

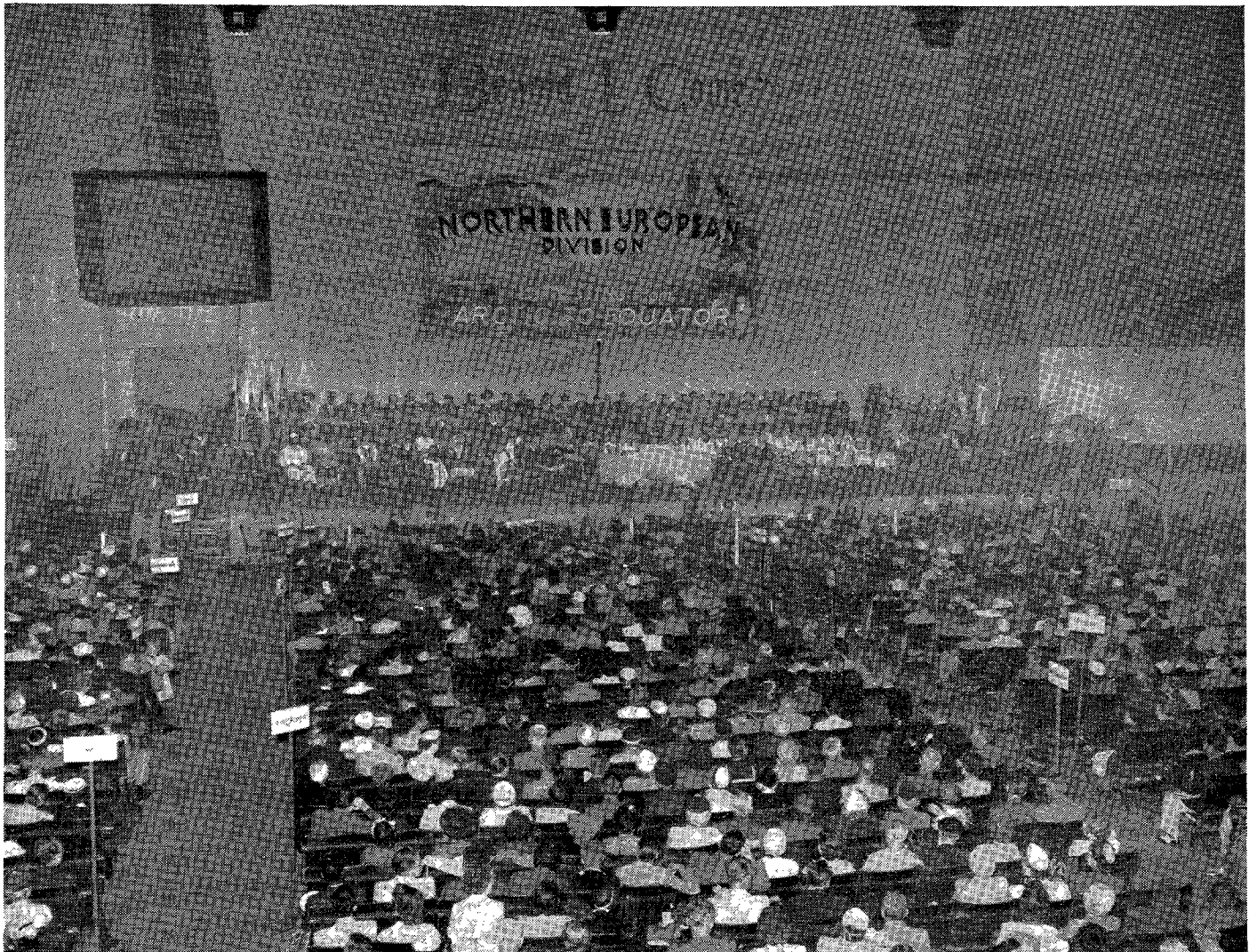


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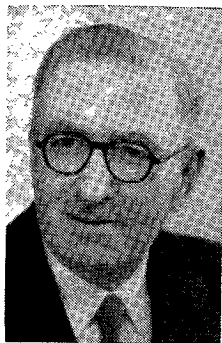
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## *Forty-Seventh Session of the General Conference*



*Friends and delegates fill the rostrum of the Civic Auditorium, San Francisco, as the vast congregation enjoys a night with the Northern European Division. In the front row appear those in national costume, while their flags float at either end of the row.*

## New Officers of the Northern European Division



*Division Secretary*  
E. B. RUDGE



*Division President*  
A. F. TARR



*Division Treasurer*  
G. A. LINDSAY

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

WE are most happy on our return from the General Conference to greet again the workers and members of the Northern European Division. We appreciate the privilege of joining you once again in service, and also of bringing to you warmest greetings from so many of your former co-labourers and associate members now overseas, all of whom still think most affectionately of their old associates.

We wish we could adequately convey to you the joy and inspiration that came to us as we attended this the largest and most representative gathering our church has ever held. All that we heard and saw, testified to the progress that, under God's guiding hand, our movement is making, and to the support that the membership all over the world is giving to speed on the work we all love so well. We rejoiced night after night as each of the world divisions unfolded its story—in tableau or film or through its president's report—of the Gospel's triumphs under the varying conditions of a rapidly changing world. The sum total of all these presentations constituted a picture that will live long in the memories of the thousands of delegates and members who were privileged to be present.

The work of our own beloved Division was accorded its full share of the time and attention of the Conference. From the first day of the session a booth very attractively and impressively set forth the highlights of our activities in many lands. Pictures of our institutions, products of

native craft, articles of apparel worn in certain of our countries, and many other exhibits had been delightfully arranged, and they evoked repeated expressions of interest and appreciation on the part of delegates and friends. Particular enthusiasm was shown by those whose forefathers, or who themselves, had migrated from these countries of ours to America or to other lands.

Of even greater interest to the Conference was the programme presented by the Northern European Division on Tuesday night, June 1st. Seated behind our delegation on the expansive platform were a host of former workers now serving or residing in other fields. They are revered men and women, workers greatly loved in our Division, and who, as stated by the chairman for the evening, had laid an enduring foundation on which we now most gratefully build.

On the front row of seats sat those of our delegation who were dressed in national costume, adding a very colourful effect to the whole scene. Suspended behind and above the delegation was a large, beautifully painted picture, depicting scenes from some of the countries of our Division and bearing the words, "Witnessing from Arctic to Equator."

Ours was but one of the many interesting programmes presented each evening of the Session. The Divisions featured so graphically the countries and peoples' mode of living, dress, and above all the progress of the message under the peculiar situations existing in their respective terri-

tories. We could veritably feel the spirit and atmosphere of the East itself as the delegates from those fields, clad in their beautiful national dress, each told their story. The good cheer of Inter-America, the hardships of Germany, the ardour of Southern Europe, the simple rugged devotion of the African and the South Sea Islander, all transported us to the very countries themselves where to "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" the Gospel of the kingdom is to be preached.

Above the platform during every service there hung the session's motto: "Behold I Come," and it carried our minds back to the fervour of our movement's early days and to our own early fervour when the grandeur of the message first fully broke upon us. Many of the early morning discourses surrounded this motto, and all called for a fresh dedication and a constant readiness to meet our Saviour when He comes.

Elder W. H. Branson's inability to continue in the presidency cast a sadness over the gathering, and sincere tributes were paid to his energetic, inspiring leadership throughout the years of his service. Elder R. R. Figuhr was assured of the unanimous confidence of the great assembly as he was elected to take Elder Branson's place.

We are happy that most of our Division family can be back with us again. These include:

E. B. Rudge, Secretary; G. A. Lindsay, Treasurer; Alf Karlman, Auditor and Assistant Treasurer; G. D. King, Publish-

ing, Religious Liberty, Radio, and Public Relations Secretary; E. W. Pedersen, Home Missionary and Temperance Secretary; T. J. Bradley, Ministerial Association Secretary.

We welcome very cordially J. A. Simonson, our new secretary for Education. Brother Simonson, up to the time of the General Conference, was serving as educational secretary of the Southern California Conference and we are most happy that he accepted our call. We also welcome to our Division staff, M. E. Lind, who has been serving as president of the Uganda Mission in Central Africa. Brother Lind is no stranger to our field as he is a son of Norway who has been labouring for some years as a missionary to Africa. We are most happy to have him back in his old home Division again, and at Division headquarters.

In our own Division we shall sincerely miss Pastor E. L. Minchin, our late Missionary Volunteer and Sabbath-school secretary, who has brought such inspiration and blessing to the youth and adults alike in his loving ministry throughout our field. Brother Minchin has been called to serve as an associate secretary in the Missionary

Volunteer Department of the General Conference. We wish Brother and Sister Minchin and their family God's continued blessing in their larger sphere of service.

We shall also greatly miss Dr. and Sister L. Mark Hamilton, and their son Dean, and Sister van Gorder as they leave us. Dr. Hamilton has made a great contribution toward the upbuilding of the educational work of our Division, and his home has been a happy meeting place of friends from far and near. We wish this family God's guidance and blessing in days to come.

And now as we all take up our work again we are only too conscious of the superhuman task before us. But we enter upon it with a new awareness of the power of God that has thus far attended, and must still attend, the proclamation of the Advent message. We are reminded, too, that when men in days gone by undertook great tasks for God a measure of power was vouchsafed them commensurate with their need. But no past task was ever so great as ours. Nor was there ever focused upon a single generation such a galaxy of prophecies as those which pinpoint the events of our present day. If, therefore,

God's power is measured out according to man's need, is it not our privilege to claim at the present time an all-transcending measure of that power?

But we are conscious, too, that the most vital factor of all in the bestowal of God's power is the spiritual readiness of men to receive it. For the channel must be open and unobstructed by sin through which His blessing must flow. It was when the early Christian church had entered into a right relationship with one another and with God, that it was recorded of them, "With great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus; and great grace was upon them all." Acts 4:33.

Above all things else we desire that that same experience be ours in the Northern European Division. We desire that it be shared by lay members and workers alike. We long that all be so fully dedicated—in life and service—to the cause of our great Leader that the fullness of His promised blessing may be daily and abundantly ours. This we believe to be our most urgent need as unitedly we stretch out a rescuing hand to the more than 160 millions of our Division.

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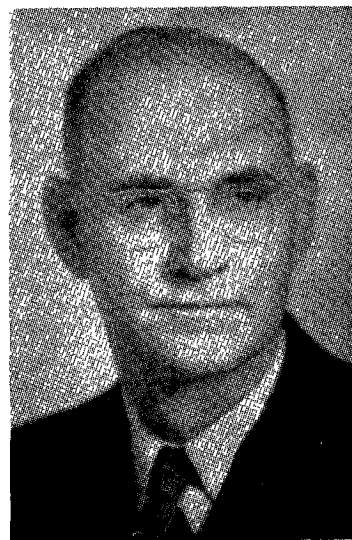
## New Officers of the General Conference



General Conference Secretary  
W. R. BEACH



W. H. Branson, retiring president, welcomes  
R. R. Figuhr, the newly elected president.



General Conference Treasurer  
C. L. TORREY

## An Evening With the Northern European Division

June 1, 1954, 8.00 P.M.

A. F. TARR: We welcome you all most sincerely to this meeting, during which we shall render the report of the Northern European Division. Five union conferences in Northern Europe, the mission unions of West Africa and Ethiopia, and the detached conference of Iceland constitute what some of us consider to be the most interesting and inspiring of all the world divisions—the Northern European Division. In order that you may have some idea of the entity of each union, the delegates in national costumes representing their respective fields will come separately to the platform.

[Delegates from the different union fields of the Division march onto the rostrum.]

The spirit of the Vikings is not dead yet. Blazing the trail of the Advent message far beyond the Arctic Circle, and with missionaries at present actively engaged in the Faroe Islands and Greenland, West Africa and Ethiopia, we have the West Nordic Union, whose home territory is in Norway and Denmark. Alf Lohne, the union president, accompanies his delegation.

That gallant little country of Finland and its stronger neighbour Sweden constitute the East Nordic Union. In common with the West Nordic Union, it stretches far into the Arctic Circle; it incorporates portions of Lapland with its quaint, sturdy people, and it has as its eastern neighbour the Soviet Union. Pastor C. Gidlund, the union president, accompanies his delegation. We also have with that delegation tonight some of those who because of international changes are now in countries not represented at this meeting. We accord some of these Estonians an honoured place in our group.

Guarding through the centuries its beloved shores against the never-ceasing onslaught of tides and waves, and with ancestors who boldly sailed uncharted seas, we have this undaunted country of the Netherlands. F. J. Voorthuis, the union president, leads his delegation.

England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales constitute the old ancestral home of so many in the audience tonight. Associated with these countries are revered names like Wyclif, Latimer, Ridley, John Knox, William Carey, the Judsons, the Moffats, the Wesleys, David Livingstone, and women like Florence Nightingale. The

spirit that actuated these courageous men and women still lives in the British Isles. The delegates of that union are led by its president, W. W. Armstrong.

The most distant of all our fields is the Ethiopian Union, with its ancient traditions and heritage and religion. Its territory is comprised of Ethiopia, Eritrea, the Somalilands, and southern Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Their delegation tonight is led by S. A. Broberg, the union president.

The West African Union incorporates the countries of Gambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, the Gold Coast, Nigeria, Dahomey, Togoland, the Ivory Coast, and part of the Cameroons. It is in this union that the message is winning the largest number of converts. Awakening from an age-long sleep, these countries today are reaching out after education and Christianity, and are taking their place among the self-governing nations of the world. J. O. Gibson, the president, leads this delegation.

On the raised portion of this great platform we have a group of the Division's former workers—workers of whom we are very proud, and on whose enduring foundations we now gratefully build. In the front row we have some of our Division headquarter's staff.

[Division staff and their wives introduced to delegates.]

[Song and Prayer.]

A. F. TARR: The hearts and hands and voices of our 36,365 baptized believers and many thousands of other Sabbath-keepers in the Northern European Division are united with yours in the glorious task of meeting the opportunities prepared by the Lord. We wish that all of these faithful believers might be with us tonight so that you could see what a happy, united family our Division really is.

[The president's report appears elsewhere in this issue.]

Tonight, we want you to hear from the union leaders, and some of their associate workers. Before they speak I am going to ask our secretary, E. B. Rudge, to give you in four minutes some of the high-lights statistically of our Division.

E. B. RUDGE: On the screen you will see some of the high-lights of our statistical information. In our Division there are thirty countries. Work is being done in thirty-five languages. Our population is around 160,000,000. Our membership exceeds 46,000. During the four-year period,

14,365 members were baptized. Like all the rest of the world, we accept the double-the-membership goal. We haven't attained that. Throughout the Division the membership gain is 26 per cent. However, Ethiopia has attained the goal and exceeded it. Their attainment was 115 per cent over the previous period. We rejoice in this, for this is probably the most ancient of the world kingdoms, and it is today receiving with new interest the message of God.

West Africa, our largest field, had a gain of 82 per cent, very remarkable in their circumstances.

We are happy to report that after many years of waiting, Greenland is beginning to receive the message. Last year Brother Nielsen of Denmark went up, spent a few weeks, worked very hard, met bitter opposition, but succeeded in winning some for the kingdom. And this June he goes again, fortified by an assistant minister.

I want to call your attention to the sixty-one new church buildings. While the number sixty-one is not large by comparison with attainments elsewhere, when you remember that most of these sixty-one new buildings were provided in the countries of Europe that suffered so severely from the ravages of war and the restrictions that followed, you will realize that the hand of God has blessed this feature of endeavour.

For five years our Bible correspondence schools have been working. The enrolments are close to 112,000. We rejoice that of those enrollees, 2,770 men and women and young people have been baptized.

The literature ministry has received constant and careful consideration in all our fields. We had an average of 360 colporteurs throughout this period. The gains in deliveries over the previous year are in excess of \$105,000.

We have carried on an extensive medical service. In the year 1953 alone, our medical workers cared for more than 290,000 patients. Of this number, 135,000 were cared for in Ethiopia and West Africa.

The last fact I want you to note concerns the immensity of the task that still faces us. I call to your attention the relationship of our workers force in each of our fields to the population. In Iceland we have one worker to every 22,000 people. In the West Nordic Union, where the

work has gone on since around 1870; we have one worker to every 62,000 people. This does not mean one ordained minister. The workers are spread over the various worker groups, from the early beginner to the more experienced and mature worker. West Africa has one worker to 72,000 people. The East Nordic Union, one to 86,000 people. Ethiopia, one to 104,000 of its people. The Netherlands Union, one worker for 245,000 of its people. In the British Union we have one worker to 315,000 people.

In the mission lands a great deal has been done, but there remains much yet to be attained. We are profoundly grateful to the General Conference for having given to us the evangelistic centre in the city of London. Within a circuit of fifteen miles of the New Gallery centre there are ten million people.

A. F. TARR: Now, Elder Lohne, president of the West Nordic Union, will report.

ALF LOHNE: From Greenland, which was opened for the first Adventist missionaries just a few months ago, we have just received a special greeting. It comes from the first two Sabbath-keepers among the Greenlanders. They write: "Bring our hearty greetings to all our big brothers. We meet you each day before the throne of God."

Similar warm greetings come from all the other 8,500 members in the West Nordic Union. Since the last General Conference, 1,600 new members have been taken into church fellowship.

All our conference presidents join the evangelists in their soul-winning work. In the last quadrennium the conference presidents have brought into the church 10 per cent of all souls won in the union. We sometimes find it difficult to win people who already have fixed religious habits. But we have now started a work which is very promising. In Denmark more than one thousand children are crowding into our churches to study the Sabbath-school lessons. Already some of these children have been baptized. Others are joining the junior societies and are attending the Danish junior college.

The literature work has reached great heights. During the past four years approximately 140,000,000 pages of Adventist literature were sold, an average of twenty pages for every citizen in the West Nordic Union.

In the Arctic part of Norway we have a mission boat visiting the otherwise inaccessible islands and fjords. In one



*The booth of the Northern European Division at the General Conference decorated with photographs and curios from the various unions. The projector in the box on the right showed a series of constantly changing views from the Division fields. Pastor Rudge is seen showing a visitor skin shoes from Iceland.*

place the colporteur aboard the boat found sixteen Sabbath-keepers we had not known about before. They belong to the tribe of the Lapps, and had kept the Sabbath for several years as a result of studying the Bible by themselves.

Together with an Adventist doctor I visited one of these Lapps, who was sick in his tent. After the doctor had treated him, he said to me, "Are you papa? Can you help me?" Papa means "priest," or "minister," in the Lappish language. I said, "Yes. What can I do for you?"

He said, "I want to be good. But there is so much evil in my heart. How can I become good?" I sat on the floor of his tent. He was lying on reindeer skins, and he opened his soul to me. He told me of his wife, who had died a few years before. He told of the long winter nights when, on his skis, he had watched the reindeer, to keep them from the wolves. He had been thinking about eternity, wondering whether he would ever see his wife again. I was glad to tell him, this old sick Lapp, of Jesus, who came to heal those having a sick and unclean heart. I was glad to tell him of the soon-coming Saviour, who will wake up the dead, and of the day when there would be no more sickness and death.

When we left he grasped my hand and said, "You are young. I am old. I may

never meet you again. But when the great day comes, of which you have told me today, I hope to see you again." I hope to meet that old Lapp again, and I hope you will meet him, together with thousands of believers from the West Nordic Union.

A. F. TARR: Now we shall hear from Pastor Gidlund, president of the East Nordic Union. In one conference of his field lives Brother Zeigland, who has been a colporteur for sixty-one continuous years. Last year, at the age of seventy-six, his working hours numbered 1,629. Only one other colporteur in Finland exceeded this.

C. GIDLUND: In the East Nordic Union we have been happy to present the soul-winning Advent message, centred around Jesus Christ and Him crucified. In Finland we have several women evangelists, one of whom has met with outstanding success in co-operation with her Bible instructor.

Last winter, while conducting an effort in a certain town, she held meetings practically every night in surrounding villages, driving there in spite of snow. Fifty souls were won. There are a number of successful men evangelists. One baptized sixty as a result of one effort, in which the interest had been so great that for a period of four to five months he had to give the

same sermon three times a week, because the 400 seats in the hall were quite inadequate for the large number who came.

In Sweden is an evangelist who has held out to the bitter end in order to win souls for Christ. For an entire year he was unable to conduct any effort because of a grave skin disease. But last autumn he began a public effort in one of the larger cities of Sweden. I warned him not to, but he couldn't withhold himself. For several months he faithfully proclaimed the message, in spite of the very great physical pain he suffered, until it came to the point, one night, that after delivering the sermon he had to be carried down from the pulpit into an ambulance and taken directly to the hospital. Calling his wife, the doctors gave no hope for his life, but although two months have passed since then, his condition is no worse. That very same evening, however, fourteen souls decided to yield themselves to Jesus Christ, and a letter received after my arrival here reports that all of them have been baptized, and many more are coming. This is the kind of spirit many of our workers reveal.

Through our Bible correspondence schools this message reaches even inside prison walls, bringing out men whom God has made over.

From this little land comprising the territory of the East Nordic Union, more than 8,500 churchmembers send you greetings. We are thankful to God for the 1,900 new members baptized into this message during the past four-year period.

[Vocal duet by Mrs. A. F. Tarr and T. J. Bradley.]

A. F. TARR: Pastor Voorthuis, president of the Netherlands Union, will bring us his report.

F. J. VOORTHUIS: I bring the greetings of the 2,243 members in the Netherlands Union. First I want to thank all the brethren and sisters who helped Holland last year when the North Atlantic storm destroyed part of our country. Seventh-day Adventists in several countries sent food, clothes, and money, so we could help the victims. Just before I left the Netherlands we wrote the government that our denomination would be willing to take care of the library for a youth centre in a destroyed section of Zeeland. We thought that we could give them the best books.

[Elder Voorthuis presented the two local conference presidents of the Netherlands Union dressed in native garb.]

F. J. VOORTHUIS: It is not easy to work in our country, where the state churches are very strong and where the Calvinistic

doctrines have influenced the people for many hundreds of years, but the work of God grows steadily. We have our own college and a Bible correspondence school. I believe it is one of the greatest soul-winning agencies ever employed by our church. During the past four years we enrolled about 18,000 people, and have baptized 204 who followed the Bible course. Every week our Dutch radio programme is broadcast over Radio Luxembourg. Since January, 1950, 2,500 listeners have enrolled in the Bible school. Many of our listeners have written that they have received great blessings and strength and that they feel that the Spirit of God is in it.

Our publishing house at The Hague was completely destroyed in 1945, but we now publish seven periodicals and several books and pamphlets. In the past four years we sold 837,000 evangelistic magazines. So the people in Holland know that there is an Advent movement, and we hope and pray that our work may bear rich fruit.

In our children's home there are sixty to eighty orphans who need special care. Some of them stay for years and accept the truth.

In a beautiful section of the Netherlands we started an old people's home, and in a few weeks will have about fifty brethren and sisters there.

Pray for our work in Holland, that we may give a strong, clear witness to the people and that we may be true servants of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A. F. TARR: Next we are going to hear from Elder Armstrong, president of the British Union. This union has been greatly blessed in having from the General Conference the services of Elders George Vandeman and Ben Glanzer, and Dr. Wayne McFarland, for the great campaign in London.

W. W. ARMSTRONG: I bring you warm greetings from the 7,200 members in Great Britain. As I look at this vast audience, I think of the impressive moment in the last General Conference when Elder Branson asked us all to stand in consecration to the finishing of the task. I know that the British delegation returned with the determination to make evangelism the chief thing in its work.

We appreciate the wonderful gift that came from the General Conference, which enabled us to purchase the New Gallery, that splendid building right in the heart of London on Regent Street, one of London's best streets. And we are deeply

grateful to Elder and Mrs. Vandeman and their associates.

We have endeavoured in Great Britain to gear all of our departmental activities to evangelism, and I want to show you what I mean. I would like Brother Craven and Brother Warland to come to the microphone for a moment. Brother Craven is the manager of The Stanborough Press. Brother Craven, will you tell us what has happened to the book work in Great Britain?

J. H. CRAVEN: If you compare the sales of the past two quadrenniums, you will see that our sales have increased by £280,000. We have sold 84,000 subscription books, an increase of 15 per cent.

W. W. ARMSTRONG: What about the periodicals, Brother Craven?

J. H. CRAVEN: We had a grand gain there too. We sold 1,211,486 more periodicals, an increase of 26 per cent over the previous quadrennium.

W. W. ARMSTRONG: This institution lives for evangelism, and God blesses it. Thank you very much, Brother Craven. Brother Warland is leading our Home Missionary department and the Sabbath-school department. Tell us how the Home Missionary department is co-ordinating with the Voice of Prophecy, Brother Warland.

E. R. WARLAND: In a period of five weeks prior to the opening of the New Gallery, for example, our members distributed no fewer than half a million Voice of Prophecy enrolment cards. For the opening meeting, at least five thousand seats were reserved for students who had been studying over a period of perhaps four months prior to the meeting.

W. W. ARMSTRONG: Has this plan been extended all over Great Britain?

E. R. WARLAND: Yes. In a number of cities now, our campaigns are being preceded by a campaign by the laymen in distributing Voice of Prophecy cards, and the people who are studying are being brought forward by special arrangement, so that all are together on the same study at the time of the opening of the evangelistic campaign.

W. W. ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Now tell us about the Ingathering work.

E. R. WARLAND: We are pleased to tell you that in 1950 our members collected £34,000. In 1951 we jumped it to £36,000, in 1952 to £39,000, and last year to £42,000, an average of over £6 for every churchmember, over £10 for every actual collector. Today I received a cablegram which gives this good news: "We've done



At the Cow Palace on Sabbath, May 29th, 15,000 Adventists crowd the building to enjoy the day's services. Pastor A. V. Olsen is the speaker.

it again. £42,000 already reached." We are £4,000 above last year at this same date, so I think we could end up with £45,000 or £46,000.

W. W. ARMSTRONG: That is wonderful, isn't it?

E. R. WARLAND: That would be \$130,000.

W. W. ARMSTRONG: Now in the years 1950 to 1953, our baptisms and those who came into the church by vote made a total of 2,344. That may seem a very small figure compared with the very large reports from the mission field, but, brethren and sisters, our people are conservative, and they are very much wedded to their churches. When we think that this figure of 2,344 additions is a 70 per cent increase over last quadrennium, and a

69 per cent increase over two quadrenniums ago, we certainly thank the Lord. And of that 70 per cent increase, 11 per cent came from the great London work, and 59 per cent in the rest of the British Union.

Now we will ask Brethren McMillan and Bayliss to come to the microphone and tell us a bit about the work in the big cities. Brother McMillan is the president of the South England Conference. Tell us, Brother McMillan, a little bit about what is happening in Ipswich.

J. A. McMILLAN: Of the twelve efforts in progress throughout the South England Conference outside London, the one conducted by George Hyde in Ipswich is outstanding. Elder Hyde is now in his third year in the same auditorium, and

plans a fourth campaign this coming autumn in the same hall. The attendance today is as good as four years ago. Sixty souls were baptized from the first two campaigns, and the prospects for the present campaign are very bright indeed. For the eighty members in that little town, the greatest necessity is a church building.

W. W. ARMSTRONG: Now Brother Bayliss, president of the North England Conference, tell us what is happening in the big steel city of Sheffield.

J. H. BAYLISS: I bring greetings from the North England Conference. The year 1954 promises to be our record soul-winning year. We started four evangelistic campaigns last autumn; and the campaign in Birmingham, under the direction of T. J. Bradley, has been described by a



*F. G. Voorthuis, president, with Pastor P. van Oosanen and B. Slond in national costume, reports for the Netherlands.*

conservative daily newspaper as the greatest revival of religion since the time of Dwight L. Moody, seventy years ago.

Hearts have been tempered by the fires of the Gospel. In these two campaigns alone, 120 souls have been baptized. We thank the General Conference for their good gifts to promote evangelism, and we trust that we shall be able to record our maximum soul-winning gain during 1954.

W. W. ARMSTRONG: There are thirty-six campaigns going on in Great Britain every year. We have the great task of reaching 52,000,000 people. We solicit an interest in your prayers, brethren and sisters, that the task may be finished on time, and we go home together.

A. F. TARR: Here we come to the empty chair in our midst, draped with the flag of Poland. We deeply regret that no representative can come from Poland to report on our work there. And as we think of the problems of the brethren and sisters in that country, we are reminded of the words of the song which we are going to have sung in place of the report.

[Mrs. A. F. Tarr sang, "God Leads His Dear Children Along."]

It would be appropriate to offer a special prayer at this moment for our believers in Poland and other occupied countries who cannot meet with us at this time. I am going to ask Elder Rudy to pray for them. Shall we stand together?

H. L. RUDY: Our gracious Father in heaven, as we are gathered here under such favourable circumstances, we think of our dear people over in Poland and the Baltic States, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. They are cut off from us. Many of them have lost their homes. Many have lost their lives. The enemy is doing everything to hinder and to discourage them.

O Lord, remember them in a special manner this evening. Wherever the enemy has sought to bring about persecutions and trials of faith, stand by Thy children at this time. Give them faith and courage. And as they go forward to witness for Thee, make their witness mighty, that Thy work may be carried forward even under such conditions, and the message of God be finished in those lands. In Jesus' name, Amen.

A. F. TARR: We have no report from Iceland, but I do have a cable from Elder Murdoch, the evangelist who has been sent over there to lay the foundation for a great public campaign. He cables:

**GREETINGS FROM ICELAND TO COMMITTEE GENERAL CONFERENCE PROSPECTS BRIGHT FOR LARGE CAMPAIGN WORKERS AND CHURCHMEMBERS ONE HUNDRED PER CENT BEHIND PLANS.**

And now good tidings will be brought to us from Ethiopia. Elder Broberg is the president. Brother Minchin will be associated with him in this report.

E. L. MINCHIN: Friends, did you know that Ethiopia is one of the most ancient and most fascinating mission fields in the world? Did you know that the Sabbath was kept by many in that land a thousand years before our Lord? Did you know that many of the Ethiopians and the members of the royal family in Ethiopia claim to be direct descendants of the Queen of Sheba and Solomon? Did you know that Ethiopia consists of vast tablelands and mountains, from six to eight thousand feet above sea level, and that it has a delightful climate, and is frequently called the Switzerland of Egypt? Did you know that the Ethiopians are among the finest-looking people in Africa? Pastor Broberg, we

read in the Scripture a wonderful prophecy which says that one day Ethiopia will stretch out her hands toward God. Do we see any fulfilment of that prophecy today?

S. A. BROBERG: Yes.

E. L. MINCHIN: How many church-members are there in Ethiopia?

S. A. BROBERG: Four years ago we had 580. Today we have 1,200.

E. L. MINCHIN: It is wonderful to think that in that difficult country we have more than doubled our membership during the last four years.

Dr. Artress, how many hospitals do we have in Ethiopia?

DR. F. L. ARTRESS: Four hospitals and seven out-clinics.

E. L. MINCHIN: Four hospitals and only 1,200 members to keep them going. Doctor, when I was at your hospital I saw the emperor there. Do you have very much to do with royalty over there?

DR. F. L. ARTRESS: The emperor has been a very frequent visitor at our hospital. We have had much really good contact with him and his family.

E. L. MINCHIN: I heard the other day, doctor, that no prince or princess is born in Ethiopia without your attending them. Is that so?

DR. F. L. ARTRESS: We have been in attendance at the birth of seven of the grandchildren of the emperor, including the heir to the throne.

E. L. MINCHIN: You are an intimate friend of the royal family then?

DR. F. L. ARTRESS: Yes.

E. L. MINCHIN: Wonderful! We are in distinguished company tonight. We also have with us on the platform Sister Hoag, dressed in her uniform. Sister Hoag, I was out there last year and saw you at work. What were you doing?

LOIS HOAG: Together with Miss Alma Binder I had the privilege of making nursing history in Ethiopia, for in 1950 our school of nursing was begun, the first in Ethiopia. At graduation our students marched out to get their diplomas from the crown prince. Now, as we could not do before, when the royal family wishes to have one of our nurses come and take care of the heir to the throne, we can send one of their Ethiopian graduate nurses.

E. L. MINCHIN: And I understand that those young people who graduated are regarded as some of the most intelligent young people in Addis Ababa. Is that so?

LOIS HOAG: That is true. The Nursing Association was begun while we were there, and all of our students passed the



state examination, one of them with honours.

E. L. MINCHIN: Sister Magnusson, I see you are here tonight. Where did I meet you when I was out there last year?

MARY MAGNUSSON: At Gimbe.

E. L. MINCHIN: Ah, yes, I remember. Gimbe is at the end of that famous road. How many days' journey is it from Addis Ababa to Gimbe?

MARY MAGNUSSON: It depends on how many mudholes you get stuck in. Maybe two days, maybe two weeks.

E. L. MINCHIN: At least two days on the most shocking roads you have ever been on in your life. These missionaries have to travel over those roads, through streams and over mountains, and sometimes it takes two or three weeks. I see Sister Eide here. Sister Eide, they tell us it is horribly lonely for single girls to go to mission fields. How do you feel about it?

IRENE EIDE: I don't have time to think about being lonely. Would you be lonely if you had 200 students living next to you?

E. L. MINCHIN: A wonderful testimony! You should see Sister Eide with those hundreds of young people. Her work is not only in the classrooms but also with the Junior Missionary Volunteers and the Master Guides. Sister Magnusson and Sister Hoag, I heard the other day that you know how to ride mules.

SISTERS MAGNUSSON and HOAG [together]: Oh, we do!

E. L. MINCHIN: There may be some people here who will be going to Ethiopia some day. Do you think they should learn to ride mules before they go out there?

MARY MAGNUSSON: It would be very good experience.

E. L. MINCHIN: Sister Hoag, what would you say was your impression of the work out there?

LOIS HOAG: It will never leave me. As we were departing, the people gathered around our caravan and begged us to come back. "Send someone else," they begged. "We have no-one to teach us; we have no-one to take care of us when we are sick."

MARY MAGNUSSON: I don't think we can be deaf to their pleadings.

E. L. MINCHIN: Sister Shollenburg, I heard that you were the first missionary dietitian to go to Ethiopia.

BERTHA SHOLLENBURG: That's true.

E. L. MINCHIN: Whatever could a dietitian do in Ethiopia?

BERTHA SHOLLENBURG: A great deal! I'd like to have a dozen dietitians go back with me.

E. L. MINCHIN: Sister Martin, you're with the training school, aren't you? Are you a returned missionary?

GLADYS MARTIN: I'm a missionary on furlough. There's a difference.

E. L. MINCHIN: Do you think it's a sacrifice to go to the mission field?

GLADYS MARTIN: Not at all. It's a privilege. I would count it a sacrifice to have to stay here.

E. L. MINCHIN: You girls, who live in the waybacks of Ethiopia, How often do you get to town?

[Girls together in loud voice]: About once a year!

DESSIE KASSAHUN: He died without seeing it. But he taught the people what he had seen in his dreams. He told them they should look for those people.

E. L. MINCHIN: Then after he died, did the people come?

DESSIE KASSAHUN: Yes.

E. L. MINCHIN: And they taught the Sabbath and believed in the second coming of Jesus?

DESSIE KASSAHUN: Yes, sir.

E. L. MINCHIN: We have a church school today in that mountain village, haven't we?

DESSIE KASSAHUN: We have over 400



Some of the members of the British Union in national costume.

E. L. MINCHIN: Yet they want to go back! Isn't that wonderful!

We have a son of Ethiopia, Brother Kassahun. Brother Kassahun, I heard the other day of a wonderful experience out there. A saintly Mohammedan, called Sheik Zecharias, some years ago had visions from God. He was seeking the light and truth up in a certain mountain area in Ethiopia. Is that true?

DESSIE KASSAHUN: That's right.

E. L. MINCHIN: And he saw in those dreams that a people would come who would teach the second coming of Jesus, and who would believe and teach the seventh-day Sabbath. Is that so?

DESSIE KASSAHUN: Yes.

E. L. MINCHIN: And this man was looking for a people to come who would teach that message. Did he see the fulfillment in his day?

believers and baptized members.

E. L. MINCHIN: Isn't that wonderful. All those believers as a direct result of the dreams God gave that man years ago! Where are you working now, brother?

DESSIE KASSAHUN: North-east of Addis Ababa.

E. L. MINCHIN: How many years?

DESSIE KASSAHUN: One and a half.

E. L. MINCHIN: How many souls have you baptized?

DESSIE KASSAHUN: Fifteen.

E. L. MINCHIN: Now we will present two veteran missionaries to Ethiopia, Brother and Sister Toppenberg. Brother Toppenberg, how long have you been in Africa?

V. E. TOPPENBERG: Forty-two happy years.

E. L. MINCHIN: Did you open up the work there?



*E. L. Minchin speaking with delegates from the Ethiopian Union Mission. They are Pastor Dessie Kasahun, Miss Irene Eide, and Pastor S. A. Broberg, president.*

V. E. TOPPENBERG: Yes, sir. I did. [Applause.]

E. L. MINCHIN: What year did you go to Ethiopia?

V. E. TOPPENBERG: I succeeded in getting in with my family in 1921, after having spent several years in another country, waiting.

E. L. MINCHIN: Would you give a message to all those hundreds of young people who stood the other night for foreign mission service?

V. E. TOPPENBERG: After having spent a lifetime in Africa as a missionary, I can truthfully say it is the most joyous, the happiest, the most satisfying, the most blessed work that a person can engage in. If the good Lord should see fit to lengthen my days another forty years, I would be glad to give them all to Africa.

E. L. MINCHIN: Amen. Thank God for our missionaries and for the opening doors in ancient Ethiopia.

A. F. TARR: A rich harvest of souls is being won in West Africa. Brother Gibson, with others of his workers, will bring the report from that field.

G. D. KING: I think we ought to consider this evening what we can do to reach the 42,000,000 people in West Africa. Tell us a little about your evangelistic programme, Brother Gibson.

J. O. GIBSON: Well, we have made some advancement, but the thing that burns our heart is the great task yet to be done.

G. D. KING: Pastor Welch, tell us something about the work at Bekwai.

H. J. WELCH: The evangelistic spirit that I found at Bekwai is the most wonderful thing I have seen. If you were to come there on the Sabbath, you probably would say, Where are your students? They would be scattered out to all the commun-

ity and surrounding villages. When we first arrived, there were about eighteen churches in the district. Within a period of two years they had grown to thirty-six. I will ask Brother Essiaba, one of our students in Nigeria, to tell about the programme there.

BROTHER ESSIABA: The Lord is using the Nigerian Training College in a wonderful way to gather souls into this marvellous light. The government department of education has said many times to various school communities that our school is a model to be copied. We have twenty churches in this area. The students go out on the week-ends to operate Sabbath schools and MV programmes and to conduct baptismal classes. In one year alone the students gathered in 300 souls through baptism.

G. D. KING: That is real, practical evangelism. Pastor Mensah, you are up from the Gold Coast. I understand you have had a great laymen's movement there.

C. B. MENSAH: Yes, I am the Home Missionary secretary. The laymen are doing a splendid work. In the last few years they have won more than 2,000 souls. Five hundred have been baptized. One uneducated layman, after learning the truth, went back home, and within the period of three months won more than 200 souls.

G. D. KING: That is soul-winning evangelism! You must be getting very near, Brother Gibson, to doubling your membership.

J. O. GIBSON: Well, our secretary is here. He can tell you how near we have come.

G. L. ANNISS: The last General Conference we reported a membership of 8,000. Today we report 15,000, an increase

of 7,000. We have 9,000 in the hearers' and baptismal classes.

J. O. GIBSON: There are 42,000,000 people yet to hear the message.

G. L. ANNISS: Offerings to missions have grown from \$22,000 to \$35,000 in the past four years. Missions do pay, Brother King.

J. O. GIBSON: We opened our new press early this year. It was a grand occasion. The prime minister in his speech mentioned the good work Seventh-day Adventists were doing. Several months later the minister of education came out to the opening of our new secondary school in the Gold Coast.

R. SIMONS: Liberia is a challenge to those of us who labour in Liberia. In an area a little larger than the State of Ohio, with two million people, we have twenty-six different languages. To meet this challenge we have established training schools for our youth. These schools are the means of training our workers to go to twenty-six different tribes with our message. Last year we had an enrolment of seventy boarding students. This year we have an enrolment of just double that number. Among these are five who are sent by the president of the republic. He is very sympathetic, and recently he has rendered excellent service for our mission in Liberia.

G. D. KING: Brother Mensah, give us a little bit of your experience.

C. B. MENSAH: I stand before you today as a monument of grace, first to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and then to the great Advent movement, which sent the light of the Gospel truth to far-off Africa. I was a heathen, and the son of heathen parents, who brought me up to pray to the gods they had in the house. Each morning and each evening I prayed to these gods. I took delight in dancing the fetish dance. But thanks be to God for the work of the mission. I had the privilege of coming to the mission school, and there learned the truth, and today I stand before you as a Christian and a minister of the Advent movement.

J. O. GIBSON: You can see that West Africa is a land of unlimited opportunities, where there are many precious souls waiting to hear the truth, and to be gathered in.

[Solo by Mrs. Colson.]

A. F. TARR: We thank God profoundly for the blessings of health and peace and for His guidance in the work we are undertaking in the Northern European Division.

[Northern European Division group sang Finlandia.] Benediction.

# NORTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION

By A. F. TARR

IT is with grateful hearts that we bring tidings of progress from the thirty different countries comprising the Northern European Division. Of our 46,365 members, 14,367 greet you for the first time, all of these having joined us by baptism since last we met four years ago. With the great goal then set before us of doubling our membership, our workers have put forth strenuous efforts to bring in a great harvest of souls. In our mission territory we have come very close to succeeding, West Africa having reached 81 per cent and Ethiopia having gone completely over the goal.

Our members come from a population of 160 million people distributed among many countries, nationalities, and language areas. Nevertheless they are being welded together with the members of all other world divisions to form one grand, united organization whose God-given mission it is "to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

## Evangelism in the Forefront

Our greatest single endeavour has been the presentation of our message in a larger way in Britain's great metropolis. Guided by the counsel given many years ago through the Lord's messenger, and with aid from the General Conference and the Division, the British Union struck out boldly, and with undaunted faith, throwing all its resources into a great campaign in the city of London. Under the inspiring and consecrated leadership of G. E. Vandemen, assisted in the first few months by Ben Glanzer and Dr. Wayne McFarland, the influence of this effort has penetrated to all parts of the British Isles and even to countries beyond. Selected workers from all our home unions were privileged to attend the school of evangelism conducted in conjunction with the campaign.

We are deeply grateful for the 210 who have been baptized as a result of these meetings, and for the enthusiasm that Elder Vandeman's campaign associates have carried back to their respective fields. It is anticipated that this extended evangelistic effort will be but the precursor of a constant and sustained endeavour on behalf of this long-neglected city, and that other great cities throughout the division may share in similar blessings in days to come.

We wish you might visit the well-appointed and ideally situated church and evangelistic centre in the heart of London, with its reading room, youth centre, and Dorcas welfare rooms, that has become one of the denomination's most prized possessions. Had anyone predicted only two years ago that Seventh-day Adventists would be in possession of a meeting place in Regent Street, London's most exclusive and fashionable centre, the idea would have been dismissed as fantastic and visionary. Even to the people of London its purchase has been the source of much amazement, and a new conception of Seventh-day Adventism has broken into the thinking of the British people. Already thousands of seekers after truth have entered its doors, many of whom had never before even heard our name. Nearly one hundred thousand copies of *Steps to Christ* were given to those who viewed the film *I Beheld His Glory*, which was shown in the centre three times a day for four months, and which brought great blessing to all who saw it.

To W. H. Branson and those associated with him in the General Conference we extend our gratitude for their vision and most generous appreciation of London's needs.

Other great cities where the message has been preached include Birmingham in England, Glasgow in Scotland, Oslo and Bergen in Norway, Copenhagen in Denmark, The Hague in Holland, Stockholm in Sweden, Turku, Tampere, and Helsinki in Finland. In all of our continental unions every conference president has personally shared in the evangelistic programme.

## Response in Mission Fields

In the mission fields the youth are taking an outstanding part in bringing the message to the people. At one school in West Africa 233 baptisms in one year resulted from student evangelism directed by the teachers. In one of the villages the students enthusiastically constructed a house of worship for the believers.

In Ethiopia also a new evangelistic fervour has gripped our youth. From one school this past year interests were developed in ten different villages. We rejoice also that early this year three Ethiopian workers were set apart to the Gospel min-

istry. In all the years until now Ethiopia has had but one ordained indigenous minister. We look forward to the day when many more sons of Ethiopia will be preaching to their more than 12,000,000 people.

Even a brief report on evangelism would be incomplete without reference to Finland and to the intrepid evangelists, both men and women, who have been so fruitful in their soul-winning endeavour. Moving stories of conversion, of providential guidance, and of healing are related by the workers there. Somehow God seems to have especially honoured the simple and implicit trust that characterizes these earnest people. Churches have been raised up by the enthusiastic, deeply consecrated women evangelists whose prayers and whose tears have watered the seed they have sown.

## Finland Evangelists

Onni Peltonen, president of the West Finland Conference, tells this story of God's intimate guidance in the ministry of one of these women workers: "One night Sister S. Piilola was awakened by a voice saying, 'Speak to Terho.' She saw no person, but clearly heard the voice. 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 of fifteen or sixteen years of age, 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 young Finnish evangelist who was privileged to associate for a brief period with the London campaign, returned to Finland greatly stirred, and began his own campaign in a small town whose largest hall seated only four hundred or five hundred people. The attendance was so great that on many nights he was forced to hold up to three sessions. This

continued throughout the winter. Sixty persons thus far have been baptized.

One of our conferences is situated entirely within the Arctic Circle. Evangelism there must be carried on under rigorous conditions, and mainly in the long winter periods, when for months at a stretch the sun never rises. The evangelist's wife is his only Bible instructor, and with him she must cover long distances, often on foot, over snow and ice to do her work—and all without remuneration. The attendance at their meetings, owing to the scattered population, is often very small, consisting at times of only half a dozen persons, but the evangelist frequently has the satisfaction of seeing from forty to fifty per cent of his audience accept the message. Our membership in this North Norway Conference represents one out of every 310 of the country's population.

#### Medical Ministry at Work

The medical ministry plays an unusually important role in the Northern European Division. Skodsborg, the parent institution of Northern Europe, treats more than 4,000 patients each year. Its staff has been sorely tried to find accommodation for the large number who seek admission. As many as 296 patients have been housed in a single day. Other sanitariums in Norway, Sweden, Britain, and Finland, together with clinics, treatment rooms, and hospitals, both at home and in foreign fields, are making fresh records in patronage each succeeding year. Some have all their available accommodation fully booked many months in advance.

Our latest clinic, which is the denomination's northernmost institution in all the world, is at Tromsø, Norway, far within the Arctic Circle. With provision for thirty in-patients and with up-to-date facilities for physiotherapy and other health services, this centre in the first year of its existence gave more than 15,000 treatments, or an average of one and a half to every citizen of the city. Altogether over 1,000 workers are engaged in this health ministry at home and abroad, these not including the many helpers in the seventy self-supporting institutions operated by our members.

In the mission fields the work of our missionary doctors and nurses, both in alleviating suffering and in training others to do so, is of incalculable value. Our Ile-Ife and Jengre hospitals in West Africa and our Addis Ababa, Gimbie, Debra Tabor, and Dessie hospitals in Ethiopia have not only met a great physical need

but have broken down prejudice and given to non-Christian people a better understanding of the work of the Master and of those who follow in His steps.

Perhaps unique in our medical ministry in Northern Europe are the summer sanitariums operated in our schools. Immediately after the students have left for their vacation the dormitories are renovated for the arrival of patient guests, whose fees help to reduce the operating deficit of the school. Some of the school staff join the hospital staff, and other more experienced helpers are called in. Almost overnight the school becomes a sanitarium, and the patients who have reserved accommodation long in advance soon arrive to enjoy the rest and healing these summer sanitariums afford.

#### Our Educational Programme

Advance steps in our educational programme include new elementary schools, two much-needed secondary schools in West Africa, nurses' training schools in Nigeria and Ethiopia, a boarding school in Eritrea, and, through the co-operation of the British Union, the establishment of a senior college at Newbold, which will train workers for all phases of denominational endeavour both at home and in the mission field.

An interesting feature of Newbold College has been its summer sessions, when special courses in English have been offered to foreign students. These courses have greatly helped our non-English-speaking workers and have attracted some not of our faith who have become interested in the message and good friends of the school. The mother of one of the students from Iceland wrote, "I wish to express my thanks for your kindness to my daughter. As far as I understand, Newbold College is second to no place on earth except her home."

The West Denmark Conference enjoys the distinction of having a church school at Jerslev, which in June of this year completes sixty-one years of unbroken service in the cause of Christian education.

In all we have 666 teachers and 16,790 pupils in the schools of the Northern European Division. West Africa alone has 14,294 pupils in 113 schools, taught by 499 teachers. The increase in enrolment has been over 5,000 in two years. Approximately 200, or an average of one and a half per cent of the enrolment are baptized each year.

The power of God to change lives in a  
[Page Twelve]

Christian school was vividly demonstrated in our Konola academy, Liberia. Among the students was a young African non-Christian girl from the capital city of Monrovia. Because of her worldly and irreligious attitude she was sent home at the end of the first semester. Her mother, a non-Adventist, pleaded for her daughter to be given just one more chance, and reluctantly the plea was granted.

During the second semester a marked change came over the girl as God spoke to her heart. With forty other students she joined the baptismal class. Her life now became an example to the whole school, but because of her previous record it was thought best that she should wait before being baptized.

At the end of the school year she returned to her home in Monrovia. In spite of old associations and friends she remained faithful to her new-found Saviour, attending every service and acting as an usherette in the Monrovia evangelistic campaign. All her friends were astonished at the change that had been wrought in her life, and their parents now eagerly sought to have their children admitted. The school leaders were so overwhelmed with applications that they had to turn many away. Today our academy at Konola has a fifty per cent increase in enrolment, owing to the transforming power of Christian education in the life of this young woman. Among these new students are members of the family of William V. Tubman, president of Liberia.

#### Our Literature Ministry

In the publication and distribution of denominational literature, both in the home and in mission areas, the past quadrennium has unfolded fresh records in every field. Regular colporteurs have reached new peaks in their sales, and students have earned more scholarships than in any previous period. Our publishing houses have worked indefatigably to make the best possible literature available, and their endeavours have been richly blessed. The sales for the past four years reached the grand total of \$3,610,395.40. Literature has been published in thirty languages within our division, and forty-five different periodicals are in current circulation.

West Africa's publishing house has been re-established in Accra, and thanks to aid from the Publishing Extension Fund we now have a building and equipment that should well serve the needs of that growing field. The new building was

opened by Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, prime minister of the Gold Coast, on January 10, 1954.

The laurels in our colporteur work go to seventy-six-year-old Otto Hoglund, of Finland, who has spent fifty-two years in continuous service. In 1953 his working hours totalled 1,629, only one of Finland's 301 colporteurs surpassing this figure.

One very attractive field to the colporteur is northerly Lapland. At present fourteen colporteurs of the West Finland Conference are labouring in that remote area. Visitors are rare in those parts and the welcome accorded the colporteur with his books has been picturesquely likened to the hospitality shown by the patriarch Abraham to his heavenly visitors.

Noticeable in our division is the very happy spirit of co-operation between home and foreign fields. J. H. Craven, manager of The Stanborough Press, England, recently visited West Africa to give counsel in the setting up of the new Advent Press. He was so impressed with the needs there that on his return he was moved to donate to West Africa some very valuable equipment that he felt his own publishing house might possibly spare.

Iceland is to be another beneficiary of this happy co-operation. The working force there is small, yet very desirous of having a strong campaign conducted in Reykjavik, their capital city. The North England Conference has very cordially agreed to send one of its successful evangelists to meet the need, and shortly L. Murdoch will go to Reykjavik to begin his Icelandic campaign.

A much-appreciated feature of denominational service in Northern Europe is the establishment and maintenance of homes for our ageing members. A place free from liquor and tobacco, and with appetizing, nourishing food that an Adventist can always feel free to enjoy, is an incalculable boon to our faithful members in their declining years.

#### Home Missionary Accomplishments

The influence emanating from the lives and service of our great army of lay members cannot be fully comprehended in figures. The reports we receive cover but a fraction of what we believe to have been accomplished. We have to report 7,000,000 pieces of literature distributed, 500,000 missionary visits, and 202,127 Bible studies. In Ingathering during the four-year period, \$1,044,115.25 was raised throughout the division. Britain leads the way, and were it not for our devaluated

pound, figuring so greatly to our disadvantage in dollar statistical reports, she would lead the world in per capita solicitation.

The Dorcas welfare work is taking on a new life. In countries where health and welfare are the responsibility of the state, as it is in much of our division, there must needs be an adaptation of our denominational welfare programme. Everywhere stories are told by Dorcas leaders of errands of mercy where sadness and sickness, poverty and loneliness, have well-nigh extinguished all glimmer of hope, and how new life and confidence and cheer have returned to bless the home; of how elderly widows have spent holidays as honoured guests of Dorcas members and returned to their humble abode with restored joy in their hearts and sustained by the consciousness of a friend that cared; and of how small children of invalid mothers and of broken and impoverished homes have had their little lives revived again.

Leading businessmen whose employees have been aided or who in varied other ways have learned of this loving service have written to our leaders, or have sent for them and have sought a reason for such unselfish devotion. We are convinced that in this humanitarian service there are unlimited possibilities that we have not yet begun to explore.

Home visitation has met with encouraging results. Many interesting experiences might be cited, of which we give but one. An elderly sister one day knocked at the door of a man who was notorious as a drunkard and a brawler. She offered him a tract, which he refused, slamming the door in her face. In spite of this first "welcome" she returned to his house on several occasions. Finally one day she was invited in. She spoke to this poor soul of the love of God, but he would not listen. When she saw the hardness of his heart, tears came into her eyes and rolled down her cheeks. The man was astonished that anyone would weep for him. His heart melted; love had done it. Today this former drunkard and brawler goes around in his home town knocking at people's doors and bringing them the message of heaven in the same way that it was brought to him.

#### Other Features of Our Work

More than 17,000 energetic, enthusiastic Missionary Volunteers have been led into larger service and to a deepened spiritual life by the consecrated leadership of our Missionary Volunteer secretary and his

associates in the union and local conferences. All have been greatly aided by their association together in the society gatherings and annual youth camps and rallies in many countries.

Among people not privileged to enjoy in their own language the wealth of denominational literature with which some countries are blessed, the Sabbath school has a larger responsibility in indoctrinating and building up the spiritual life of the church, and it is faithfully fulfilling its mission. In the lives of 65,291 old and young the seed is being sown. From the Arctic to the Equator precious fruit is being borne, and sometimes in most unexpected places. On December 26, 1953, an event unique in the history of our Sabbath schools took place in the James Fort Prison, Accra, West Africa, when the superintendent of the prison Sabbath school was baptized in the presence of prison officials and forty fellow prisoners.

Press relations secretaries all over our division are seeking new opportunities of acquainting the public with our work, and their enthusiasm is being abundantly rewarded. National newspapers that spurned to mention our name a few years ago now welcome material of interest. J. R. Ferren's visit, G. E. Vandeman's London campaign, and the subsequent purchase of the Regent Street property were vital factors in this change so far as Britain is concerned. In the Scandinavian countries an increasing number of news editors are giving favourable attention to our news releases, resulting in a volume of new publicity never before experienced by our denomination.

To date 111,508 students have enrolled in our nine Bible correspondence schools; 44,590 have completed the courses; and 2,770 have been baptized. We rejoice in this most fruitful soul-winning institution.

We are happy to report that Greenland, long barred to any missionary but those of the state church, has in the past twelve months been entered by an Adventist worker. Taking with him a large supply of literature, Andreas Nielsen, from Denmark, conducted services wherever a hall was available to him, and distributed his literature. A thousand copies of *Survival Through Faith* especially translated into Greenlandic for the purpose were placed in a thousand homes, and several hundred dollars' worth of *The Great Controversy* and *Your Home and Health* were sold to the inhabitants able to read Danish. Brother Nielsen left behind one Sabbath-keeper, the first in Greenland, Amos Berthelsen, and his son. Now as we meet

in General Conference session Brother Nielsen is back in Greenland, this time with an assistant, for another summers' service.

Large sections of Africa today are in a great political cauldron. National aspirations are rising, and a tremendous break-away from old traditions and customs is taking place. Literature is read without partiality, even newspaper editors being delightfully indifferent to interchurch barriers and prejudices so rampant in the West. It may be partly for this reason that our press secretaries have been so successful in their activities. The space granted us in the public press in 1953 was three times that granted in 1952 and thirty times that given us two years before. Certainly now is the time to bring every influence of our message to bear upon the impressionable minds of the African people.

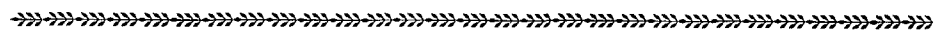
We pay tribute to our faithful, hard-working foreign missionaries and to their uncomplaining, self-sacrificing wives. Recently in one of our African cities a foreign missionary developed a critical physical condition which necessitated his immediate return to the home field for surgery. The surgery involved the removal of an eye. The wife, though alone at her post with one young daughter to care for and no fellow missionary within more than one hundred miles, remained undaunted by the tragedy through which the family was passing and courageously carried on the work so dear to her husband and which he was so loath to leave. Her letters to the workers were full of fortitude rather than defeat, and she continued without interruption the weekly articles to the local newspaper that her husband had until then been writing.

The faithfulness of our members in placing their hard-earned means in our hands for use in God's cause impresses us the more each succeeding year with the heavy responsibility that is ours to administer those sacred funds aright. The tithe and mission offerings have shown a successive increase during each of the past four years, the total tithe amounting to \$3,767,779.99 and the mission offerings to \$1,821,588.80.

We thank the church membership in all the world for their prayers and sacrificial gifts that have enabled us to meet the demands of an ever-extending programme. Above all, we render profound gratitude to God for the care He has had for His work, for the blessings of health and peace and financial support He has so generously bestowed. We thank Him

for the measure of His power by which all that is recorded in this report has been achieved, but oh, how we long for the

bestowal of that larger power, so long overdue, by which our glorious task must be finished.



## ELDER BRANSON Retires from Presidency

[The following statement was made by Elder Branson at the conclusion of his quadrennial report rendered Monday night, May 24th, at the General Conference session.]

By this time I am sure that all our people, at least in this country, know that I have become affected with . . . Parkinson's disease. This difficulty became noticeable some time after the last session of the General Conference, and it has reached its present stage very gradually. This difficulty has not kept me from the work at any time. It has greatly affected my public ministry.

The nervousness caused by this disease is always exaggerated whenever I try to speak in public or get under pressure in heavy committee work. I have counselled with a number of specialists, who advised me not to continue longer under the burden of world leadership as president of the General Conference. I am sure you all recognize that world leadership in the church today is a heavier burden than at any other time in the history of the world. This position requires the services of one who is in possession of all his physical powers and who is able to speak with a voice that will command the attention of the hearers everywhere. It is no task for one who is handicapped with some malady that prevents him from doing his very best work. I am therefore making the request at this time of your Nominating Committee that they do not consider my name for the office of president of the General Conference for the ensuing four years, but that they choose someone else who is stronger and better able to carry on the work of church leadership in the strenuous and trying days that are just ahead of us.

Mrs. Branson and I shall be very happy to continue to serve the church in some lesser capacity if that should be desired. We stand ready to support whoever may be chosen with whatever strength God shall give us and shall earnestly pray that God will make His chosen one a tower of strength to the entire church.

Brethren and sisters, let me repeat: We are near the end of the journey. We are nearing home. May God bless you and

keep you faithful until the end. This is our earnest prayer.

## ELDER FIGUHR'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

THANK you, Elder Branson, and thank you delegates, brothers and sisters, for the confidence that your vote indicates. I hardly know what to say. I feel very serious, for this is an exceedingly heavy responsibility to lay upon anyone. Were it not that God assures us of His presence and guidance and of His companionship, I am sure anyone would shrink from assuming such a responsibility as this. I feel comforted and reassured to know that you will pray that God will lead us. I know it is God's plan and purpose to lead His people, and I sincerely hope that the excellent beginning we have made in this council in seeking the Lord, we shall continue in the days, months, and years, if necessary, until the Lord brings us into His everlasting kingdom.

I do not suppose for a moment that anyone can satisfy a million people. I just want to say that I wish to be found in the middle of the road, walking toward the kingdom of God. I recall the words of the Spirit of prophecy which say that if the devil cannot keep us bound in the ice of indifference, he endeavours to rush us into the fires of fanaticism. May we be found in the middle of the road, expending our energies in the proclaiming of this truth.

I may say that I earnestly hoped and fervently prayed that our dearly beloved Brother Branson would be able to continue on. He has given to us such marvellous leadership. The remarkable record that has been established during these four years under his earnest, faithful leadership is unparalleled. The large number of baptisms, the large additions to the church, the growth in every direction, indicate the blessing of the Lord. I had hoped that he might continue. I was very happy working with Brother Branson. But the turn of events has been in another direction. So I simply ask that you pray that God may have His way, that His work may prosper, and that together we may be faithful until the day of God.

## MAYOR OF SAN FRANCISCO ADDRESSES CONFERENCE

[On Tuesday morning, May 25th, the Honourable Elmer E. Robinson, mayor of San Francisco, addressed the session. Following is a condensation of that address.]

It is a pleasure and a privilege for me, as mayor of San Francisco, to extend this city's cordial welcome to this great Forty-seventh General Conference Session of Seventh-day Adventists.

It seems a remarkable thing to me that you have delegates here from nearly 100 countries, representing a world membership of about 925,000 persons, one-third of which, I am told, live in our United States. I have learned with much interest of the large gain in membership since your 1950 conference, and of your outstanding fund-raising campaigns, including your successful Ingathering and Uplift Campaign that began just recently, around March 1st, I believe it was.

It can be truly said that your people, working and striving for the great spiritual programme of Christ, constitute a virtual "United Nations in Action," co-operating as you do, the people of one nation with another, people of one race with those of others. Your international co-operation provides an example for all to follow, for certainly there is no greater need today than for a return to the basic principles of Christian brotherhood, practised by all peoples the world over.

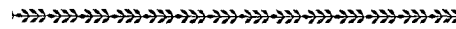
These times through which we are now passing present a challenge to society; they present a challenge to the individual; but I believe that most of all they present a challenge to religion. We know that there has been a spirit of materialism, a spirit of cynicism, and in some parts of the world, a spirit almost of despair following World War II and the Korean conflict. And now the sky is darkened again with storm clouds over Indochina. It is a tragic turn of events that after the nations of the world spilled their blood and spent their treasure to achieve freedom, new dangers now threaten the peace of the world and the freedom that the Architect of the universe has built deep into every human being.

Human freedom is a delicate and a precious thing. And the essential freedom is this: That every man should remain free to worship his Creator according to the

best dictates of his intelligence and conscience.

I hope that this convention will bring you the inspiration to proclaim again the fact that man does not live by bread alone; the fact that no tyrant, no dictator, however powerful, however ruthless, can stamp out of the human soul its freedom to seek and to worship the Creator. This nation was built by men with a deep and burning faith in a power above and beyond themselves. This nation, and all free nations, we hope and pray, will be saved by men with the same strong and invincible faith in their right to worship their Creator as they see fit to do.

May this convention be abundantly blessed, and may it be most inspiring and successful. San Francisco is proud and happy that you have chosen this city for your convention.



## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF REUBEN R. FIGUHR

REUBEN R. FIGUHR was born October 20, 1896, in Superior, Wisconsin. He attended Laurelwood Academy, Gaston, Oregon. After finishing the academy he entered the work for about two years. He then went to Pacific Union College for one year and then on to Walla Walla College, graduating from there in 1922.

Immediately on his graduation as a young minister he was assigned to the Astoria, Oregon, church. In the year 1923, he with his young wife sailed to the Philippines as missionaries. There they stayed until 1941. During those years he served as the local conference president and later as union president for the whole field. In 1941 he was called to South America as president of the division. There he laboured until the time of the 1950 General Conference session, when he was elected as one of the general vice-presidents of the General Conference. He continued in that office until he was elected on May 24, 1954, as president of the General Conference.

The Figuhrs have two children, both missionaries. The son is serving in North Sumatra. The daughter, Mrs. Alva Appel, has been for years a missionary in Ceylon. She is now on furlough. After General Conference she will return to missionary labour in Southern Asia.

## "WE'RE MARCHING TO ZION"

By S. A. Broberg  
*President, Ethiopian Union  
Mission*

WITH great enthusiasm we have often sung the inspiring hymn: "We're marching to Zion." But sitting as a delegate at the General Conference Session, and hearing several thousand Adventists singing it, grips one anew. A mighty, almost overwhelming feeling of gratitude fills the heart. You cannot but thank the Lord that you are a member of His church.

The reports which came from far and near told of a rapidly growing, conquering, and evangelizing movement. The challenge of God in Isaiah 43:6, where it says, "Bring My sons from far, and My daughters from the ends of the earth," was being fulfilled before our eyes. In the past four years, 294,793 persons were added to the church. As reports were presented, my thoughts went to the words of Jesus in Matthew 24:14: "This Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

The spiritual meetings that were held every day led to deep self-examination and consecration.

There was at the great gathering also the happy reunion of friends and fellow-workers we had not seen for several years. We heard of their difficulties, but also of how God had been a present help in sustaining them and enabling them to overcome all difficulties. We found that we had all the same experience of being greatly encouraged by what we saw and heard at the Session. It was indeed an inner urge for each one of us to press on the upward way and to use all our strength for the finishing of the work of God.

We could hear, as it were, an army marching. God's great people are today marching to Zion. May God in a special way help us to be in step with the marching church of God. One day before long, the prophecy in Isaiah 26 will be fulfilled: "Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in." And then comes the precious promise and admonition to the people of God: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee. Trust in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength."

## NEWS FLASH

OUR readers will rejoice with us in learning of the excellent success attending several of the major evangelistic campaigns in the British Union Conference. From T. J. Bradley we learn that in the Birmingham mission eighty candidates for admission to the church have already passed through the waters of baptism, and many others are in preparation to share in this ordinance at a later date.

In the city of Sheffield, K. A. Elias still continues his work, where the Lord has richly blessed the labours of this pastor and his associates. Fifty persons have been admitted to the church following baptism in this city.

G. E. Vandeman and his associates are continuing to welcome large audiences each Sunday night at the London Evangelistic Centre. Since the beginning of the work in the New Gallery, seventy-five persons have been baptized, and we learn that each week four instruction classes are being held for candidates for baptism, and in these classes there are enrolled 110 persons. It is expected to periodically conduct baptismal services at the close of the Sunday evening service. We rejoice in this evidence of the prospering hand of God over His work and workers.

We learn from Pastor B. F. Kinman of the Scottish Mission that Pastor I. MacGougan has recently terminated an outstandingly successful effort in the city of Glasgow. Eighty-five members have been added by baptism to the Glasgow church. One factor in aiding this successful outcome of Pastor MacGougan's campaign was the influence exercised by the careful use of the "right arm" of the message. Dr. G. M. Brown of Crief has given very careful assistance in the work of this recently terminated campaign.

It is our privilege to report the arrival from various mission fields of a number of families connected with this Division. The following come to us from the Southern African Division: A. H. Brandt and family, who are at present in Denmark visiting relatives and friends of the family—Pastor Brandt is the Educational and MV secretary of the Zambesi Union Mission; the president of the Southern Rhodesia Mission, F. H. Thomas, has recently reached England with his wife

and son, and at present is spending a period of recuperation among relatives and friends; Phyllis Standen, formerly connected with the Stanboroughs Hydro, and now connected with the Gitwe hospital in the Belgian Congo, is back among her friends for a period of recuperation and rest—she plans to spend several months in the study of the French language in Paris before returning to her field; A. J. Raitt and family are also at present in England—Pastor Raitt, who is associated with the Helderberg College, South Africa, plans to devote part of his furlough period to study at the University of London.

From West Africa we have recently welcomed home two families who have seen several terms of service in that field. A. E. Farrow, recently associated with the work in Nigeria, reached London a few days ago with his wife on return from the General Conference Session. E. E. Hulbert, connected with the West African Union as an evangelist, with his family reached London last week. These two families are home for a period of six months' recuperation. We wish them much happiness as they meet again with their loved ones and friends.

We welcome back from West Africa on furlough Rosa Muderspach, who has been connected with the West African Union Mission office for a period of sixteen years. During the recent absence of G. L. Anniss, the mission secretary-treasurer, on furlough and at the General Conference session, Miss Muderspach has been serving the field as acting-secretary. We wish for her a very pleasant and happy sojourn among her relatives and friends in Denmark.

The following letter has just been received from M. E. Lind, our new Division MV secretary. Pastor Lind writes:

"This is just a letter of appreciation for receiving your paper, the NORTHERN LIGHT. The May issue arrived a couple of days ago, and I think this is indeed quick service.

"Now that we are joining the staff of the Northern European Division, we naturally will be reading this paper with even more interest than before. Kindly go on sending it to us until we give you further notice. We hope to be able to leave here by the end of September, but everything is unsettled as yet.

"You may be interested to know that I weekly give the Queen of Buganda, Bible

studies. She is very interested in the truth, and we should not be surprised to see her one day fully accepting it. Two paramount chiefs have lately accepted the truth."

We report with pleasure the dispatch of another family to associate with the workers in the West African Union. Early in July, Lionel Hubbard and his wife, formerly Ursula Vine of Watford, left these shores by steamer for Lagos, West Africa. From there they will proceed to North Nigeria where Dr. John Hyde and his wife will welcome them as associates in the developing work of our mission hospital in that centre. Brother Hubbard and his wife have recently completed courses of training in the nursing profession.

Among the many visitors who have passed through London in recent weeks was Francis Clifford, the newly appointed president of the Australasian Division, a former resident of England and for a number of years secretary of the Southern African Division. His successor in the secretaryship of the Southern African Division is W. Duncan Eva, an associate in the work in the Southern African Division for many years past. E.B.R.

### DIVISION DIRECTORY

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