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SIXTH WINTER COUNCIL

held at

SKODSBORG, DENMARK

November 23 - 29, 1955

On the platform: C. W. Bozarth, T. L. Oswald; J. H. Bayliss; A. L. Ham; A. F. Tarr; E. H. Foster; E. B. Rudge.

IMPRESSIONS BY THE WAY

THE Division Winter Council concluded its work at Skodsborg on November 29th. Representatives from all sections of the Division were present at this annual gathering, and we were privileged to have with us as General Conference representatives Elders A. L. Ham, C. W. Bozarth, and T. L. Oswald.

All phases of the work throughout the Division were reported upon by the field leaders from each section. Many

interesting facts concerning the development of the work were reported. It is heartening to see the steady development in the growth of membership around the Division. On September 30, 1955, the membership of the Division numbered 48,909. This represented a net gain of 10,035 in the four-year period since the Division was re-organized.

The force of labourers within the Division increased by 34 per cent, or

434 workers, since January, 1951. One encouraging indication of growth in the evangelistic features of the work was the increase by eighty-eight in the number of ordained ministers within the Division. Another interesting fact reported was the large number of workers from the home unions of this Division working in other lands. These total 335.

The territory of the Division includes at least twenty-eight different countries.

In these lands the message is being presented in fifty-eight different languages, with literature available in twenty-four of these tongues.

The treasurer's report brought much encouragement to the Council. In some of the home unions the increase in tithe had amounted to as much as almost twenty per cent, and in others the increase was encouraging. The total tithe for the year 1954 exceeded one million dollars.

The educational work of the Division has also made marked progress in the past two years. The development of Newbold Missionary College proceeds along satisfactory lines, and the affiliation programme with the Washington Missionary College is not only working out satisfactorily, but is encouraging an increasing enrolment at Newbold. Perhaps the most outstanding feature reported in this branch of the work is the fact that we have more than 17,000 young people enrolled in our mission schools in West Africa, where 1,000 teachers are employed in the work of education. In Ethiopia we have eighty-three teachers instructing some 1,300 young people in our various schools.

Each of the home unions reported progress during the current period. Tithes and offerings and increases in membership were among the evidences of progress reported.

A factor of importance in the development of our work around the field is the activity of the Young People's Department. During the year 1955, 1,150 young people joined the church, largely as the result of MV society activities. During the same year 160 young people were won for the message by the youth of our church.

The enrolment in the Sabbath schools of the Division now exceeds 70,000. The offerings continue to increase from year to year, thus reaching a total of £45,642 for the first nine months of 1955. This is an increase of almost £2,500 over the same period of the preceding year. Branch Sabbath schools con-

tinue to be a feature of the work around the field. In 1955 the number of branch Sabbath schools increased from 197 to 311.

An outstanding feature of the work reported from West Africa centres around the literature work. In the past five years a well-equipped publishing house has been established, employing some twenty-five African nationals. In this same period more than £65,000 worth of literature has been sold by the newly organized force of colporteurs, numbering forty-five. J. O. Gibson's report on the evangelistic efforts of the African workers was of great interest. During 1954 1,400 people were baptized, and more than 11,000 prospective members are in the learners' classes.

In connection with the West Nordic Union report, representatives of the Skodsborg Sanitarium gave interesting details of the services rendered by the staff to their large number of patients, particularly referring to the spiritual ministry so much appreciated by certain patients. The Skodsborg Sanitarium is experiencing the most successful year in its history.

The mission field too brings encouraging reports concerning the importance of the medical work as a helpful agency in soul-winning activity. In the West African hospitals more than 126,000 treatments were given during 1954. In Ethiopia many thousands of patients are treated each year in our several hospitals. The medical work breaks down prejudice and gives much helpful and appreciated service in the various communities in the mission lands where hospitals are available.

Lay evangelism, promoted through the Home Missionary Department, is gradually assuming its rightful place in the proclamation of the third angel's message. During 1955, fifty-one churches organized active Bible Evangelism companies, bringing the total number of churches featuring this aspect of service to 178. During 1954 847 souls won by laymen were baptized. Home visitation fills a big place in our work. During

1954, 2,352,000 pieces of literature were distributed by churchmembers. Dorcas work has made great progress during 1955. Out of a total of 598 churches 341 have organized Dorcas welfare work. Around 24,804 pieces of clothing were distributed in nine months of 1955.

The literature work throughout the Division has filled a vital place in the development of the year's activities. An outstanding feature in the work of 1955 has been the work of student-colporteurs. In the British and Finland Unions students have had outstanding success. One young man in Finland succeeded in selling £150 worth of literature in one week, and in Norway another student-colporteur disposed of £350 worth of literature in 400 hours.

In Ethiopia in 1955 our first book in Amharic was published, entitled *The Story of Jesus*. This is a translation of *Christ Our Saviour*. One high official of the Ethiopian government declared this to be the best book ever published in Ethiopia. Now word comes to us that the Ethiopian Department of Education has purchased 1,000 copies of *The Story of Jesus*.

Bible Correspondence work reports a most encouraging year of activity. The active students within the Division Bible Correspondence Schools exceed 22,000 in number. Baptisms from this source in 1954 were 264. During the nine months of 1955 almost 300 souls have been baptized as a result of Bible Correspondence School activity. More than 2,000 active interests are being followed up at the present time.

ON the last day of the annual Winter Council at Skodsborg, the delegates who had gathered in from all parts of the Division territory were very pleasantly entertained by the management of the Skodsborg Sanitarium. The whole of the last afternoon was devoted to a very interesting tour to well-known historic spots such as Hamlet's castle at Helsingors and other places of unusual interest.

Following upon the return from this delightful outing, the Skodsborg management entertained the visiting members of the Council with a display of several

travel films of more than ordinary interest. Then the evening was given over to a pleasant social time in the large Skodsborg dining room where the guests not only enjoyed another much appreciated dinner, but also spent some time in social relaxation.

H. Westèrlund, general manager of the Skodsborg Sanitarium, in association with Dr. A. Andersen, the medical superintendent, led out in all that concerned this very happy relationship of the Council and the Skodsborg staff.

Two families connected with the British Union who have given more than twenty years of service in the African mission fields, sailed on December 22nd for their posts of duty in Africa. C. T. J. Hyde, who is serving as principal of Bugema Training School, Uganda, together with his wife and family is returning to his former post of duty. They have spent some months in England as a family. Pastor Hyde has enjoyed the privilege of some months' study in the Theological Seminary, Washington. R. A. Carey, the son of A. Carey who is so well known in the British Union, has been serving in recent years as secretary-treasurer of one of the large missions in Kenya Colony. Now he returns to the Southern African Division and is to serve during his coming term as the business manager of Bethel Training School, Transkei, South Africa.

A letter received from Brother Bragi Straumfjord tells that Brother S. Hallgrímsson has joined the workers on the Westmann Islands and is holding evangelistic meetings each Sunday during the winter. In the afternoon he conducts a meeting for the children when about 120 to 170 attend, and then in the evening a meeting is held for the adults when about thirty to fifty non-Adventists, besides churchmembers, are present. A ladies' choir assists in the evening and two young ladies help in the children's meeting. Four are now taking the Bible Correspondence course, and the same people are coming each night. Brother Straumfjord concludes: "We believe this winter is going to prove a great blessing to our church here, and we also hope that some souls may be brought to the truth."

E. B. RUDGE.

“ . . . in the desert A HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD ”

Opening address by A. F. Tarr, *President*

AT THIS opening meeting I should like to talk to you about our motto. I should like it to become the dominating feature of this Council, for unless it looms large in our thinking here and in our own daily lives it cannot loom large in our message to others.

Man-made highways have as their objective the linking together of two or more important places. The highway that must be built for God must also link together two places of vital importance: Heaven where God is, and the deserts of this world where those men and women are whom God wants so much to save.

It was for the establishment of such a highway that John the Baptist, 2,000 years ago, was called to proclaim the advent of the promised Messiah; and how whole-heartedly, how self-sacrificingly, how self-effacingly and ardently, and with what power did he perform his mission. How the people flocked from far and near to hear him! But a task of even greater magnitude is placed upon those people who, in the closing days of earth's history, are to proclaim the Messiah's second advent to every nation and kindred and tongue and people. And it is this that concerns us here tonight. We believe ourselves to be those people. We believe it is our voice that should be heard, crying in the deserts of the world, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."

In suggesting this motto for our Council it is my earnest desire that we face squarely our responsibility, and invite our fellow-workers everywhere to join us in making every desert place in our Division "a highway for our God." In other words, in being to the second coming of Christ what John the Baptist so mightily was to the first.

On no topic in all the Bible is more emphasis placed than on the responsibilities of the heralds of the second coming:

1. "Go ye into all the world, and preach . . . to every creature."
2. "This Gospel . . . shall be preached in all the world for a witness."

3. So effective is that witness to be that it is symbolized by an angel: an angel crying with a loud voice and lightning the whole earth with his glory.

Such a witness involves first of all a more challenging and arresting public evangelism; an evangelism born of an intense personal conviction, proclaiming its message with an eye on God's great clock, and attended, like the work of men in Bible days, "with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven." 1 Peter 1:12.

Associated with this dynamic public preaching of the Word must be the publication and distribution of a soul-stirring, conscience-awakening literature, its distributors being ever mindful that "all over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. . . . Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in."—*Acts of the Apostles*, page 109.

Of mounting interest, especially in our own Division, should be our programme of health evangelism, every worker in every institution so witnessing that the spiritual deserts in the lives of those coming to them may be transformed into highways for God.

In youth evangelism a more energetic and understanding programme should be our constant aim, our schools filling in the gaps of youthful character, kindling fresh impulses, awakening new desires, laying deeper foundations, and directing ambitions in the way of the kingdom.

Not fully explored in the past, but of increasing urgency as we face the future, is Welfare Evangelism. All about us are physical and material needs to be met; and in the meeting of them religion is accorded in the eyes of the world its rightful place. From an editorial in the *Ministry* of September, 1955, page 10, we read: "A church aflame with the love of Christ, reflecting His light and revealing His life, is what the world is looking for. When the Word became flesh and dwelt among the people they beheld the glory of God, not in a special halo around the Saviour's head, but rather

in His compassion and unfailing love. And the world is waiting to see that again!"

This motto of ours incorporates also an urgent service for our churches. It means detecting the deserts there, and causing them to become unobstructed highways for God. Many years ago there came from the servant of the Lord, this message: "It is a solemn statement that I make to the church, that not one in twenty whose names are registered upon the church books are ready to close their earthly history, and would be as verily without God and without hope as the common sinner." (*Christian Service*, page 41.) Does that not indicate the existence at that time, and perhaps even now, of

desert places in our churches where also a voice should be heard? And whose voice but ours as we proclaim God's last warning message?

It is to this that God is calling us today. And I believe that right here at this meeting He would have us give it our first attention, remembering the need to remove every possible obstruction, that His "highway . . . shall be called the way of holiness" (Isa. 35:8), and that "the highway of the upright is to depart from evil." Prov. 16:17.

The response we make to that call will surely measure the power of our future witness as we go from this Council to "make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

The membership of the Division on January 1, 1951, was 38,874. At the close of December, 1954, the membership stood at 47,994. This number had increased to 48,909 by the end of September, 1955. The gains and losses during this period are summarized in the following table:

GAINS

By Baptism	15,592
By Vote	1,319
By Letter	3,929
Total	20,840

LOSSES

By Apostasy	3,591
By Death	2,786
By Letter	4,425
Missing	3
Total	10,035

Gain per cent 25.8

The worker force of the Division has increased by 34.5 per cent (434) in this period of four years and nine months. The numbers per union are shown below.

The work of evangelism has been well to the front in many of the home fields during recent months. Listed below is the number of evangelistic campaigns carried on in the various home unions during 1954 and 1955:

	1954	1955
West Nordic Union ...	80	86
East Nordic Union ...	60	70
British Union	32	34
Netherland Union	24	13
Totals	196	203

An outstanding feature of this sphere of activity is the steadily growing number of successful young evangelists at home and abroad. This is indicated in the increase in ordinations to the Gospel ministry. In four years the number of ordained ministers has increased by 88, 23 in the mission fields and 65 in the home unions.

Recently my attention was called to the fact that one of our smaller fields had an unusually large number of its workers serving in other lands. This led to the gathering of information from all the home fields concerning this interest-

"ONWARD, EVER ONWARD!"

IN the year 1916 the following statement, penned by the servant of the Lord, was published:

"The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place—that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis."—*Prophets and Kings*, page 537.

As we gather together at this Winter

Council we are much more aware of the significance of this forecast than was possible even one year ago. Truly this is the testing time for men and nations. "The whole world appears to be in the March to Death."—*Manuscript 139*, 1903.

In this hour of impending doom we must constantly keep before us our God-given task of world evangelism. That we might measure to some extent the achievements of the past, and remind ourselves of the tremendous responsibility of our unfinished work, I bring to you the facts and figures which follow. These cover the period from January 1, 1951 to September 30, 1955, a period of four years and nine months.

	Total Workers 1/1/51	Total Workers 30/9/55	Gain Per Cent
British Union	186	234	25
East Nordic Union	127	151	18.9
Ethiopian Union Mission	74	153	106.7
Netherland Union	58	72	24
Polish Union	46	66	43.5
West African Union Mission	580	801	38
West Nordic Union	159	170	6.9
Iceland Conference	8	7	-12.5
Northern European Division	18	36	100
Total	1,256	1,690	34.5

ing feature of service. There are 335 workers from this Division's home fields serving in thirty-three countries abroad. Here follows the list of numbers, country by country:

Denmark	32
Finland	11
Great Britain	226
Netherlands	11
Norway	31
Sweden	24

Within our Division territories we have no less than twenty-six different countries. In these lands we are using in the presentation of the message fifty-three languages. In twenty of these literature is available. They are as follows:

HOME FIELDS

Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, Gaelic, German, Icelandic, Lap, Norwegian, Polish, Swedish, Welsh.

MISSION FIELDS

- Liberia
Spoken: Bassa, Gio, Kpella
- Gold Coast
Spoken: Fante, Gaa, Hausa, Twi.
Written: Fante, Twi.
- Sierra Leone
Spoken: Creole, Mende, Temne.
Written: Mende, Temne.
- Ivory Coast
Spoken: Agni, Atie, Baoule, Betes, Dida, Dioula, Ebrie, Gousou, Mossi.
- Nigeria
Spoken: Abuan, Armo, Buji, Degma, Efik, Eleme, Gure, Gusu, Hausa, Ibo, Jere, Kalabari, Kono, Korama, Kugbo, Obolo, Ogoni, Tiv, Timano, Urhobo, Yoruba.
Written: Hausa, Ibo, Yoruba.
- Greenland
Spoken and Written: Greenlandic.
- Ethiopia
Spoken and Written: Amharic, Tigrinia.

The population embraced in these various territories, according to our latest figures, exceeds 162,000,000. We rejoice that so much has been accomplished in years gone by through the devoted and sacrificial labours of many workers, but we cannot close our eyes to the stark fact that very much remains yet to be

attempted if we are to fulfil our divinely appointed task. Consider the following facts:

Year	Membership	Population
1951	38,874	149,696,360
	1 in 3,850 =	.025 per cent
1954	47,994	162,250,000
	1 in 3,380 =	.029 per cent
1955	48,909	162,422,183
	1 in 3,320 =	.030 per cent
	(Sept. 30th)	

The challenge of the unwarned millions in the great cities and densely populated lands that comprise our home bases, in addition to the ever-growing claims of our mission fields, demand our full consecration as workers, and a persistent setting forth among our church membership of the urgency of a fully dedicated church.

"The work is soon to close. The mem-

bers of the church militant who have proved faithful will become the church triumphant." (Letters 32, 1892.)

"And still our General, who never makes a mistake, says to us, 'Advance; enter new territory; lift the standard in every land. "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee."'

"The truth contained in the first, second, and third angels' messages must go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people; it must lighten the darkness of every continent, and extend to the islands of the sea. There must be no delay in this work.

"Our watchword is to be, Onward, ever onward! Angels of heaven will go before us to prepare the way. Our burden for the regions beyond can never be laid down till the whole earth is lightened with the glory of the Lord."—*Gospel Workers*, page 470.

E. B. RUDGE, *Secretary*.

"The Silver and the Gold Is Mine!"

IT is a marvellous thing how money flows into the treasury of God. Where do we find in all the world and among all other denominations such liberality and spirit of sacrifice as we find among the Seventh-day Adventists? We cannot fully comprehend it, but surely it is love to God and a desire to finish the Lord's work that prompts the rank and file in our churches to give as they do to the cause: and the beautiful truth of it is, that Adventists are alike in all the world when it comes to giving to the Lord's work. It was so good to hear from the Russian Baptist ministers that some of us met in London at the Russian Embassy last summer, that the Adventists in Russia are considered "the rich church" over there, all because they pay tithe to the church treasury. These ministers said, "Your people have been taught from the beginning to return to the Lord the tithe of their income." Yes, they have been taught and like to do it, for they know there is a blessing in so doing.

God will soon honour those who have given unstintingly to the support of His cause. Soon the call will be sounded,

"Gather My saints together unto Me; those that have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice." Psa. 50:5.

The wise man of the Old Testament made some valuable observations in his day, and the truth of them holds good down to our own time. He says, "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty." Prov. 11:24. We are certainly thankful to God for the devoted membership that we have. We know that God is blessing every faithful tithe-payer and every one who gives his offerings cheerfully.

The troubled conditions in many parts of the world field, the repeated goodwill conferences and attempts by statesmen at high levels to stem propaganda for war and armament, the serious situation in the Near East—all the forebodings of the final clash among the nations and the end of the world. Knowing that the time is short, we must give ourselves and our means as a people more than ever before, if we are to do our duty to the unwarned and unsaved millions.

T I T H E
Comparative Figures

	1953	1954	Increase	Per Cent
	\$	\$	\$	
British Union	290,444.99	303,964.25	13,519.26	4.65
East Nordic Union	289,085.39	298,296.75	9,211.36	3.19
Ethiopian Union Mission	19,356.21	20,099.16	742.95	3.84
Iceland Mission	23,353.25	26,826.25	3,473.00	14.87
Netherland Union	61,989.73	73,986.50	11,996.77	19.35
Poland Union	—	—	—	—
West African Union Mission ...	54,599.53	58,879.34	4,279.81	7.84
West Nordic Union	305,452.86	325,249.50	19,796.64	6.48
Total	\$1,044,281.96	\$1,107,301.75	\$63,019.79	6.04

T I T H E
Comparative Figures for Nine Months

	1954	1955	Increase	Per Cent
	\$	\$	\$	
British Union	224,748.03	240,255.28	15,507.25	6.89
East Nordic Union	216,483.99	227,861.69	11,377.70	5.25
Ethiopian Union Mission	14,739.85	16,654.67	1,914.82	12.99
Greenland Mission	—	176.55	176.55	100.00
Iceland Conference	17,202.11	18,028.34	826.23	4.80
Netherland Union	53,749.75	64,094.19	10,344.44	19.24
Poland Union	—	—	—	—
West African Union Mission ...	43,714.31	45,706.97	1,992.66	4.55
West Nordic Union	230,897.74	242,504.77	11,607.03	5.02
Total	\$801,535.78	\$855,282.46	\$53,746.68	6.70

TITHES

During 1954 our conferences received in tithes from 47,994 members, \$1,107,301.75. This is an increase of \$63,019.79 and is no small sum. But it can still be greatly increased if a systematic tithe promotion programme is set up. Due to such a programme, one union increased its tithe by 19.35 per cent. Another field, a conference, increased its tithe by 14.87 per cent. There are still many in our churches who are not paying tithe, and some not a full tithe. They are robbing themselves of blessings while they are robbing God's treasury of funds for the extension of the work of the church.

That 1954 was no special year for extra tithes, as some would perhaps interpret it, is shown by the comparative report for the nine months of 1954 and 1955. As you will see from the table below, some unions have almost as much gain for the nine months of 1955 as they had for the whole of 1954.

Let us therefore continue to promote tithing in our churches and we will soon have more self-supporting conferences in our field. At present only six are re-

ceiving no appropriations: two in the Netherland Union and four in the West Nordic Union.

MISSION OFFERINGS

The mission offerings are also on the increase, and we are glad that the total percentage increase for the Division is exactly the same as in the tithe, as will be seen in the table below.

We invite you to continue to study carefully the statistical reports when convenient, and note just where your field

stands. Due to the excellent Ingathering results achieved in 1954, you will notice that some of the fields had very large increases in 1954 over the previous year. I am glad that we were able to register a five per cent increase in the total Sabbath School offerings for the Division. We are also grateful for the increase of 6.11 per cent in the Week of Sacrifice and Annual Offering in 1954.

While we do not have the full report yet for the Ingathering Campaign, we know that we are already well ahead of last year's results. All the fields have reached their goals by now except the West African Union, which is now in the midst of its campaign, and they, too, will certainly go beyond their goal.

I think it is to be regretted that the Home Missionary Department is not now sponsoring the Missions Extension Campaign, for it seems that no other department or group is able to manoeuvre a campaign as do our Home Missionary Department leaders. The Missions Extension effort in 1955 had better results than the effort of 1954. With definite goals for each field and the plan of reverting to the field fifty per cent of the overflow, there was at least a small return to all the fields, except one.

Before we pass on to other matters in this report, I desire to say that we should at this annual meeting register a vote of appreciation and thanks to all our workers and members in the churches for their loyal and faithful support of the cause. What could we do if we did not have all these funds?

THE BUDGET

I know you are all interested in the Budget and funds for appropriations. We

TOTAL MISSION OFFERINGS
Comparative Figures

	1953	1954	Increase	Per Cent
	\$	\$	\$	
British Union	165,828.22	182,041.33	16,213.11	9.78
East Nordic Union	124,488.16	126,314.51	1,826.35	1.47
Ethiopian Union Mission	4,740.47	4,955.03	214.56	4.53
Iceland Mission	10,499.66	13,281.41	2,781.75	26.49
Netherland Union	16,728.30	19,836.02	3,107.72	18.58
Poland Union	—	—	—	—
West African Union Mission ...	35,253.96	37,995.27	2,741.31	7.78
West Nordic Union	131,022.67	133,652.35	2,629.68	2.01
Total	\$488,561.44	\$518,075.92	\$29,514.48	6.04

will face grave problems this year in our Budget Committee. Not only do we have less means at our disposal, but the requests for appropriations mount up to staggering figures—all out of proportion to available funds. Total available funds will be at the most for Class I, including Radio and Bible Correspondence work, \$987,919, and requests against this total \$1,087,064. For other Specials and Church Extension we have approximately \$287,800, and the requests against this sum total no less than \$995,901. Those are the facts, but we must take courage and have faith. All the gold and the silver belongs to God. There will be means in every treasury for the needs of the cause, for there are resources to tap in every field, and then we must practise better economy in the administration of every organization.

THANKS TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Before closing this report, I wish to express our grateful thanks to the General Conference for the liberal supply of means that they have appropriated to our Division. We appreciate so much the understanding interest that they show in their dealings with us and our problems.

G. A. LINDSAY,
Treasurer.

Plans and Resolutions

(Concluded from page 15.)

this influence affords one of the most effective agencies for combating disease." (*Ministry of Healing*, page 241, 1905).

Voted: 1. That in connection with the treatment of the sick the attention of Seventh-day Adventists—medical personnel, ministry, and laity alike—be called to the importance and value of such basic principles of psychology and psychiatry as are not contrary to Christian teaching as implied in the instruction quoted above which recognizes a safe use of the knowledge of the laws that govern the working of the human mind.

2. That we recognize that in the proper treatment of "the body through the mind" we should utilize the God-given powers of a devoted life, "a contented mind, a cheerful spirit" (*Ministry of Healing*, page 241), a spirit of gratitude and praise, physical therapy in various acceptable forms, and such medications as will not leave harmful effects. In so doing, we recognize that "the only safe and true mind cure" is that in which "the physician must educate the people to look from the human to the divine." (*Medical Ministry*, page 112).

Special Days, 1956

* * *

January 7th	Soul Winning and Family Altar Day, with Home Missionary Offering.
January 21st	Tithe Sabbath
February 4th	Sabbath School Rally Day
February 11th	Church Paper Offering
March 3rd - 10th	Missions Extension, Home Visitation, and Missions Extension Offering
March 10th - 17th	Missionary Volunteer Week
April 7th	Famine and Disaster Relief Offering
April 14th - May 19th	Ingathering (in Britain)
June 2nd	Education Day and Education Offering
August 18th - Sept. 22nd	Ingathering (except in Britain)
September 1st	Bible Correspondence School, Home Visitation, and Offering (in Britain)
September 22nd	Dorcas Welfare Day and Offering (for local welfare work)
October 6th	Bible Correspondence School, Home Visitation, and Offering (except Britain)
October 6th	Magazine and Tract Campaign, with subscriptions (in Britain)
October 20th	Magazine and Tract Campaign, with subscriptions (except Britain)
October 27th	Temperance Day and Offering
November 3rd	Colporteur Day
November 17th - 24th	Week of Prayer and Sacrifice, with Offering
December 1st	Healthful Living Day

Voted, That this calendar operate also for 1957, with the exception of the Famine and Disaster Relief Offering.

3. That we urge a renewed study at this critical time of the Spirit of prophecy counsels relating to psychology and "mind cure" as they appear in *Ministry of Healing* and *Medical Ministry*, which point out the perils of hypnosis, the procedures of which lead one human mind to dominate another.

4. That we urge all Seventh-day Adventists to endeavour more closely to follow God's programme of keeping well, and in the case of illness to obtain help from well-qualified medical personnel, and thus, by the combination of healthful living, medical science, and prayer, to recover and maintain our physical well-being.

RELATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS TO WAR

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a religious body that devotes its energies and resources exclusively to spiritual and humanitarian work. It teaches its members in every land to live blameless lives, to honour their country and obey its laws, and to deport themselves in every way as loyal peaceable citizens. Very particularly, the church teaches its members to pray for the welfare of the state, and for its

rulers, in accordance with the instruction of Christ and the holy apostles.

In time of war, Seventh-day Adventist churchmembers seek even more zealously to carry out these teachings. In many lands they organize first aid classes, medical cadet training corps, and other forms of relief work, to enable them to give most effective assistance to the wounded, the sick, and the needy—the kind of assistance that they conscientiously believe they should give to their fellow-men and to their country.

When called by their country, Seventh-day Adventists have ever been willing and ready to render faithful service, except as it involves training for, and engaging in, combat service and activities which would contribute to the taking of human life. They do not fear to risk their lives, they fear only to disobey God. And they believe they would be disobeying their conscientious Christian convictions if they took human life. The same holy apostles who instruct them to pray for rulers, also instruct them that they should obey God rather than man if there is a conflict between the two. Indeed, they do not know how they can give genuinely loyal service to their country unless they first are loyal to their God.

BRITISH UNION

Organized 1902; Re-Organized 1920

BRIEF reports were given by the president of the union, and the presidents of the North and South England Conferences, and the Scottish, Irish, and Welsh Missions.

The first speaker was M. C. Murdoch, from Wales. He gave a bright and interesting story of the work of witnessing for the message in this territory. He mentioned that there are some 3,000,000 people in the small area of Wales. There is encouraging development in the work. There are nine churches and six organized companies of believers. The church membership now stands at 550, and the Sabbath school membership is about the same. He reported gains in tithes, offerings, and Ingathering funds.

In the spring of this year seven small experimental campaigns in evangelism were launched. Several of these have already won success, and in four of the seven campaigns, new members have already been added to the church, with others awaiting baptism. One worker, operating on a very limited budget, decided to cover his area with Voice of Prophecy cards. In the course of this visiting twelve former members were found, who expressed a wish to return to the remnant church. These are now attending Sabbath services regularly, which provides an unusual feature, as the mission campaign has actually not reached the stage of presentation of the Sabbath truth. Brother Murdoch concluded his report with the assurance that the brethren in Wales were confident of the ultimate triumph of the message.

O. M. Dorland reported for Ireland. The population of the Irish Mission exceeds 4,000,000, and about ninety-seven per cent of these are Roman Catholics, except in the Ulster area, where the population is fifty-five per cent Protestant. He reported that there are well-organized churches in Belfast, Dublin, and Portadown. There has been an average increase in membership in recent years of about twenty members per year. The literature ministry continues to be a valued factor in the development of the work, despite much opposition. The Ranelagh Health Institute is enjoying a

steadily increasing patronage, and is helping to break down prejudice. This year has been the most successful year in its short history. The Institute is operated by Brother and Sister Howard Nix from the United States. The new church in Dublin is being erected under the supervision of W. G. Nicholson. This will be dedicated on January 21, 1956. In Belfast plans are in hand for the erection of a building on the main Belfast-Dublin road. These plans have been approved by the city council, and it is hoped to see this building dedicated during 1956. This should be an effective aid it witnessing for the message to the 500,000 people of the city of Belfast.

The Scottish Mission was reported upon by B. F. Kinman, its leader. He stated that the work first began in Scotland in 1898. For years very little progress was made. By the year 1953 the membership had reached 400. At the end of 1954 the membership was 501. Much of this increase in the last year resulted from a very successful campaign conducted by I. McGougan in the city of Glasgow. Arising from this large increase of members in Glasgow, it became necessary to find much more satisfactory church accommodation. Through the providence of the Lord a very excellent and satisfactory church building was secured for the sum of £8,000. This has proved a great blessing to the work in Scotland. There are also indications of progress in Edinburgh and several other centres, which give encouragement to the membership in Scotland.

The North England Conference president, J. H. Bayliss, gave an interesting survey of the work of his field over the last several years. He gave detailed information concerning several outstanding indications of the leading of the Lord in the conversion of would-be suicides and other persons facing grave and perplexing conditions. He reported upon the outstanding success that had come to the Birmingham campaign, which has been operated for about two years. In the two years there has been steady increase in the membership of the conference, almost all the workers engaged in evangelistic work having met with encouraging success.

During the present autumn-winter campaigning season, owing to shortage

A GOOD



from Arctic



NORTHERN EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM

By E. B. Russell

of funds, very modest budgets have been granted to nine evangelists only. Seventeen other ministers were invited to sponsor "Britain for Christ" through the Voice of Prophecy campaign among their churches. These men have distributed over half a million enrolment cards in connection with this work, and a good harvest is anticipated as the result of this feature of service. The church membership is rallying with enthusiasm to the tasks of the church and to the support of the ministry. An indication of this was given at the recent local conference session, when £1,225 was pledged by the

REPORT

to Equator



NORTH AMERICAN UNION PRESIDENTS' SYMPOSIUM

George, Secretary

membership for evangelistic work in the current year.

J. A. McMillan, president of the South England Conference, reported concerning the work, mainly in the London area, where in recent years large campaigns have been carried on in the heart of the city. He stated that the membership of the conference is now 4,100. During the first nine months of this year, 136 were added to the church. The Ingathering Campaign this year reached the highest amount in the history of the conference, £25,337.

A good deal of press publicity has

been obtained in recent years, particularly since the taking over of the New Gallery in Regent Street. This has led to some interesting experiences. In October a Church of England vicar preached on Adventism in Bedford, the home of John Bunyan. This minister paid credit to our tithe paying, remarking that we pay far more attention to mission work than any other Protestant group. He also praised our temperance standards, and non-smoking habits. Then, concerning the New Gallery, he said this: "The New Gallery was once famous for Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, but now it is famous for Mrs. White and the Seventh-day Adventists."

Sixteen evangelistic campaigns are now under way in the South England Conference. Pastor L. Murdoch, commencing a campaign in Bristol, reported an attendance of 2,300 at an opening mid-week service. There are 256 towns in this conference, with populations ranging from 10,000 to 185,000, in which the Advent message has never yet been sounded. Much work remains to be done in the city of London and the other cities of this large conference, with a population of more than 20,000,000.

The closing speaker for the evening was W. W. Armstrong. Pastor Armstrong introduced his remarks by saying that, while in a number of places a breakthrough had come to the opposition of the people, and encouraging gains were evident, "nevertheless," he said, "there is no greater task within this Division than that which is laid upon the British people. Less than 8,000 members are responsible for carrying the message to more than 50,000,000 people."

The work of the various departments has been successful, and is a cause for rejoicing. The Voice of Prophecy has been a most helpful factor in developing the evangelistic programme. For ten months in 1955, almost 7,000 new enrolments have been received by the Voice of Prophecy Bible School. During 1954, 186 Voice of Prophecy students were baptized. In the month of September the union organized a three-year plan for covering Britain with the Voice of Prophecy invitation cards. The plan envisaged the distribution of 1,000,000 cards for 1955. However, requests from the churches exceeded expectations, and

one and a half million cards have been placed in circulation. Within a few weeks, over 7,000 applications were received for enrolment.

An outstanding feature of the work in the British Union is the encouraging growth of the literature ministry, under the leadership of J. H. Craven and A. W. Cook. In 1953, £90,034 worth of literature was sold. In 1954 the sales reached £102,780. Sales of literature in the British Union have trebled since 1941, and doubled since 1946. A most successful Ingathering Campaign was held for 1955, resulting in the remarkable sum of £51,442 being collected. This is a record.

EAST NORDIC UNION

Organized 1901; Re-Organized 1931

PASTOR C. GIDLUND, for the past four years president of the East Nordic Union, in presenting his report stated that this would be the last occasion on which this organization would be represented at a Division annual meeting. He stated: "I do not mean that the East Nordic Union has laid itself down to die—no, far from that. It has only swarmed." From January 1, 1956, the East Nordic Union divides into two unions, independent of each other in respect of organization and administration. With the approval of the General Conference, the East Nordic Union has been divided into the Swedish Union and the Finland Union. The reason for the division of this union was thus described by C. Gidlund:

"As I will be the last president of the East Nordic Union, it may be appropriate for me to give you here an explanation of the reason, and to answer the question often put to me. The first and the main reason is the difference in languages. There is not any similarity between the Finnish and the Swedish languages. The constant interpreting from and to the different languages, in season and out of season, during committee and other meetings, is burdensome and tiring. This has to be done as soon as a Swedish officer of the union visits the Finnish section. It is therefore not strange that our Finnish brethren have become tired of this

procedure and requested a change. The second reason is that the Finnish part of the union has felt strong enough organically and administratively, to become an independent union. The membership of the East Nordic Union was 8,538. After the division the Finland Union has 4,610 members and the Swedish Union 3,928. During the first three quarters of 1955, 292 new members were taken into the church."

Pastor Gidlund reported that the tithes and offerings and the Ingathering funds for the period of nine months of 1955 have all been excellent. The literature work still holds a prominent place in the activities of this section of the field. The new printing plant in Stockholm, Sweden, is working at high pressure. The sanitarium work in the union has also been richly blessed, the average number of patients in the various sanitariums having reached 210 per day. The youth work also continues to be a strong feature of the work in these fields. Two churches have been built in connection with the youth camps in Sweden and Finland, providing seating accommodation for more than 800 young people. Several other new church buildings have also been erected within this field.

The educational work has passed through a gratifying period during 1955. The two training schools have a combined enrolment of 214. Twelve students were baptized at Ekebyholm and ten at Toivonlinna during the current school year.

FINLAND

FOLLOWING C. Gidlund's report on the East Nordic Union, O. Peltonen, president of the newly organized Finland Union Conference, spoke briefly to the delegates. He stated that events of the year might be summarized by the following four outstanding experiences:

1. The tragic passing of Pastor A. Arasola, whose untimely death has caused so much sorrow among the Finnish brethren.
2. The organization of the Finland Union Conference.
3. The establishment of a home for the aged, following ten years of unceasing effort.
4. The steady advance of the work of

God during the current year. This reference included particularly the revival among the churches, increased colporteur activity, a very successful Ingathering campaign, and the largest annual gathering of Adventist believers in the history of our work in Finland.

WEST NORDIC UNION

Organized 1931

A PLEASANT surprise awaited the delegates on the night that Alf Lohne, president of the West Nordic Union, was due to give his union report. Instead of the usual delegation filing on to the platform, Pastor Lohne was accompanied by five representatives of the Skodsborg Sanitarium: Dr. A. Andersen, H. Westerland, and three of the senior sisters. As Dr. Andersen remarked, this was the very first time that Skodsborg had been privileged to report at a Division Council. The three ladies each reported most encouragingly of the activities of the nursing staff, and of the gratifying results that have come from their endeavours to aid spiritually the many needy people who come to the institution. H. Westerland, the manager, also spent a few moments in reporting upon the general activities of the Skodsborg Sanitarium, which is enjoying the most prosperous year in its history, having a record attendance of patients for the winter months at the present time.

The union report which Pastor Lohne had prepared revealed most encouraging developments within the West Nordic Union, which comprises the countries of Denmark and Norway. The number of souls won during the first three quarters of 1955, he said, was the most important figure he had to present to the Council. This year, for nine months, 326 souls have been baptized. The harvest, he said, is especially great in Denmark, where 218 souls were won during the current year. In Norway the figure is 108.

The greatest single event of 1955 in the union, is doubtless the purchase of the new school property in Norway. On November 15th last all formalities were completed for the obtaining of a fine farm property of approximately fifty acres, on one of the inland lakes in east

Norway. The building site is considered by the architects to be one of the most ideal available for such a purpose as the school.

Fifty-eight evangelists and Bible workers are engaged in public evangelism in this union. Pastor Lohne reports that in addition to the service of these workers, the entire membership of 8,745 is strongly supporting the work of the official labourers. The Home Missionary Department, under the leadership of Paul Frivold, is busily engaged in striving to find ways and means of actively harnessing for service this group of churchmembers. To this end three Home Missionary conventions for church leaders and workers have recently been held in this field.

The Sunday school work continues to progress in a gratifying way. Borge Olsen, the Union Missionary Volunteer leader, reports that in the past year 200 additional children have been enrolled in the Sunday schools. Each Sunday more than 1,700 children not of our faith study the Sabbath school lessons in these Sunday schools.

Gratifying results have followed the holding of youth camps in several sections of the field.

The literature work also is finding a place of importance in the activities of this Union. Particular reference was made to the colporteur work done by two of the brethren in the northern part of Norway, who each year strive earnestly to take the literature to the scattered population in the fjords and among the islands of north Norway.

Vejlefjord school is having a very successful year. For 1955 the enrolment is 123 students. This group was outstandingly successful in the current Ingathering campaign, when they realized a total in excess of £1,000 for two and a half days' work.

Two church buildings have been erected during the current year.

Newspaper activities have been a marked feature of the work in this Union. Each week reports from the Adventist centres of activity are broadcast through the land in the newspapers of the various centres.

The following financial report indicates that the faithfulness of our membership continues to be gratifying:

NETHERLAND UNION

Organized 1938

ON the evening of November 28th, F. J. Voorthuis, president of the Netherland Union, presented his report. Associated with him on the rostrum were B. Slond, Home Missionary secretary of the union, K. Beijer, secretary-treasurer, P. van Oossanen, president of the North Netherland Conference, and J. de Ruiter, president of the South Netherland Conference.

Pastor Voorthuis stated that "at the end of September, 1955, the total membership in the Netherland Union was 2,329. During the past four quarters, 191 were added by baptism and vote. We are very thankful for these dear brethren and sisters, but unfortunately we must take into account the losses by death, apostasy, and emigration, a total of 127 members, so we have a net gain of 64 members.

"During the first nine months of this year, tithes received in both conferences totalled fl. 237,285.87, which is an increase over the corresponding period of 1954 of fl. 38,312.68.

"Our Sabbath school offerings are fl. 3,237.46 higher than the amount received during the first three quarters of last year.

"The income during the Big Week in 1954 was fl. 9,200.06, and in 1955, fl. 11,662.35, an increase of fl. 2,462.29.

"The goal for our Ingathering campaign this year has been fl. 35,000. Last year our goal was fl. 30,000. We are happy to report that we reached our goal in 1954, as well as this year. Last week the treasurers of the conferences reported that we had received a total of fl. 36,086.71. Our goal for 1956 will be fl. 40,000.

"Our Voice of Prophecy Department, which was organized in 1946, is doing an excellent work under the direction of Peter Voorthuis. This year 4,640 applications for lessons were received, and 31,448 new lessons sent out. Gifts received amounted to fl. 3,207.36. At the moment we have 1,611 active students, and this year 312 finished the course. A total of 228 addresses were sent to the ministers for visiting. With the able help

	1954	1955	Increase
	Kr.	Kr.	Kr.
Harvest Ingathering	315,773.55	393,077.35	77,303.80
Sabbath School Offerings	228,149.28	239,090.66	10,941.38
Tithe	1,539,318.26	1,616,698.47	77,380.21
Totals	2,083,241.09	2,248,866.48	165,625.39

ICELAND CONFERENCE

Established 1897; Organized 1914

JULIUS GUDMUNDSSON, president of the Iceland Conference, owing to pressure of work, was unfortunately absent from this session of the Division Committee. However, his brother, Olafur Gudmundsson, the departmental secretary for Iceland, was present and gave a brief report of the work in Iceland.

In opening his remarks, Brother Gudmundsson quoted Isaiah 55:8-11. He stated that these verses bring much happiness to the believers in Iceland, because they have confidence that the Lord will fulfil His promise and accomplish that which is His pleasure in regard to the work in Iceland. The believers in Iceland have unbounded confidence in God's power to accomplish His work.

He then reported concerning the distribution of literature, and the Bible Correspondence School. He also stated that quite a large number of our books were to be found in the homes of Iceland's residents. He had found in homes visited in connection with his work as many as fourteen copies of Adventist books. The presence of this large amount of literature scattered over the whole of Iceland, he considered, enlivened the hope of the believers that surely in God's time a good harvest shall be reaped.

He spoke of the church school work in Iceland, mentioning the great blessing this has been to the membership in Reykjavik and the Westmann Islands. He also referred to the mission school, which this year has thirty-five students enrolled. In all, almost 100 youth are receiving Christian education through the operation of our schools.

The Dorcas work in Iceland has been an outstanding influence in winning good will and broadening the understanding

of the public concerning the work of the message.

Brother Gudmundsson closed his report by referring to Pastor L. Murdoch's recent public campaign in Reykjavik, which, he said, had brought a number into the message, and had also brought a great deal of encouragement to our membership generally in Iceland, as the result of the large attendance of the public.

GREENLAND

A. F. TARR gave a very interesting report upon his recent visit to Greenland. There he met our pioneer worker, Andreas Nielsen, who is labouring alone at the present time. His family still resides in Denmark. Pastor Tarr reported that plans were well in hand, for the erection of a home for the Nielsen family, in connection with which was also to be erected a small meeting-place as a centre for the work of Brother Nielsen.

Strong opposition has been met by Brother Andreas Nielsen in his work. Nevertheless, he has been untiring in his efforts to hold public meetings and to make contact with the people in their homes, always leaving with those visited appropriate literature. The result of this work, combined with the bitter opposition of the State church, has served to make Brother Nielsen probably the best known person in Greenland at the present time. Despite the determined nature of the opposition, Brother Nielsen has faced his task of opening up the land to the message prayerfully and courageously. The most recent report to hand indicates a remarkable change in the attitude of many to the work of the message, and indicates also that an early baptism will take place.

of our ministers, twenty-seven students have been baptized this year.

"Our Publishing Department is making progress under the leadership of a faithful young man, M. Knopper. During the first nine months of this year, the colporteur sales were fl. 69,258, which is fl. 9,555 more than in the same period of 1954.

"Our publishing house has had some difficulty because of the loss this year of our standing orders from Indonesia. However, we are happy to report that we have had, nevertheless, an increase in our sales. During the past nine months sales amounted to fl. 73,420.31, as against fl. 67,738.33 in the same period of 1954.

"At our school, 'Oud Zandbergen,' we have at the moment an enrolment of thirty students; twenty-three of these are following a course of secondary education, and seven the theological course. It is interesting to note that since the opening of our school in 1948, we have had a total of 132 students. From this group we now have twenty-one in the ministry, seven are labouring in other sections of the field, eight students are married to ministers, and ten are still studying in the Netherlands or in the United States.

"Our Old People's Home, 'Vredeoord,' which was founded two years ago, is a real success. We are very thankful that this institution is self-supporting.

"In our Children's Home, 'Zonhevel,' we have at present forty children; during the summer we had between seventy and eighty children. We work in close contact with the Government and the Guardians' Supervisory Board. We are grateful that our Children's Home will also be self-supporting this year.

"There is something going on in our little country. The Spirit of the Lord is working."

HAVE FAITH IN GOD

Mark 11:22

Doubt sees the obstacles—

Faith sees the way!

Doubt sees the darkest night

Faith sees the day!

Doubt dreads to take a step

Faith soars on high

Doubt questions—"Who believes?"

Faith answers—"I!"

—F. M. N.

WEST AFRICAN UNION MISSION

Organized 1943

THE West African Union was represented by J. O. Gibson, its president, E. Keslake, its Home Missionary secretary, and H. S. Pearce, manager of the Advent Press, Accra. These men had many interesting things to tell concerning the work under their care.

Brother Keslake related a most interesting experience of the remarkable providence of God in the care over His people and His work in a village in Sierra Leone.

Pastor Pearce reported upon the development of the publishing work in West Africa. In the past five years a well-equipped publishing house has been established near Accra. This employs some twenty-five African nationals. During the five years £65,078 worth of literature has been sold by approximately forty-five African colporteurs. For the year ending August 31, 1954, the colporteurs disposed of £14,965 worth of literature. For the period ending August, 1955, the sales amounted to almost £18,000.

Pastor Gibson then gave a general outline of the work of the Union. He reports that 118 evangelistic efforts were held in the past twelve months and 1,408 baptisms took place during this period. In the baptismal classes there are 11,100 learners. The hospitals in West Africa gave approximately 126,000 treatments during the past twelve months. Three new areas have been entered by the Gospel workers. Three secondary schools are being developed around the field; 160 elementary schools are functioning. In these combined schools there are enrolled 17,000 pupils. There are 10,500 young people in the MV societies. These all take an active interest in the spreading of the message. In addition, hundreds of laymen associate with the regular workers each year in conducting vigorous evangelistic campaigns. Attention was called to certain pressing needs. These include one or two evangelists to lead out in evangelism in the larger centres, funds for the completion of the secondary schools, medical work in Sierra Leone, and additional workers to cope with the increasing demands of the work.

ETHIOPIAN UNION MISSION

Organized 1927; Re-Organized 1945

S. A. BROBERG, president of the Ethiopian Union Mission, reported upon current developments in that interesting field. The Union comprises the territory of Ethiopia, Eritrea, the three Somalilands, and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, south of north latitude fifteen degrees.

At the end of September, 1955, there were thirteen organized churches, with a combined membership of 1,317. This represents a growth in the nine months of 145 members.

For the first time in the history of the work in Ethiopia, youth camps were held during 1955. Pastor Lind, the Division youth secretary, gave excellent help that largely contributed to the success of these camps. "Share Your Faith" was the theme stressed in all the camps. The young campers got a new idea and a brighter vision of the need to share their faith.

Since the beginning of the work in Ethiopia, schools have played an important part in the development of the work. This has also been true during the past year. In our four boarding schools and six day schools we have an enrolment of slightly over 1,000. Our training school had its second graduation this year, and all of the graduates have been posted to their respective fields of service.

The medical work is breaking down prejudice and rendering excellent service to the community. Many thousands of patients are treated every year in our hospitals. Many are given Bible readings, and bear testimonies to their faith in Christ. We are thankful for the fine staff of doctors and nurses who serve in these institutions. Appreciation was expressed for the very helpful service rendered by Brother H. Westerlund of the Skodsborg in his recent visit to our hospitals in Ethiopia.

For a long time the minds of the brethren have longed to see work opened in the southern provinces. Now permission has been given. In the month of September permission was granted to open two schools in the Wolamo district, and one school in the Guragi district. This, we believe, will open great opportunities for evangelistic work.

THANKSGIVING AND
CONSECRATION

WHEREAS, We are admonished by the apostle Paul: "In everything give thanks," and

WHEREAS, Since our last Winter Council, in the face of a deepening world crisis, we have witnessed abundant evidence of divine favour, represented by the expansion of every phase of church and mission endeavours, We, the delegates assembled at the 1955 Winter Council of the Northern European Division in Skodsborg, Denmark, desire to

RECORD AND EXPRESS

1. Our sincere gratitude to God our Father for His protection and providential leadings of His remnant people throughout our Division fields.

2. Our appreciation to the General Conference for the liberal appropriation of means which has, under God's blessing, contributed to the advance of the message in home and overseas mission lands.

3. Our grateful thanks to our loyal and faithful members throughout our Division territory, for their devotion to the cause in generous gifts and sacrificial service.

We therefore gladly consecrate ourselves to the Master's service for the early finishing of the work entrusted to us.

SYMPATHY

WHEREAS, We have been deeply grieved by the passing away of some of our faithful fellow workers since our last Winter Council,

Voted: That we of the Northern European Division Council assembled at Skodsborg, extend to the relatives our heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement. We also assure them of our prayers and look forward to the finishing of the work of God in the earth that we may soon meet again with those who "rest from their labours: and their works do follow them."

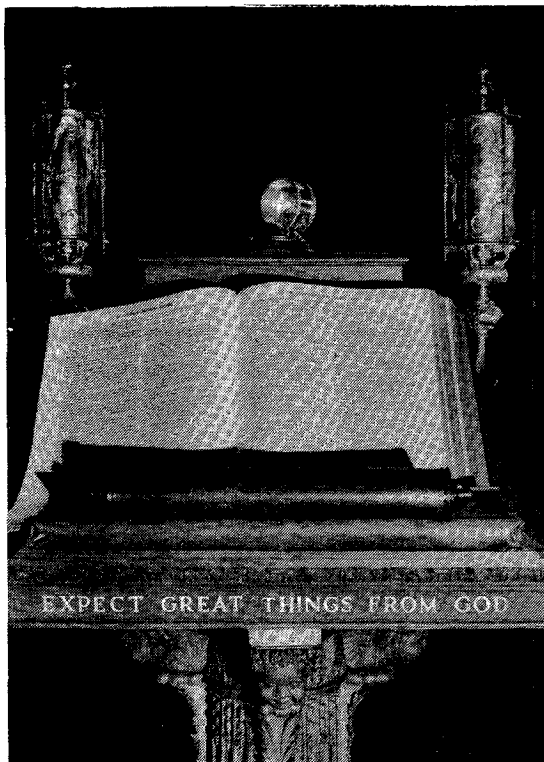
EVANGELISM

WHEREAS, We recognize that soul-winning evangelism is the very life-blood of the church—as given by our Lord in His great commission, "Go ye into all the world, and make disciples out of all nations"—and that it should permeate every branch and department of our denominational activities,

Voted: 1. That every conference worker be encouraged to regard soul-winning as his chief objective in the ministry.

2. That every conference and mission committee set aside at least ten per cent

"PREACH
THE WORD"



© Keystone

PLANS AND RESOLUTIONS

of its operating budget each year for evangelistic efforts.

3. That conference workers who continue year after year without winning souls, be advised by the employing body, in consultation with the union committee concerned, to seek employment in some other line of work.

4. That our publishing houses exercise care to maintain a high proportion of truth-filled books for the colporteur force, and that our editors maintain a strong evangelistic note in the periodicals and tracts that are printed.

5. That our conference committees encourage lay evangelistic campaigns, including laymen's efforts, cottage meetings, and Bible studies, wherever practicable.

LITERATURE EVANGELISM

WHEREAS, we are told and believe that "the canvassing work, properly conducted, is missionary work of the highest order, and it is as good and successful a method as can be employed for placing before the

people the important truths of this time" (*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, page 313), and

WHEREAS, Our faithful literature evangelists throughout this Division are toiling faithfully from day to day in the fulfilment of their Heaven-appointed work, and are instrumental in placing many thousands of books in the homes of the people and increasing interests are springing up as a result of their missionary labours,

Voted: 1. That from this Division Council we pass our sincere greetings to our literature evangelists throughout the Division territory, expressing to them our appreciation of their faithful service and assuring them of our prayerful support for their missionary labours.

2. That in each of our union conferences continued encouragement be given to our colporteur-evangelists in the promoting of the Bible Correspondence Course, and that wherever possible our books and periodicals carry announcements relative to these courses, in order that the interested readers of the Advent message may have an opportunity of enrolling for the said courses.

TITHING

WHEREAS, the tithing system has been ordained of God for the preaching of the Gospel and the finishing of the work,

Voted, That our union conference and mission leaders maintain a systematic tithe promotion programme for the purpose of helping all our members to enjoy the overflowing blessings that follow faithful tithe paying, and that further funds may be made available for the speedy finishing of the work, and to implement this,

Further Voted: 1. That workers continue to promote throughout the year the need for faithful tithe paying.

2. That our church leaders be urged to visit members who are not faithful in tithe paying and encourage them to faithfulness in their stewardship.

3. That our evangelists present the subject of tithing just as faithfully as they do the subject of the Sabbath truth, making the presentation Christ-centred, and placing special emphasis on the blessings that come to the believer in practice.

4. That editors of our church papers be encouraged to include regularly in their papers appropriate quotations on tithing and/or experiences emphasizing the blessing of faithfulness in tithe paying.

CHURCH SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the establishing and operat-

ing of church schools is expensive, yet imperative, and

WHEREAS, At the present time our churches in many areas are not giving regularly toward Christian education, and

WHEREAS, An opportunity to contribute toward the establishment and maintenance of church schools will develop interest in Christian education,

Voted: 1. That the annual Christian Education Day be enthusiastically promoted in local, union, and Division periodicals, and by educational secretaries, school teachers, and church pastors, giving a strong instructional sermon on Christian education on this designated Sabbath, and

2. That the Educational Offering received on this special Sabbath be held strictly in trust by the conference treasurer for church school educational objectives.

SABBATH SCHOOLS AND CONVENTIONS

WHEREAS, The Spirit of prophecy and experience clearly teach us that in the Sabbath school we have one of the strongest means of upbuilding and protecting the spiritual life of the church, and

WHEREAS, We view with grave concern the fact that a high percentage of our members are not members of the Sabbath school, and

WHEREAS, A progressive Sabbath school needs effective teaching,

Voted, That we will do all in our power to make our Sabbath schools more attractive and efficient, not being unmindful of the great needs in the children's divisions, and

Further Voted, That throughout the Division a number of Sabbath school conventions be conducted, laying strong emphasis on an evangelistic approach.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, Many children receive insufficient religious instruction in the public schools, and

WHEREAS, It has been proved that the Sunday school work already begun has broken down prejudice and, further, that this work has proved its worth in preparing the way for future evangelistic efforts,

Voted, That we further strengthen the good beginning already made, and encourage those churches which do not have a Sunday school, to commence this highly evangelistic work.

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, We realize that the time in

which we are living is charged with worldly attractions and temptations destructive to our youth, and

WHEREAS, We believe that some of the strongest antidotes to these are prayer and missionary activities,

Voted, that we encourage our youth to strengthen their prayer life and counsel them on how their unbounded energies may be channelled into practical soul-saving service, and that the Missionary Volunteer Department, in counsel with the Division Committee, lay definite plans with this objective in mind.

MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP IN CHURCH HOME MISSIONARY ACTIVITY

REALIZING that the missionary work of the church needs the efficient guidance and help of the ministry,

Voted: 1. That syllabi of ministerial training should include studies in departmental leadership and activities in the churches, the details of such studies to be worked out in collaboration with the departments.

2. That each conference, during its workers' meetings, give time for the study of Home Missionary methods which will fit these workers to lead the churchmembers into larger lay evangelism activities.

3. That when district conventions are held for our laymen, arrangements be made for the ministry of the district to attend.

SCHOOLS OF LAY EVANGELISM

WHEREAS, The time has come for a larger number of our churchmembers to be actively engaged in soul-winning work, and

WHEREAS, We recognize that this work can be done more effectively by a better trained laity,

Voted, that we request the Division to plan for a school of lay evangelism of seven days' duration in each union, beginning in 1956.

LAYMEN'S CONGRESSES

Voted: 1. That study be given to the holding of regional Laymen's Congresses in the following areas during 1957:

- a. Scandinavia, Finland, and Iceland.
- b. Britain and Holland.

2. That we request help to be provided by the General Conference Home Missionary Department.

CHRISTMAS CAROLLING FOR INGATHERING FUNDS

WHEREAS, In other divisions Christmas carolling has been a profitable method of soliciting funds for missions,

Voted, That study be given to the promotion of Christmas carolling in the interests of Ingathering, and that wherever it is feasible in the Northern European Division, this method be used to augment the Ingathering funds.

MAGAZINE AND TRACT PROMOTION PLAN

WHEREAS, The Missionary Magazine Tract Promotion Plan as operated in some fields has proved a source of great blessing in providing both incentive and missionary material for home visitation, therefore,

Voted, That all our publishing house managements and union committees give study to this plan with a view to its adoption in order that its proved blessings may be available in all our fields.

TEMPERANCE

WHEREAS, We have been clearly instructed through the Spirit of prophecy, that "the subject of temperance, in all its bearings, has an important place in the work of salvation," and further, "Of all who claim to be numbered among the friends of temperance, Seventh-day Adventists should stand in the front ranks,"

Voted: 1. That we encourage the formation and active operation of national temperance societies where such societies have not yet been organized within our Division.

2. That study be given to the conducting of a series of national conventions for temperance secretaries in 1956, and that for these conventions we request the assistance of a secretary from the General Conference Temperance Department.

3. That special efforts be made to interest our young people in temperance activities, that we may enlist their enthusiastic co-operation in our endeavour to give the temperance cause its right place in the proclamation of the third angel's message.

4. That on October 27th the annual World Temperance Sabbath programme and offering be vigorously promoted in all our churches.

5. That each union give favourable study to sending at least one delegate to the Institute of Scientific Studies for the Prevention of Alcoholism at Istanbul in 1956.

DORCAS WELFARE WORK

WHEREAS, Acceptable service in the sight of the Lord is "to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house, when thou seest the naked that thou cover him: and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh," and

WHEREAS, Present-day conditions indicate that we are entering upon the last stages of earth's conflict with its accompanying "time of trouble," of wars, epi-

demics, floods, and earthquakes, and that the work of beneficence outlined in Isaiah fifty-eight is the work God requires His people to do at this time, and should receive the more urgent attention the nearer we approach the end, (*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, pages 265-267)

Voted: 1. That pastors and missionary leaders in conjunction with Dorcas Welfare leaders, plan to organize welfare units within the churches which will enable the entire membership to share in an enlarged programme of welfare work in their respective churches and communities, as well as in places where emergencies might arise.

2. That plans be laid for giving our sisters opportunity of meeting in conventions to receive inspiration and instruction from those who have had experience in this line of Missionary endeavour.

3. That more attention be given to the reporting system of the welfare programme so that in addition to the usual statistics, adequate information regarding each project may be preserved for future reference.

4. That Dorcas Welfare funds be used only for Dorcas Welfare work, in harmony with the action of the Fall Council, 1948.

5. That union administrations now implement the action taken by the Division Winter Council, 1954, authorizing that five per cent of the Ingathering revertible funds of each union be set aside for Dorcas Welfare work.

6. That the sending of clothing and other relief supplies to other countries by the church be done under the auspices of the Dorcas Welfare organizations.

APPRECIATION—SKODSBORG SANITARIUM STAFF

Voted, That we, the delegates at this annual Winter Council, express to the medical director, the general manager, and the entire Sanitarium staff, our sincere and heartfelt appreciation of the excellent care received while guests at the institution, and of our gratitude for the unflinching kindness and courtesy so continually manifested to us all, and further

Voted, that the general manager be requested to convey to the Sanitarium staff this expression of appreciation from this Winter Council.

UPKEEP AND CARE OF DENOMINATIONAL PROPERTY

WHEREAS, We believe that the church, as of old, is still the dwelling place of God among His people, and

WHEREAS, Unless attention is given, there is a danger that these sacred buildings can deteriorate both internally and externally, so that the cause of God is brought into disrepute and the fabric of the building is threatened,

Voted, That the church board impress upon the deacons their responsibility to inspect the church property from time to time and report to the church board, in order that the property be maintained in a proper state of repair.

HYPNOSIS IN THE TREATMENT OF DISEASE

Warnings Against Hypnosis

WHEREAS, In many parts of the world there is an increasing emphasis upon the use of hypnosis in the treatment and cure of disease, as indicated by:

a. An ever-increasing number of articles in its support in the publications of various medical groups and influential lay magazines.

b. An increased interest in hypnosis at medical conventions.

c. The availability in certain large universities of special advanced courses in hypnosis, open to carefully selected medical practitioners.

WHEREAS, It is generally recognized that upon entering the hypnotic state the subconscious mind, under the direction of the hypnotist, takes over control of the senses and the actions of the individual without interference from, or without guidance of, his reasoning conscious mind.

WHEREAS, The Lord in His Word has counselled: "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Prov. 4:23. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey?" Rom. 6:16. And the messenger of the Lord sounded clear and definite warnings that "men and women are not to study the science of how to take captive the minds of those who associate with them. This is the science that Satan teaches. We are to resist everything of the kind. We are not to tamper with mesmerism and hypnosis—the science of the one who lost his first estate, and was cast out of the heavenly courts." (*Medical Ministry*, pages 110, 111.)

"No man or woman should exercise his or her will to control the senses or reason of another, so that the mind of the person is rendered passively subject to the will of the one who is exercising the control. This science may appear to be something beautiful, but it is a science which you are in no case to handle. . . .

"I lift the danger signal. The only safe and true mind cure covers much. The physician must educate the people to look from the human to the divine." (*Medical Ministry*, pages 111, 112. Written in 1901 to a leading physician in a Seventh-day Adventist sanitarium).

"The theory of mind controlling mind was originated by Satan, to introduce himself as the chief worker, to put human philosophy where divine philosophy should be. Of all the errors that are finding

acceptance among professedly Christian people, none is a more dangerous deception, none more certain to separate man from God, than is this. Innocent though it may appear, if exercised upon patients it will tend to their destruction, not to their restoration. It opens a door through which Satan will enter to take possession both of the mind that is given up to be controlled by another, and of the mind that controls." (*Ministry of Healing*, page 243).

"This science [of mind controlling mind] may appear to you to be very valuable; but to you and to others it is a fallacy prepared by Satan. It is the charm of the serpent which stings to spiritual death. It covers much that seems wonderful, but it is foreign to the nature and spirit of Christ. This science does not lead to Him who is life and salvation." (*Medical Ministry*, page 112).

Voted: 1. That in the light of the warnings and counsels of the Word of God and the Spirit of prophecy, we as a denomination recognize hypnotism as a dangerous procedure, and warn Seventh-day Adventists against employing or seeking its use.

2. That we take a decided stand against the teaching or practising of hypnotism in any Seventh-day Adventist institution.

"SAFE AND TRUE MIND CURE"

WHEREAS, We have been called upon through the Spirit of prophecy counsels from early days of our medical work to recognize the proper and indispensable place of psychosomatic medicine in such counsels as:

"To deal with men and women whose minds as well as bodies are diseased is a nice work. Great wisdom is needed by the physicians at the Institute [Battle Creek Sanitarium] in order to cure the body through the mind. But few realize the power that the mind has over the body. A great deal of the sickness which afflicts humanity has its origin in the mind, and can only be cured by restoring the mind to health." (*Testimonies*, Vol. 3, page 184, 1872).

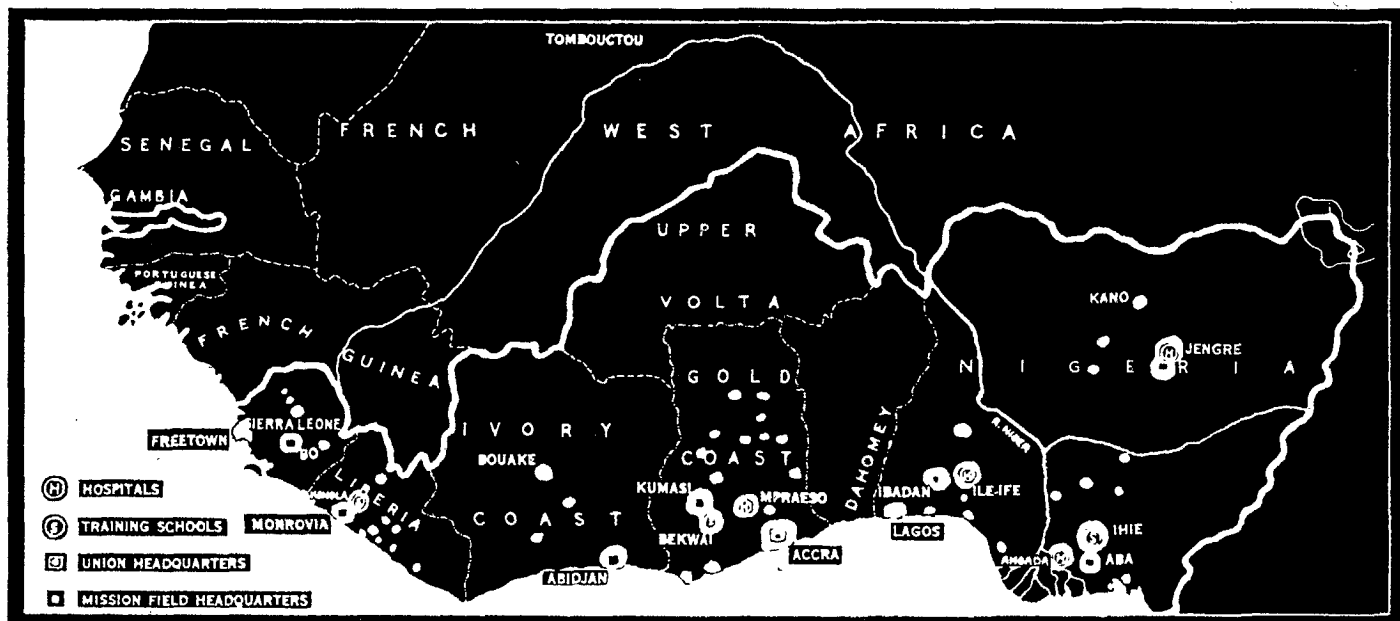
"The relation that exists between the mind and the body is very intimate. When one is affected, the other sympathizes. The condition of the mind affects the health to a far greater degree than many realize. . . . Grief, anxiety, discontent, remorse, guilt, distrust, all tend to break down the life forces and to invite decay and death.

"Disease is sometimes produced, and is often greatly aggravated, by the imagination. Many are lifelong invalids who might be well if they only thought so. . . . Many die from disease, the cause of which is wholly imaginary. . . . In the treatment of the sick the effect of mental influence should not be overlooked. Rightly used,

(Continued on page 7.)

From a pamphlet distributed by the West African delegation at the Winter Council

“SO MUCH TO DO – SO LITTLE TIME”



We have barely touched the fringes of the work God has given us to do

“BEHOLD, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people.” How forcefully this comes to us as we behold a map of West Africa with darkness covering the areas not yet reached by the Advent message.

Within the area covered by this map live some 50 million people. Over 42 million of these live within the bounds of the West African Union (territory outlined by a heavy white line). Of these millions within our boundaries only a very small percentage have heard the Gospel as presented by God’s remnant people. (The light spots on the map show the centres where the message has spread.) Truly there is “So much to do—So little time.”

Today the Macedonian call is heard on many sides—but not as loud as it was a few years ago. Time is short. The time to advance is now while it is still heard. Nations are just rising to self-government and full independence. Many people who, a few years ago, looked to Christianity and God for help, today look to political leaders for deliverance. In spite of this, missionaries are welcome today in all these lands. Tomorrow they may not be wanted or permitted to preach freely. Yes—so little time—but time to advance. Time to yield our lives unreservedly to God. Time to let God’s love shine out through us. Time to sacrifice as never before so that these millions who sit in darkness may “see a great light.”

Accomplishments During 1955 in West Africa

- * 1,408 souls baptized.
- * 118 efforts held.
- * 11,100 souls in the baptismal classes.
- * One new hospital opened.
- * 126,000 (approx.) treatments given in our three hospitals.
- * Three new areas entered with the Gospel.
- * 160 Mission elementary schools in operation.
- * 17,000 pupils enrolled.
- * Three secondary schools being built. These are progressing a year at a time. Two are in the third year.
- * 10,500 wide-awake Missionary Volunteers.
- * Hundreds of laymen helping to bring light to the millions in darkness.
- * 40 full time colporteurs distributing the printed message. £17,750 in Gospel literature sales.
- * Tithes, offerings, and Ingathering constantly increasing.

NORTHERN LIGHT

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