



VOLUME 7

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A MESSAGE TO THE ADVENT PEOPLE

From the Winter Council Assembled

WE, who are gathered in Winter Council, send Christian greetings to all our brethren and sisters. Assembled here at Stanborough Park, Watford, are representatives from all parts of the Northern European Division, including West Africa and Ethiopia.

In a world of mounting problems and intensifying darkness, we are grateful to God for the manifold evidences of His providential leading. As reports from every part of our Division have been submitted, truly our hearts have been stirred and solemnized in realization that God is leading His people and prospering their consecrated efforts.

From icy Greenland, where the Advent message has, under God's blessing, just secured a humble foothold, to the torrid regions of Africa, where that continent's traditional darkness is giving way to the light of truth, we see ample evidence that God is with us. Reports from the various unions of our farflung Division have, indeed, highlighted some of the humanly insuperable problems our workers and lay members face. But these reports have also shown that problems vanish in the face of positive, determined, and consecrated efforts to advance God's cause in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are reminded again, of the assurance which the servant of the Lord was inspired to pen, that the church of Christ on earth is in a special sense the supreme object of God's regard. We are encouraged by the further assurance that the "truth will triumph over all opposition." Faith to believe this has been wonderfully strengthened by the many reports presented by the council.

We are particularly thankful for the devotion and loyalty of our consecrated believers everywhere, both young people and those of mature years, whose self-effacing service, sacrificial giving, faithful tithing, and constant prayers are mainly responsible, under God's blessing, for the onward progress of His cause. For this, we here express our thanks to you, brethren and sisters, but above all to God who has given His people the spirit of willingness.

But "the night is far spent," and much remains to be done. The adversary still has citadels of darkness within our territory which have not, as yet, been even challenged by the Gospel light. With intensifying zeal he has increased his efforts to thwart and hamper the servants of God.

The times, therefore, demand, on the part of every one of us, a deeper love and knowledge of the blessed truth, wholehearted surrender to God, and a full acceptance of His enabling power for continued and increasing efforts to finish the work of proclaiming this everlasting Gospel.

We have been uplifted in heart as we have seen the many clear evidences that the day of the Lord is at hand. Multiplying signs declare with exhilarating clarity that very soon the divine Harvester will return.

May the peace of heaven bring joy and gladness to your hearts, brethren and sisters, and may the constraining influence of God's love use you mightily as instruments in the fulfilment of God's plan quickly to finish the work and to cut it short in righteousness.

Seventh Winter Council

HELD AT STANBOROUGH PARK, WATFORD, HERTS.

NOVEMBER 27 to DECEMBER 4, 1956

Echoes from the Devotional Hour

By J. H. Bayliss

AS WE took our places in the Stanborough Park church for the opening service of the 1956 Winter Council, our eyes instinctively observed a display chart bearing the motto:

“. . . Into the streets and lanes . . .
Into the highways and hedges . . .
That My house may be filled.”
Luke 14:21, 23.

The president's opening address was fittingly preceded by a welcome and roll call of the delegates, devotion in prayer and spiritual song, together with a stimulating report from G. A. Lindsay, who had recently received tidings from our brethren in Poland. We were encouraged to learn of the progress in the work there and appreciation was expressed to the Division for the gifts of medical supplies so urgently needed. Our fraternal intercessions were solicited for their welfare.

A. F. Tarr, in his presidential address, expressed the hope that the message of the motto would be the grand objective of all of our planning in the brief period of grace still provided before the day of our Lord's return. Pastor Tarr urged that we seek both to understand and feel the deep concern of our Master that His "house may be filled." It should startle the church into energetic action. "God's concern is over a task unfinished," he said. In the parable the impenitent made light of the message conveyed to them. Is it just possible that we, God's servants, are treating with too little concern the task entrusted to us?

Ours is the final appeal to the world. It is "at suppertime," that we are to call the guests in. We are to invite prepared subjects to a kingdom already prepared and in waiting.

"God's further concern," declared Pastor Tarr, "is that more than a public platform emphasis of the last call be made." Supporting his contention with ample Bible illustrations and Spirit of prophecy quotations, he urged that by personal interview, contact, effort, and ministry we are to reach men and women of every walk of life. We may readily fulfil this divine mandate through Ingathering, visitation, Dorcas Welfare, and travel contacts. The constant objective of our ministry being that God's "house may be filled."

Finally, every servant should sense God's concern that this ministry be prosecuted with divine power. "We are to make large demands upon God for power," said Pastor Tarr. The secret of this power resides in the promise, "The Lord Thy God in the midst of thee is mighty." Paul proclaimed "Christ in you the hope of glory" to be the dynamic which spurred him on to preach, warn, and teach, that he "may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."

May we be so filled with His power that this programme is fulfilled in and through us in coming days.

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"Labourers Together with God" (November 28th)

ELDER V. T. ARMSTRONG, field secretary of the General Conference, selected for the source of his remarks the text: "We are labourers together with God." 1 Cor. 3:9.

He stated that while the nature of the problems that face the worker today varies from nation to nation, yet in principle our international problems are much the same, for there is but one

master-mind, the Devil, who creates them. Because of this the bonds of a sympathetic unity should exist among workers in the Advent cause. We are to be "labourers together." "The times in which we live," he remarked, "are of intense interest to all living, especially to the labourer for God, who has the advantage of viewing the unfolding of the prophetic scroll in the reality of current events. Little remains to be fulfilled, save the most important task, that of finishing the Gospel work. It is for this alone," Elder Armstrong maintained, "that God is delaying the second advent of Christ."

The completing of the Gospel task is indeed the greatest work on earth, for it is the most extensive, the most exacting, and has the greatest opportunities. Elder Armstrong outlined a number of qualifications required by the labourer, which were epitomized in the life of Joshua. Of Joshua it is written that he was: "Courageous, resolute and persevering, prompt, incorruptible, unmindful of selfish interests in his care for those committed to his charge, and, above all, inspired by a living faith in God—such was the character of the man divinely chosen to conduct the armies of Israel in their entrance upon the promised land."

No worker is perfect in all these qualities, hence we need the strong qualities in some to support the deficiencies in others. Elder Armstrong aptly quoted a sentence from the prayer of a coloured church elder, who, in Sabbath divine service, prayed for the conference president visiting the church: "Lord, prop him up on all his leaning sides."

In conclusion he appealed that we should go forth not only as "labourers together," but "labourers with God" to the finishing of the work.

* * *

The Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (November 29th)

ELDER E. E. ROENFELT introduced his

subject by reminding us of the commission which Christ gave His church, as recorded in Matthew 16:15, 16, Matthew 28:18-20, and later affirmed by the Revelator in Revelation 14:6, 7. The Gospel for our world is the good news for the salvation of men. The mission of the church is to tell the world the good news, with the object of "making disciples." This mission is the task of the whole church. Every soul who identifies himself with Christ, every Adventist institution, department, agency, or commission should contribute to the winning of souls.

"It is important," said Brother Roenfelt, "that we consider the motive that should activate our mission." It is clear from our Saviour's attitude that "the consistent compelling motive of His mission was obedience. God is love. Christ is love. But it was obedience on the part of Christ that forged and focused and incarnated that love into a mission," emphasized Elder Roenfelt.

The Seventh-day Adventist worker does not have the privilege of choosing the place or the sphere of his service. The call to service is of God. The worker's attitude should always be one of obedience. Personal ambition, desire, interest, or consideration must be subordinated absolutely to the will of God.

The winning of souls is God's prerogative. Our business is obedience to God's call to be "witnesses" of His power to save. (Acts 1:8.) Many social requirements, relevant to Gospel ministry and demanding the worker's time and energy, should be secondary to the superior purpose.

Our mission is to give the witness of the Gospel by means of a demonstration of the saving power of Christ in our lives. Men will follow Jesus, if by our ministry we show them that we know Christ and are sure of the invitation we give them.

* * *

Trusting in Divine Power (November 30th)
 "THE TENSE days in which we live demand that men ought always to pray and not to faint (Luke 18:1)," declared Elder V. T. Armstrong. We shall either be praying men or fainting men. Our confidence and trust in God must grow.

The danger is that we trust in our resources, rather than in God. We as a people, are indeed "rich and increased in goods." Observe the array: Finances! Institutions! Buildings! Workers! Influence! and other visible assets. These indeed bring their responsibility, as also their danger of leading us into ruin. Drawing a warning from the experience of Solomon we read: "In the midst of prosperity lurks danger. Throughout the ages, riches and honour have ever been attended with peril to humility and spirituality. . . . It is prosperity that is most dangerous to spiritual life."—*Prophets and Kings*, pages 59, 60.

The danger of our association with a great organization is that presumption be mistaken for faith; that promoters take the place of preachers; that we become managers rather than ministers; that members are convinced instead of converted souls; that we multiply places of business rather than places of prayer.

The apostles had no resources. God was their only hope. They leaned heavily on the Arm of power. They "all continued with one accord in prayer," received the promised blessing, and amazing were the results.

It is through the latter rain alone that the work of God will be finished. We read: "This promise belongs as much to us as it did to them [disciples]. . . . This promised blessing, if claimed by faith, would bring all other blessings in its train, and it is to be given liberally to the people of God."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, pages 174, 175.

Our position demands of us a simple, childlike, trusting faith in God's ability to protect, provide, and preserve us through every circumstance.

* * *

When is it Going to be? (Sabbath morning, December 1st)

A PACKED New Gallery congregation received General Conference greetings through Elder V. T. Armstrong in the preface to his Sabbath morning message. "Everywhere," he said, "there is a spirit of inquiry. People are asking the meaning of our stirring times. Others, besides ourselves, believe Christ is coming again."

There is one question which appears to be looming up above all others. It is: "When is it going to be?"

In Christ's post-resurrection counsel to His disciples He answered this inquiry: "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons. . . . But ye shall receive power . . . and ye shall be witnesses . . . unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:7, 8. One sign remains unfulfilled—namely, the preaching of the Gospel to all the world. When that task is complete Jesus will come. It is not a question of time, measured in years, but rather a task to be finished. God's people hold the answer to the question, "When?"

"An index showing how near we are to the climactic event," observed Elder Armstrong, "can be concluded from the fact that according to United Nations' statistics there are 205 listed nations in the world. Adventists are operating in 184 of these, representing 98½ per cent of the world's population. There are 21 nations left. These are small nations, comprising 35 million people, and account for merely 1½ per cent of world population."

These nations will soon be covered by the Gospel "witness," judging by the acceleration of the message to the nations during recent years. Elder Armstrong recounted many experiences of the development of the Advent message in all the world. In South Africa, the Orient, South America, and Inter-America especially, great things are happening. The Spirit of God is indeed being poured out upon all flesh. "The reports brought by the delegates at the recent General Conference Autumn Council," he remarked, "caused the brethren to exclaim that the Second Book of Acts is in the process of publication. We shall hear those thrilling exploits when we reach the other side."

Hardship, persecution, imprisonment, and even execution have been the lot of our believers in some lands where religious liberty is unknown. It is in these countries where the work is thriving and converts are being added by thousands.

Macedonian calls are heard on all sides. A Seventh-day Adventist doctor and his wife, due for furlough from the Far East, travelled through Sarawak on their way home. As they passed through the country the great need of the people constrained them to give them medical attention. In their travels they met a native chief who informed them that he had erected a

school building, but had been waiting six years for a teacher. When would he come? He gave the doctor a present—a human skull, a trophy of the headhunter—in exchange for a teacher. He told him to show it to our people and ask them to send a teacher. Elder Armstrong remarked, "If that skull could speak it would say, 'I never heard the Gospel. I am a lost soul. You came too late!'" That call was answered. Today the chief is a Seventh-day Adventist and 2,000 of his subjects have accepted the message. The European governor of the territory was amazed at the change in the people, and reported that he had seen a miracle in Sarawak. It is our responsibility to respond to every call; to supply every need where possible.

Quickly the message is developing into the "Loud Cry." If we ask, "Watchman, what of the night?" the watchman replies, "The morning cometh. . . ." Isa. 21:11, 12.

The morning of Christ's coming is soon to dawn, when we shall be able to greet God's children from every land. Let us faithfully discharge our task so as to hasten that day.

* * *

What Does God Expect of Us? (Sabbath Afternoon, December 1st)

"WE HAVE come to the last of the last days," declared Elder E. E. Roenfelt. "The day of the Lord hasteth greatly." Zeph. 1:14. The world is plunged in "gross darkness," and God calls us to perform a task for Him, namely, that of leading the people out of darkness into the "marvellous light" of preparation to meet Jesus.

When Israel stood on the banks of the Jordan, with only the river to cross into the promised land, the Lord sent a message to the people: "Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." Joshua 3:5. The people responded. They prepared themselves. Then God performed His "wonders," to bring the people into Canaan.

Here we have a prototype of the Seventh-day Adventist movement. We are today poised on the borders of the heavenly home. God similarly sends us a message. In Joel's prophecy we identify our message: "The day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand; . . .

sanctify a fast . . . gather the people, sanctify the congregation . . . the Lord will do great things." Joel 2:1, 15, 16, 18, 21.

To Israel the barrier was the Jordan. To the Adventist movement the obstacle is an unfinished task, and our unpreparedness.

God is willing to do great things. "He will cause to come down for you the rain, . . . the latter rain." Verse 23. Prosperity follows. Note the expressions "full," "overflow" (Verse 24), "restore" (Verse 25), "plenty," "satisfied" (Verse 26). The important result of these blessings is that the people shall know the Lord God, "and none else." Verse 27. God must be supreme in our lives, demanding our undivided consideration, affection, and influence. If this is so then His power will flow through us. He will then use us to finish His work, and take us to our prepared home.

* * *

The Ideals of the Functions and Responsibilities of the Minister (December 2nd)

"THE apostle Paul," declared Elder Roenfelt, "never lost the surprise and wonder that God had called him to the ministry." (Eph. 3:1-7.) This is indeed the essential equipment for Gospel service.

Paul sets forth in this chapter the functions and responsibilities of the Gospel worker. These are twofold, namely: To "preach . . . the unsearchable riches of Christ; and to make all men see . . . the fellowship of the mystery." Verses 7-9. To "preach" is a relatively simple function, but to cause men to "see" requires a divine revelation.

When Jesus gave His commission, as recorded in Matthew 28:18-20, He promised His presence and power to every Christian worker. By His power men are saved; by His presence they are preserved in that salvation. To make effective the Gospel mandate, the minister must be conscious of the presence and power of Christ in his life and ministry.

In the enunciation of the closing Gospel message, as recorded in Revelation 14:6, 7, the messengers are required to live and preach the Gospel. What is the Gospel? It is "the power of God unto salvation." Rom. 1:16. The power which created the world and all its forms of life

is the same power which produces the re-creation of a soul. Our primary business is to do with "power." We are called to be ministers of that power. Our prophetic mission is clear—the messengers "having the everlasting Gospel" go forth "to preach." A paraphrase of this text would read: "Having the power of God unto salvation to preach." It is a possession and not merely a profession. We are not called to preach about the power of God, but to manifest by life and preaching the possession of the power of God.

As this witness of the Gospel is borne by life and lip, it offers men the most powerful argument for Christianity.

* * *

"Of What Sort?" (December 3rd)

"AS WORKERS we are building a house for God," said Elder Armstrong. Only the best materials must be used in the structure. Some day our work will be tested.

In a certain city a five-storey reinforced concrete structure collapsed while in the process of construction, and 300 workmen lost their lives. On investigation it was discovered that the builder had deliberately failed to adhere to the building specifications relative to the dimensions of the steel scaffolding and the texture of the concrete. Accordingly, when the test was applied, the quality of the work was revealed "of what sort" it was.

Frequently our missionaries in the Orient were told by unsympathetic scoffers that they were wasting their time with "rice Christians." The test came with the outbreak of World War II. Missionaries were either interned or returned to their homelands, and the believers were thrown upon their own resources. A fearful trial was experienced by our people. With the cessation of hostilities it was evident, aside from some apostasies, that the people had remained loyal and the membership had increased to 20,000 in Japan. Our message produces men and women of true fibre. The "fire" reveals "of what sort" they are.

That which we take into the kingdom will result from sacrifice. Indeed, the entire plan of salvation is steeped in sacrifice. The callous mob around the cross mockingly said: "He saved others, Himself He cannot save." Jesus was

making the supreme sacrifice, a pattern for us all.

A time of shaking is just ahead of us. Elijah's experience is one we should remember. Out of deep discouragement there came deliverance. The spiritual house will soon be complete. It will be tested by fire to determine "of what sort it is." It will withstand the fiery ordeal and be refined for eternity. May we and our work be found satisfactory in that day.

* * *

"Prayer and Ministry of Angels" (December 4th)

REFERRING to the conquerors of Mount Everest, Elder Armstrong declared that they may well claim our admiration for their resourcefulness, determination, and courage. No less, he went on, should be the resolution of God's people, who have as the objective of their achievement the summit of Mount Zion.

The apostles strove with indomitable fortitude to attain that goal. The servant of the Lord assures us: "All that the apostles did, every churchmember today is to do. And we are to work with as much more fervour, to be accompanied by the Holy Spirit in as much greater measure, as the increase of wickedness demands a more decided call to repentance."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, page 33.

The Lord has provided us with the twofold way this can be done: The first is prayer. "Remember that prayer is the source of your strength."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, page 243.

There are three types of prayer which every Adventist should pray. The prayer of David, as recorded in Psalm fifty-one, the prayer of true confession and repentance; the prayer of Daniel which we read in Daniel nine, a prayer for guidance and new light; the prayer of Christ in Gethsemane, that of absolute submission to the Father's will.

Why do we need to pray?

"It is part of God's plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask."—*The Great Controversy*, page 525.

Secondly, we are assured of the ministry of guardian angels.

"Every redeemed one will understand the ministry of angels in his own life.

The angel who was his guardian from his earliest moment; the angel who watched his steps, and covered his head in the day of peril; the angel who was with him in the valley of the shadow of death, who marked his resting-place, who was the first to greet him in the resurrection morning—what will it be to hold converse with him, and to learn the history of divine interposition in the individual life, of heavenly co-operation in every work for humanity!"—*Education*, page 305.

"Could our spiritual vision be quickened, we should see souls bowed under oppression and burdened with grief, pressed as a cart beneath sheaves,

and ready to die in discouragement. We should see angels flying quickly to the aid of these tempted ones, forcing back the hosts of evil that encompass them, and placing their feet on the sure foundation. The battles waging between the two armies are as real as those fought by the armies of this world, and on the issue of the spiritual conflict eternal destinies depend."—*Prophets and Kings*, page 176.

Let us not be fearful of formulating big plans. Heaven is extremely interested. As we become yoked with the resources Heaven offers, we become "labourers together with God" and He will thus finish His work.

My First Winter Council

By Robert W. Olson

Principal, Newbold Missionary College

"... INTO the streets and lanes, . . . into the highways and hedges, . . . that My house may be filled." These striking words served as the motto for the Winter Council held at the Stanborough Park church in Watford, November 27th to December 4th.

To keep this theme before our minds, a banner, beautifully lettered in shades of red and orange, was prominently displayed behind the pulpit. Pastor A. F. Tarr's opening message underscored the urgency of going "into the streets and lanes" to finish the work of God in the Northern European Division. He related a number of personal experiences when contacts were made with Mormons, Roman Catholics, and others. He exhorted us to emulate their zeal, though not necessarily their methods.

Another motto looked down upon the fifty delegates and hundreds of other churchmembers as they worshipped the Lord and discussed their mutual problems. Three simple words, "God is love," permanently fixed on the wall above the choir loft, had clearly made their impact upon the ministers and workers assembled. On the platform at the opening service were Swedish, Australian, South African, American, and British brethren—all working in harmony, unity, and love. When a message of greeting was

conveyed from some of our brethren behind the Iron Curtain, we thought, "What a miracle is wrought upon the hearts of men when they know by experience that 'God is love'!" Citizens of various earthly kingdoms but, first and foremost, all fellow citizens of the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The renewal of fellowship with our brethren is always one of the most precious blessings of any large gathering of Adventist believers. It was good to see the warm handclaps and happy smiles as old friendships were strengthened and new ones were formed. As Americans who have only recently come to Northern Europe, we have been struck with one predominating fact—the work here is just the same as it is in other parts of the world. We had been asked by the editor of the NORTHERN LIGHT to point out some of the differences which we noted in coming into this Division field for the first time. We were more impressed, however, with similarities than with differences. We felt just as much at home in this Division Council as we have felt at similar gatherings in America.

Especially was it gratifying to hear the frequent references to the Spirit of prophecy in the devotional messages and in the various reports given. The president of our Division field in his opening ser-

mon quoted the first half of a line from *Steps to Christ*, and asked the delegates to quote the rest of the sentence. Three hundred voices united in completing the quotation in a very obvious demonstration of a common familiarity with the writings of Ellen G. White. The quotation Pastor Tarr used began with the words: "Prayer is the key in . . ." (Can you finish it?) No doubt the presence of the prophetic gift among us is the greatest single cause of the close cohesion of Adventists, whether they are from Africa, Finland, Iceland, or Great Britain.

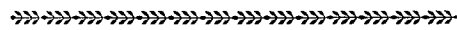
Nevertheless, when Pastor R. Svenson, president of the South Swedish Conference, offered prayer in his own tongue, we were forcibly reminded that there are some differences between America and the overseas fields. The Northern European Division is not a division of one language, but of many. As various Scandinavian and Dutch brethren prayed from time to time throughout the meetings we became accustomed to listening for the one word which seems to be the same in all languages, "Amen."

Unfamiliar too was the early sunset hour announced by the hymn boards. On checking our atlas we discovered that the entire Northern European Division, with the exception of the African mission fields, lies north of the United States' most northerly boundary. No wonder the children come home from school after sunset! This Division is not too far away from the North Pole!

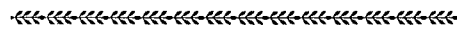
Day by day the meetings continued until of committees and reports there seemed to be no end, but never too much fellowship and never too many inspiring devotional services. As memory now recalls the blessings of the council, a literal kaleidoscope of pictures comes flooding into our mind. Particularly do we see Pastor Tarr in action, vigorously leading out in so many of the meetings and committees, and Pastor G. D. King's broad smile and ceaseless activity in keeping the council moving along according to schedule.

Our memories are primarily concerned with the faces and words of men. We greatly enjoyed listening to Pastor J. A. McMillan's inimitable precision of speech, and to the reports from the various Scandinavian and African ministers. Pastor Alf Lohne gave an intensely

interesting report on the sale of the old Onsrud school, and was very enthusiastic over Norway's new school now under construction. The whole delegation obviously enjoyed Pastor T. Torkelsen's description of the climate in the North Norway Conference as "ten months of winter and two months of poor skiing weather." We had thought that this Division was quite densely populated, but we heard Pastor Torkelsen tell us that in northern Norway the people are so isolated that he must use tape recorders as preachers in order to reach all of the churchmembers with Adventist sermons.



**"Make us of one heart and mind,
Courteous, pitiful, and kind,
Lowly, meek in thought and word,
Altogether like our Lord.
Let us each for others care,
Each the other's burden share.
To Thy church the pattern give,
Show how true believers live.
Free from anger and from pride,
Let us thus in God abide.
Make our daily life express
Constant love and holiness."**



We can still see Pastor E. Luukko as he bemoaned the fact that he felt so helpless in the English language. He invited the delegates to come to Finland to see how in their own language they really preach and work!

Especially thrilling were the reports given of advancement of the work of God in every field. Pastor J. Reichelt, president of the West Norway Conference, is preaching in a third floor hall, but every night there are 350 people who vie with one another for the available seats. Pastor H. Muderspach told of the one thousand children, mostly non-Adventist, who are being taught the truths of the Bible in the West Denmark Conference's Sunday schools. Pastor Thorvold Kristensen is preaching to 750 people regularly in his Copenhagen campaign, and has already had requests for our literature from 200 people. Pastor J. Gudmundsson gave an encouraging account of the way that our message is being received in Iceland,

especially by a number of Lutheran ministers. We were quite astonished to learn that our school in Iceland embraces an area of some 50,000 acres. That certainly must be the largest piece of property owned by Adventists anywhere in the world. The Iceland Conference also apparently enjoys the unique privilege of having the only pony who is on sustentation!

But it was the report from Africa which drew the greatest number of "amens" from the delegation, especially Pastor Nzotta's thrilling statement—and we copied it exactly as he spoke it: "People who never worshipped God before are coming to our church by the hundreds." Pastor Nzotta himself baptized ninety-two people on June 5th in Nigeria this year. He has trained every member in his district to be an evangelist, and his district is composed of twenty-nine churches with some 2,000 members.

Another African minister, Pastor C. B. Mensah, gave a moving description of the hundreds of Africans who are brought to Christ in "Evangelism Month" (August) every year. Pastor Mensah waxed so eloquent that Pastor Jesse Gibson was forced to engage in a little bit of coat-tail tugging to remind our African pastor that even an enthusiastic report on missions must have its limits!

The biggest report of all, however, was given by the biggest man. Skodsborg Sanitarium, with its 257 beds, is larger than any other sanitarium in our entire denomination. The delegates chuckled when Brother Westerland said that with only a 257-bed capacity, Skodsborg often had to accommodate over 300 patients. We still haven't learned exactly where he puts the extra forty-three and more!

And so the encouraging accounts of progress went on. Truly the Lord is blessing His Advent people in every material and spiritual way. We came away from the council with a deep sense of gratitude to God for permitting us to be a part of such a great and glorious programme. As the delegates returned to their homes, they went on their way with the conviction that time is short, and that the work of God in the earth must be finished soon. To this end they pledged their unceasing devotion to God and to the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Retrospect...

I WANT to express my sincere appreciation and thanks for this council. These meetings—especially the devotional meetings—have given one great inspiration and spiritual uplift. It is wonderful and a great privilege to be connected with God's work and to meet together as Gospel workers. We come from different countries and we have different habits and feelings, but I believe the main issue is that we know we are united in Jesus Christ, that we are saved by His grace, that we have collectively one big task: to live and to preach the everlasting Gospel, and that we have the same expectation for the future. Let us pray for each other that our personal religion may stand the tests which will come to each one of us. Pray for us as we humbly carry the message in our country just as we daily pray for you.

—F. J. VOORTHUIS, *Netherlands.*

AS WORKERS in the Lord's vineyard for several years, yet on our way to mission service for the first time, it has been a real blessing to have had the privilege of attending the Northern European Division Council. While listening to the reports from the various unions telling how the work is progressing in these final days of earth's history, it has thrilled our hearts to know that we have been called to have a small part in these great, culminating events. The spiritual tone of the meetings has been on such a high plane, that it has left us with the desire to subordinate self in every respect and with determination to go forth to live and labour to bring many souls "into the house of the Lord."

—MR. AND MRS. E. B. CHRISTIE,
West Africa.

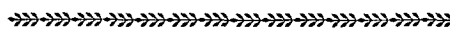
THE Winter Council has been a source of inspiration, blessing, encouragement, and a renewed strength for me to go forward in an effective work for the Master. I thank God for this wonderful experience.

—C. B. MENSAH,
Gold Coast.

THE Winter Council of the Northern European Division held on Stanborough Park, November 27th to December 4th, 1956, has been very unique in that it is

the first time Africans have been invited to attend.

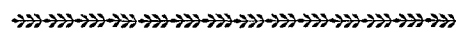
I was highly inspired by the soul-stirring messages which were delivered by the General Conference and Northern European Division leaders, and the encouraging reports from different parts of the Division. I was deeply impressed by the orderliness and Christlike atmosphere which pervaded every discussion and deliberation of the council. I sincerely hope that God will richly bless all that was said and done for the furtherance of the work. —J. A. OYELAKIN, *Nigeria.*



A Happy New Year

*To dare to go forth with a purpose true
To the unknown task of the year that's new;
To help your brother along the road,
To do his work, and lift his load;
To add your gift to the world's good cheer—
Is to have and to give a glad new year.*

—Selected.



THE simplicity, humility, unity, and love which existed among the Northern European Division Winter Council members has made a lasting impression upon my mind and a turning point of view in my Christian life.

—A. A. NZOTTA, *East Nigeria.*

STANBOROUGH PARK seems to be an ideal spot for the gathering of a Winter Council. The quietness of the Park with its green ferns and magnificent trees helps to create a spiritual atmosphere. Surely the sound judgment of the brethren who selected this place for the headquarters of our work in Great Britain deserves commendation. It was pleasing to the eye of the visitor to notice the redecoration of the church. The bright colours add much to the beauty of this fine church.

By mixing with the delegates and

watching their happy faces it has been evident that everyone feels at home. This fact, I believe, is due to the well-known and warm-hearted hospitality of the British people and the open fires in their homes.

—JULIUS GUDMUNDSSON,
Iceland.

I HAVE noticed the happiness among those in attendance at this council, and their faith in Christ and in the things connected with our message. There is an active search for new possibilities for promoting the work of God. I feel there is an excellent spirit and honest willingness to understand one another and to help one another. In spite of our many nationalities and varied outlooks, personal feelings, and opinions there is a spirit of unity, because we are all seeking to do the will of God. I am very impressed that the brethren of the Division in their great responsibilities have faith in God's guidance. This happiness and faith gives us a feeling of security and rest in the knowledge that we are labouring together with those who are the children of God and who are working for the honour of God and the saving of the world.

—J. A. DE RUITER, *Netherlands.*

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