptic Church. It has taken time to gain the confidence of the people, but as a result of his work fourteen young people have been baptized. Two baptismal services have been conducted, one at the beginning of August and the other at the end of December. A church has been organized consisting of the fourteen baptized from Brother Kassahun's effort. Besides these there are eleven churchmembers working in the hospital and five overseas workers, making a total of thirty.

Our great need is for trained Ethiopian evangelists who can go and preach the Gospel to the many who want to respond to the message. Several of the newly baptized members are intelligent young men who are eager to go and tell their fellowmen about the new found faith. But they need training. Some of them do not have enough education to enter the training school, but still need a few years in an elementary school. What we need is a school in the Wollo Province where we can give them the necessary education. We cannot expect any further workers if we



Dessie Kassahun who worked as an evangelist in Dessie, was recently ordained to the Gospel ministry.

have none to send for training. Right now we need two or three Ethiopian evangelists who can take up the evangelistic work in connection with the out-clinics planned for by our hospital board.

We must spread out in order to reach the Galla population living in the lowlands of our territory. The Danakil people living in the Danakil desert are also a mighty challenge to us. During a recent visit to Bathi we saw thousands of them in the market. Ought we not in some way to gain an entering wedge among them? An Ethiopian dresser operating a small

clinic to help their physical needs and an evangelist to go along with the medical worker might be the answer to the problem.

For our church in Dessie we need a new building where we can meet for Sabbath school and other services. Before the hospital opened Brother Kassahun used to gather the believers in one of the rooms in his house. It was very crowded so we decided to move into a large room in the hospital. But this room is badly needed for a patients' ward. There is also no place for the children, so they have to go wherever there happens to be a vacant spot. Brother Kassahun also needs a place where he can gather the interested people for Bible studies.

We are encouraged by the success we have had so far and we believe that greater things are in store for us. We are looking forward in faith knowing that the great leader, Jesus Christ, is with us.

A CONVERTED MONK

WHILE visiting the Kuyera Training School recently, it was a pleasure and privilege to meet a new worker, our Brother Gebre Kristos, a recent convert from the Coptic Church. This brother is a striking demonstration of the power of the message to change not only the thinking but the way of life of men who receive it in sincerity.

For many years Brother Gebre Kristos was the assistant head of a monastery in which were housed 300 monks. For the last five years of his contact with the monastery he served as its head. One day he observed a man walking outside the monastery carrying a book under his arm. He invited the man in and asked him

Debra Tabor Evangelistic group, 1953. Pastor E. Bjaanes is seated in the front row.



about the book he carried. This man was one of our Ethiopian workers, Brother Takale Bezuneh. Some little time was spent in chatting about the book our brother was carrying. This, of course, was the Bible.

Following this interview, Brother Kristos secured a copy of the Bible. This he studied diligently. Many things troubled him. From time to time he had many questions to ask. Finally, as the fullness of the message dawned upon his mind, he faced the struggle of acceptance or rejection. In his eagerness to share his new-found faith with his fellow-monks, he met with difficulties and obstacles. Finally, he fully decided for the message and withdrew from the monastery. This led him into considerable difficulty and to a measure of persecution. He studied the truth more fully with some of our missionaries

and national workers, and finally was baptized.

Then came upon his heart a burden to preach the message. In the past few months this newly-won worker to the cause has had excellent success in working in the vicinity of the Kuyera Training School. Here many have accepted the truth and many more are deeply interested. Brother Gebre Kristos earnestly invites the prayers of his new-found fellow-believers in the work in which he is engaged, expressing deep felt desire to be used by the Lord as a winner of souls.

Formerly our good brother was known as Gebre Mariam, meaning a "servant of Mary." Since the message took possession of his heart and he found in Christ a Lord and Saviour, he now bears the name Gebre Kristos, a "servant of Christ."

E. B. RUDGE.

trees, bundles of hay and grass were being carried toward the new town by hundreds from all directions. They had to be quick as the small rains were soon expected.

Our caravan group consisted of three besides myself, Abebe, the native "dresser," with two other natives to care for the fire, mules, and the donkey which were carrying our belongings.

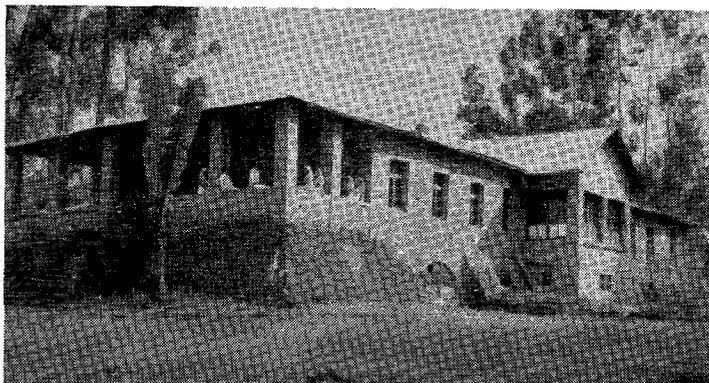
Our morning and evening worships were the two important items of the day. Never before had I realized the vital importance of prayer in one's life. The morning worship was held about 8 a.m. while the people would be gathered for their treatments. A short passage from the Bible would be read, with a simple explanation, followed by prayer for God's help and blessing both upon the people and ourselves.

The evening worship was held around a bonfire in the company of our caravan staff of four and the two Zabanyas or "night watchmen" sent by the chief of the town for our protection. I still remember how grateful these night watchmen were for the simple biblical explanations given. They had both promised to buy Bibles and read them. They even blamed their priests for their ignorance of the Scriptures.

During our twelve day stay at this place we had good success; many were helped by our simple treatments. People came from all directions for help.

One special case has impressed me very much. Early one morning, a Moslem was brought to us on an improvised wooden stretcher, carried by his sons on their shoulders. He was covered with innumerable sores, crippled, and in agonizing pain. He had been brought to us on a seven to eight hours' journey for help. The sons, in a short time, built a temporary shelter from tree branches for their father near our hut. Arrangements were immediately made to start treatment. They also agreed to pay.

After three days' treatment, there was marked improvement in the man's condition and on the fifth day, when we left our camping place for another, it was so good to see him walk along with us on an eight hours' journey to his home, praising God and blessing us. He hadn't quite finished his treatment and owed us some more money, but promised to come to our next camping place, which wouldn't be far from his home, and finish his treatment. However, he never came, but on the day of our departure from Infraz, our second camping place, a young boy approached with some money in his hand. Upon inquiry, I found out that he was



Debra Tabor Hospital, Ethiopia.

A TRIP INTO THE INTERIOR

By Nurse Shake Nalkranian

No doubt it must be the desire of all God's people to know their Creator better.

As a nurse, it has been my privilege to make several trips into the interior of Ethiopia. During these trips I have been able to understand better the words of David found in Psalms 23:1, 2; 19:1-3; 34:7, 8, and in Luke 9:6. Yes, I have known Him as my Shepherd and guide and have heard the still, small voice speak to me, as I have gone up and over majestic hills and mountains and through beautiful green valleys and forests full of colourful birds; for indeed Ethiopia is full of pure, rugged, natural beauty. I have also known

Him as the compassionate Great Physician of old.

A special letter of request for medical help had been sent to Dr. Hogganvik (our Debra Tabor mission doctor) and I was appointed to make the trip.

Typhus is an endemic in Ethiopia, but from time to time it becomes an epidemic—such was the case at this time.

Starting out in the early part of the year, we made our first stop at a small town called Addis-Zeman. The town was newly being built and the people were very busy erecting their mud and straw huts on a patch of land given to them by the government. Tree trunks, branches of

the son of the Moslem we had treated at Addis-Zeman. He had been sent to pay part of their debt and to thank us again for the help given to his father.

At this our second camping place God blessed us again. We were able to help many sick and unfortunate people, visiting villages and vaccinating people against typhus.

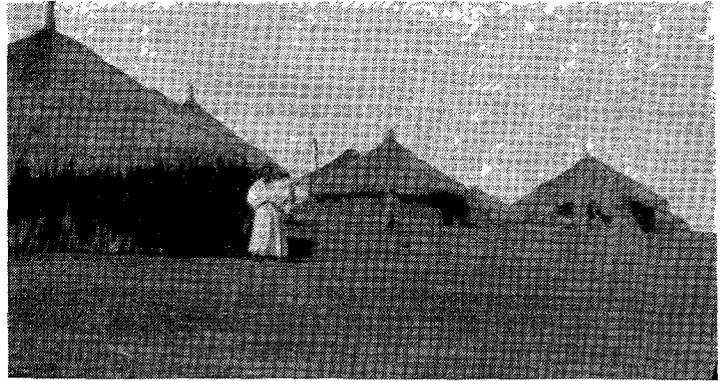
One morning as we were busy with our clinic, held under the shelter of a large tree, a man approached with a request—his wife was very sick with the Bashita “sickness,” meaning typhus. She might even die, but would we please go and see her just once. I had a very bad cold at the time with a slight fever and had been treating myself with penicillin against complications. The man insisted so much that we made arrangements to go.

Clinic over, soon after 1 p.m., two of our mules were saddled for the trip which lasted almost one and a half hours through fields and jungles.

Instead of being led to the villages, where we had expected to find the sick women, we were taken into the midst of the jungle where, under the spreading branches of a large tree converted into a temporary hut, a sick woman was lying on a wooden bedstead with an animal skin underneath her and covered with a single shama, a long strip of native woven, cotton material, which is worn around the shoulders over the native dress.

It is the native custom in the interior that whenever a person is suspected of having the “Bashita,” he is taken out of the village and isolated under some kind of a temporary shelter—away from friends and relatives and here left to fate, to get

One of the many Galla villages in the lowlands of West Ethiopia that constitute a mighty challenge to the workers in Ethiopia.



well or to die. Native medicines may be administered.

There are those who are afraid to pass by any village that may be suspected of typhus. I have seen sick people left under the shelter of trees with hardly anything to eat or drink.

It was quite evident, though, that this woman had pneumonia and not typhus. She was indeed very ill and could hardly talk, with a very high fever, sleeplessness, etc. Under the circumstances we did our best to make her as comfortable as possible. Meanwhile, I collected all the “shamas” the men standing around had, and covered the patient with them. I also tried to fix a kind of curtain to protect the patient from draughts. After having given the necessary treatment, I prayed for help and guidance and we left feeling that the best possible had been done.

The next morning the husband came with the news that the patient had had a fairly good night and was asking for us again. We visited her that same day and the following two days on their own

request and we were happy to see the marked improvement in the patient's condition. Some days later when the husband stopped coming for us, we knew that the patient must be beyond danger.

In spite of slow transportation, news seems to travel around in a surprisingly quick manner. So it was that people around knew who we were, where we were going, and what we were going for. As we went back and forth on these daily trips, we noticed that people were very friendly to us, would stop to greet us, inquire after the health of the sick woman, and then tell us about their own ailments. I often felt helpless in the presence of so much ignorance, misery, and sickness.

From Infraz we moved down to Meno, near Lake Tano. Here one night about 9.30 p.m., I was called out of my tent by Abebe, the dresser boy. Standing in the dark was a man, begging us to go and see a sick woman. Abebe didn't think it was wise for us to visit patients at that time of night. He knew his country and was advising accordingly. Nevertheless, I was impressed to go, and so we did.

Furnishing ourselves with a flashlight and a stick for protection against animals (not lions), we followed our guide fifteen minutes' journey to a near-by village, where, in one of the huts, crowded with neighbours and their children, was a woman lying on a wooden bedstead supported by her husband. Not knowing what the case was, I approached the woman and began questioning her, but no sooner had I touched her when suddenly she began shivering, her whole body going into violent, but rhythmic convulsions and abnormal sounds coming from her throat. I had never seen such a sight in my life nor heard of any such sickness. Then suddenly I remembered having heard from others about people being possessed by the evil spirit, called “Zar” by the natives. I had heard descriptions of such attacks explained to me.



Spinning “shamas” for the Dorcas Society in Ethiopia.

They knew very well what the woman was suffering from and I still do not know why they called me that night. They might have thought that maybe I could give a medicine to calm her.

It was so unexpected that for a few moments I didn't know what to do. I just kept watching the woman. I was not a bit afraid but felt a rising rebellion within me against Satan and his evil power.

Turning to the people gathered there, I spoke to them as follows, through my translator: "You know very well what this woman is suffering from. None of my medicines can cure her. God alone is able to make her well, and if all of you here are willing and believe in God, we will pray and ask God to send the evil spirit out of her." While speaking thus to the people, my mind had gone back almost 2,000 years and I could see the great Healer of all ages, healing people possessed of the evil spirit.

I was silently praying for faith from above, as I had very little of it. Then I prayed loudly while Abebe translated. Gradually the woman calmed down and all during prayer she kept quiet. When we finished praying there was silence and quiet in the room. I stayed with her for another half hour. She complained of thirst but no more of those violent shakings of the body.

Eventually we left them with the promise to visit again the next day.

Usually it is the custom to entertain the spirits with drinking and dancing. But that night something different had taken place. I am sure the evil spirits must have been displeased.

On the following day at noon when I visited the lady, she was lying on her bed all exhausted from the effects of the previous night. I sat beside her and began to talk to her in my broken Amharic which seemed to please her; she was watching me in a curious manner. The husband, having promised to bring news of her the following day, I left her.

Toward the evening of the third day, while wondering in my mind as to how she might be faring, suddenly I noticed a man and woman approaching. There she was with a sack of barley in her arms for the mules. She had come to thank me, and, after the Ethiopian custom, she was bowing to the ground.

I told her she must thank God and not me, for it was He who had made her well.

A day or two later we left Meno and I never saw her again, but I have often prayed for her.

These are just a few examples of the many thousands of similar cases.

Our Missionaries in the Ethiopian Union and their Home Bases

We believe the readers of the NORTHERN LIGHT will be interested to know a little of the personnel connected with the Ethiopian Union Mission. It is interesting to meet these workers and to discover the widespread nature of the countries from which they have come. Here is the list.

<i>Home Base</i>	<i>Worker</i>	<i>Present Location</i>
British Isles	Mr. and Mrs. Norman Tew Nurse Mary Tweedie	Kuyera Training School Addis Ababa Hospital
Denmark	Pastor and Mrs. S. A. Broberg Nurse Ruth Broberg Nurse Anna Jensen Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Jensen Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Jorgensen Dr. R. Nielsen	President, Ethiopian Union Dessie Hospital Gimbie Hospital Secretary-treasurer, Ethiopian Union, Addis Ababa Addis Ababa Hospital Gimbie Hospital
Finland	Miss Marie Hoglund	Gimbie
Norway	Pastor and Mrs. E. Bjaanes Miss Margit Halvorsen Nurse Maria Hauge Dr. and Mrs. K. Hogganvik Miss Sigrid Nilsen Pastor and Mrs. M. Omland Miss Hildur Tobiasson Pastor and Mrs. J. H. Wollon	Debra Tabor Debra Tabor Addis Ababa Hospital Debra Tabor Asmara, Eritrea Debra Tabor Union office, Addis Ababa Asmara, Eritrea
Sweden	Miss Irene Eide Nurse Alice Lind Miss Mary Magnusson Pastor and Mrs. E. Palm Pastor and Mrs. H. Palm	Asmara, Eritrea Gimbie Hospital Gimbie Dessie Gimbie
Turkey	Nurse Shake Nalkranian	Addis Ababa Hospital
U.S.A.	Dr. and Mrs. F. L. Artress Nurse Alma Binder Pastor and Mrs. H. E. Davis Mr. and Mrs. R. Hanks Pastor and Mrs. H. A. Hanson Dr. and Mrs. B. B. Johnson Nurse Miriam Moore Pastor and Mrs. L. Rasmussen Nurse Rose Reuer Miss Bertha Shollenburg Dr. and Mrs. C. Steen, Jun. Dr. and Mrs. H. Sturgess	Addis Ababa Hospital Addis Ababa Hospital Union office, Addis Ababa Addis Ababa Hospital Akaki School Dessie Hospital Addis Ababa Hospital Kuyera Training School Addis Ababa Hospital Addis Ababa Hospital Addis Ababa Hospital Addis Ababa Hospital

We invite the prayerful support of our home membership for these workers in their self-sacrificing labours in these difficult areas in which they are called upon to labour.

E. B. RUDGE.

SPIRITUAL REFRESHING IN DENMARK

By Emanuel W. Pedersen

IT WAS indeed a most encouraging experience to visit many of our dear people in various parts of the Division, more specifically in Holland and Scandinavia, after our return from Africa last year. The kindness with which we were received, and the hearty welcomes given us everywhere, made us feel at home once more in these northern parts.

That quick trip last autumn, particularly undertaken in the interest of the Harvest Ingathering, is now long in the past, but the grand achievement of our Golden Ingathering Anniversary remains on record for eternity. The enthusiasm with which our folks threw themselves into this mighty missionary endeavour, first in Britain and later in the rest of the Division, was really outstanding. What an omen for still greater things this year!

It was my privilege to spend the week of prayer in Denmark, the first half of it at Skodsborg, the latter part at Vejle fjord College. The management at Skodsborg had arranged for a forty-five minute period in the middle of the day for seasons of study and prayer. These meetings were well attended. In the nature of things such a midday period at a place like Skodsborg, where those attending must leave for duty at definite times, is not the most ideal from the point of view of the one who is to lead the worshippers undisturbed into the presence of God. Yet we felt the Lord with us nevertheless. Many sincere prayers ascended to the throne of grace. I was sorry that I could not stay the whole week and with those dear people reach the climax of that week of spiritual festival.

But I had rich compensation at Vejle fjord. Those days I shall never forget. Seldom have I felt the Lord closer in any Week of Prayer than I did during those remaining days with that splend'd group of young people. Brethren A. Varmer and Nørskov Olsen had arranged the school programme in such a way that these special spiritual exercises had priority over everything else. Oh, for that love that would not let us go! We all felt it. Not in any excitable way, but serenely and calmly. How compellingly Jesus loves! His Spirit hovered over that place during those days, and spoke to boys and girls, yes, to us all.

Many were those who sought me privately. They came to unburden themselves, to seek counsel and help, and to have me pray with them. One night we talked as late as a quarter to one. I only noticed the clock when the last one had left. On two nights out of three we invited such as so wished, to remain behind for special prayer after the evening meeting. On the first occasion about half of the congregation stayed. Next night there were even more. Here was an awareness of personal need, a consciousness that Jesus could fill that need, a desire for Him to do so.

When I left the school I was a richer and happier man than when I came. What a treasure the remnant church has in her youth! May God preserve them and bless them wherever they are.

EVANGELISM IN THE FROZEN NORTH

PASTOR ONNI PELTONEN, president of the West Finnish Conference, with headquarters at Tampere, gives a graphic story of the struggles and successes of some of the evangelists working in North Finland. There are now sixteen churches in this conference with a membership of 2,275, many of whom live in Northern Europe within the Arctic Circle and in Lapland. Pastor Peltonen writes: "God has blessed His work in the West Finnish Conference so that our few workers together with the churchmembers have won more than 170 dear souls. In many places it has been very difficult to get the people to attend meetings. Our evangelists must work hard and cover much territory in order to get a harvest of souls. One of our younger workers had a very difficult place to work in near the Arctic Circle. He did all he could, but it was impossible to get more than a handful of non-Adventists to the meetings. He began to do what Jesus did for our souls. He offered up prayers and supplications with strong cryings and tears to God. He did what Sister White said: 'Cry for the Holy Spirit.' God blessed him and when the time for baptism came, he baptized eleven souls. From the land of cold they are now longing and preparing for the everlasting summerland in the kingdom of God.

"Two of our evangelist sisters worked in three or four difficult country places and

they had a real struggle for souls there. One night Sister S. Piilola was awakened by a voice saying: 'Speak to Terho.' She didn't see anyone. Her fellow worker was asleep. She understood that an angel from heaven had been sent to ask her to speak to Terho. Terho was a boy about sixteen years old who had been coming every week to her meeting from a distance of about fifteen miles. She knew at once what she had to say to Terho: To give his young heart to Jesus.

"At the same time Terho saw a wonderful vision. He saw a light coming nearer and nearer and brighter and brighter. He heard a voice saying, 'Are you ready?' When our sister came to speak to Terho he told what he had seen and heard. They had a wonderful time of prayer together. Terho gave his heart to Jesus and is now a happy Adventist boy.

"One of our evangelists, Onni Halminen, had the privilege of spending some months with Pastor G. E. Vandeman in London last autumn. He began his own campaign in the town of Jyvaskyla at the beginning of 1953. He had the largest hall in town, seating about 450. So many attended the first meeting that he had to announce another meeting immediately after the first. Later he had to hold three meetings on the same topic. So it went on through the winter. He has now baptized about sixty souls and is expecting more.

"One great need is homes for our churches. At the town of Oulu we have a church of nearly a hundred members. It has been very difficult to rent a meeting place for Sabbath school and other services. Now a small hall is being used, but even this is so occupied that they can use it only from one to three o'clock. In winter Sabbath is already over before their Sabbath school commences. There is no place at all for the children. Yes, sometimes they have had their children's Sabbath school in the water closet. This may be hard to believe but it is true! And Oulu is the centre for our work in Northern Finland. We hear often a cry of distress from Oulu like Paul from Macedonia: 'Come over and help us.' May God from heaven and our dear folk hear this voice and come to our help.

"Our greatest need is the power of the Holy Spirit. We are thankful to God for all the blessings we have received, but we are praying and longing for a mightier revival of the Holy Spirit so that the whole of Finland—yes, the whole of the earth—may be lightened with the Advent message and the glory of God."

NEWS FLASH

A. F. TARR, E. L. Minchin, and G. D. King, after spending some weeks visiting the various sections of the West African Union, are now back in the office. They report having had a series of most interesting meetings in all sections of the field and bring encouraging reports of the workers and the work in this rapidly expanding section of our Division.

The Division educational secretary, L. Mark Hamilton, in association with G. M. Mathews of the General Conference Education Department, has recently conducted a series of teachers' institutes in the West African Union. Their programme encompassed all sections of this large and growing field.

During the months of December and January, G. A. Lindsay, L. Mark Hamilton, and E. B. Rudge visited all parts of the Ethiopian Union Mission. Encouraging developments are taking place all round the field. During the course of the Annual Business Meeting of the Mission, plans were finalized for the extension of the building programme of the Kuyera Training School.

A recent visitor to London was R. W. Simons, secretary-treasurer of the Liberian Mission, West Africa. Together with his family, he is proceeding to his home in the United States for furlough.

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Watt and Miss Darnell have been recent visitors to the city of London. Mr. Watt is a member of the faculty of the Helderberg College, Cape Town, and is returning to his post as mathematics and science master in that institution, following furlough in the United States. Miss Darnell is a graduate nurse of the St. Helena Hospital School of Nurses and is proceeding to the mission field for the first time. She is to connect with the Malamulo Mission Hospital.

Our newly opened school in the city of Asmara, Eritrea, recently received a visit from His Excellency, the Governor of Eritrea. Following upon his address to the students in which His Excellency expressed his appreciation of the work being done by the new school, he inspected the buildings and the farm. On leaving, His

Excellency expressed his approval of all that he had seen.

Pastor H. E. Davis, who for the past few years has served in the Ethiopian Union Mission as the union evangelist, was appointed at the recent January meeting of the Ethiopian Union Committee, to serve in that field as its departmental secretary. His particular interests will be supervision of the educational work within the union and the extension of a Home Missions programme among the lay members in the Mission.

Pastor Mangor Omland, who has been engaged in evangelistic work in the Eritrean Mission, has now been transferred to the Begemder Mission in the Ethiopian Union and will locate at Debra Tabor, where he is to assume charge of the Debra Tabor Mission School.

Another change made at the time of the Annual Business Meeting of the Ethiopian Union Mission concerns Miss Irene Eide, formerly connected with the Akaki school near Addis Ababa. Miss Eide is now to connect with the Asmara Training School. She will take up her new duties upon her return from furlough in a few weeks' time.

E. B. RUDGE.

Disfellowshipping of Members," and "The Relationship of the Local Church to Local Conference Sessions," were discussed.

All present entered with enthusiasm into the discussion of all these related problems of church life. Undoubtedly, the few days spent together with these brethren at these two meetings were considered by all to be instructive and helpful and provided a means of instruction from which all present expressed the conviction that they had gained much and would serve with greater efficiency in their offices within the churches.

E. B. RUDGE.

RESOUNDING INGATHERING VICTORY

THE steady annual increase in our Ingathering for Missions climaxed in 1953 in the grand total of \$284,518.21, or \$13,690.02 above the record of 1952. This figure represents missionary work of the highest order, and is the result of efficient organization and prayerful preparation; of consecrated, sustained service on the part of God's loyal people, and of the Lord's liberality in blessing. To Him ascends our praise.

To our faithful toilers goes our sincere thanks on behalf of the many who through this untiring labour shall find their way out of darkness into the glorious light of the cross of Jesus.

E. W. PEDERSEN.

CHURCH OFFICERS' CONVENTION—WEST NORDIC UNION

IT WAS recently the writer's privilege to spend some time in Norway and Denmark attending conventions organized by the president of the West Nordic Union, Pastor A. Lohne, in the interests of the church officers and workers within that union.

The first convention was held in the Oslo church, and was attended by some sixty-five church elders and workers. These men gathered in from all parts of Norway.

The second convention was held at Odense on the island of Fyn in Denmark. At this meeting approximately 135 church elders and ministers from all parts of Denmark were in attendance. The same programme was followed at each meeting. These provided for a careful study of all the responsibilities exercised by church officers in connection with the fulfilment of their many duties. Such topics as "The Care of the Flock," "Duties of Leaders and Church Officers," "Admission to Church Membership," "Procedure to be Followed in Connection with the

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