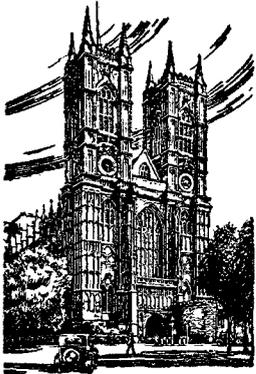




VOLUME 5

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NUMBER 1



Fifth Winter Council

HELD AT STANBOROUGH PARK, WATFORD, HERTS.

NOVEMBER 23 to 30, 1954

The Story Day by Day

FAMILIAR faces and new faces were seen as the delegates from the various union conferences, local conferences, union missions, and local missions entered the Stanborough Park church in Watford, England, on Tuesday evening, November 23rd. The beautiful motto in shaded gold letters presented a challenge to each as he read the stirring words, "Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." Joshua 3:5.

Promptly at seven-thirty J. A. McMillan, W. W. Armstrong, A. F. Tarr, A. K. Armstrong, H. L. Rudy, N. F. Brewer, G. A. Lindsay, and G. D. King marched onto the platform and the Winter Council of the Northern European Division was in session. The hearty welcomes of A. F. Tarr, W. W. Armstrong, J. A. McMillan, and A. K. Armstrong in whose church the meetings were held, helped each one to feel that he was among friends. This fact became more and more evidenced as acquaintances grew into friendships which confirmed the statement of the Master when

He said, "All ye are brethren." We were reminded of the truthfulness of the statement of our late beloved Elder Spicer, when he said, "It is a good family to belong to."

The lovely solo by Mrs. A. F. Tarr prepared the heart of every listener for the words of counsel which were to follow. Every verse was soul-stirring, but these words were especially beautiful and impressive: "The nearer I reach the end of time, the sweeter Thou art to me."

A. F. Tarr's address to the fifty-eight delegates and others present, stressed the importance of individual sanctification that God may work wonders through His

people tomorrow. "We, who are here, ought to draw so near to God that His blessing can flow through us to the people throughout this Division."

The first meeting closed with the words of an appropriate theme song prepared and adopted for these meetings:

*From North and South, from East
and West,*

*God calls His workers here;
From days of toil and care
To fellowship and prayer.*

*We all have longed for added strength,
Our courage to renew;*

*We now may come and find it,
It's waiting here for you.*



Delegates in attendance at Fifth Winter Council, 1954.

CHORUS:

It is no secret
 What God can do;
 What He's done for others,
 He'll do for you.
 With love o'erflowing,
 He'll lead you through,
 It is no secret
 What God can do.

There is no night, for in His light,
 We'll never walk alone;
 Always feel Him near
 And have no thought of fear.
 There is no power can conquer us
 While God is by our side;
 Just take Him at His promise
 Whatever may betide.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH.

The devotional talk by H. L. Rudy stressed the need for each individual to have the Spirit of God in his life. "Truth may be conclusive and clear, but it has no life-giving energy alone. There must be a life-giving agency along with the truth." Pastor Rudy stressed the fact that the Spirit of God reveals the mind of God, and the heart that is right toward God will be filled with the Spirit of God. There is danger that we become so busy that we fail to study the Bible and thus learn the mind of God.

The business of the session began at 10.15 a.m. with the report of the secretary given by G. D. King in the absence of E. B. Rudge. Facts and figures for the Polish Union Conference were not available. Pastor Rudy gave a brief report regarding our Polish brethren. The work is beginning to develop in Poland. Our brethren need our prayers as they witness for God in this large field.

The increase in membership as shown by the secretary's report, and the increase in tithes and offerings as revealed in the treasurer's report given by Pastor Lindsay, were encouraging.

The afternoon hours were assigned to committee work.

Wednesday evening the West Nordic Union report was given by the president, Pastor A. Lohne, and his associates. The

work in Norway and Denmark is moving forward. The favourable publicity through the press, the continuous programme of evangelism through the public efforts, Voice of Prophecy Correspondence School, organized lay - evangelism, colporteur - evangelists, Sunday schools, and day schools, is bearing fruit.

Following the West Nordic Union report came the East Nordic Union report by the president, Pastor C. Gidlund. In this field, too, the work is onward. The opening of a new printing plant in Sweden and the building of a new press in Finland will do much in presenting the truth to these people.

The inspiring reports of this day gave everyone greater confidence in the promulgation of the message and its sure

"SANCTIFY YOURSELVES
 for tomorrow
The Lord Will Do Wonders
 among you." Joshua 3:5.

triumph with the return of Jesus, the Prince of peace.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH.

As we bowed in prayer with F. J. Voorthuis, president of the Netherland Union Conference, our hearts joined in the fellowship of prayer. Though some of us could not understand the words, we could join in the sincerity expressed, and felt that angels of God were near and the Spirit of God present.

N. F. Brewer brought a thought-provoking study and appeal for a closer walk with God and time for secret prayer. He repeated those inspiring words of truth, "If we are too busy to pray, we are busier than God wants us to be." "No man is safe for one day or one hour without prayer."

Following Pastor Brewer's talk, the meeting closed with a series of short, earnest prayers for the outpouring of God's Spirit on His people and specifically on His ministry.

The reports on this morning by E. W. Pedersen, secretary for the Home Missionary Department, and by M. E. Lind of the Sabbath School and Missionary Volunteer Departments, were thrilling and inspiring.

The evening session was given to the Netherland and British Unions. The British Radio Quartet sang those inspiring words which include, "The hardships of earth will seem nothing, when I look in my dear Saviour's face."

Brother Voorthuis stated that the Advent message has been preached for sixty years in the Netherlands. Today we see a large interest springing up. In cities where there formerly was no response, now faithful witnesses are taking their stand. The radio messages are reaching into homes and factories. The Netherlands is preparing for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The British Union Conference report was different from most other reports. W. W. Armstrong, the Union Conference president, gave a few statistics which

were interesting, but the climax and main report were trophies plucked from the milling millions of England. The personal testimonies given, and the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts and lives of these individuals were thrilling to hear. Surely there is a modern "Acts of the Apostles" unwritten, but real in these climactic times.

The meeting closed without song, but with a conviction in every heart that the Spirit of God is working in our midst, and that a far greater work can be done if we all pray, work, and keep the avenue of our heart open that the Spirit of God may flow through us to a perishing world.

J. ALFRED SIMONSEN.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH.

The key text on the banner above the pulpit furnished the theme and outline for the morning devotional study. "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders," was the heart-searching call so earnestly presented by R. A.

Anderson of the General Conference Ministerial Association. "Not for forty years but for over one hundred years the Lord has been moulding His people for the great final movement. Right in sight of the promised land the Lord is waiting for us to be sanctified people," said Pastor Anderson. One challenging statement after another found its mark in our hearts, and I found myself writing them down as fast as I could lest my faulty memory lose one of them. Here are some further gems from his message:

"The remedy [for our condition] is in looking to the righteousness of Christ, not by looking at the sins of God's people."

"The work done by the disciples at Pentecost will be eclipsed by the work God will do in the finishing of this message."

"The price of shining is burning; are we willing to pay the price?"

"We need more than resolutions on paper: we need to be sanctified."

So deep was our sense of need and so stirring the call to consecration in this devotional service that it was not easy to leave it and launch out into the more mundane business of the Council session, but after all the Lord's business must be done "decently and in order." Brief and business-like was the legal meeting of the World-Wide Advent Missions, for it is in this name that thousands of pounds' worth of land and property throughout the Division is registered. Next came a succession of reports; each one thrilling with interest and a spirit of progress and courage. Dr. W. I. Smith, Principal of Newbold College, told briefly of the history of our Division College and of plans to make it a mighty agency for the training of young men and women for Christian service. J. A. Simonsen, Educational secretary of the Division, presented a real challenge to renewed emphasis on Christian education. He spoke of education as the "root stalk" of our work. G. D. King reported on the publishing work in his own inimitable way. One interesting fact presented by Pastor King was that seven overseas students at Newbold have earned full scholarships by means of colporteur evangelism.

The morning session came to a close

with an encouraging report of the development of the work in Iceland by Pastor J. Gudmundsson, the leader of our work in that north land.

Soft organ music and the harmony of a male choir formed a worshipful setting for the Sabbath evening service when N. F. Brewer, a field secretary of the General Conference, presented an earnest and stirring call for every Advent believer to truly represent Christ. "The world's eyes are on Seventh-day Adventists," he said.

SABBATH, NOVEMBER 27TH.

What a wonderful feast of good things was in store for us on Sabbath as we met for all services in the beautiful New Gallery Evangelistic Centre in the very heart of London. Words and space can never suffice to tell the full story of the day. The solemn tones of the organ, the great painting above the rostrum, depicting the wide spread of the Northern European Division as it "witnesses from the Arctic to the Equator," the tastefully decorated and spacious auditorium, all combined to impress the incoming throngs and delegates with the solemnity and importance of the gathering.

The Sabbath school, quite an international affair, was led by M. E. Lind, Sabbath School and Missionary Volunteer Secretary of the Northern European Division. The review of the previous week's lesson was ably presented by Axel Varmer, principal of the Danish College. We cannot easily forget his closing thought, "If we know His voice today, we shall know His voice calling us in the great day of the resurrection." W. L. Emmerson led the lesson study in an enthusiastic and interesting way, emphasizing the thought that when sorrow and tragedy come, we must not be hasty, but wait and give God a chance and He will show it is all for the best. J. J. Hyde, president of the West Nigerian Mission, presented the missions appeal and very effectively introduced Brother Apata, a native of West Nigeria, who bore an impressive testimony as to what missions had done for him and his people. Truly this was a delightful Sabbath school, well planned and well presented.

Now came the high hour of the day, the time of divine service. Onto the plat-

form and in front of the platform marched the Watford choir. Then came the ministers, General Conference representatives, officers of the Division, and presidents of the union conferences and missions. H. L. Rudy, General Conference Vice-President, spoke on that most thrilling of all topics to Seventh-day Adventists, the coming of the Lord. How his message thrilled our souls! We knew again in our hearts that "it is high time to awake out of sleep and put on the Lord Jesus;" that very soon if faithful we shall meet our blessed Lord. Our hearts cried out in response to Pastor Rudy's message, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus," and we determined to be ready for that great event.

Two-thirty in the afternoon found us all seated and ready to enjoy an hour of music. Congregational singing was interspersed with beautiful special numbers featuring the British King's Heralds Quartet, Mrs. Gammon, and Mrs. Bonney. Very unique, too, was the demonstration by A. Arasola of Finland of how he preaches to the deaf. He illustrated the Shepherd's Psalm as he was accompanied by Mrs. Bonney in a beautiful vocal rendition of that Psalm.

How much more we would like to tell but our space is almost gone and we can only mention the call to fellowship and unity so beautifully presented by our division president, A. F. Tarr, in the three-thirty meeting, and then the heart-searching message of Pastor Brewer with scores of men and women crowding down to the altar to confess sins and seek the Lord for victory and forgiveness.

The evening meeting featured the mission fields of Ethiopia and West Africa. Colourful costumes filled the platform. Nationals from these lands told of the power of the Gospel in their countries. Coloured pictures thrown on the screen with comments by Pastors Broberg and Gibson of the Ethiopian and West African Unions, respectively, made these lands more real to us and emphasized anew the call to "preach the Gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people." Our hearts rejoiced, too, as Pastor Lindsay, treasurer of the Division, told of the opening of work in Greenland.

As I rode in the coach back to Wat-

ford, a young lady in the seat by the side of me said, "Wasn't this a wonderful day." I am sure she only echoed the thoughts of all who were privileged to be present.
 HOWARD J. WELCH.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH.

Following a refreshing Sabbath, the delegates again met in the Stanborough Park church, there to lay plans which, when carried out, will spell success in our Division.

The morning devotional hour was taken by N. F. Brewer. His subject, *How to Conserve our Membership*, was a mighty challenge to apostasy. We sensed a profound interest in the congregation, as Pastor Brewer, point by point, dealt with this vital subject. He used Hosea 14:1 and Ephesians 4:22 as his Bible introduction.

During the morning session, considerable time was given to the laying of plans which will enable Newbold College to play a greater part in the training of our youth in the Northern European Division. Dr. W. I. Smith, Principal of the College, eloquently put before the delegates some of the vital needs of the College.

In the late afternoon, a number of the delegates, particularly from overseas, availed themselves of the opportunity of visiting the New Gallery where R. A. Anderson was holding his regular Sunday evening services.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH.

H. L. Rudy based his thought-provoking and searching Bible study on Acts 3: 19, 20: "Repent ye therefore, and be converted." Quoting from *Early Writings* and *Great Controversy*, Pastor Rudy

brought to our attention anew the precious promises of the latter rain. He proved to us again that the last days will see a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit than marked the beginning of the early church.

Reading from Acts 4:33, the speaker stressed that the great theme of the apostles was the resurrection. The Jews did not like it. The Romans did not appreciate it, yet the apostles preached it vigorously and with signal results. It does not require special power to present to the multitudes a soft, pleasant, and popular message, but it does require special power to proclaim the loud cry of the third angel's message.

During the morning session the Temperance Department report was presented by E. W. Pedersen, in his usual vigorous way. Resolutions came before the council to be discussed and voted on. It was significant to note how much time the council spent on resolutions on evangelism. It was deeply sensed that here was our first responsibility to the world and to the church. During the late afternoon, the British Union Conference entertained the delegates, showing them some interesting films which were followed by a sumptuous banquet much appreciated by all.

In the evening the Ethiopian and West African Unions gave us a wonderful glimpse of the work which is being accomplished in those two union missions. S. A. Broberg and Miss Martin brought to us the great opportunities now presenting themselves in the southern part of the Ethiopian field, where large numbers of people have recently become suddenly interested in our message. They are seeking means whereby they may

be fully instructed and join the church. We noted that the Ethiopian Union had more than doubled its membership during the past four years.

Representing the large West African Union were: Pastors J. O. Gibson, Union President, J. J. Hyde, E. Hulbert, H. J. Welch, Miss Muderspach, and Teacher Aka-Kwamu. We were thrilled to hear that during the month of August 700 souls had been won in an all-out evangelistic drive in that union, and further, that a large evangelistic campaign had been conducted with good results in the capital of Liberia. The building in which this campaign was conducted had been furnished free of charge to us by the President of the Republic. Our three secondary schools in West Africa are finishing their second year. An average of 300 students are baptized each year from our schools.

The over-all impression that these two union missions brought to us was one of great encouragement for the future.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH.

In the morning devotional hour R. A. Anderson brought to us the theme, "The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all." "Grace," Pastor Anderson said, "is the greatest word in the universe." He solemnly portrayed to us that the whole eternal purpose of God is grace, grace in Jesus Christ.

During the morning session, a telegram of congratulations was sent to Sir Winston Churchill on his eightieth birthday. A number of resolutions were brought before the assembly for their approval. The plans committee, under the able leadership of E. W. Pedersen, had certainly done their work well, and a number of practical resolutions dealing with Dorcas Work, Evangelism, Reclaiming Former Members, etc., were passed.

At last the time came to adjourn, and the president, Pastor Tarr, in his closing remarks, spoke of the wonderful influence that had been felt during these meetings and thanked all the delegates for the enthusiastic co-operation that had been shown. He suggested that the delegates sing once again the theme song, "What God Can Do," as the Fifth Winter Council closed its session.

M. E. LIND.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

1952, 1953, 9 months of 1954

Field	Membership 1/1/53	Membership 1/1/54	Net Gain	Membership 30/9/54	Net Gain
British Union	6,936	7,257	321	7,552	295
East Nordic Union	8,290	8,490	200	8,572	82
Ethiopian Union Mission	858	1,097	239	1,169	72
Iceland Mission	366	364	-2	368	4
Netherland Union	2,225	2,240	15	2,265	25
Polish Union	3,150	3,150		3,150	
West African Union Mission	14,268	15,232	964	15,504	272
West Nordic Union	8,392	8,535	143	8,677	142
Total	44,485	46,365	1,880	47,257	892

Excerpts from the Treasurer's Report

THE Lord Jesus gave but one work to His followers as He returned to His Father to carry on His ministry in the heavenly sanctuary and to prepare "many mansions" for them. He gave to them to preach the Gospel of salvation and teach every nation and tribe and tongue and people until the work should be accomplished, and He returns to gather His own unto Himself.

Out of true love for the Redeemer and a desire to be with Him in His kingdom, His followers today—in these days so fraught with unrest and turmoil and wickedness on every side—seek constantly and diligently to be about their Father's business. And as captains and leaders among the Lord's people, it is well for us from time to time to come together to consider our joint attainments and short-comings and to encourage one another to do greater exploits for the kingdom of God and to hasten the advent of the Lord.

We have operated as a reorganized division now for almost four years. While the results for 1954 are not yet complete, we have good reason to be thankful to our heavenly Father for all His mercy and care and the prosperity that He has poured out to us so freely during these years. We also thank the General Conference for their strong financial support in making possible some of the outstanding projects that we have worked on during these years. The secondary educational programme in West Africa, the Senior College, and the New Gallery, are perhaps the foremost. We are also most grateful to our faithful membership for their loyal and liberal and often sacrificial support with their tithes and offerings.

During these years the following annual statistics which appear at the top of the next column have been recorded.

TITHES AND MISSION OFFERINGS

The tithes and mission offering returns in comparing the years 1952 and 1953 show an encouraging increase. The tithes for 1953 for the whole Division field passed the 1,000,000 dollar mark. The

	1950	1951	1952	1953
Membership	36,719	38,878	41,456	44,485
Tithe	\$841,905.82	\$913,481.00	\$968,097.50	\$1,044,281.96
Total Offerings	\$421,331.61	\$441,098.74	\$469,066.20	\$488,561.44
Ingathering	\$237,774.44	\$250,994.41	\$270,828.19	\$284,518.21

total sum was \$1,044,281.96. This is an increase of \$76,184.46, or nearly 8 per cent above the returns of 1952.

The total mission offerings for 1953 were \$488,561.44, which represents an increase of \$19,495.24 over the returns of 1952, or about 4 per cent. But taking the actual mission offerings that our own people contribute—that is the total mission offerings less the Ingathering—they amount to only \$204,043.23, a sum which represents less than 20 per cent of the tithe. The increase in the mission offerings, less the Ingathering, was only about 3 per cent.

It is both interesting and helpful for us as leaders to study the dollars per capita for tithes and offerings in our conferences and churches. It helps us when we set out to promote faithful stewardship in our fields. For instance, let me refer to the very last section of statistics in the comparative statement for 1952-1953. Below is tabulated the annual dollar per capita for the various fields.

Iceland	\$63.81
British Union	\$41.87
West Nordic Union	\$36.40
East Nordic Union	\$34.87
Netherland Union	\$27.86
Ethiopian Union	\$22.56
West African Union	\$3.83

The dollar per capita mission offerings are as follows:

Field	Total Offerings	Less Ingathering
British Union	\$23.91	\$6.97
East Nordic Union	\$15.02	\$6.92
Ethiopian Union	\$5.53	\$5.53
Iceland	\$28.69	\$14.93
Netherland Union	\$7.52	\$4.31
West African Union	\$2.47	\$1.20
West Nordic Union	\$15.61	\$7.20

We understand the reason for the lower per capita in West Africa. There we have our largest union membership, but the earning power and living standards are obviously much lower than here.

I am sure we all agree that the ever-expanding mission programme demands ever-increasing funds from the church-members, and therefore we should take it to heart to discharge faithfully our responsibility as leaders to do our share in increasing the mission funds and the tithe. Not all in our churches are paying tithe. All should be brought to realize the sacred trust we have as a people before God, as stewards of His goods in these last days. There could be revealed also on the part of many in our churches, a greater liberality than is now the case, in giving to the regular mission offerings promoted in our churches.

THE FUTURE

The future is as bright as the promises of God do indicate. God has power and wisdom. We must follow closely the counsel given us in the Word of God and in the Spirit of prophecy. Many open doors are before us, ready to be entered, but ere we realize it some may be closing again. What a challenge to us to work while it is possible!

The budget requests are ever increasing as a result of a growing work. This year the total budget request for present and proposed new work and buildings, etc., amounts to \$1,744,110.70. To this should also be added the request for \$362,480.00 for church buildings, making a grand total of \$2,106,590.00.

The time has surely come, as was recommended by the General Conference session in San Francisco, that the goal of complete financial self-support should be brought before all organized conferences. That is the only way to be able to extend the work beyond its present boundaries. We should begin to think along these lines in this meeting and lay wise plans for the future to ensure full support to the regions beyond, now waiting to hear the Word of God.

G. A. LINDSAY.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS

EDUCATIONAL

THE Educational secretary, Pastor J. Alfred Simonsen, who has recently joined the Division staff, gave in his report some interesting observations as to the future trend of the Division's educational programme. He stated that he hoped to continue to build on the groundwork laid by the untiring efforts of Dr. L. Mark Hamilton, his predecessor.

In the Northern European Division, Pastor Simonsen said that he appreciated the number of noteworthy monuments to Christian education and the large number of elementary schools, a tangible testimony of the interest the church has in the training of her youth. School plants such as found at Vejlefjord, Ekebyholm, Toivonlinna, Zandbergen, and the Stanborough Secondary School, are, he stated, equal to the best in the world field. They are a credit to the church and a blessing to our youth.

The 183 schools operated in the Division, including the advanced training departments, the senior college, and nurses' training schools, he reported, have a total enrolment of 19,142 students and are staffed with 746 teachers.

In Newbold Missionary College, the Division would find the pivot and focus for the recruitment of workers in the years ahead, but its objectives could only be attained through a continuous patronage of talented young men and women from the various conferences and mission fields.

Since it has not been possible for Pastor Simonsen to cover the whole of the Division field since his arrival, he said he looked forward with a great deal of

anticipation to visiting the remaining institutions, especially those in the mission fields.

While it is not possible always to see clearly the end of our efforts from the beginning, yet Pastor Simonsen assured the delegates that as we move forward in faith the Holy Spirit will go before us and that which appears impossible will soon become a reality.

HOME MISSIONARY

IN presenting his Home Missionary report for the first nine months of 1954, Pastor E. W. Pedersen spoke of the signal blessings which had accrued to the glorious cause of God because of the consecrated and untiring labours of God's people. He also thanked the Home Missionary secretaries for the loyal co-operation they had rendered in making his report possible.

He was glad to show an increase of 56 per cent in the number reporting over the corresponding period of 1953.

One of the outstanding features was the progress being made in lay-evangelism both in the mission lands and at home. Pastor Pedersen told of some of the wonderful results in East Nigeria of organizing churches into soul-winning training classes. Out of a group of 177 attending a convention, the following figures show the number of souls these dear members were instrumental in seeing baptized since the time they themselves had accepted Christ:

4	people	had	won	one	or	two
9	"	"	"	"	from	3-5
14	"	"	"	"	"	6-10

32	"	"	"	"	11-15
13	"	"	"	"	16-25
20	"	"	"	"	26-50
17	"	"	"	"	51-75
21	"	"	"	"	76-100
8	"	"	"	"	101-400

This, Pastor Pedersen said, is God's way of doing things. The more we walk that way, the sooner we shall reach the journey's end.

While up-to-date figures were not available, yet last year 877 lay preachers gave 18,643 Bible studies and held 3,546 Gospel meetings, and 675 souls were baptized.

During the nine months of 1954, 17,473 more Bible studies and 46,701 more Home Visitation contacts had been made than in the previous year, while 1,189,149 pieces of literature had been distributed by laymen.

A total of 271 institutes and conventions had been held for the laity. The results had been most gratifying.

The Dorcas Welfare work also showed progress, for there was a gain of 38 societies making a total of 291, and 37,343 needy persons had been given help of one kind or another, the estimated cost of which showed an increase of \$3,934.18.

In the Ingathering campaigns, while all figures were not yet available, the Division had already reached its goal of \$200,000. Pastor Pedersen commended the fields for the splendid work done. He told of how Holland had surpassed last year's intake by over \$1,000, the East Nordic Union topping their goal by \$4,444, and the West Nordic by \$5,265. In the latter field there were reported to be 1,877 minute men, which is 21.6 per cent of their membership. These giants were responsible for no less than \$42,232.50 of their total to date of \$62,250. Gallant Iceland was getting there, and sturdy John Bull had slogged unruffled along in his traditional world-champion style, laboriously picking up pennies and finally dumping the grand total of his new record of \$131,530 into the Lord's treasury. This is \$14,030

	Schools	Teachers	Enrolment	Nurses in Training	Total Students in Training
British Union	6	37	540		540
East Nordic Union	2	19	226		226
Ethiopian Union	16	55	1,107	35	1,142
Netherland Union	1	8	33		33
West African Union	141	570	16,350	60	16,410
West Nordic Union	13	37	534	70	604
Iceland	3	7	99		99
Newbold College	1	13	88		88
	183	746	18,977	165	19,142

more than last year's total, and \$25,000 above his goal.

Pastor Pedersen concluded his good report with the earnest appeal that everyone—workers, church officers, and laymembers—should wake up to a new realization of what God's plan and purpose are for us, and rededicate our lives to continued, whole-hearted service until the Lord Himself shall stop us with a "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

PUBLISHING, RADIO, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

IT is my conviction that the publishing and distribution of Adventist literature, the radio witness and Bible correspondence schools, our public relations work and religious liberty activities, constitute a witness which is of supreme importance and one that is making a contribution to our total programme of evangelism which we cannot afford to neglect.

A few weeks ago we were able to convene a short Publishing Field Leaders' Council. We were privileged to have Elder W. A. Higgins of the General Conference Publishing Department with us, and I believe that as we reviewed our supreme objectives in literature evangelism, all who attended were greatly blessed and inspired.

The total deliveries for the first nine months of 1954 are quite encouraging, but there are some disconcerting features. The average number of colporteurs for the Division in 1954 was 342, as compared with 353 in 1953. This is a loss of eleven colporteurs and the total deliveries show a loss of about \$1,300. Two unions, West Africa and the British Union, are able to report encouraging gains.

Thinking of our publishing houses and printing plants, it is encouraging to report the forward steps that have been made, both in West Africa and in the East Nordic Union, with the official opening of printing plants at Accra and Stockholm. We take this opportunity of thanking the General Conference for the

generous grants that have been made to these houses from the Publishing Rehabilitation Fund. It is also encouraging to be able to report that in West Africa, a missionary magazine has now made its debut in that territory, under the title of *West African Tidings*.

Our student-colporteurs have again done valiantly during the school vacation months. Already there are indications that the summer of 1954 will be one of the best on record. In Britain the "Set Selling Plan" has proved a real blessing. The thirty-nine students in the field were able to achieve a much larger sales figure

strates this combined and co-operative evangelism in the field: "One day I called at one home in the city of London and was greeted by the landlady saying, 'I am one of them,' meaning to say that she had accepted the Advent message and was baptized since I called about seven months previously. The lady had filled in the application for the Bible Correspondence Course, and studies were arranged, and so she had responded quickly to the Advent message."

The following figures relative to our Bible Correspondence School activities indicate that a strong work of evangelism

	1953	Six months 1954	From beginning to June, 1954
Enrolments	14,284	7,987	119,495
Graduates	14,587	11,244	54,825
Baptisms	594	241	3,011
Contributions	\$13,591.20	\$4,545.74	\$72,947.49
Expenses	\$53,853.92	\$28,136.10	\$152,148.23
Interests for follow-up		5,476	

than the forty-six students accomplished in 1953. Incidentally, this group of brethren will be glad to know that seven overseas students made sales qualifying them for scholarship bonuses for the Division Senior College at Newbold. Brother A. Daity of West Africa, was second on the list in highest sales totals with a figure of nearly \$1,400. The most outstanding sales achievement of which we have heard by students this summer, is of the colporteur in Finland who sold thirty-one copies of the splendid book *The Desire of Ages* in one day, and of the young lady student-colporteur in Britain, who sold over \$196 worth of the set of three volumes in five days. Our student-colporteur service is undoubtedly an essential part of the practical training of successful evangelistic workers for the field.

RADIO AND BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLS

During recent years there has been an increasing emphasis upon the soul-winning potentialities of our literature ministry, and the linking of our Bible Correspondence School promotion with our publishing programme has greatly strengthened and encouraged this emphasis. Here is an experience which illu-

is being nurtured, and that the eventual harvest of souls from this modern approach of evangelism, could be beyond our greatest expectations.

The actual radio witness throughout our Division is somewhat restricted by reason of the "closed shop" policy of Government-controlled broadcasting. The two strongest programmes we have, of course, are beamed from Radio Luxembourg: The Voice of Hope for Holland, and The Voice of Prophecy for Britain. Concerning the latter, C. R. Bonney writes as follows: "As you know, we were broadcasting two fifteen-minute services a week. I felt that it would be much better to have one half-hour and so be able to put more into our programme. We started these half-hour services in March of this year, and then in May we started a monthly health talk. These two changes combined have proved a wonderful success. In 1950 we received only 333 requests from radio listeners for our Bible Course. We worked hard to improve this, so that in 1953 we received 830. Already this year, 1954, we have received 2,378, made up by 1,128 for our Bible Course and 1,250 for the Health Course which we offer. The main idea of offering the Health Course, is to attract the folk to contact us so that

REPORTS FROM THE UNIONS

we can get them to take the Bible Course. This idea is proving to be very successful, as over 80 per cent of those who have finished the Health Course thus far, have asked for the Bible Course."

PUBLIC RELATIONS

We have not compiled figures relative to our public relations activities, but it can be confidently reported that during this past year, there has been a marked increase in the amount of newspaper publicity given to our denominational activities in many parts of our Division. This was encouragingly evident in the space given by many papers to our Annual Meetings in the Scandinavian fields. Pastor C. B. Mensah, of West Africa, proved to be of great publicity value in these countries, and not only broke the barrier of "News Editor Resistance," but he broke the "Sound Barrier" when he spoke over the government sponsored radio at Bergen, Norway, and surprisingly received a fee for the accomplishment!

The appointment of Press Relations secretaries in the union and local fields, is an essential feature in maintaining a constant flow of news service to the public press.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Religious Liberty problems are not of such a nature as to lend themselves to the usual type of tabulated reporting. The recent delay—if not defeat—to the World Calendar Reform advocates at Geneva, gives us cause for rejoicing, but not for undue satisfaction. The forces of the Calendar Reformists are not easily discouraged and the battle has merely been transferred to another date and place.

We again solicit your prayerful and practical support of the sacrificial service being rendered by our literature evangelists throughout the territory of this Division, and for these other activities that offer such great possibilities to us in the service of the Lord.

May God lead us forward into greater endeavours and greater achievements in this Combined and Co-operative Evangelism.

G. D. KING.



British Union

OUR report given during the recent Winter Council of the Northern European Division followed a somewhat different pattern than hitherto. As the council was held in Great Britain it was possible to bring in some of those who had found the truth during the past year to relate their experiences.

There was the case of a brother who had misfortune after misfortune, after accepting this message, and finally suffered the severe loss of his only two children. This brother's faith was something wonderful through this trial and only caused him to draw closer to the Lord in a sweet spirit of trust and resignation.

Then there was the case of a young man who was studying in a Roman Catholic Abbey to become a monk, who in his search for truth was providentially brought into contact with an Adventist and finally embraced this truth. He is now studying at Newbold Missionary College, preparing for the Gospel ministry. In a remarkable way the Spirit of the Lord leads the earnest of heart into the truth of God.

We were pleased to hear from one of the teachers in our Stanborough Secondary School of the good work being done among the many non-Adventist children

attending to bring them a fuller knowledge of Jesus. It was encouraging to hear how that, after studying the life of Christ, a baptismal class had been formed, and already five had signified their intention of joining the church. The head boy of the school was among this group and he was present to give his testimony, and stated his convictions. The hearts of all were moved as they listened to the report of how these young people are responding to the message.

We would take this opportunity of expressing our deep appreciation of the services rendered to the school by the headmaster, Pastor A. J. Woodfield, and his wife, over a period of thirteen years. He leaves at the end of the year to connect with Newbold Missionary College. His service has been marked by good scholarship, efficiency, patience, and above all a personal interest in the boys and girls. We wish Pastor and Mrs. Woodfield much blessing as they take up their new work. Brother R. Syme will be taking up his post as headmaster from January 1, 1955, and we wish him God's guidance and blessing in all his responsibilities.

Another brother gave the story of his conversion. He was a drummer in a dance-band and was following all the pleasures and habits of the world. Gradu-

ally he grew sick of the life he was leading, and one day he chanced to pick up a small Bible he had received as a boy. The front page led him to read several passages, one of which was Psalm fifty-one, and this greatly impressed him. In his lack of spiritual understanding he simply accepted Christ as the One who could give him a new heart. Then he began reading from Genesis one, only very soon to realize that the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord. Without any instruction from anyone he began to keep the Sabbath. He told his landlady of his discovery and she too began to be obedient to the law of God. One day they chanced to discover our church in that town and gladly joined themselves to our people. Is not this a remarkable evidence of how the Lord's Spirit guides the willing heart into the light of truth without human aid?

One of our Bible instructors gave a splendid report of three years' evangelism in the town of Ipswich and the opening providences of the Lord, making it possible for the members there to purchase a fine church building at a reasonable figure. Here, too, there have been many conversions, and the sick healed. One case was especially interesting of a lady who was almost bedridden, but was anxious to learn more of the truth. She had all her literature taken from her, but she kept her Bible under her pillow, and was sustained in her great need. Moreover, through prayer, her sickness was entirely healed, and today she stands as a witness to her family to the saving power of Christ in body, mind, and soul.

The evening's report concluded with an interesting statement from Mrs. A. F. Tarr on the work of the London Dorcas Federation, which our sister is heading up. There is much good and useful work being done in this direction and goodwill is being gained through the labours of our consecrated sisters. Surely all this kind and sympathetic service will make for us many friends who will stand by us when the enemy's wrath is poured out on the remnant people.

There were two items of finance presented to us which gave us cause for much rejoicing. The first was the wonderful Ingathering figure for 1954 of \$131,530, collected in five weeks. This is

\$14,000 more than in 1953. Truly the British Adventists excel in their zeal displayed for overseas missions. The second item was a splendid report from The Stanborough Press Limited. The quadrennium, 1950-1953, showed a wonderful increase in the sales of our books and periodicals; in fact it was a record report in the history of the institution. Now for the first nine months of 1954 a gain of 22 per cent is shown over the first nine months of 1953. So great is the volume of work done in this institution that it is necessary now to build another wing. We are so grateful for the splendid success of the literature ministry.

Our report would not be complete without presenting the splendid growth in our membership. The last quadrennium was easily a record in this direction in the history of the Union, for the net gain was 764 souls, or an average yearly net gain of 191. Already in 1954 so far the net gain in our membership is 295, or 104 more than the yearly average of the last quadrennium. We thank God for this splendid start and trust that our goal of 2,000 for this quadrennium may be reached. We are of good courage, but seek an interest in your prayers for the work that is being done among the 52,000,000 of these small isles.

W. W. ARMSTRONG.



Netherland Union

I AM glad to have the privilege of bringing to you a brief report of the work done for God in the Netherland Union.

For the first time our churches have reached their goal in our Ingathering campaign. I am sure that this is the result of the good spirit of the annual meetings in our conferences. We thank the brethren who came from the Division and the General Conference to break to us the Bread of life at these meetings.

During the past ten years we have had to struggle with many difficulties and disappointments in our Dutch work, but now with the help of the Lord a new day has begun. There is a stronger missionary

activity in the churches and we notice a greater spirit of willingness to sacrifice and surrender to God.

The tithes during the first three quarters of this year are \$8,100 higher than in the same period in 1953, that is about an eighteen per cent increase. The Sabbath school offerings are also higher. During the first nine months of 1953 we received \$3,538.49 and during the same period in 1954, \$4,015.26. We are very thankful for this improvement.

Our membership grows steadily, but too slowly. At the end of September, 1954, we had 2,264 members. We have lost many through emigration to America, Canada, and Australia.

At our Junior College, "Oud-Zandbergen," at Huis ter Heide, there are thirty-two students. We have many financial problems in the school because of the small enrolment but we do our utmost to master the difficulties.

We have twenty colporteurs and about the same number of part-time canvassers. They sold during the first ten months of this year \$18,053.55 worth of literature.

Our publishing house sold during the first three quarters of this year \$18,221.33 worth of books and magazines.

Up to September of this year the Welfare Department of our Government has sent to our children's home, 186 children. During the summer we have between seventy and eighty children and during the winter a little over forty. We try to help these children spiritually and physically to become good and strong men and women. Some of them stay for years in our home and become church-members.

A few weeks ago we had the official opening of our Old People's Home. We were happy to welcome several officials from the Government and to show them our fine property. The Government had sent representatives from twelve cities. The Lord Mayor of the city of Zeist said in his speech that he was very happy that our church had had the initiative to build this beautiful home. He expressed to us his best wishes and hope that our home, which had been established by the love of Christ, as he said, would bring rich blessings to many old people in the eventide of their lives. The Government gives us a subsidy of \$11,475. At the moment we have about fifty old people in our home; but there are many in the country still waiting for a place; so if we had the money we could immediately open a second home.

Our radio work and Bible correspondence school are also a great help in our evangelistic programme. During the first nine months of this year we received nearly 3,500 applications for the Bible course and we have 2,587 active students. So far the conferences have reported thirty-six baptisms this year.

Each month the office of the Voice of Prophecy receives about 900 letters.

Each Friday afternoon since 1950 our

Dutch radio programme has been broadcast from Radio Luxembourg. During this time we have enrolled 2,645 listeners.

Our radio programmes are well known in the country and we have a large circle of listeners even though all are not enrolled in the Bible course. Our statistics show that from every 1,000 radio listeners who have enrolled in our Bible course, ten become members of our church.

A few weeks ago we heard of a striking experience. A doctor of agriculture told a member of our church that he listened in every Friday with great interest to the Voice of Hope. He said that some weeks ago he had occasion to visit a fruit factory where about thirty-five girls and women were packing fresh

fruit. He found the factory always very noisy. On his last visit, however, he found everybody sitting very quietly. He asked a girl who was near the door the reason for the quietness. "Oh," she replied, "Friday afternoons we listen to the Voice of Hope and stop the work in the factory for fifteen minutes."

Yes, friends, we have a wonderful message. It is not through our strength and our wisdom that success is gained, but in our message there is a dynamic power to break down the chains of sin and bring people to a life of victory.

I ask my brethren and sisters who are here together, to pray that our efforts to promote the work in the Netherlands may be fruitful and the harvest of souls great.

F. J. VOORTHUIS.



West Nordic Union

ONE of the greatest assets we have as Adventists is the strong feeling of belonging together. We plan together and work together. Therefore we all rejoice over the victories won as we march forward together. Your success is ours, and our success is also yours. We are therefore confident of your interest as we try to report some of the happenings in the West Nordic Union.

Except for the mission fields I believe there is no field within the Division that has such tremendous distances to cover

as we have. To travel from the union headquarters in Oslo to the churches in North Norway is a longer journey than from London to North Africa. The coast line in Norway is 2,125 miles long.

Our workers scattered over these vast areas are therefore far apart, and the operation of the work very costly. Denmark has the far-away Faroe Islands belonging to its field. And Copenhagen, which has one-quarter of the whole population of Denmark, presents its own peculiar problems.

RESULTS OF SOUL-WINNING WORK

The most important figure we can present is 311, the number of souls won during the first three quarters of this year. We have had no outstanding campaign. These souls have come into the fold through hard and prayerful work in many small efforts. We have now 8,677 members in the West Nordic Union. Although we are happy for every one of these souls, yet we want to do better. And I believe we have reason to look with confidence into the future because of the strong work which is now going on.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

We have 1,535 children from non-Adventist homes studying the Sabbath school lessons every Sunday. Practically all of these are in Denmark where this work has been solidly built up. So far four children have been baptized. I believe this is only a beginning. Work for children takes time, but the results are perhaps more solid and last longer than from any other kind of work we do.

THE LITERATURE WORK

At the General Conference we could report that during the past four years 140 million pages of literature had been sold in Denmark and Norway. That means an average of twenty pages of Adventists literature for every citizen within the West Nordic Union.

In North Norway we have the mission boat *Rana* visiting the isolated islands along the coast. Last summer the canvasser aboard visited 103 islands on which were 1,123 homes. He sold literature in eighty-two per cent of the homes he visited.

On one of the islands he found an Adventist sister making a living by the use of a little knitting machine. The fishermen from all the surrounding islands had her make their socks, sweaters, and other garments. But to every one that dealt with her she gave or sold a copy of our mission paper. Brother Hansen on the ship *Rana* says that on those islands he could not sell a single paper because this good old sister had supplied them all.

With our mission paper we have started something new and very promis-

ing. Some of the colporteurs go out taking subscriptions for the paper. They have typical articles from the papers gathered in a book which they show like a prospectus. It works very well. Since we started this work eight months ago 2,000 new subscribers have been enrolled. At the same time the colporteurs doing this work have enrolled 2,065 students for the Bible school.

CHURCH SCHOOLS

In the union there are sixteen church schools with 373 students. Twenty-eight teachers are occupied in these schools sowing the seed for a good harvest.

At our Junior College in Denmark we have 110 students, 62 from Denmark and 48 from Norway. A beautiful and very practical dormitory for the girls was dedicated a few weeks ago. The erection of this building cost approximately \$45,000.

PRESS EVANGELISM

Because the people do not know the facts, we face a thick wall of prejudice in many places. Through the newspapers we can inform the public and reach the masses with our message. Whereas a minister speaks to 50 or 100 people from his pulpit, he can reach tens of thousands through the papers. And it is surprising what we can get into the press when it is done properly. I have here with me several yards of clippings collected during the past few months. All this is from 1954, and is far from all that has appeared.

This year we also managed to get onto the radio. When C. B. Mensah visited us last summer we had him tell the story of the Adventist work in the Gold Coast over the State-controlled radio. The broadcasting organization not only let us speak over the air, but they even paid us for doing it. The money went to the Old People's Home.

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLS

In our two Bible Correspondence Schools 2,000 active students are slowly and steadily receiving the truth. So far this year 705 students have completed a course and received their diploma.

We find in some far-away places where public efforts are never held, the Bible

Correspondence lessons create great interest. It is typical what one student wrote: "Never before have I received so much for so little."

INGATHERING

The Ingathering is a means not only of supplying money for the field, but also of keeping the fires burning in our churches at home. Nothing strengthens our members more than the joy of taking part in the work themselves. This year we reached the union goal after six weekly reports. So far we have collected \$1,650 more than last year at the same time, the amount being \$63,900.

The young people at Vejle fjord broke all records as they gathered \$2,550 in three days. The MV society in Oslo gathered \$1,300 this year. An old man over eighty years did a remarkable job. He had 1,080 names on his list, and collected \$225. He is a Minute Man ten times over.

CARE OF JUNIORS AND YOUTH

We have 5,132 young people and juniors in our field who demand leadership and guidance. About 1,000 of them attended our camps last summer. Two hundred from our Sunday schools also came to special camps.

At long last we have managed to get out some material for the small children in our Sabbath schools. *My Bible Story* is now translated into the language of the children in our field.

THE OLD PEOPLE

We have two Old People's Homes in the West Nordic Union. There are about fifty old Adventists enjoying the evening of their lives in good denominational surroundings.

NEW CHURCH BUILDINGS

Five new churches with a seating capacity of 650 people have been dedicated since last Division Council. However, the buildings of some of our largest churches are far too small. We are working hard to have this condition changed.

NEW CHURCH HYMNAL

At last a beautiful hymnal is available in the Norwegian language for our members. It has been a big task and I

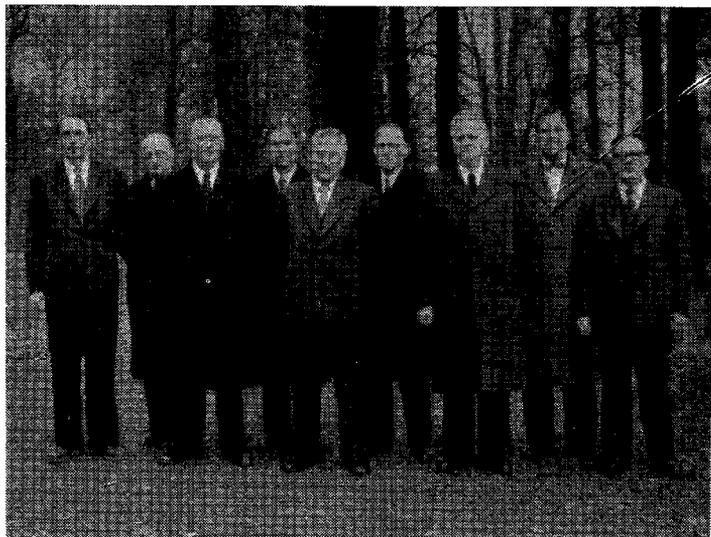
believe only those who have tried it realize how expensive and difficult it is to produce a book like this for a church membership of only about 5,000.

We are glad to report an increase of \$15,000 in tithes and \$3,300 in mission offerings for the three quarters of 1954.

The total tithes are \$231,000 and the

offerings amounted to \$85,500. As we struggle with the task of harvesting in our part of the Lord's vineyard, we face great and seemingly impossible problems. We are, however, confident of God's guidance and help who has all the power and all the means necessary to finish the work.

ALF LOHNE.



East Nordic Union

DURING the past nine months we have experienced God's mercy and goodness throughout our field in a special way. Our people have been loyal and self-sacrificing. Everywhere we find a deep longing for a greater measure of the Holy Spirit of God. It is our greatest need if we are to fulfil our great task.

The membership of the union is now 8,572. During the past three quarters 379 new members have been added to the church. Some of our leading workers have not held public efforts this year and therefore we have not reached the good results of last year.

Tithes and offerings show a very good increase. This is especially true of the mission offerings. These, with an increase of \$13,400, have totalled \$80,600. In tithes we have reached the amount of \$216,400.

This year our two schools have enrolled 225 students, 115 at the Finnish school and 110 in Sweden. Both schools have well trained teachers, who are deeply devoted to their responsible task.

We have to face a new problem in

our educational programme both in Finland and in Sweden. Circumstances demand that we plan for a gymnasium (high school) course which leads to matriculation. Our youth are waiting for this development and we are working toward it in order to keep them within our ranks.

The literature work has also proved a success both in Finland and in Sweden. Literature has been sold to the value of \$256,691.40 by our 170 literature evangelists during the first three quarters. Sweden's share is \$86,800 and Finland's, \$16,980.

In October of this year we were able to dedicate our own printing plant in Stockholm, when we had the pleasure of the company of Pastors A. F. Tarr and G. A. Lindsay. It was a happy day for all of us who had looked forward to this accomplishment for such a long time. We appreciate very much the help we have received from the General Conference and the help we hope to receive from the Division and elsewhere.

Just a week ago we ordered a Kelly

press in addition to the one we had previously bought in Oslo. This is a good beginning. In the new printing plant in Oslo we have some fine, skilled men, who now lead out in our printing work in Stockholm.

We are also negotiating in Finland for the purchase of a fine place about fifteen kilometres from Tampere, where we plan to build our own printing plant. The way seems to be long and maybe hard in reaching our goal, but Finland, with its enormous literature sales, ought to receive all possible help for the realizing of the dream of their own printing plant. Their own resources are not large enough for such a big undertaking.

In connection with the autumn meeting of the union we organized the Swedish and Finnish Temperance Associations. The Committee of the Swedish Association had its first meeting on November 7th, when we decided to concentrate our efforts on preventive measures among the children and young people, by sending out proper literature to schools and other youth institutions. We also encouraged our ministers and evangelists to give one or two lectures on temperance in their public efforts. The secretary of the association will also arrange material for the departmental secretaries to be used when they visit the churches.

In Sweden there is an organization called "The Temperance Committee of the Churches." This organization is very friendly toward us and we decided to apply for membership in it.

We also decided that *Ungdomens Bubbärare* and *Tidens Tecken* be asked to publish some temperance material in every issue, to secure proper temperance films, to prepare two tracts, one on alcohol and the other on tobacco, and to apply to the Government for financial support for our work.

The editor of the *Tidens Tecken*, Gösta Berglund, who also serves as Press Relations secretary for the union, suggested some time ago that he seek work with the largest religious daily paper in Sweden (Stockholm) in order to extend his contacts with the newspaper men and with the leaders of the Free Churches. He stayed with them for one month, working in our own office in the mornings, and from 2 p.m. until 8 or even

10 p.m. at night for this paper. He now reports that he has won many new friends among the leaders of the different denominations. He says he is very satisfied with his experience, and the editorial staff of the paper was well satisfied too. In fact, the leading men invited him to stay with them. When, however, they understood this could not be done, the editor-in-chief asked him to be a regular co-operator. Brother Berglund promised to continue the co-operation because he thinks it is very valuable for the Adventists to have a permanent representative on that paper.

The editor of what they call "the cultural pages" used to speak and write against Adventists. But Brother Berglund made special efforts to win him as his personal friend. He succeeded and even this man regretted that Brother Berglund was unable to stay with them, and asked him if he would like to help him in future with his material for his "cultural pages."

Gösta Berglund is now back to full-time work in our publishing house, but he still takes off one or half a day to help these new friends.

In our press work we have planned to start a Press or Information Bureau. The secretary took the opportunity to start his work when he was able to offer the papers the big news about our Temperance Association. News letters were sent to several papers with which he has already made good contacts and to the "TT" as well. (The "TT" is a news agency like Reuters or Associated Press.) We have received clippings from sixteen papers, but we know of more who used the material through the teleprinter system. We are happy for this good start of our Press Bureau.

Brother Berglund's recent experience in daily journalistic work will certainly be of good help in the development of this information service of Adventist news.

Our three medical institutions, together with the two summer sanitariums at our schools, operating three months a year, have had a successful year, with full capacity all the time. They have had an average of 365 guests a day.

On October 11th we had a visit from

the German Legation Attaché, Mrs. Else Klamroth, who presented on behalf of her Government five exquisite pieces of art to the Dorcas Society of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination in Sweden, with a letter of thanks and appreciation from Theodore Heuss, the president of

the West German Republic. The gift is a symbol of the gratitude the German people feel toward their unknown benefactors. Our Dorcas sisters perform a service of love for which we have indeed every reason to thank God.

C. GIDLUND.



Seated in front of West African delegates are the two Union Mission presidents, J. O. Gibson of West Africa and S. A. Broberg of Ethiopia.

West African Union Mission

ONCE again we bring you our gratitude and our greetings from your fellow believers in West Africa. During the past year the work has progressed there at a steady pace. Rapidly expanding work, shortage of overseas and African workers, along with rapid changes in forms of government due to nationals of the various countries pressing forward to self-government, all tend to bring us new problems.

The message is not going as fast now as it did a few years ago. Nationalism and materialism are claiming the attention of many progressive Africans. We do, nevertheless, thank God for the 1,482 souls baptized in our territory during the past twelve months. While some are not so anxious to hear the message of Jesus and His love today, yet many calls come to us from the interior to send teachers and evangelists. May God help us to answer these calls before these millions of

people who are hungering for something better die, waiting to be fed.

EVANGELISM

Evangelism is the theme of every department and institution in West Africa. Our institutions are evangelistic centres. Pastor H. S. Pearce, manager of the Advent Press, in addition to his heavy duties at the press, ran an effort this year. Several souls are in preparation for baptism as a result. Pastor A. E. Brendel, principal of our Nigerian Training College, with the help of the students, conducted a series of meetings in their new church.

Dr. S. A. Nagel, at the Ife Hospital, conducted an effort at the hospital. As a result, some thirty souls are preparing for baptism. The staff there run branch Sabbath schools and three cottage meetings weekly. These examples are only a few to illustrate the spirit of soul-win-

ning which is the aim of the workers in our institutions.

In August 700 souls were won in one month in an all-out evangelistic drive. Pastors C. D. Henri and Hughes ran a large campaign in the Centennial Pavilion in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia. The building was furnished to us free of charge by the President of the Republic.

IN FAVOUR WITH MAN

We thank God for the favourable situation we find ourselves in, in respect to the various governments of the countries in which we work. Certainly there has never been a time when we were in greater favour. Twice this year, the Premier of the Gold Coast has graced our functions with his presence, first at the opening of the Advent Press in January and again in April at the ground breaking ceremony of our new hospital. The Minister of Health and the Minister of Education were also at this function. Previously, the Minister of Education had officiated at the opening of our new Secondary School at Bekwai.

Just over two weeks ago I attended the official opening of the new Jengre Hospital in North Nigeria. Here the Minister of Health for North Nigeria officiated, and many leading government officials were present.

In Sierra Leone, one of our new type modern school buildings has attracted the attention of government officials and even of the Governor himself. We are in the limelight now. May God control our every move in order that we may witness faithfully for Him.

PUBLISHING WORK

We thank God for the forward march of our publishing work. Our new press has been very busy. We wish to thank The Stanborough Press for their gifts of equipment and for their release of Brother G. Meredith to assist us as shop superintendent. We are turning out tens of thousands of pieces of literature in the various vernaculars. Over half a million tracts have been printed in English this year and now our new publication *The West African Tidings* is off the press. The first edition of 5,000 copies is nearly gone. Press sales in the first ten months this year have totalled \$33,600.

Our colporteurs are on the march. Sales for the first ten months of this year total over \$35,280. This is twenty-nine per cent greater than the same period of 1953. All fields except one show substantial gains.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Three village schools are now in operation in the new work in the Ivory Coast, and we have about ten students in our small training school. We hope these will provide us with a few greatly needed workers.

Our three Secondary Schools are finishing their second year. We plan to advance them all to the third year in 1955. An average of 300 students are baptized each year from our schools.

Thank God for our strong army of Missionary Volunteers and laymen who share their faith. They are very active and are winning hundreds of souls to Christ.

MEDICAL WORK

I wish you might join me in visiting our medical institutions in West Africa and see the splendid work of our medical missionaries. No effort is too great for them to put forth in order to bring relief from suffering and then they take time to pray with the patients and point them to Christ.

VOICE OF PROPHECY

Our Radio programme in Liberia and our three Bible Correspondence schools are reaching out and carrying the Gospel to thousands of people in West Africa. Recently, Pastor R. W. Coon graduated the 30,000th graduate. The young man

was a Mohammedan who had just completed his lessons where he had learned of Christ the Saviour.

GIVING

We are thankful for the liberality of our African believers. They are as anxious as any of us in bringing in good offerings to God. As an example, on this past thirteenth Sabbath, three churches in Liberia—one of them largely students of the school, and the two others were not large churches—gave a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering of \$467. Pastor Henri, the president of that field, also reports that they went over their \$1,050 In-gathering goal in two weeks.

Our African constituency has so far contributed toward their secondary school programme over \$14,000.

THE HOUR IS LATE

A little over a year ago, Pastor H. M. S. Richards of the Voice of Prophecy, visited West Africa. On his return he wrote a book about it. Certainly, he was greatly impressed with the unlimited opportunities and great urgency of the unfinished task. The following extract is taken from his book:

"The needs of Africa are tremendous. The opportunity has never been so great, but the hour is late and the work must be done quickly. We must fulfil the words of our Saviour, we must obey His command: 'Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.' . . . God's people must do God's work in God's way, in God's time." May God help us to meet the great challenge before us in West Africa.

J. O. GIBSON.

Ethiopian Union Mission

THE Christian should often review his past life, and recall with gratitude the precious deliverances that God has wrought for him, supporting him in trial, opening ways before him when all seemed dark and forbidding, refreshing him when ready to faint. He should recognize all of them as evidences of the watchcare of heavenly angels. In view of these innumerable blessings he should often ask, with subdued and grateful heart, 'What shall I render unto the Lord

for all His benefits toward me?'—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 187.

Surely gratitude wells up in our hearts as we review the past and recognize God's blessing and guidance. Every church and every mission worker can recount with thanksgiving the tender watchcare manifested toward each one by our heavenly Father.

On every hand we have seen the evidences of God's guidance and direction. Into the achievements of the period of

time since our last winter council, have been built the love, devotion, and sacrifice of willing and consecrated mission workers and churchmembers. All have worked together under the guidance of God.

We have in our union ten elementary schools, one secondary school, one training school, and one nurses' training school with a total enrolment of 1,039 young people, from whom we draw our future workers.

We greatly appreciate the work that has been done in our four hospitals and six clinics, manned by five doctors and nine overseas nurses. During this past year over 45,000 treatments have been given.

The Voice of Prophecy Correspondence School is continually progressing. Our last Visitation Day brought 689 new enrolments, which is a very large number when we consider how few there are who are literate.

Our present church membership is 1,191, and we have 2,132 enrolled in our Sabbath schools.

The outlook is encouraging in the Ethiopian Union Mission. From several parts of the field come requests for us to open up work. It seems that a new day has come and we are determined to press on with our God-given task "to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

S. A. BROBERG.

written by L. Halsvik, *Bible Lights for Our Time*, and he was engaged in translating this book into Greenlandish. Just think of it! Way up in North Greenland where we intended to begin our missionary work, God had already appointed a witness for present truth, one who had on his own initiative preached on behalf of the Advent message.

Besides serving as an associate pastor and teacher, the catechist is also chairman of the local town council, and the town architect. He was very pleased to interpret for us and the parish hall was packed with interested listeners when our friend opened the meeting explaining its purpose. He said that some would perhaps wonder that he, their minister, should help us. He said that the warning sent out by the district pastor must have been due to a misunderstanding, inasmuch as the Adventists were more thorough in Bible study than they themselves were. He mentioned that we had been sent to help them and that he himself had preached to his church some of the truths held by Adventists, and now they would hear it again from us. He not only interpreted, but one had the feeling that he put his whole heart into that interpretation and made it a part of himself. Maybe I can best describe the interest on the part of this catechist by quoting the following from a letter which he sent me shortly before my departure from Egedesminde: "You may be assured that your preaching has been much enjoyed here in the town. It has strengthened me in my work. The head catechist in Christianshaab is also very grateful for your visit to Christianshaab." How quickly would the Advent message be preached in Greenland if men with influence both in the church and in the schools would take their stand for the truth and preach it to their own countrymen. Already we see the Spirit of the Lord is working upon their hearts.

The climax of our visit was, however, the baptizing of our friend, Amon Berthelsen, who is the first Seventh-day Adventist in Greenland. It was on a warm summer day with mosquitoes swarming about us, that Amon Berthelsen, his ten-year-old grandson Carl, and I went over the mountains to a large lake where the baptism took place. Happy

"From Greenland's Icy Mountains"

Part 2

By Andreas Nielsen

THE next place we visited was Egedesminde. Here a notice had been put out regarding us, even before we arrived. Translated it read as follows:

NOTICE!

"Early in the year Pastor — gave a lecture in the school entitled 'A Branch of the Church who call themselves Adventists.' At that time quite a number were present at the meeting, but there were many who were not. The customs and beliefs of this church are in some respects dangerous, the worst being that they do not practise child baptism. One of their ministers has been visiting along the fjords in South Greenland. He is now in North Greenland and will possibly call here as well. Because of this we would like to have you notice the following:

1. Be careful when he arrives, for he will most likely ask someone to help him in his work.
2. Do not buy the expensive books he will try to sell you.
3. He will distribute some tracts gratis. They, however, will not do you any harm.

"We are refusing to let him use the church for his meetings, but he can hold meetings elsewhere if he so desires. He

may also visit in the homes, but whatever he does, be on your guard. Be sure not to do anything to hinder him in his work. You should not show any antipathy toward him and not be discourteous to him. But be on your guard and do not encourage him."

I might state that the population of Egedesminde obeyed this warning to begin with, but soon things changed. Their prejudice was broken down and we were received in most places with great kindness. After we had been able to arrange for a good lodging place in the hotel, we went down town to look for an interpreter. We were referred to a catechist, who received us very kindly. He showed us a copy of L. Mundersnachs twenty-eight Bible lectures bound in a book, entitled *Light and Truth* which he had received from friends in Holsteinsborg. Later I learned from Amon Berthelsen that he had sent him the book. The catechist expressed great joy for what he had received from reading this book. Impressed by the Bible truths he had received, he felt that he should also teach these things to the church in Egedesminde. He also showed us another of our books published in Danish by a branch of the Pacific Press in Brookfield,



Pastor M. E. Lind, with his wife and young son, was welcomed to the Winter Council. While he was not as yet in a position to render reports, yet he spoke of his earnest dedication to the task of saving our youth through the Sabbath School and Missionary Volunteer Departments.

to have been baptized in Christ, our dear brother returned home again, rejoicing. In the evening I had another meeting with some very interested people, and the day following I met my interpreter who told of his joy at the appreciation expressed by those present at the meeting. The whole-hearted interest expressed by the many Greenlanders who listened to the message and read our truth-filled literature, is a guarantee that there will soon be many who will accept the third angel's message in Greenland.

In Frederikshaab I stayed for six days with a friend. Here I also saw what a good work the literature we had left behind last year had done. At the first meeting in the parish hall I spoke through an interpreter to about 200 listeners. The minister in this place who was also present at the meeting, said to me afterward that there was no soil in his parish in which the message I had preached could grow. The following day two announcements were put up in town informing the people of our faith and teaching according to their minister's viewpoint, hoping that this would keep them from attending our meetings. Except for a very few, the population were not daunted. They themselves had heard and read and were very friendly toward me. They desired to hear more and more. In my visits from home to home I contacted a former catechist who was very much interested in getting the books *The Great Controversy* and *Health and Happiness*. So great was this Greenlanders' interest in the Bible truths in Pastor Munderspach's twenty-eight lectures which I had given

him, that he read that same evening from 8 p.m. until 2 a.m., continuing again from 8 o'clock in the morning until 10 o'clock that night until he had finished the book. While reading, this young Greenlander was convinced regarding the truth of the Bible Sabbath and decided that he would keep it. I was surprised over his quick decision and I asked him if it really was his intention to keep the Sabbath and not go out fishing any more on the Sabbath. He looked at me and said most decidedly, "I have said it." He then translated the fundamental beliefs of our faith and teaching, and I later ran off 200 copies on the duplicator.

In spite of the minister's attempt to keep the people away from the meetings, about 300 attended the second meeting, when the catechist mentioned earlier, was my interpreter. I wish you could have seen the great interest these people showed in the Bread of life and the Water of life that these hungry and thirsty Greenlanders received.

From Frederikshaab, with a population of 600, my next goal was to reach Julianehaab, but I had first to go to Ivigtut. I was glad to meet Ernst Hansen here, who was now on his way home. Brother Hansen had travelled from Egedesminde north as far as Kuldleigshat, where, while waiting for the next

boat, he had been visiting the homes with the Greenlandish tract and other literature. At a public meeting in the parish hall in this place, 200 had been present. The catechist here had shown himself very friendly and had interpreted for him. The minister had also been friendly and his wife was among the listeners and expressed her appreciation of the message she had heard. In Julianehaab Brother Hansen also spent time in distributing tracts and selling a great deal of literature. . . .

In Julianehaab I had two meetings in the parish hall and there were about 350 present. As there were more people here who understand and could read Danish than in North Greenland, very many were happy to buy the books *The Great Controversy* and *Health and Happiness*. The books I had taken with me were soon sold and we had to send an order for more books, the people paying the full price or a large part in advance.

As the last meeting in Julianehaab closed I made an appeal to the audience to give up sin and commit themselves to Jesus Christ.

My wife and I have accepted a call to go and work among the people of Greenland. I look forward to my family's arrival some time in the new year.

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MEMBERS of the Division office family extend to all readers of the NORTHERN LIGHT their heartiest wishes for a happy New Year.

