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Eighth Division Winter Council

Held at Skodsborg Badesanitarium, Skodsborg, Denmark

November 5 to 12, 1958

"Hasting Unto the Day of God"

WHAT an ideal spot for a Division Council is Skodsborg! There in the Sanitarium is every facility such a gathering needs. Situated in its lovely grounds between sea and hills, it has a peace of its own which speaks inevitably of the Master we serve. Equipped with ample excellent accommodation, it is a home from

home for delegates who have travelled over endless miles to get there. Staffed with an efficient, thoughtful, never tiring worker force, it has every desirable material comfort—not least of which is the seemingly inexhaustible supply of attractive food which graces its spotless tables. Blessed with a wonderful new

church, it has adequate facilities for meetings and committees, large or small, all within the confines of its boundaries. Surely one of the many highlights of this Council was its meeting at lovely Skodsborg.

Somehow the new church building epitomised the spirit of the meeting.

Modern in concept and design from basement to lofty roof, it told of an up-to-date message streamlined to meet the every need of this 1958 age. And yet that up-to-date message had its roots deep in the eastern past, for just as that modern building was illuminated by lanterns of ancient oriental design, so was that Advent message illuminated by the Light that shone so brightly in the East two thousand years ago. How appropriate it was that triumphs of the Gospel story throughout the Division territories were recited before the stained glass window depicting the ever pleading Christ. Surely the Saviour is rightly in the centre of His church, and never for a moment was this thought forgotten in the deliberations, exhortations, and reports that were delivered in that magnificent building.

But thank God this Council was concerned not merely with the past and the present no matter how glorious these may be, but with the future as well. Only as the past and present prepare a people for the dawn of God's tomorrow are they of interest to such a council as this. No wonder then, that the motto chosen should read: "Hasting unto the day of God." This was the keynote of all deliberations, and the spur to wider, more constructive planning.

As visitors from the General Conference we had Brethren V. G. Anderson and C. L. Torrey, vice-president and treasurer of our world organization respectively. Wise in counsel and friendly in disposition, they will be remembered by most of the delegates for their forthright, practical messages at the devotional hour.

With the deep conviction in his heart that we as a people have something well worth shouting about, Elder Anderson threw himself into an earnest, enthusiastic, powerful presentation that gripped his seasoned audience from first to last. Here are a few pithy sentences that stand out in one's mind as we meditate on the stirring messages he brought. First, no matter what the problem, "God is able." "No discouraging thought came from Him." The kind of co-operation He wants was illustrated by the boy in the race who, referring to his aching feet, prayed: "Lord, You lift them up, and I'll put them down." He won!

Sunday's devotional was on the theme

of feeding the flock. Seriously he remarked: "It doesn't feed the flock to whip them and set the dog on them. They need courage to know that they can make it." Later referring to the report of the spies as they entered the promised land, when the inhabitants were as giants and the timid spies felt as grasshoppers in their sight, he pointedly added: "Too many of us are grasshoppers today—hopping about doing nothing!" "If you talk negative, people will murmur all right. Remember that the Lord is with us." "We may not make it, but the message will make it."

Brother Torrey's messages were of a quieter kind, but again pointed and practical as befitted a good treasurer. From roots that went deep into the history of this movement he told of the sad story of men who put themselves before the message, and of the shipwreck they made of their experiences. Thank God though that "we can do nothing against the truth." He, too, expressed the urgency of the hour.

Busily engaged in a multitude of duties were the officers and departmental leaders of the Division. Pastor Tarr in his opening address pointed to the motto as the over-riding theme of the council. As we hasten unto the day of the Lord, the time is urgent—desperately urgent. Quoting from the Spirit of prophecy he read: "The angels are waiting for men;" and then squarely facing the delegation declared: "Those men for whom the angels wait are here tonight." When God's people have preached the Gospel, Jesus will come, but until that work is done Jesus cannot come. We must have a sense of urgency to finish the task. We must evangelize by preaching simple Bible truth.

The smooth working of the council with its sessions and committees and sub-committees was a tribute to the careful planning of its indefatigable secretary, Pastor G. D. King, and to the co-operation of Pastors M. E. Lind, J. M. Bucy, and Brother A. Karlman of the Division staff. Nor do we forget the excellent service rendered by the two young lady stenographers from Edgware. Without their typing, retyping, and their continual duplicating, committee work would have been impossible. Pastor King took time from his busy programme to address the

assembly on Friday evening, and it was well seen that he was reared in the stable of active evangelism. Pastor Lind conducted the Sabbath school in his enthusiastic way. All were happy to acknowledge the good work of Brother Karlman at the treasury and to give thanks for his return to full health and strength once more.

Present also were the presidents and secretary-treasurers of the union territories within the Division, together with the local presidents of home based conferences and missions. For the first time since the re-organization of the Division, the leaders from Poland were present, and right glad we were to have their company. Greenland, too, was represented for the first time, and thrilling was the story of progress Andreas Nielsen gave. All the unions reported, and excellent progress was revealed on every hand. One rather sad note was struck at the last meeting when C. Gidlund, president of the Swedish Union, reminded us that this would be the last Winter Council he would attend. He has laboured faithfully and well through the years, and all wished him well when the time for his well-earned rest eventually comes.

But busy as a session such as this is, the need for relaxation had by no means been forgotten. On Monday evening, November 10th, all work stopped, and time was devoted to the pleasures of the traditional Danish banquet so wonderfully provided by the doctors, management, and staff of the Sanitarium. First was shown a most thrilling film of travel and mission work in South America; then followed the sumptuous meal laid in the candle-lit dining room. In harmony with Danish custom, this meal lasted well over an hour and a half, and the numerous and attractive courses were interspersed with speeches, and songs, and music specially prepared for the occasion. Following the banquet all retired to the Sanitarium lounge where the entertainment continued until the lateness of the hour called a halt. Truly this happy evening will long live in the memories of those privileged to enjoy it.

Now the Council has closed, its reports and its decisions have been written into denominational history. The fifty-three delegates have gone back to their wide-

flung fields determined to press on as never before to the finishing of the Gospel task. Ringing in their ears as they take up the task anew is the inspiration of Bible challenge made doubly impressive by the sweet singing of Skodsborg's

talented youth. It is their intention to heed the admonition of: "Steady, boy, steady," as they shoulder the heavy burdens that stand in their way, but ever to "steam ahead" "hasting unto the day of God" soon to dawn. K. A. ELIAS.

Triumphs of the Gospel Story

NETHERLAND UNION



F. J. Voorthuis
President

THE membership of the Netherland Union at present stands at 2,580. This is an increase of 84 members over the past year.

During the past eight years there has been an increase of nearly 100 per cent in tithes and in Ingathering. This

year our members sold 100,000 Ingathering magazines. One brother and sister together sold more than 1,900 papers. The youngest member in one of our churches, 15 years of age, sold 150 magazines. Two sisters, over seventy years, sold together 800 magazines. We are very thankful for the faithfulness and willingness of our members, and we have reason to repeat the words of David: "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy Name."

During the Ingathering Campaign one of our young ministers visited a factory. As he entered the private office, the manager looked at the magazine and read that a leper can be healed by a gift of f.100 (£10) for medicine. The manager was moved by this message and said: "I will pay for the medicine for five lepers," and he gave f.500.

The Voice of Prophecy Department is doing excellent work. This year more than 3,000 new applications came in. We have received as gifts more than f.5,000. Our ministers have a visiting list of 307 interested people and 29 students have been baptized.

In several cities the film: "The Ten Commandments," has been shown. In Amsterdam a few of our members distributed Voice of Prophecy handbills to the people as they left the cinema, so that after they had seen the film about the Ten Commandments, our Bible Course would show them how to keep the Commandments.

A few weeks later a couple came to our church one Sabbath. They told us that they had received a card after they had seen the film. Now these two good people want to join the church.

The Missionary Volunteer Department held a very inspiring youth congress in a wonderful hall in Utrecht. More than 600 boys and girls gathered there and M. E. Lind was our guest. We are very grateful for his inspiring help. A Senior camp was held for ten days and a Junior camp for one week, and we had six week-end camps. We were happily surprised to learn that the Division has decided to hold the international Youth Congress in 1960 in Utrecht. We are sure that it will be a great blessing to our field.

Our colporteurs are doing an excellent work. During the past nine months their receipts were f.92,586, that is f.17,056 more than in the same period last year. We baptized three souls as a direct result of their activity.

We are now in the process of building a new Union church and office building at The Hague. A few weeks ago the foundation stone was laid. We had an open-air service and our members, many friends and all the workers on the building were present. Several newspapers published a good report with illustrations.

There is a text in Isaiah which says that "the strangers shall build up thy walls." Isa. 60:10. These words were fulfilled

when the King of Persia and his governors helped Nehemiah build the walls of Jerusalem. But at the moment we see a similar picture in The Hague. The mayor and aldermen of our city have decided to give us f.62,700 as a help in the building of our church. I believe this is unique in our denomination that non-Adventists are helping build an Advent church.

The new wing of our Old People's Home is now ready. We have a fine institution with 26 single rooms, 24 double rooms, and two rooms each for three persons. Together we have 80 old people living in this institution with 16 staff members. Twelve of these 80 occupants are not yet members of our church. I said "not yet" because during the past years seven persons in the Home have become Adventists; four from the old people, and three from the staff. A few weeks ago we received a visit of inspection from about twenty leading men for social work in our Government. As they left they made this remark: "This is one of the best houses we have seen." And this is true, for the accommodation is good and there is a peaceful atmosphere.

In our Children's Home we had 70 children during the summer and at present there are 50. It is a wonderful work which our sisters are doing for these poor children. Our institution is recognized and under control of the Social and Health Department of our Government. Every year in December our Children's Home is adopted by one or two large factories. They make a big feast for the children and everybody receives presents. This year our institution has been adopted by the labour radio company which broadcasts daily over Radio Hilversum. I am sure our boys and girls will have a good time in December. Nearly all the children are from non-Adventist parents. They learn their morning and evening prayers and also pray at mealtime. The nurses tell them Bible stories and later when they go home they are a great blessing to their parents. We have baptized five who came to us as little children, and from the staff seven, altogether 12 young people.

"The Lord is doing great things for us; whereof we are glad!"

F. J. VOORTHUIS.

POLISH UNION



J. Zielinski
President

POLAND has now nearly thirty million inhabitants for whom Christ died. More than 28 million citizens are Roman Catholics, and only a small minority of the population are Greek Orthodox, Lutherans, and other Protestant

confessions, Jews, and non-believers. All these millions are in urgent need of the proclamation of the Advent message.

In Poland we can still see numerous groups of pilgrims walking to the localities declared by the Catholic church as holy places, to pray before so-called miraculous images. They are seeking pardon for their sins, peace, and salvation. What a great difference there is between these poor people and our own dear members, who have received Christ as their personal Redeemer. It is a joy to see our members gather together for their annual meetings, and how glad they are to hear the Word of God which brings them both peace and strength. Being comforted by the Word of the Lord and His divine promises they return home happy, and filled with heavenly joy.

Poland is still a fortress of papacy. The Polish Catholics are fanatical defenders of popish doctrines. But in spite of this fanatical attitude of Catholic clergy and laity, Poland is a good country for the preaching of the Advent message, and the efforts of our workers and lay members bring a good harvest.

MEMBERSHIP

Our Lord has blessed the efforts of His servants in the year 1958 and now 3,307 faithful members are waiting for the second coming of Christ. Of these 261 have been baptized in 1958. There are sixty-one churches and fifty-eight groups. We are sorry to have lost 189 members by emigration to Germany.

REPAIRS AND BUILDINGS

Our Union was forced to perform in

the current year a lot of renovations and repairs to buildings because it was not possible to do any of this work during the past four years. We have repaired the roofs of our mission buildings in Warszawa, Krakow, Poznan, Bielsko, and Kamienica. Renovation of church halls was carried out in Gdynia, Bialystok, Lublin, Warszawa, Krakow, Zagan, Poznan, and Bielsko. We have also rebuilt two apartments in our mission house in Gdynia to accommodate two workers. In Warszawa we have finished the building of six rooms in a garret. Besides the above mentioned repairs and buildings we were compelled to buy two apartments for our workers in Warszawa.

SABBATH SCHOOL AND MV DEPARTMENTS

We have a Sabbath school membership of 3,442 with 143 Sabbath schools. We also have forty-one MV societies with a membership (sixteen to thirty-five years) of 548 with 617 Juniors and children. We organized in July of this year a camp meeting for our young people. Over 120 took the opportunity to spend their vacation in a Christian atmosphere, to study and pray together and to build their faith in Christ. This was the first camp of its kind ever held in Poland but we are planning to arrange a similar one next year and for a larger number. The results of such camps are very satisfactory.

PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT

We are publishing at the present time three periodicals: *Znaki Czasu* ("Signs of the Times"), 5,000 monthly; a bi-monthly church paper, *Sluga Zboru*, and the Sabbath School Quarterly (3,500). We are now printing a church hymnal with 600 hymns. We also have permission to print two books: *The Story of Redemption*, by E. G. White, and: *Watch Therefore*, by G. Tobler. These have just been printed. Now that there is liberty in Poland we ought to use it to prepare publications for evangelistic work.

MISSION SCHOOL

Five years ago we were compelled to close our training school. Now the Lord has helped us to re-open it. We have thirty-three students, and they are pre-

paring for the work of the Lord. The principal and manager is Pastor Andrew Maszczak. The rest of the staff is composed of three teachers and one administrative worker. The operation of the school is causing the union serious problems. The buildings are old and inadequate. We need a new administrative building and also a dormitory for the students. The teachers need an apartment house. We have no library, so indispensable to a school, and no laboratory. We urgently need all of these buildings.

GENERAL REMARKS

Poland is a needy country. It suffered heavy losses in World War II. Many Polish towns were destroyed. In spite of energetic action by the Polish Government in rebuilding, there are still great needs. We have no apartments in many towns for our workers. Many of our churches have no church halls. More than forty churches are holding their services in private homes, and before the meeting can begin furniture has to be removed. In many instances where the membership has grown the halls are too small. So we need financial help for the building of new church halls, at least in the larger towns. If we could get adequate financial help the work in Poland could be developed in a correspondingly short time. We also have many needy people in our churches and the union is compelled to supply them with clothing and food.

The circumstances under which our ministers work are hard. They get only 300 zl. (\$3) as travelling allowance per month and are forced to walk long distances on foot.

While there is liberty in Poland we ought to use the time to build up the work. We are thankful to the Northern European Division for their special efforts to help our union. Especially are we thankful to Elder A. F. Tarr for his kindness and brotherly love and care for the work and the workers in the Polish Union. The Polish Union is indebted to Elder Tarr for his personal efforts to restore the normal relations in the work in Poland after a period of stagnation and trouble. Now we ask if you will kindly take into consideration our present needs.

JOSEPH ZIELINSKI.

FINLAND UNION



O. Peltonen
President

GOD has blessed the evangelistic work in Finland during the years 1957 and 1958. Last year 390 persons were won to the truth and so far this year 339. The membership of the union has for the first time exceeded the five-

thousand mark. It now stands at 5,041. We rejoice greatly in the fact that the Advent message is going forward and winning souls for the Lord.

The tithe increased during the year 1957 by more than twenty per cent, although toward the end of the year a period of financial depression commenced in Finland. The great unemployment in the winter and spring of 1958 led to a decrease in tithe to an alarming degree. Because of this, our young workers had to canvass or do some other work, for several months. Some of our older workers voluntarily gave one month's salary or made other sacrifices. Our people have been faithful, and we are glad to report that as the year closes, the tithe has reached again the same level as this time last year. If the financial situation had been normal, the tithe would surely have increased by twenty per cent.

Our Ingathering goal was reached in record time. About 60,000 magazines were sold. In Finland we are not allowed to solicit for money.

The mission offerings have also increased in spite of difficult times. The million-dollar offering was exceeded, only in marks! The total being £1,200.

We have experienced God's goodness and blessing in all other branches of our work including the educational, summer health, youth, and literature work. The colporteurs have given faithful and excellent service in spite of the depression when they are generally hit the first and the hardest. The literature sales in 1957 totalled 85 million marks (about £90,000), of which the colporteurs raised

about £75,000. While the beginning of 1958 looked dark, we are now glad to report that the work is going even better than last year.

The Bible Correspondence School has done good work and more than thirty persons have been won directly by its activity. In addition to this, many of those who have been won by our ministers and laity have taken the courses and thus have been strengthened and estab-

lished in the truth. Of special interest was a Bible Correspondence School camp which was arranged last summer at our youth camp. Here a nice group of students attended as well as some of our church-members. Our main doctrines were clearly and powerfully presented, and five of those who had finished their course accepted the truth and we had the joy of baptizing them in the nearby beautiful lake.

ONNI PELTONEN.

BRITISH UNION



J. McMillan
President

THE membership of the British Union now stands at 8,679, representing 104 churches and 49 companies. It is interesting to note that whereas in the past it has taken around ten years to add 1,000 members, the last 1,000 were added in only four years.

SECONDARY SCHOOL

Stanborough Boarding School opened in January 1958 with an enrolment of twelve. A new science laboratory and handicraft centre have been installed in a cedarwood building, thus releasing rooms for class work in the main building. During the Ingathering campaign this year the school personnel collected £618. The present total enrolment of the school is 316.

THE STANBOROUGH PRESS

Sales for 1957 showed an increase of £10,000 over the previous year. The outstanding achievement of the past year has been the installation of the new two-colour offset litho printing machine. The first output of this new machine was W. L. Emmerson's new book, *Footprints of Jesus*. The first edition of 15,000 was sold out in three months. One student sold £1,400 worth of books, and another £1,200 during the past summer, and over forty scholarships were gained by the student group.

GRANOSE FOODS

The first nine months of this year record an increase of £8,000 in total sales. Progress has been made in the programme of mechanization of the plant. We owe much to the engineering skill of G. E. Norris for the excellent machines that cook the rolls, biscuits, etc., which are manufactured.

During the past twelve months, Granose Foods has taken over the promotion of health evangelism throughout the British Isles. Miss K. Mahon, a former Bible instructor, who taught health evangelism in the New Gallery for two years, is now under the supervision of the Granose management and is associating with various evangelistic efforts throughout the field. Her services have been much appreciated both by the evangelists and the members. This service has cost Granose Foods about £1,500 for a twelve-month period, but they feel that it is worth while.

THE STANBOROUGHS

Since the end of World War II, the Hydro has been the "Cinderella" of our Union institutions. This was due to the National Health Scheme. Heavy losses were suffered in the years of reconstruction. However, the institution has been climbing steadily out of the morass of debt until the income for the forty-two weeks ending September 18th this year was £36,636, an increase of £6,756 over the corresponding period of 1957. The weekly average income for the past five years has risen from £505 to £867.

The letting capacity has steadily increased over the past ten years by cutting out waste space, utilizing rooms which heretofore were used for other purposes, and so reaching a more consistent income throughout the year. It is hoped that this

year, for the first time since 1945, the Hydro will be completely self-supporting.

"WOODLANDS" REST HOME

Another Old People's Home has just been officially opened in Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland. This will accommodate some fifteen residents, in addition to staff.

VOICE OF PROPHECY

We are glad to report that the applications for the Bible Correspondence Course for the first nine months of this year show an increase of 1,100 over the same period last year, the total being 9,340. The enrolments for the same period numbered 3,862. The number of test papers sent in and examined by the Bible instructors was 62,714. This would be the equivalent of 62,000 Bible studies given in the homes and represents a worth-while endeavour on the part of the Bible school.

The students have shown their appreciation of the lessons by sending in £755 as gifts during the nine months.

The number of baptisms of Voice of Prophecy students during the past five years are:

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|-----------------------|-----|
| 1954 | 186 |
| 1955 | 178 |
| 1956 | 115 |
| 1957 | 76 |
| 1958 (9 months) | 116 |

Another interesting fact which has been reported by the Voice of Prophecy is that over 400 students subscribe to the Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly after completing the Bible courses, also that sets of the Voice of Prophecy lessons were recently sent into Russia by request of some who evidently were able to listen to the radio programme.

According to poll estimates, the audience listening to our radio programme every Friday night has been steadily increasing. In 1956 the number was estimated at 480,000; in 1957, at 730,000; and for 1958 over 834,000.

The Voice of Prophecy is the second most popular religious programme on Radio Luxembourg, even the well-known Billy Graham radio programme being well down toward the bottom of the list.

J. A. McMILLAN.

WEST NORDIC UNION

THE NEW Norwegian Junior College is now a fact. It was opened on September 18th, according to plan and packed with students. By sacrificing comfort, rooms were made available for 107 students, 96 of whom live in the dormitory. In spite of this, more students applied than we were able to accept.



**Alf Lohne
President**

The new property is forty miles north-west of Oslo, and situated on the shores of beautiful Lake Tyrifjord. From the building there is a wonderful view over the lake with hills and snowclad mountains beyond.

The press has given much publicity to this new and modern college, and the interest of leading men of the country has been caught.

Our churchmembers have rallied wonderfully, and so far kr. 200,000 (£10,000) has been donated. This is the largest gift ever subscribed by our members for any one project.

MEMBERSHIP

During the first three quarters of 1958, 317 precious souls have been won. This is seven more than last year. We are glad for the steady growth in membership. There are now 8,910 Seventh-day Adventists in the Union. Compared with the small population of seven and a half million, the membership is high; but when measured by distances, the church families are greatly scattered. The coastline of Norway alone is more than 2,000 miles long; and the Faroe Islands of Denmark, far out in the Atlantic, are also within our field. Our departmental secretaries often spend several weeks at a time visiting in the field.

NEW CHURCH BUILDINGS

Four fine new churches have been dedicated since the last Division Council. One is the very attractive Nærum church in East Denmark, where the churchmem-

bers themselves, led by a lay brother, Chr. Jensen, did an almost unbelievable task in work and raising money. Fifty per cent of the total cost was raised by the members. The church seats well over 300 people. This church building has brought a new day to the Nærum church.

Drammen churchmembers in East Norway have also done admirably in building their new church home which seats about 300.

In Silkeborg, West Denmark, a very good-looking and well kept State church has been purchased for the comparatively small sum of 60,000 DKr. (£3,000.)

Beyond the Arctic Circle, Harstad church was dedicated on August 23, 1958. Designed by a lay brother who is a ship-builder by trade, it created great interest and fine comment by the press and local officials. It seats 160.

EVANGELISM

Evangelism is strongly carried on in all conferences. The presidents in five conferences have themselves led the way in conducting public campaigns. While this puts a heavy load on these brethren, the inspiration given thereby to their fellow evangelists can hardly be overestimated.

INGATHERING

The Ingathering so far is five per cent above last year at the same time. At the end of the third quarter we had Kr. 381,383.17 (£19,000).

The teachers and students at Vejle-fjord Højskole in Denmark did exceptionally well this year. In three days they collected Kr. 20,157 (£1,000) and broke all records.

LITERATURE

The two Danish conferences, together with the Danish Publishing House, are keeping the churches busy with a new series of attractive tracts after the pattern of the *It is Written* campaign in the U.S.A. They also plan on spreading 50,000 copies of a special edition of *Steps to Christ*.

The literature sales in Norway have broken all records, being 15 per cent above last year, and reaching on October 1st, the sum of kr. 953,251.69 (£47,000). For the first time in our history we have

had a \$10,000 literature evangelist in Norway. A new man in the field who was forced out of his business took up canvassing instead. His large sales have inspired the whole canvasser force mightily. The sale of books in sets has increased literature sales considerably.

DEPARTMENTAL WORK

The Sabbath School Department has translated and printed the splendid little book, *Handbook for Sabbath School Teachers*. Our old and respected Brother Erik Arnesen did the translation. He also translated the book *Desire of Ages*, which is now being printed in Norwegian as a book for canvassers to sell.

Campers numbering 1,113 took part in eight camps in Denmark, Norway, and the Faroe Islands. The two permanent camp sites, "Aunsborg" in Denmark and "Sommerfryd" in North Norway play a very important rôle in making the camping programme a success.

The new health course in Denmark has been a success from the start. More than half of the students completing the course continue with the doctrinal course.

New this year was a summer vacation school. Sixty members from Denmark and Norway took part in a ten-day Bible Course, and instruction in church activity. Expenses were met by the members.

SKOGLI SANITARIUM

Our sanitarium at Lillehammer has increased its capacity by twenty beds, and has at last installed its much needed elevator. Long waiting lists keep the Sanitarium running constantly at full capacity.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

A steady and increasing stream of favourable news reports appear in the public press in Denmark and Norway. Thousands of people are in this way becoming acquainted with our beliefs and our work in a more positive way.

Only glimpses of the many-sided soul-winning efforts carried out in our wide field can be included in this report. All departments and institutions are busily doing their part in completing the work to be done in our section of the vineyard. Eternity alone will give a correct picture of what is truly being done.

ALF LOHNE.

SWEDISH UNION



Carl Gidlund
President

I BRING you warm greetings from 3,900 Adventists in our field. I thank God for the loyalty and the spirit of sacrifice that is manifest among them in Sweden and in the Swedish speaking parts of Finland.

It is well known that the Swedish nation is one of the most materialistic in the world. The people seem to have no use for religion; and religion is influencing them less and less. Dr. Billy Graham experienced this when he preached in our country four years ago. It is very hard for our evangelists to overcome this indifference. It is worse than open conflict or persecution. But in spite of all adversities, the Advent message reaches people in different ways.

The Bible Correspondence School is accomplishing a wonderful work and winning many souls. For instance, one enrolment card found its way to a farmer's home in a remote place. The housewife signed it, and sent it back to the school. When the first lesson came, she started to study immediately. After a few months, she made her decision to accept and obey Christ, and asked for baptism. But then real hardship began. Her husband told her she now had to choose between her home or her new faith. She made her choice, was baptized, and had to leave her home and family. Now she is starting a new life, and is taking a course in physiotherapy. When the Advent message takes hold of a human heart, it conveys a mighty power to the person, power to resist difficulties.

In our small union, we have a number of fine health institutions. Hultafors usually has 135 to 140 patients. During the first three quarters of this year, the institution broke all previous records and made a net gain of 82,000 Swedish kroner (\$16,200). Hultafors is located in the South Swedish Conference, and in the North Swedish Conference we have

another fine sanitarium, Nyhyttan. Here we have around 65 to 70 guests. While Nyhyttan is our oldest sanitarium, yet it is now developing into a modern institution. The chaplain at Hultafors preaches to larger crowds than any of our ministers. Our sanitariums are sowing seed that has brought and will continue to bring, a wonderful harvest for God.

In the Finland Swedish Conference we have a small health institution, Silverud-den. This small sanitarium has now started a building programme whereby seventeen new guest rooms will be added as well as new treatment rooms.

In 1957 and 1958 we dedicated two new church buildings. One is in Vasa, Finland. It is a beautiful church, and it was a brave enterprise for the small Swedish Conference to undertake. It serves both the Swedish and the Finnish congregation in the town. The other new church is located in the beautiful little town of Gränna in the South Swedish Conference. A sister in that place donated 30,000 Swedish kroner (\$6,000) toward the building.

The publishing work has had some good success. During the first three quarters of this year they have passed the sales figure of last year with 77,500 Sw. kroner.

Last but not least I would mention our school at Ekebyholm, where we have 127 students this school year. The greater number are from non-Adventist homes. Some of these have already been baptized.

Five hundred metres from the school is the "Institution of Thankfulness" the home for our old people. We admire our old people for their faithfulness and their zeal for the cause of God. Theirs is a spirit of sacrifice. Their Sabbath school and mission offerings are the largest per capita in our union. They gathered about 3,000 kroner in this year's Ingathering campaign. Think of these dear old folk, between seventy and ninety-two, marching along with the rest of the Swedish Advent people to fulfil the great commission our Lord has given us!

We believe that the best days of God's cause in our land are in the future—yes, right ahead of us. We want to give ourselves whole-heartedly to God's service.

C. GIDLUND.

ICELAND



J. Gudmundsson
President

THE population of Iceland now stands at 166,000. We have no millions to deal with and therefore the writer has no big report to present. Our task, however, is to let the light of the Advent message shine before our small population and to reveal to

them that this is God's message for our generation. We now have 376 members who represent eight churches and groups. The size of the country is two and a half times the size of Denmark, so distances are fairly great and the roads not too good.

Last year fifteen persons were added to the church. This is not a large number, just a little more than four per cent gain. So from the viewpoint of winning new converts, our progress has been slow. But from the viewpoint of a long term programme with the object of preparing the minds of the people for the acceptance of our message, we have been making great progress during recent years. To illustrate I shall give you a few incidents:

A year ago a few of our workers and the writer were invited to a banquet which was held by one of the Lutheran churches in Reykjavik. This church had used our church for their Sunday services for some years, but now they were dedicating a building of their own. At this dinner, their minister made a speech in which he said: "From my childhood I have been longing to come into contact with a group of people who do not only preach Christianity, but who show true Christianity in their personal lives. By knowing the Adventists this dream has been fulfilled for the first time in my life!" Among the guests present were some of the dignitaries of the city. I thought this was a wonderful tribute paid to Seventh-day Adventists.

The conservative wing of the Lutheran Church has always been much opposed to Adventists. But now it seems that we are gradually wiping out all our enemies

by making friends of them. Last year we came into contact with one of their important men who is a minister in the neighbourhood of our College. We invited him to take an evening worship for the students. At the time his fellow minister, now ninety years old, and who had founded the Y.M.C.A. in Iceland, was a guest in his home. So they visited the school together and spent the entire evening with us. The old minister who has not thought too highly of Adventists, was very thrilled with the spirit of the school and the singing of the young people. He said that this was a real revelation to him and he surely would have something new to tell his people when he got home.

The public press has formed a habit of writing about us quite frequently, and always in a very friendly way.

About a month ago one of the staff of the State radio called me up on the telephone and asked if I would be willing to give them an interview on their programme on the following Sunday evening and tell about our College. I seized the opportunity and as this was the beginning of our Ingathering campaign, I made an appeal during my speech to the public to support this good work by their donations.

Our secret goal was to try to average one crown from every individual in the country. When I left Iceland, Brother Johansen, our Home Missionary leader, told me that he knew of 175,000 crowns that had already been gathered, and more were expected.

During past years the Ingathering has grown to be a real mission campaign. We try to put as much of our message into the magazine as possible, and it goes into practically every home in the more populous districts of the country. A few years ago the Ingathering brought in less than 20,000 crowns, this year it may reach 200,000.

The College which was opened eight years ago has been growing and gaining the respect of the whole nation. It was originally designed for forty students. When I left, the students numbered sixty-nine, and another was still expected, so I believe there are now seventy. You can imagine how crowded we are. We have had to turn down at least as many applications as the ones we accepted.

A number of students are from non-Adventist homes; but we have the opportunity of selecting them. This year we have three sons of medical doctors, and the latest student is a daughter of a prominent Lutheran minister. The school has become a real mission project, and we are winning many of these young people, and we are saving and keeping our own.

Two evangelistic campaigns are about to begin. We trust they will bring new souls into our churches, and that they will help us to let the light of the Advent message shine all over Iceland.

J. GUDMUNDSSON.

Evangelistic News

NEWS has just reached us that Pastor G. Paulsen, newly elected president of the North Norway Conference, has commenced his evangelistic campaign. The meetings are being conducted in Tromsø, a town situated far beyond the Arctic circle. The local press has given great publicity to the meetings. We quote:

"The Haandverker Hall was overcrowded last night when Pastor Th. G. Paulsen of the Adventist church conducted the first of a series of evangelistic meetings. The doors had to be closed, and many were unable to get in."

Another paper writes concerning Pastor Paulsen's itinerating along the rugged coast of Northern Norway as follows:

"The new leader of the Adventist church in North Norway does not hide the fact that he is looking forward to the many tasks that are confronting him. Already he has visited a number of his churches along the coast. In Berlevaag he experienced being hoisted ashore in a canvas sheet during a terrifying storm."

NORTHERN LIGHT

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