



Evanston and the Church's Task

By W. L. Emmerson

IT WAS appropriate that the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches at Evanston, having set forth Christ as the only Hope of the world, and the church as the instrument of His manifestation to mankind, should give a large place in its discussions to the primary and fundamental task of the church—evangelism. And very properly, one of the sections into which the work of the Assembly was divided was devoted to this theme.

In the very first address to the Assembly on the Christian Hope, Dr. Edmund Schlink of Heidelberg University, Germany, truly said:

"The first act of hope is the preaching of the Gospel to the whole world. . . . Because God redeems through the Gospel alone, those who hope are bound by the command of the Redeemer to preach that Gospel . . . in truth and purity," which he summarized as "the message of God's judgment of the world and of salvation in Jesus Christ alone."

Moreover, he added, "The command of God the Redeemer requires of us the greatest speed. We do not know how much time we have left."

These striking affirmations on the urgent task of the church and the content of its Evangel were enlarged upon in a number of addresses at subsequent sessions of the Assembly.

In a forceful address on "World-Wide

Evangelism in This Generation," Dr. Charles W. Ranson, General Secretary of the International Missionary Council, declared:

"The one great task which has been given to the church is to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth and to the end of time. . . . Between the birth of our Christian hope in the first coming of Christ and its final consummation when He shall come again with glory to judge both the 'quick and the dead' there lies the unfinished task of world evangelism." "Which work," he urged, "is the pressing responsibility of this generation."

IN THIS GENERATION

"In this generation," Dr. Ranson declared, "we have seen the fantastic development of modern scientific invention. . . . We have witnessed the swift contraction of human society, . . . the heightening of age-long tensions, and the awakening of new conflicts of nations and races and classes. . . . We look back upon a rapid succession of catastrophic events, the full meaning of which we cannot understand. We are confronted with possibilities which we cannot measure and certainly cannot control. We know that in this generation we are at one of the turning points of history.

"To the question," therefore, "What is the meaning of the present time?" he

said, "there is one certain answer. It is that this is the time given to the church for the prosecution of its apostolic mission to the world."

INTO ALL THE WORLD

Dr. Ranson then went on to define what he believed was meant by "world-wide evangelism."

"Despite the remarkable geographical extension of the church," he said, "there are still vast areas of the world where the name of Christ has never been heard and where there is still no hindrance to the preaching of the Gospel save the lack of a messenger. Despite the impressive fact that month by month tens of thousands of people are being added by baptism to the church in many parts of Africa, and Asia and Latin America, the growth of world population exceeds enormously the numerical extension of the church. Measured even in these superficial statistical terms the unfinished task of world evangelism is more formidable than . . . when Carey compiled his historic *Enquiry*."

And not only is there still a mighty missionary challenge in the remote and backward lands of earth, but, he declared, we are apt to forget that the Gospel has also to go to the "world of industrial society in the midst of a technological culture, world-wide in scope, and largely divorced from Christian presuppositions.



Interior of the McGaw Memorial Hall during one of the plenary sessions of the World Council of Churches in Evanston, Illinois.

... We have to relearn the meaning of evangelism in the contemporary world ... and at every level of sophistication or illiteracy."

"AN ARMY ON THE MARCH"

This challenge to the church to arise was taken up strongly by Canon T. O. Wedel of Washington Episcopal Cathedral.

"Every chiselled stone in our Gothic shrines; every carving on our pews, every cushioned parish house," he asserted, "stands under judgment if it is not serving the apostolic calling of the church—a church on mission sent."

"The church is an evangelizing army on the march and a haven of rest only between campaigns when it returns to home base to renew its strength and to receive fresh orders. We have no right to our Sabbath ease and our promised end before the Gospel will have been preached throughout the world."

"The coming of the kingdom awaits the preaching of the Gospel to every creature," he concluded, and "there can be no urgency, even that of hydrogen bombs, equal to this."

A SIGNIFICANT REVERSAL OF PRIORITIES

It was a pity that after these fine appeals for the preaching of the Gospel of redemption in all the world in this generation, that the "social gospellers," or Christian "activists" as they are now called, should have so dominated the section discussions on Evangelism that when their report was submitted to the Assembly for approval, the first among the "concerns of evangelism" was listed as the transforming of "the groupings and patterns of society in which men and women are involved to the end that human institutions and structures may more nearly conform to the divine intention," while last on the list was "the bringing of persons to Christ as Saviour and Lord that they may share in His eternal life. . . . For on his relationship to God in Christ depends the eternal destiny of every man."

In Dr. Schlink's address, to which we referred above, he very rightly said: "The *first act of hope* is the preaching of the Gospel to the whole world" while "*the second action born of hope* is accepting responsibility . . . for the maintenance of life and freedom . . . for justice and

peace on earth, among men, classes, races, peoples, and nations . . . in order that they may make a responsible decision for Him."

In the report on Evangelism, however, we find significant reversal of these priorities, the ordering of the pattern of society being placed first and the reconciling of the individual to God last.

Here clearly we see the work of those who, professing themselves wiser than their Lord, are not prepared to await the "new order" which Christ has promised to bring with Him when He comes, but believe themselves able to bring the kingdom into existence here and now.

MISDIRECTED "ACTION"

This doctrine of "Christian activism" or the "social gospel" on the face of it looks most laudable, and its protagonists loudly proclaim that, unlike the "transcendental eschatologists," they are not leaving the world to its doom but are reaching out a helping hand to set it on its feet. But this popular teaching overlooks certain vital considerations which clearly reveal its claims to be specious.

Let it be said at once that, as Adven-

tists, we stand with Dr. Schlink in asserting that the church should manifest in every practical way its "concern for the enslaved, the hungry, and the forgotten."

We believe the world-wide relief programme organized by the World Council of Churches, which was the subject of a moving and dramatic documentary programme at Evanston, is highly commendable, and as a denomination we give a large place in our evangelistic programme to the physical relief of suffering humanity, to the fostering of religious liberty, to the promotion of temperance and other worthy social aims. But we also believe that as soon as the church takes it upon itself to provide spiritual backing to particular social and political systems and programmes, it invariably alienates as many as it supports and reduces the Gospel from a universal message to a partisan programme.

The church is in the world to witness to the world of God's righteousness, and it is recreant to its divine mission if it identifies even the best of human institutions with the kingdom of God.

GOD'S LAST MESSAGE OF MERCY

The second indictment of the programme of "Christian activism" in the social and political spheres was indicated by Dr. Schlink when he pointed out that, in His prophetic Word, God has clearly outlined the course of this world, and has warned of its inevitable "end."

By many signs He has foretold its deterioration to a condition "as it was in the days of Noah," and has declared His divine intention to wrest this world from those who have shown themselves utterly undeserving of its benefits, and of remaking it as the eternal abode of a responsive remnant.

The conditions of our chaotic world today correspond exactly to the death throes which, in His omniscience, God depicted, and today His last message of mercy is to go forth to gather out the final "election of grace."

This world is, in fact, a sinking vessel and the divine Captain has sent forth the order to "abandon ship." Now it may seem very laudable to some Christians to go on heedless with their eleventh-hour endeavours to save the vessel but this is, in fact, to question the orders of the divine Captain, and by their neglect

of His command, to leave the helpless passengers to be engulfed in the wreck.

Surely in face of the imminent doom of our world it is as never before the church's duty to obey orders and concentrate their efforts upon the saving of all who will be saved. In other words, the first and foremost task of the church is the carrying to "all the world" in "this generation" the "message of God's judgment of the world and of salvation through faith in Christ alone." It is, in

the words of the apostle Paul, to "turn" men from their idols "to serve the living and true God; and to wait for His Son from heaven." 1 Thess. 1:9, 10.

As Dr. Schlink admitted, "the spreading of this message seems difficult indeed, for the world does not want to hear about its end," but this is as surely the church's task today as was the preaching of Noah in his day and sad indeed will be the reckoning of the servants that claim to be wiser than their Lord!



E. W. Pedersen and J. M. Akin Adeoye of Lagos watch Roger W. Coon present a Bible to the 30,000th Voice of Prophecy student.

30,000th STUDENT GRADUATES

By Roger W. Coon
Radio Secretary

THE 30,000th graduate of the West African branch of the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence School received his certificate and a large leather reference Bible as a gift from Principal Roger W. Coon in a special ceremony at the Lagos, Nigeria, church on Tuesday evening, November 9, 1954.

Participating in the service were Pastors E. W. Pedersen of the Northern European Division, D. V. Cowin of the West African Union, and J. M. Akin Adeoye of Lagos.

The honoured graduate, Mr. Rafiu Alade Akibile, is a nineteen-year-old Moslem tailor who was interested in the course by another Voice of Prophecy student enrolled at the Lagos Methodist Boys' High School.

The West African Branch, organized in 1948, still leads the ten Bible correspondence schools of the Northern European Division in both enrolments and graduates.

The latest report from the General Conference Radio Department reveals that in 1953 the West African school's enrolments accounted for more than a third of the Division total for the year!

In 1948 there were three workers, one Bible study course, and 518 graduates.

Today, in addition to the writer and his wife, a staff of sixteen (with two more to be added in January) at Ibadan, Nigeria, and three in Monrovia, Liberia, care for approximately 8,000 currently active students.

In 1954 alone more than 10,000 received certificates for the completion of the Preliminary, Basic, and Advanced Courses in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Gold Coast, Dahomey, Nigeria, and British Cameroons.

Nearly 1,000 copies of *The Signs of the Times* are mailed regularly each week to graduates of the Advanced Course, reinforcing the truths already learned from the various courses.

A recent letter from Missionary D. J. Clarke in Freetown, Sierra Leone (which is about ninety per cent Moslem and admittedly one of the most difficult cities to work on the coast), tells of an unusual conversion:

A Voice of Prophecy student who

worked in the government Transport Department finally came to the conviction that the Lord wanted him to observe the seventh-day Sabbath.

The Colonial Governments maintain a five and a half day work week, and it is only rarely that they make an exception. Mr. Sesay decided he would serve God and let the job take care of itself—and find a new one if necessary.

With Brother Clarke he went to see his chief, a Roman Catholic. The man, however, was sympathetic, and agreed to give his workman Sabbaths off duty thereafter.

Today Mr. Sesay is one of the most active members of the local Sabbath school, and he has gone on to interest other young men in government service. At last report he had obtained for nearly

a half-dozen others special Sabbath privileges!

One of the most pressing needs of the Voice of Prophecy's West African Branch is a new home. The present building is a one-roomed remodelled mission school-room in which the instructors, typists, mailing clerks, cashier, and filing clerks all work amid the clatter of office machines and the distractions of overcrowded facilities.

Pray that the Lord will open the way for us to move to a new and more favourable location where the work can be carried on more efficiently and more effectively, and be expanded to meet the tremendous needs of this vast field in which live more than 42 millions of people who must someday—with us—stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

things can be fulfilled; work for it, pray for it, and God will bless.

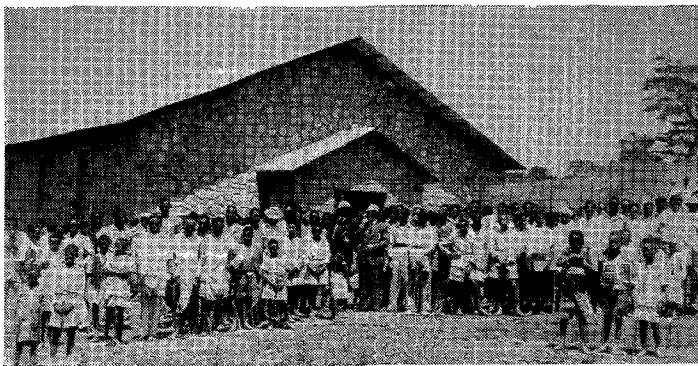
At the close of the sermon, Principal L. Rasmussen gave opportunity for a few of those who were to be baptized to testify of how Jesus had brought a change in their lives. Jercombe, the witch doctor from the nearby village, was the first to give his testimony. "I am an old man; I have many children. . . ." Jercombe heard our message a few years ago, but was afraid to accept it for fear of what the "spirit" might do to his children and cattle. He finally overcame that fear through Jesus Christ and told my husband to have some of the boys come over after his drum. He finished his testimony, "Now as an old man I've learned the love of God, . . . and come to God now confessing all my sins." Not only was Jercombe to be baptized, but his wife, two sons, and one son's wife.

Another baptismal candidate spoke: "For a long time I and my mother worshipped the witch doctor. Now my nine brothers and mother have died. My husband told me to tell a lie; he came home intending to kill me if I did not tell a lie. I said God will protect me. He threw a bomb at me, but I prayed to God to save my life. There were some people around me that were killed by the bomb. I am thankful that I have been protected from all that and now I promise God that I will be His servant and I give my life, and want you to pray for me."

Ato Mela, a Wilamo, said that he had been a Christian for a long time, but always wanted to be all the Bible said, and that now he had finally met the people who obey God. Another began: "I worshipped suns and mountains; I also worshipped devils for a long time."

There was not enough time for all who were to be baptized to testify, but probably all could have told similar experiences. Following a dismissal, the congregation enjoyed a beautiful service at the river where Pastor Rasmussen baptized nineteen into the Shepherd's fold. We are happy for those who have given their hearts to God, but they are only a small number in comparison to those of many tribes who are interested in our truth and are waiting to be taught.

Sunday, three Master Guides, three
(Concluded on back page.)



A group of churchmembers attending the weekend district meetings at Kuyera, Ethiopia.

Open House at Kuyera, Ethiopia

A RUSSIES from the mountain and lowland, Sedomoes, Comebatas and Wilamoes from near and far, thirty-four boys and girls from Akaki, Ethiopian teachers and visiting missionaries thronged the new chapel at Kuyera, Sabbath morning, October 23rd. Would there be enough benches for everyone? Ushers quickly found seats for all until Sabbath school was over and such a line of boys and girls filed in that there were not enough seats for them. But they were willing to sit on the floor in the front. Soon everyone was settled and ready to listen to a group of boys sing about the love of Jesus as the Wilamoes sing it in Wilamo.

"When I was here before, I had some

visions; it is all right to have visions if they are good visions," spoke Elder G. D. King, Publishing Secretary from the Northern European Division, in beginning his 11 o'clock sermon to the attentive audience. "I saw more buildings being made, more students coming into this place, and more students going out of this place. Some more visions I have are more European workers coming, and if we have more European workers we must have houses for them; more Ethiopian workers and houses for them, and better roads," he continued. In closing, Pastor King expressed the hope that perhaps during the time that will elapse between now and his next visit these

PLANS DIVISION COUNCIL

GRATITUDE AND RENEWED DEDICATION

WHEREAS, during the past year we have had innumerable tokens of the loving care and manifest power of the Lord on behalf of His cause and people in our Division territory; and

WHEREAS, Our hearts have been made glad by the thousands of souls added to the church, by the many new churches established, and by the strengthening of every department of our work in every field,

WE, the delegates attending the 1954 Winter Council of the Northern European Division assembled in Watford, England, desire to

RECORD AND EXPRESS

1. Our heartfelt gratitude to our heavenly Father for all these evidences of the onward march of the Advent message in our Division territory.

2. Our sincere thanks to the General Conference for the generous appropriation of funds which, under God, have contributed so greatly to these notable achievements.

3. Our deep appreciation to our beloved and faithful membership, from the tropics to beyond the Arctic circle, for their unflinching response to the call of God by sacrificial giving and untiring labour, and further

We joyfully and without reserve rededicate ourselves to His service for the speedy finishing of the work in this corner of the great world field.

This resolution was accepted by a standing vote, prayer being offered by Elder H. L. Rudy.

GREATER TRACT EVANGELISM

WHEREAS, We have been told that one of the vital means by which the world is to be evangelized is through our truth-filled literature, which is to be circulated "like the leaves of autumn;" also, that "every believer" is urged to participate in this greater effort to enlighten the world through literature, therefore,

Voted: That our conference executive committees give earnest consideration to providing our members with suitable evangelistic tracts at an inexpensive price, by some plan of subsidy in which conferences and publishing houses participate.



Further Voted: That our conferences, institutions, churches, societies, and members be requested to engage in an enlarged effort to circulate our literature in a systematic and regular manner using the following methods:

1. Revive the King's Pocket League plan in every church, urging members to carry tracts wherever they go.

2. Promote a tract-a-week plan, appealing to all our members to participate in distributing a minimum of at least one tract a week.

3. Plan a positive programme of literature evangelism in every church, providing for systematic, regular tract distribution for a given number of weeks, thus preparing the field for an evangelistic effort.

4. Plan a mailing programme for areas in which we have no organized work.

RESOLUTIONS

1954

5. Place literature racks in strategic places in which our message-filled periodicals and tracts can be attractively displayed.

INCREASING OUR MEMBERSHIP

WHEREAS, The remnant church has the one goal of advancing the Gospel of Christ to every "nation, kindred, tongue and people," and

WHEREAS, We have God's promise that the work will be "cut short in righteousness,"

Voted: 1. That during the present quadrennial period, we dedicate ourselves to the task of evangelizing the world field by enlisting every Gospel worker, every churchmember, every department of the church, and every institution throughout the Northern European Division in the greatest programme of evangelism ever undertaken by the church.

2. That, in our diligent labours toward the realization of this goal, we continue to keep before our workers the vital principle which has been recognized throughout our history as fundamental in all our soul-winning endeavour on the part of both ministry and laity, namely, that those who are added to the church are to be joined to the Lord, soundly converted, thoroughly indoctrinated, and firmly established in present truth.

SUGGESTED SPECIAL DAYS AND CAMPAIGNS FOR 1955

Voted:

January 1st
January 15th
February 5th
February 12th
March 5th - 12th
March 19th - 26th
April 9th
April 23rd - May 28th
June 4th
August 13th - Sept. 17th
September 3rd

September 24th
October 8th

October 22nd
November 5th
November 12th - 19th
December 3rd

Family Altar Day
Tithe Sabbath
Sabbath School Rally Day
Church Paper Offering
Missions Extension, Home Visitation, and Offering
Missionary Volunteer Week
Spirit of Prophecy Day
Ingathering (in Britain)
Education Day and Offering
Ingathering (except Britain)
Bible Correspondence School, Home Visitation and Offering (in Britain)
Dorcas Welfare Day
Bible Correspondence School, Home Visitation and Offering (except Britain)
Magazine and Tract Campaign, with subscriptions
Colporteur Day
Week of Prayer and Sacrifice
Health and Temperance Day, with Offering

CONFERENCES AND SELF-SUPPORT

WHEREAS, All conferences throughout this Division cannot expect to depend permanently upon increasingly large appropriations from the Division and General Conference,

Voted: That the goal of complete financial self-support be continually kept before all conferences throughout this Division, emphasising the importance of steady growth along this line.

INGATHERING FOR MISSIONS

WHEREAS, God has so abundantly blessed the faithful efforts of our workers and lay members in our annual Ingathering for missions; and

WHEREAS, We believe that the Ingathering endeavour is an important part of God's plan for the finishing of His work in the earth,

Voted: 1. That we put forth great efforts to enlist every non-participating member in this great missionary crusade.

2. That we encourage our people carefully to follow up with literature, Bible studies, and cottage meetings, every interest found through our Ingathering.

DORCAS WELFARE WORK

WHEREAS, We are instructed by the Word of God "to visit the widows and fatherless in their affliction" and "when thou seest the naked that thou cover him," and

WHEREAS, We know that wars, famines, sickness, and suffering will increase as we near the coming of the Lord, these being a challenge to the church to carry out the above admonition,

Voted: 1. That Dorcas welfare work be strengthened and enlarged throughout the conferences and missions of this Division.

2. That union committees use a part of their revertible fund for this purpose, in harmony with the following resolution voted by the Northern European Division Winter Council of 1951:

"That each union conference in the Northern European Division be permitted, where advisable, in counsel with the Northern European Division Committee, to set aside for welfare projects a portion not exceeding five per cent of the Ingathering monies reverting to the field."

TEMPERANCE

RECOGNIZING That temperance is a part of the third angel's message, and that total

abstinence from the use of intoxicating liquor, tobacco, and narcotics is the only stand which Christians can conscientiously take,

Voted: That we reaffirm our historic position on total abstinence; and

APPRECIATION

WE, the delegates to the Northern European Division Winter Council, 1954, wish to express our deep appreciation and sincere gratitude to

(a). The General Conference for making it possible for Elders Rudy and Brewer to be present at the meeting, and to these brethren for their inspiring ministry and valuable council.

(b). The British Union Conference for being such excellent hosts and for placing at our disposal all the amenities necessary for the successful running of the Council.

(c). The Granose Foods Limited for providing the varied, nourishing, and satisfying meals so promptly and attractively served.

(d). The Stanboroughs Hydro for accommodating so many delegates in such peaceful and restful surroundings.

(e). The Board of the Stanborough Park church for the use of their fine place of worship, which gave an atmosphere of reverence and Godly fear to all our deliberations.

(f). All others who gave of their time, talent, and experience in making the meetings so outstanding a success and inspiration.

Further Voted: 1. That all our workers be urged to make a careful study of the great principles of temperance set forth in the Spirit of prophecy book *Temperance*, and thus become fully informed of the part that temperance is to play in the proclamation of God's last message to the world.

2. That we encourage the organization, where practical, of temperance societies in our churches, church schools, and higher schools, and that every effort be made to enlist the active interest and support of our young people in the temperance work.

3. That favourable study be given to the publication of temperance papers or pam-

phlets for the Division and for our various national societies.

4. That we promote the annual Temperance Sabbath and Offering.

5. That we urge our people everywhere, "by precept and example, by voice, pen, and by vote, to oppose the liquor traffic," and to discourage the use of intoxicants, tobacco, and narcotics.

PREVENTING APOSTASY AND RECLAIMING FORMER MEMBERS

WHEREAS, So many precious souls are lost to the church through apostasy every year; and

WHEREAS, Attention should urgently be given to the prevention of this distressing situation, and to reclaiming of those who have been lost,

Voted: 1. That as a means of preventing apostasy and ensuring true conversion of our present membership, our ministers be encouraged to present often to our people the important truth of righteousness by faith in Christ, which we are told is "the third angel's message in verity."

2. That those who have the oversight of the flock should seek the co-operation of their church officers in preventing apostasy by watching for absent members, and arranging for prompt and sympathetic visitation by the pastor or responsible officers of the church; by making sure that everyone entering the church receives a warm welcome each Sabbath day; by encouraging every member of the church to attend Sabbath school; and by urging our Sabbath school officers and teachers to take a personal interest in the spiritual welfare of every member of the Sabbath school.

3. That the weekly prayer meeting be made a time of deep heart-searching and Bible study, where ministers and members get together to pray for the weak members and those formerly in fellowship with us.

4. That our pastors and church elders be called upon to seek out and visit all backslidden members in their territory, making warm and sympathetic appeals for their return to the fold of Christ.

5. That wherever possible plans be laid for church revival meetings, and that former members and those who have shown interest in the truth we hold, be visited and invited to attend.

6. That special endeavours be made by our Missionary Volunteer leaders to reclaim those youth who have ceased to associate with us.

Following a lively discussion on the previous resolution, a special resolution which had not been through the Plans Committee, but was suggested by Elder N. F. Brewer, was read by the secretary, on the question of the Family Altar.

FAMILY ALTAR

IN order to bring before our believers in the Northern Eupropean Division afresh the importance of the family altar in the home,

Voted: 1. That on Family Altar Day of each year, we urge all our pastors and elders to preach upon the importance and necessity of the family altar in every Seventh-day Adventist home.

2. That a suggestive sermon outline and other material be prepared and sent out to the pastors and elders which may be used by them in their preparation of this subject.

3. That in our church officers' institutes and workers' meetings in the different conferences this subject be discussed, and plans laid for giving definite instruction to our churchmembers as to how to conduct family worship.

CHILD EVANGELISM

WHEREAS, Among children of Seventh-day Adventist parents the peak age of decision for Christ and the church is twelve to fourteen years; and

WHEREAS, Junior-age youth are forming attitudes toward God, the church, and the world which determine destiny, and

WHEREAS, The age ten to fifteen is characterized by surplus energy, passion for adventure, and outreach toward God,

Voted: 1. That every church leader do his utmost to make the church attractive to these junior youth, by

(a). Providing a positive church-centred activity programme.

(b). Providing adequate facilities and equipment for MV meetings, Sabbath school divisions, and church school.

(c). Remembering the admonition of the Lord's messenger, that there should be "a corner for the children" in every sermon, and encouraging our church leaders to plan so that the children are present at the Divine Service.

2. That where trained personnel are available, MV Pathfinder Clubs be organized.

3. That through the medium of Master Guide training and the MV Pathfinder Training Course we endeavour to provide additional well-prepared leaders for junior youth.

EVANGELISM

WHEREAS, The chief reason for the existence of the Advent movement is to proclaim a message preparing individuals for the kingdom; and

WHEREAS, We are informed in the writings of the Spirit of prophecy that there are thousands on the verge of the kingdom waiting to be gathered in, and that overwhelming evidence points to the fact that the end of probation is near,

Voted: 1. That our pastor-evangelists give earnest, heart-warming appeals in their sermons for full surrender to Christ, for the benefit of those in their congregations who may not be Christians; and urgent invitations to others who may not have taken a decided stand for baptism and church membership.

SABBATH SCHOOL OFFERINGS
"GOAL" 1955

Voted: That we work towards the goal of a 10 per cent increase in Sabbath school offerings for 1955.

2. That our pastor-evangelists endeavour to conduct frequent baptisms in each church or district, endeavouring to finish quickly the Gospel work and hasten the glorious return of Christ.

TRAINING OF OUR LAITY FOR THE
FINISHING OF THE WORK

WHEREAS, The end of all things is rapidly approaching, and realizing that a mighty challenge of an unfinished task is still before us; and

WHEREAS, The Lord has plainly told us that "the work of God in the earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers;" and further that, "It is training, education, that is needed. Those who labour in visiting the churches should give the brethren and sisters instruction in practical methods of doing missionary work." And

WHEREAS, There is a definite need for such training,

Voted: 1. That in planning the work of departmental secretaries, union and conference committees recognize that the ministry of departmental secretaries is in itself a full-time assignment, and that no extra responsibility be laid upon them which would be a handicap to the most efficient operating of their departments.

2. That at times of nomination to office, departmental secretaries be carefully selected for their aptness to teach, and capability of giving strong leadership in co-operation with the local minister and church board, and the training of our laity in practical, successful missionary endeavour.

3. That in planning for a vigorous training programme in all our churches, ample provision be made for the practical implementation of the training given.

MISSIONS EXTENSION OFFERING,
1955

Voted: That the following plan for the Missions Extension Offering be approved and made regular policy:

1. That the basic Division goal for 1955 be set at £3,000.

2. That the basic goal be distributed to the union conferences and missions on the basis of membership, and that it be promoted on the basis of a personal goal of 3/- per member in all our fields except West Africa, where the personal goal for Africans be 1/- per member.

3. That the amount raised by any union conference above the basic goal be divided, 50 per cent to the union conference for evangelism, and 50 per cent to be retained by the Division for Missions Extension.

4. That the basic goal be distributed as follows:

	<i>Approx. Membership</i>	<i>Field Goal</i>
British Union	7,500	£700
East Nordic Union	8,500	£850
West Nordic Union	8,500	£850
Netherland Union	2,200	£215
Iceland	350	£35
West African Union	15,000	£300
Ethiopian Union	1,000	£50
		£3,000

WEEKLY PER CAPITA "MISSION
OFFERINGS GOAL"

Voted: That in this Division we adopt weekly per capita Mission Offerings Goals as follows:

British Union	50 cents
East Nordic Union	35 cents
West Nordic Union	35 cents
Netherland Union	20 cents
Iceland Mission	60 cents

Futher Voted: That we recommend to the mission unions, West Africa and Ethiopia, that their committees give study to and accept per capita Mission Offerings Goals.

(To be continued.)

NEWS FLASH

E. E. COSSENTINE, secretary of the General Conference Department of Education, and W. H. Shephard, president of the Washington Missionary College, have recently spent a few days in London in connection with plans for the affiliation of Newbold Missionary College with Washington Missionary College.

A. F. Tarr and G. A. Lindsay have just returned from a visit to the Ethiopian Union Mission, where in addition to generally visiting the mission centres they have devoted some time to studying problems connected with the developing and enlarging medical missionary work in that field.

Colporteurs from all parts of the British Union recently shared in the annual Bookmen's Convention of that field convening from January 3rd to 10th. A. W. Cook, the British Union Conference Publishing Department secretary, in association with G. D. King, publishing secretary of the Division, led out in this convention. Local conference presidents, together with the president of the British Union Conference and other visiting workers, have associated in the general work of the institute.

On his return from the continent to the United States H. L. Rudy spent several days in London, and made a brief visit to Newbold Missionary College while with us. He sailed for the United States on the R.M.S. *Queen Mary* on December 23rd.

On the same Atlantic liner E. L. Minchin and his wife left to take up their duties in connection with the Young People's Department of the General Conference in Washington. Pastor Minchin and his wife recently returned from Australia, where they spent a brief period of leave and greatly enjoyed meeting old friends. As they take up their new work in Washington we wish for them a full measure of success in this new responsibility.

Brother and Sister John Muderspach and family left early in January to con-

nect with the Sierra Leone Mission, where Brother Muderspach is to serve as secretary-treasurer of the Mission.

The Division Home Missionary Secretary, E. W. Pedersen, is at present engaged in the work of his Department in the Scandinavian countries, where he expects to be fully employed in church visitation and other activities until early in February.

Brother and Sister Ian Wolfe, under appointment to the East Nigerian Training College, recently left by air to take up their new duties at Ihie, where Brother Wolfe is to serve as headmaster of the secondary school.

Plans for the holding of a Division-wide Youth Congress in Stockholm in August, 1955, are steadily taking shape. M. E. Lind, the Missionary Volunteer secretary of the Division, is spending a few days in Sweden making plans for the inauguration of this splendid gathering, to which the youth of our Division are looking forward with great interest.

Recent arrivals from South Africa are Pastor and Mrs. Bernard Sparrow and family. Pastor Sparrow has recently been serving in connection with the Helderberg College of the Southern African Division. He and his family are to spend a little time in London visiting relatives, and then Pastor Sparrow is proceeding to the States for the remainder of his furlough.

E.B.R.

ICELAND

Last Sunday, January 9th, we finished the first phase of our public campaign in Reykjavik. The attendance was the largest we have had since we began in October. Every seat was taken, people crowded the aisles, sat on the stairs and a large number stood for two hours enjoying the meeting. Evangelist L. Murdoch brought the congregation a New Year's message, entitled, "Better Days Ahead." The offering amounted to 2,300 kronur (£51). A large number signed up for the Bible Correspondence Course. Next Sunday we transfer to the Adven-

tist church when we begin the second phase of our campaign. Please pray that many of these fine people may follow the truth as it is unfolded to them.

JULIUS GUDMUNDSSON.

Open House at Kuyera

(Concluded from page 4.)

Companions, seventeen Friends, and five Busy Bees were invested under the direction of Brother N. Tew. A tour of the campus introduced the visiting students to the various activities and buildings of the school. Our school has grown; instead of having to cramp ourselves in the old, inadequate, and falling chapel we now have a fine building with sufficient room for our student body, churchmembers, and potential churchmembers. We have just finished a school year, and are looking forward to the opening of another which should bring in students eager to learn how to teach and preach this wonderful message of ours to those waiting, and witness another graduation of those leaving, prepared to witness for their Master.

ALICE RASMUSSEN.

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NORTHERN LIGHT

*Published monthly as the Official Organ of
the Northern European Division of Seventh-
day Adventists, 41 Hazel Gardens, Edgware,
Middlesex, England.*

PRICE 3/- A YEAR
*Printed at The Stanborough Press Ltd.,
Watford, Herts., England.*