

The Advent **REVIEW** AND Sabbath **HERALD**

»»»» GENERAL CHURCH PAPER OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS «»»»



PRESIDENTS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Reading From Left to Right:

First Row: John Byington, 1863-1865; James White, 1865-1867, 1869-1871, 1874-1880; J. N. Andrews, 1867-1869

Second Row: George I. Butler, 1871-1874, 1880-1888; O. A. Olsen, 1888-1897; G. A. Irwin, 1897-1901

Third Row: A. G. Daniells, 1901-1922; W. A. Spicer, 1922-1930; C. H. Watson, 1930-1936; J. L. McElhany, 1936-

Story of the Day

Thursday, June 6

By CARLYLE B. HAYNES

THE leadership of the cause of God remains unchanged. J. L. McElhany continues to serve as General Conference president for another term. That was quickly settled and unanimously voted on the first day of this session. It required little time with the Nominating Committee to determine the name to report to fill the chief office of this movement.

There had been, of course, much discussion of this. As long as human beings remain human beings, they are bound to be deeply interested and sometimes greatly concerned about matters of this kind. There has been all manner of guesses. Who will be elected?—this has been in all minds and on many lips.

Now that it is settled, we can get on with other, and perhaps equally as important, business.

This was the single office filled by the first report of the Nominating Committee. It came at the opening of the afternoon session of Thursday, the first full day of the Conference. Many other offices remain to be filled. Every report of the Nominating Committee will be awaited with deep interest.

We come back, now, to cover the opening meetings of the session from Wednesday night on. The account of the presidential election has been presented first because it is first in interest in a report which endeavors to cover the first day's activities. The beginning of the Conference was last evening and the story of the day begins there.

The moment has arrived. The great meeting, the first of the forty-fifth General Conference session, long expected, eagerly awaited, is now beginning.

As this reporter looks out over the gathering throngs, pressing through the doors, hurrying down the aisles to seek places, and observes the expectant faces of the men and women of all lands, he is moved by a gripping sense of something vibrant, something unusual, something deeply important.

These men and women have come from far places of earth. They are the outposts, the sentinels, the watchmen, not merely of a human organization, but of one which is divine. They have gathered to this place to report their activities, their findings, their suggestions. They have come to gain new energy, new information, new resources, new courage. For they will scatter out from here shortly for what may be the final great advance to finish the work of God on earth.

They expect much from this Conference. That shows on their eager faces. There is an aliveness about them, an alert and positive earnestness which is deeply moving. They feel what they believe. They manifest a profound and heartening sureness regarding their heavenly commission. Their Lord is soon to appear. They have no shadow of doubt about that. They have been divinely commissioned to make that great truth known to men everywhere. They have no doubt

about that commission. And they have been on the business of carrying it out. They have forsaken all else to do that one thing. They are here to advance that one thing. They have every purpose to make this Conference serve the interests of that one thing. No wonder there is a thrilling vibrancy about this meeting! This is more than big business. It is more than a world affair. It is more than human activity. This is God's business, the great and final display of His grace to men.

All of that tremendous significance is felt as these men and women come together for this meeting. It quivers in the very air. One is made aware of it as these servants of God settle down to the serious business of this Conference. The way they sing manifests it. They put everything they have into the opening song service. One is conscious as they sing No. 664 in the *Church Hymnal*, "Long Upon the Mountains." They have learned that it was the opening song of the first General Conference session, and the thought is running from mind to mind whether this is likely to be the last General Conference session on this earth. And they listen to every word from the platform, not only with their ears, but also with their hearts.

There is a sense of solemnity here. What a stupendous world task has been given this people! These leaders of the cause have come from all the continents. They will shortly be scattered out to all the continents. The work they represent is destined to bring a close to the gospel of our Lord. The long centuries of preaching to many generations of men are now to end with the message they bear to "this generation." The next General Conference gathering may be held in the kingdom of God, the kingdom we have been heralding these many years.

How good it is to see the faces of these valiant workers as they come in from the front lines of service! How cheerful and courageous they look



Secretary E. D. Dick and Treasurer W. E. Nelson Delivering Their Reports

as they grip the hands of their comrades from far places of the earth! Some of them have come recently from internment camps. They are only now regaining normal strength. Some have experienced what the cruelty of men can inflict upon them by hunger, by torture, by cold. In their minds is the memory of comrades who did not survive, and whom they will not see again until we gather in God's kingdom.

Honored veterans are observed here and there in the seats for delegates. Straight in front are the Doctors Daniel and Lauretta Kress, eighty-four and eighty-five years of age. There is J. W. Westphal, one of our South American pioneers. There, too, is W. H. Anderson, for fifty years pioneering missionary in Africa. Over to my left is E. E. Andross. On the platform is W. A. Spicer.

Eight hundred four delegates in all have been appointed to represent the world fields at this General Conference session. Some of these have not reached here as yet. Delegates from Central Europe were unable to attend. There is also no one here representing the work in Russia.

Song leaders on the platform announce that "Nearer My God to Thee" has been selected as the theme song of this Conference session. It will be sung on every occasion when the ministers come onto the platform.

The business of seating the delegates takes a few minutes. It is followed by the recommendation of the General Conference Committee with reference to the appointment of committees. The recommendation is quickly accepted and the committees brought into being.

J. L. McElhany launches into his address. This has already appeared in the first issue of the Conference Review. It was delivered with vigor.

Following the delivery of President McElhany's address, the secretary brought to the delegates cabled messages of greeting from C. H. Watson of Sydney, Australia, former General Conference President; from A. Minck, of the Central European Division; from two leaders of the Russian Division, speaking for 257 Seventh-day Adventist churches in Russia, with 12,665 members.

A message of greeting that moved the delegation deeply was from eleven missionaries who have been for almost seven years and still are confined in an internment camp. These were former workers of the Dutch East Indies field. The message was signed by P. Drinhaus. Several messages were sent from missionaries in the Southern African Division. The South India Union Mission also cabled greetings from Bangalore. Another message came from Burma, one from M. J. Sorenson of Ethiopia at Addis Ababa, one from R. H. Hartwell in the heart of central China.

As these messages of greeting were brought to the delegates, a new consciousness of the world extent of this tremendous movement was created. In response the secretary was au-



Elders Spicer, Nelson, Dick, and McElhany Examine Copies of the First Issue of the Review That Reports the Conference Session. This Issue Was Delivered to the Sligo Church Before the Opening of the Morning Conference Session

thorized to send greetings to our believers in all the world.

There are 1,500 seats on the main floor of the auditorium of the Sligo Church. There are 900 seats in the balcony. Not many seats were vacant—none in the balcony and only a few in the delegates' section. Downstairs 350 people were gathered—connected with the auditorium by a loud-speaker.

It is evident that our people took most seriously the information which was sent to the field concerning the limited accommodations prevailing here. This was manifested as I tramped over to Columbia Hall where there is an auditorium with 600 seats, also connected by a public address system with the speaker's stand. Apparently great numbers of our people believed that the seating capacity would be taxed beyond limit, for there were only about twenty people in this commodious place of meeting.

To a reporter who has attended every General Conference session for forty-one years, this being the tenth, and reported them for thirty-three years, contrasts and comparisons are bound to be noticed.

Forty-one years ago, in 1905, thirty-seven years ago in 1909, and thirty-three years ago in 1913, General Conference sessions were held in Takoma Park. The meetings were held in a large tent pitched not many feet from the site of the Sligo Church. The delegates lived in tents. The General Conference staff of officers and secretaries helped pitch those tents. Sister White

was here on two of those occasions. The delegation was not nearly so large then as it is now, but the total attendance then was about the same as this first meeting.

Elder Spicer referred to some of these contrasts in the first devotional service of the Conference, beginning the activities of this first full day. As he began his talk we were reminded that he had been engaged in preaching this message for fifty-nine years. We recalled his long years of valuable service in important posts, and the affection always called forth by this devoted servant of the Lord, together with the eagerness with which we always listen to him.

He directed attention to the fact that at the time of the last General Conference session, held in Takoma Park thirty-three years ago, in 1913, there were only a few over 100,000 members of our churches in all the earth. Today our membership is nearing 600,000. On that former occasion the message was being presented in only seventy-five of the world's languages, now in over 800.

It was a moving and deeply impressive devotional opening of the activities still to come. As you read the words spoken by Elder Spicer (and do not fail to read every word) you will almost be able to see this deeply loved veteran leader of this people while he cheerfully and courageously sketched a swift and vivid picture of this providential movement as he had known

(Continued on page 24)

The First Morning Devotional Study

By W. A. SPICER

Opening Exercises

W. P. BRADLEY: It is time for us to open the first of our series of morning Bible studies and devotional services. We welcome everyone who is here this morning, both delegates and visitors. The opening hymn will be brought to us by S. L. Frost, of the China Division.

S. L. FROST: Let us praise God in worship this morning with the use of hymn No. 156, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."

Prayer by W. G. Turner.

Vocal Solo, "Like Jesus," by R. S. Watts.

W. P. BRADLEY: As we were coming into the service this morning I turned to Elder Spicer, and asked, "How long have you been preaching this message?" "Fifty-nine years." For one year less than threescore, Brother Spicer's tongue and pen have been telling the world the story of this message. I am sure we all welcome him this morning to this first devotional service.

Elder Spicer Speaks

Let us talk this morning about the advent message, this advent movement, and this advent people. You know, the message has brought out a wonderful people. You will find them in all the world, preaching the message of preparation for the coming of the Lord. And really, you find them just as the prophecy of Isaiah foretold, and so they are in all the world. I am so thankful to God to be one of them. I do pray that by His grace I may be with them in representing His love and power to sinners.

But before talking so much about that, let us think of this, that we are meeting in the headquarters at Takoma Park, the first General Conference held here since 1913. Then the big meeting was in the big tent, pitched over where the college building stands. There were not so many then as were here last night—perhaps as many as are here this morning. Thirty-three years ago, J. N. Loughborough, one of the pioneers, was present, and offered the prayer, a connecting link with the very beginnings, for when Elder Loughborough accepted the message, he told us there were only about two hundred Sabbath-keeping Adventists in the world. It was to that Conference that the Spirit of prophecy sent the last messages ever delivered to a General Conference and I want to read a few sentences from those messages, for being the last messages to the General Conference, sent through the agent of that gift, somehow the words seem to come right down to this Conference. Writing May 4, 1913, from California, Sister White said to us here on these grounds:

"It is the privilege of our representative men in attendance at the General Conference to cherish a spirit of hopefulness and courage. My brethren, the Saviour has revealed Himself to you in manifold ways; He has filled your heart with the sunlight of His presence."—*General Conference Bulletin*, 1913, p. 33. O thank God, He still does it. "He has kept you through dangers seen and unseen; and now, as you meet once more with your brethren in council, it is your privilege to be glad in the Lord, and to rejoice in the knowledge of His sustaining grace."—*Ibid.*

Take it all, brethren and sisters. It is for you, and the blessed Lord, who speaks through His Spirit, has been with you through these 33 years also. Again that message said (and here is something to think about all the time): "Perplexities will increase." They have, haven't they? And you know the early brethren had perplexities. Perplexities do not come always with the biggest end of the work. They had just about as much perplexity in the early days when they were a small people, and the Lord helped them through.

I remember one Conference in old Battle Creek in the old meetinghouse, when the whole Conference, I think, surely was not so large as this section at the right. They had perplexities. I have forgotten—I was too little to know about it so I have forgotten

what it was about, but spirits were drooping. James White called Sister White to come up on the platform. "Come, Ellen," he said, "let us sing for them." And they could sing, too. And their voices rang out:

"When faint and weary toiling, with sweat drops on my brow,
I long to rest from labor, to drop the burden now.

There comes a gentle chiding that stills each mourning sigh:
Work while the day is shining;
there's resting by and by."

And so gathering courage, those early workers, laying the foundations and blazing the paths in which we walk today, believed and trusted and sang as they marched forward. And this voice cries to us really to follow on:

"Perplexities will increase; but let us, as believers in God, encourage one another. . . . When in the night season I am unable to sleep, I lift my heart in prayer to God, and He strengthens me, and gives me the assurance that He is with His ministering servants in the home field and in distant lands. I am encouraged and blessed as I realize that the God of Israel is still guiding His people, and that He will continue to be with them, even to the end. . . . Their experience will be one of constant growth, until the Lord shall descend from heaven with power and great glory."—*Ibid.*, pp. 164, 165.

"Constant growth!" Why, we have seen it, brethren. In 1913 we had 122,000 members in the world. Secretary Conard, I am sure, will show us that in the first quarter of this year we had 574,000. We can't measure

Elder Spicer as He Delivered His Morning Devotional Study



spiritual things by numbers altogether, and yet the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts rejoiced when four thousand gave their hearts to the Lord Jesus. And we rejoice as over half a million of the advent people report themselves from all the ends of the earth.

At that 1913 session H. E. Rogers, our veteran statistical secretary then, told us that 75 languages were being used in preaching the message. To-day the report will show over eight hundred languages used in preaching the blessed message of the coming of the Lord.

Ah, it has been a work with constant growth. And the Spirit of prophecy all along has called us to give our hearts to preaching the message of His soon coming.

Take the four last volumes [of the *Testimonies*]-sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth—and let me give you just a sentence from each one.

Volume 6: "The return of Christ to our world will not be long delayed. Let this be the keynote of every message." Page 406.

Volume 7: "The Lord is soon coming. Talk it, pray it, believe it. Make it a part of the life." Page 237.

Volume 8: "The message of Revelation 14 is the message that we are to bear to the world. It is the bread of life for these last days." Page 27.

Volume 9: "Repeat the message, repeat the message," were the words spoken to me over and over again." Page 98.

"Repeat the message!" Heaven cries to us to tell it over again. When I was young I used to think I had to study and get something new to say, but, you know, more and more I find, about the only thing I can do is to repeat the message, and talk about it, and look at it, and handle it. Oh, it is something so real and so precious.

And in a letter of those days which I shall not attempt to describe because it is not in the books, the call came, "Revive the evidences; revive the message." Ah, brethren, that means a revival. When we revive the message, revive the evidences, we revive our own hearts, and the hearts of those that hear.

And all these thirty-three years, how the evidences have been piling up, and the sure word of prophecy has been fulfilling until we know and are sure that the last days have come. God's last message is due to the world. This third angel's message, this advent message, is that message, the last message to the world, and this advent people—Seventh-day Adventists—are the people who are carrying that message to the world. And I am so glad that we are in it still.

Why, you know, that was the way it was in the apostolic days, the preaching of fulfilling prophecy. In 2 Peter 1:16-19, the apostle Peter said, "We have not followed cunningly devised fables, . . . but were eyewitnesses of His majesty." And then, not only what they saw, but, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy," he said, "whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in

a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts."

Oh, they came to men with a message that God was speaking to a world. On the Day of Pentecost a great multitude gathered in Jerusalem. Peter stood up to preach the first sermon for Pentecost, and what did he talk about? Ah, he said, "Ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, . . . this is that which is spoken of by the prophet Joel." Oh, it is a message that comes right to men. "Look," he said, "long ago Joel, the prophet, told of this—here it is—what are you going to do about it?" And they were pricked in their hearts, and they said, "What must we do?"

Paul at Antioch preached, "Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham," "the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children." and what are you going to do about it? Oh, that was apostolic preaching. The Lord has been preparing for this time to give to the world the message that is going to make men stop and think.

The first meeting I ever attended on the Continent of Europe was a little camp meeting at Bottmingen, which is outside Basle, Switzerland—it must have been in '89 or '90. Still, you know, my heart is stirred as I think of the picture of that first evening service. James Erzberger, our man of Macedonia, came over as a young man in 1868 to bring us the message from the brethren in Europe that there were Sabbathkeepers over there, and they wanted us to come over and help them. And that man of Macedonia, you know, stirred up an interest, and J. N. Andrews was sent over, our first missionary. And there I saw James Erzberger, turned gray, crying out to the people, "Men, all men of Bottmingen, men of Basle, listen to this voice." And I tell you, something was vibrating in that valley audience, and somehow the memory of it still vibrates in my heart.

It is a wonderful message God has given us, that He spoke from heaven above centuries ago, the things of the last days. And we are commissioned to tell the people it has come, it has come. Why this message and movement, they are real things. The apostle cried out in 1 John 1:3: "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the word of life. . . . That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you."

It is the same today. When one of our colporteurs, many years ago, up in the northwest of China, I think it was, had been selling a paper, their paper, a merchant said to the colporteur: "Your teaching deals with things we can see, with events we know about. Your doctrines are different from those of the other churches."

How true that is. Brethren, this message does lay hold of living things. It talks about the life that men face today, about the events that show the coming of the Lord is even at the door.

This whole movement is something living, has an entity of its own, and when some years ago somebody was casting doubts about features of the message Sister White wrote, by the Spirit of prophecy, in *Life Sketches*:

"I have acted a part in this solemn work. Nearly all my Christian experience is interwoven with it. . . . I testify the things which I have seen, the things which I have heard, the things which my hands have handled, of the Word of life. . . . We have seen and do testify that the power of the Holy Ghost has accompanied the presentation of the truth, warning with pen and voice, and giving the messages in their order. To deny this work would be to deny the Holy Ghost."—Pages 429, 430.

Just think how this message rose. Nearly two thousand years ago on the isle of Patmos, the prophet John was shown in vision the scenes of the last days. What he saw he wrote on the sacred page, wrote it with the pen of inspiration. He saw events of the last days. He saw Jesus come in the clouds of heaven with a sharp sickle to reap the harvest. Now, that is the end of the world. But just before the coming of the harvesttime, the prophet saw a movement rise and spread to every nation and kindred and tongue. He listened. He heard the message that was preached. He heard voices crying, "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come." Rev. 14:7. And as he watched, he saw the people who were preaching that message. They are described in the twelfth verse, "Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." That was written on this page nearly two thousand years ago.

The centuries pass. Nowhere on earth was such a work as that seen, until the year 1844 brought the hour of God's judgment in heaven above. We know from the prophecies of Daniel 7 and 8 the very time when the judgment was set and the books were opened. Angels were there watching. A thousand thousand ministered there, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before the Ancient of Days. They were watching. But, do you know, I suppose those angels knew all about this prophecy of John that said, when the judgment hour should begin in heaven above, a people keeping the commandments of God would come and carry the message of the judgment hour to the world. And some of those angels were watching this world. Some angel must have had his eyes on old New England, on the little village of Washington, New Hampshire; yes, on a little group of farmer brethren meeting two or three miles outside the village among the trees. And some angel must have cried out, "Here they are, here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." The hour had struck in heaven; on earth this movement rose. The people appeared. My brethren, they have been going to the world ever since.

Why, this thing is real; we are in

something, brethren. It had a beginning at the right time; it has gone the right way. By the grace of God, He is going to *finish* the work on schedule, too. Why, this isn't something of man's devising. Our brethren back in those old days didn't really know what they were starting. They didn't get together and say, "Now, let's think up something to preach." No, sir. This truth just came down to men right out of heaven—the Sabbath, the judgment, the sanctuary, the Spirit of prophecy. And God called out the elements that have made this message what it is, the everlasting gospel in the terms for the last days. And ever since, it has been bringing forth the fruitage of a people keeping the commandments of God.

Several years ago in Australia I worked it out with a good atlas and I found at that time that as the sun rose in the Pacific for the new day and passed round the world, every thirty minutes of its circuit it wakened to a new morning some group of Seventh-day Adventists. Right around the world every thirty minutes, as the sun passes! They are everywhere, the fruitage of this message, just as the prophecy said they would be.

Let the world postal systems give us just a suggestion of it. More graphic it would be than I can tell it. Here in Washington some years ago this envelope [holding it up] was brought into our office by the postman. It is addressed, "Fourth Commandment Keepers." Well, now, the Washington post office knows who they are. I suppose somebody must have thought of Methodists, Baptists, Catholics, all of them. "No," he said to himself, "they do not keep the fourth commandment. You take that out to the Seventh-day Adventists." Why, do you know the world has come to know everywhere there is a people keeping the commandments of God. The prophecy said they would be here, and they are. I think you could almost take this as a government decision on the Sabbath question!

Saigon, in French Indo-China, is a real Paris of the Far East. Somebody directed a letter to the "Pastor of the Sabbath Church, Saigon," and they brought it to R. H. Wentland. He told me about it.

Years ago, F. Brennwald, who is with us here somewhere in the audience, told me a story of Bucharest, the capital of Rumania. A letter came in to Bucharest addressed to "The People of God, Bucharest." Well, now, those postal agents knew that could not be the big archbishop, it could not be that people. Instead, they brought it to the little street called Labyrinth, to our office, and it was for us. Brother Brennwald told me. Why, they know who the people of God are.

Over in Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa, D. C. Babcock had been preaching for some time. One day a letter came in to the "Repairers of the Breach," and they brought it to Brother Babcock. They knew who was repairing the breach. Why, the world has come to know that there is some-

thing being done by this people, Seventh-day Adventists.

Over in Australia, a sister told me a story. One of our brethren, I have forgotten his name, just one of the members (I suppose there are many thousands of that same name), received a wrapped paper from America. It was addressed to "Charles So-and-so, S.D.A., Australia." And do you know, the postman one day brought it to our Brother Charles So-and-so in Adelaide, South Australia, a big city! The postman laughed. He said, "I never heard

How I Love Thy Holy Word

BY MRS. T. BUCHMAN

LORD, how I love Thy Holy Word;
It speaks of grace and power,
Of strength in every time of need,
However dark the hour.

It tells of peace, of sins forgiven,
Of pardon full and free,
Of love so rich, so great, so high,
Yet reaching down to me.

I've walked in paths of bitterness,
But now peace fills my soul,
Since here I read in God's own Word,
Christ Jesus makes thee whole.

Yes, I love this blessed Book;
How precious is its spoil—
A shining light to guide my feet,
And strength for daily toil.

Of making books there is no end,
But none like this I know;
The Word of God is faithful, sure;
That's why I love it so.

O do you know this precious Book?
Won't you search its pages through?
Know there are treasures hidden there,
Written there for you.

of anything like this. I do not know how it got to you."

Why, brethren, the prophecy said that people would come and they would spread to the whole world, and that they would be like signs and wonders on earth. And, do you know, the truth makes us stand out before the world! May God help us to represent the power of His grace in our lives. And how swiftly this has come about.

I have here a card I have carried since 1937. At that time I was attending a meeting in Oshawa, Ontario. All through the meeting I had been watching one of the children of William Farnsworth, who was a delegate at the meeting, and as I talked with him he gave me the names of five, four brothers and one sister, and thank God they are all living today, all in the truth. These five persons, children of the first Seventh-day Adventist, are all living, the children of William Farnsworth, who was the first in old Washington, New Hampshire, to say, "Brethren, I am going to keep God's Sabbath." And five of his children are still with us! What a picture of

the swift movement of the message to the world, isn't it? Now half a million witnesses are spread all over the earth. Brethren, this thing is of God. A group of men did not do this; they did not just scheme up something; it never would have worked in the wide world. Lots of little groups have tried it, but there is one message, one movement, one people, who have begun from the early times, with nothing but the power of this blessed truth. This work is building up in every land, and greater things are before us.

Here are some flash pictures in the prophecy of Joel on the finishing of the work. Joel 2:28-32. "It shall come to pass"—Peter, it was, who quoted this at Pentecost—"It shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh." Brethren and sisters, the God who began this work when the hour struck in 1844 has power to finish this work within His allotted time. He will pour out His Spirit upon all flesh. He will speak to every man, woman, and child in all the earth and say, "Here." And, do you know, we are hearing a lot of things that suggest how quickly God can finish the work. We are seeing things in these days, and I expect these brethren will be telling us about it. The Spirit speaks to people directly.

From *The Desire of Ages* I read:

"Among the heathen are those who worship God ignorantly, those to whom the light is never brought by human instrumentality, yet they will not perish. Though ignorant of the written word of God, they have heard His voice speaking to them in nature, and have done the things that the law required. Their works are evidence that the Holy Spirit has touched their hearts, and they are recognized as the children of God."—Page 168.

Just think of that. Let it into your hearts. All over the earth God's Spirit is speaking to men beyond our knowledge. Brethren, God can finish this work. He wants us to be in it. We are to work just as though it will depend upon us, but our trust is to be in God, with the knowledge that it depends upon Him. And in the last days He will pour out His Spirit upon all flesh. And I suppose that is how we read in *Testimonies*, volume 6, page 406: "There are thousands upon thousands, millions upon millions, who are now making their decision for eternal life or eternal death." Oh, we are in the service of a God who can bring men to decision by thousands, by millions, and He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness.

And yet we are to give to God everything we have. Jesus fed the five thousand with five loaves and two fishes. And that's about all we have—just above five loaves and two small fishes for a hungry world, but if we will bring to God what we have, O He can feed the millions. [Voices: Amen.]

Dear brethren and sisters, He is going to do it. We don't have to figure how. It is right, I suppose, that our secretaries will tell us about the unentered fields. We must keep them before us. But really, according to

this verse, God is entering them all. By His Holy Spirit He is getting men ready to receive the message. And Joel 2:28 says, "Also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My Spirit." As the Spirit of God awakens honest hearts in all the earth, the Holy Spirit is to fall upon His servants, upon His church, upon the brethren, the sisters, the handmaids, to qualify us to go out to an awakened world with the message. And don't we see it? We shall hear of that thing here in this Conference. I don't intend to talk many details, for these brethren have the latest.

Some years ago the late R. L. Jones wrote us about the work in one of the remotest regions of the earth. I had been a secretary for many years before I heard of Ruanda, up there in the middle of Africa. We were thinking only of elephants and tigers and jungles. And yet up there have been the biggest meetings we have ever held on earth, 17,000 at one meeting, and I guess 20,000 at another up in that region. No microphones. I asked Brother Anderson, "How in the world do you get on?" And he said, "The languages there seemed to carry." That is what they told me once at a big meeting in Nyasaland. I said to James, the interpreter, "How do you ever make those people hear away out under the trees?" "Well," he said, "the Cinyanja language goes further than the English." And I guess it did.

Well, brethren, God is at work by His Spirit in the remotest corners of the earth. And Brother Jones sent this report:

"In July some 2,000 Sabbathkeepers took the field. The 'Host of the Lord' is the name in native speech by which our lay preachers are called. Bands of Missionary Volunteers began to comb these hills for the honest in heart. The first two weeks were slow. Christian help work was done to break down opposition; the needy were helped in field and house; the sick were attended and healed by importunate prayer; the gospel was preached to the people in their homes, gardens, and even in their journeyings. The 'Host of the Lord' began to break through into new territory. The reports vibrated with new energy. Churches and Christians took new life. Sins were confessed, wrongs righted, and new vigor permeated our ranks. Over eight hundred new converts took their stand."

Why, brethren and sisters, that is what God does in the needy places of earth. That is the finishing of the work, dear brethren. The people, the advent people, are roused and are going to work. Why, over in Sweden, David Carlson, I think it was, home missionary secretary, told of one pretty good kind of discouragement. I never heard anything like it. But he said there was a church and they wanted a preacher to come because of the great interest all around, and they called and they called and they called for the preacher, but he didn't come. Brother Carlson said at last the church got discouraged and went to work themselves. [Laughter.] And the fruit was begin-

ning to come. That is a practical way to turn discouragement into victory, isn't it?

And so all over the earth, brethren, they are coming. Some union president—I must not tell it with any detail—wrote me just a few days ago—I do not want you to know where it is—"You will be interested to know that in 1944, of the 5,511 souls baptized, 3,300 were the result of our lay workers." Think of it! In one year, of the 5,511 baptized, the brethren and sisters brought in 3,300 of them. Oh, that is a church at work. That is God pouring out His Spirit upon His servants, and upon His handmaidens.

Why, some of the things we have heard the last year or two in this matter of the work by the brethren and sisters seemed to me the most striking I have ever seen in the history of this message, for when God has the whole church in service, He says the work will quickly be finished. Now our brethren and sisters are arousing themselves to this task. It is a wonderful time.

We are told in *Testimonies to Ministers*, "God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness. Those who are accounted good workers will need to draw nigh to God."—Page 300.

Yes, God will choose simple agencies, just humble believers, and put His power upon them. Why, a brother told me about a little old lady in one field. She brought one hundred souls into the truth, carrying out the papers and tracts in a little black bag. I saw the brother some years later at a meeting, and I asked, "Well, brother, how is the little old lady with the black bag getting along?" "Oh," he answered, "she is still going strong, and I think the number now she has brought into the truth is 150."

I used to wonder, How is it, what method is it, that gets such results from such simple efforts? Then I read in *Acts of the Apostles*, page 154: "Invisible armies of light and power attend the meek and lowly ones who believe and claim the promises of God." [Voices: Amen.] O brethren, may we get in touch with the invisible armies of light and power! They are due. Why, do you know we are told in Hebrews 1:14, "Are they not all [speaking of angels] ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" Surely that must be so now. There are more angels in heaven than there are people on earth. The Bible speaks of them as an innumerable company of angels. We can enumerate the inhabitants of earth in statistics, but there is an innumerable company of angels. Every one of them is sent forth to minister. God could send an angel to stand by every man, woman, and child on earth this day, and say, "Come." And we are beginning to see things which, if God did them a thousand times, or ten thousand times over,

this work would sweep to a finish like a flash of lightning. O brethren, don't put it off, don't put it off. God will finish the work.

You know the angels are all commandment keepers. In Psalms 103:20 the call is made: "Bless the Lord, ye His angels, that excel in strength, that do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His word." Why, brethren, they are with us keeping the commandments. We are in the majority, really, of the forces that are active today. The angels keep the commandments of God.

Let me read you a little note that I never saw until recently. *Spiritual Gifts*, volume 1, page 113, published in 1858: "The Sabbath was instituted in Eden before the fall, and was observed by Adam and Eve, and all the heavenly host." I never got that idea that when the angels watched at creation and the Lord rested they kept the Sabbath with Adam and Eve. "God rested on the seventh day, and blessed and hallowed it; and I saw that the Sabbath would never be done away; but that the redeemed saints, and all the angelic host, will observe it in honor of the great Creator to all eternity."—*Ibid.*

I always thought about the saints alone coming up from Sabbath to Sabbath to worship before the Lord. But this says the redeemed saints and all the angelic host will join in that worship.

Brethren and sisters, the commandments of God are in this thing. They are working, and eternity stretches before us. The curtain is about to be lifted. What are we thinking of? We do not have to be traveling this road forever. We are like men in a theater watching for the curtain to rise. Suddenly the curtain is lifted. Eternity then stretches before us. Yes, the curtain is about to be lifted. My brethren, when that curtain goes up and God closes the work, O may a completed work have been done in my heart.

We read a word for workers, *Testimonies*, volume 4, page 159: "In the court, beside the door of the tabernacle, stood a brazen laver, wherein the priests washed their hands and their feet before entering the tabernacle, that all impurity might be removed. All who officiated in the sanctuary were required of God to make special preparation before entering the place where His glory was revealed."

O brother preacher, that is for us today. For every one of us in the pulpit there is a fountain where we are to wash again, in the crimson stream, to be cleansed from sin. In the picture of the closing work in Isaiah, the Lord says, "Be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord." Isaiah 52:11. Then it is that God makes bare His holy arm, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

It is the cleansing that we need. Oh, I pray,

"Then O, my Lord, prepare my soul for that great day,
O wash me in Thy precious blood, and take my sins away."

(Continued on page 36)

Story of the Day

(Continued from page 19)

it. He rang out a note of confidence and courage regarding the nearness of its ultimate triumph. He has been a spreader of good cheer over long years of time. It is good beyond words to see him and observe his vigor. May his voice remain among us to the end, that grand culmination of our fondest hopes which we have been heralding to the world.

The morning business session followed Elder Spicer's talk. The report of the secretary, E. D. Dick, gave a kaleidoscopic survey of the world-wide developments of the past five-year period. It was most impressively presented. The world-shaking events of devastating World War II, as they have affected, and the impact they have had on, the threefold message, deeply interested this large delegation.

W. E. Nelson followed with the treasurer's report, one of the interesting items of which, in illustrating the needs of the rehabilitation fund, was that in Germany alone 150 of our churches have been destroyed. Estimating the replacement of these at \$20,000 a church, would represent the need of three million dollars in that one land alone. Brother Nelson followed his treasurer's report with a report of the work of food relief for our believers in famine stricken areas.

Following the initial report of the Nominating Committee in Thursday afternoon's session, Dr. M. E. Olsen described the important work and outlined the opportunities of the Home Study Institute, students of which are scattered throughout the earth.

Then G. A. Lindsay of Stockholm, Sweden, president of the East Nordic Union Conference, which comprises the countries of Sweden and Finland, brought greetings and information from his interesting field.

He was followed by H. W. Lowe, of London, England, president of the British Union Conference, which takes in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Irish Free State, together with the islands about these countries.

The afternoon business session came to a close with the report of P. G. Nelson of Skodsborg, Denmark, president of the West Nordic Union Conference, comprising Denmark, Norway, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, and Greenland.

The deeply moving experiences reported by these European brethren, affecting other fields, institutions, churches, and people during the war years, and the occupation of some of their countries by the Axis armies, should be read in full by those who cannot attend this Conference. They will bring a new and deeper conviction that war cannot stop the onward sweep of this divinely led movement.

M. V. Campbell, V. G. Anderson, C. A. Scriven, W. B. Ochs, C. L. Bauer, W. E. Macpherson, E. F. Hackman, F. O. Sanders, J. G. Thomas, J. W. Turner.

Southern Asia Division

E. M. Meleen, F. E. Spiess.

Inter-American Division

H. B. Lundquist, W. E. Murray, R. H. Pierson, W. A. Bergherm, J. L. Brown.

South American Division

E. N. Lugenbeal, A. Aeschlimann, C. E. Lambeth, R. Belz.

Southern African Division

F. G. Clifford, H. M. Sparrow, P. Stevenson, G. R. Nash, K. F. Ambs.

Provisional Division

W. McClements, E. L. Branson.

Australasian Division

E. B. Rudge, W. G. Turner.

Northern European Division

G. A. Lindsay, H. W. Lowe, P. G. Nelson.

Southern European Division

J. C. Guenin, Albert Meyer, A. D. Gomes, Luigi Beer, J. Cepl.

By vote H. M. Blunden was substituted for W. G. Turner as secretary of the Plans Committee. The following names, by recommendation of their divisions, were added to the Plans Committee.

P. Wickman, R. J. Christian, W. A. Clemenson, N. C. Petersen, H. J. Detwiler, H. F. Brown, P. D. Gerrard, L. A. Skinner, R. R. Breitigam, H. C. Klement, R. R. Bietz, A. W. Dawson, E. L. Minchin, E. E. Roenfelt, E. J. Johanson, G. Burnside, T. M. Lei, Dr. H. Liu, Hsu Hwa, John Oss, O. A. Blake, Pedro Diaz, J. M. Nerness, A. H. Roth, Wesley Amundsen, D. A. McAdams, J. L. Brown, J. T. Carrington, G. Bustamente, Harold Brown, W. G. C. Murdock, H. Munderspach, A. Magi, A. Blomstedt, Dr. Anderson, F. J. Voorthuis, A. Rintela, C. Gidlund, G. D. King, N. W. Dunn, J. C. Culpepper, S. Schmidt, Dr. C. R. Potts, Dr. C. C. Schneider, J. Baerg, J. M. Hnatyshyn, A. W. Staples, Virgil Robinson, Dr. J. G. Foster, Dr. E. L. Morel, L. C. Shepard, J. F. Ashlock, O. O. Mattison, E. W. Pohlman, Maurice Tieche, Roger Quenin, G. Cupertino, R. Gerber, Dr. J. Nussbaum, F. Charpiot, B. Neilsen, J. Clifford, A. Keough.

Adjournment was taken to 3:45 p.m., and the benediction was pronounced by W. H. Branson.

J. L. McELHANY, *Chairman*.

E. D. DICK, *Secretary*.

Proceedings of the General Conference

Second Meeting

June 6, 1946, 10:00 A.M.

CHAIRMAN: J. L. McElhany.

HYMN: "On Jordan's Stormy Banks," No. 553 in *Church Hymnal*.

PRAYER: R. R. Figuhr.

J. L. McELHANY: The first order of business this morning will be to receive the report of the General Conference secretary, E. D. Dick.

[E. D. Dick then read his report, which appears on page 25.]

J. L. McELHANY: The treasurer, W. E. Nelson, will now render his report.

[The report of the treasurer was read and appears on page 29.] Following his report, the treasurer presented a financial statement. W. E. Phillips then read the Certificate of Audit. The treasurer's report was accepted by vote.]

[The treasurer then presented a report on famine relief, which appears on page 34.]

J. L. McELHANY: I wish to call your attention to the fact that the first number of the BULLETIN, or Special Review, is ready to be distributed to the delegates. This was ready at nine o'clock this morning, but we felt that it would be best to distribute it at the close of this session this morning. We are greatly indebted to the faithful laborers of the Review and Herald staff. Some of these folks worked all

night to get this out. I think you will agree that the editorial arrangements are ideal, and that in planning for this the brethren have really accomplished a wonderful result, and we appreciate their efforts.

As this paper is distributed to you this morning, we believe you will join us in feeling an obligation or a debt of gratitude to these faithful workers who have labored so untiringly. This work starts right here at these tables while the session is in progress. Then the matter is edited and sent on to the typeroom and pressroom, and we enjoy the product of all this labor at this early hour. We are greatly appreciative of all this.

The secretary will now read the names of the personnel of the Nominating Committee.

E. D. DICK: The report is as follows:

Nominating Committee

China Division

M. C. Warren, Dr. H. Liu.

Far Eastern Division

R. S. Watts, L. C. Wilcox, F. R. Millard, K. Tilstra.

North American Division

M. L. Rice, G. E. Jones, H. L. Rudy, N. C. Wilson, G. E. Hutches, E. E. Cosentine, F. H. Robbins, J. P. Neff, W. P. Elliott, J. J. Nethery, L. E. Lenheim,

We must follow the directions given through the Spirit of prophecy. We must love and obey the truth for this time. This will save us from accepting strong delusions. God has spoken to us through His Word. He has spoken to us through the Testimonies to the church, and through the books that have helped to make plain our present duty and the position that we should now occupy.—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 298.

The Secretary's Report

By E. D. DICK

AND this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matt. 24:14. This inspired program of evangelism outlined by our Saviour impels those who embrace its teachings to go to the farthestmost corners of the earth—"to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people"—with the good news of salvation. This grand work culminates in the return of our Lord. This has been the blessed hope of every advent believer since the beginnings of our history.

It is the purpose of this report to recall briefly the progress of the work since last we met in General Conference session, or during approximately the 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, and 101st years of our ongoing movement.

The days since our last session have been tense and filled with sorrow for millions of earth's peoples. War, with the most destructive forces which scientific research could advise, has engulfed well-nigh the whole world. Many of earth's proudest cities have been reduced to rubble and ruins. Millions of soldiers have perished in battle on the land, in the air, and at sea, while other millions of civilians—men, women, and little children—have been rendered homeless. As a result of the scorched-earth policies, which were carried into effect during the war and the relocation of national minorities following, literally tens of millions are wandering in strange lands destitute of all comforts—hungry, homeless, and without hope.

Yet a greater calamity overshadows these and other lands—the calamity of famine. Literally hundreds of millions sit in the shadow of death, suffering from malnutrition and degenerative diseases. Even now—today—famine is taking its heaviest toll of children and the aged, and will continue to do so at least until the summer's harvest brings some relief.

This is fertile soil in which civil strife, political revolution, and pestilences thrive. These conditions also provide an atmosphere in which the advent message should flourish. Men's hearts are failing them for fear. Multitudes are inquiring, What do these things mean? Many are groaning in anguish—How long, O Lord, how long; and others are praying earnestly, Even so, Lord Jesus, come quickly. The world situation presents a challenge to Seventh-day Adventist leaders, workers, and believers, to a new devotion to the great task which lies before us, the finishing of the work, which shall bring the return of our Saviour and the end of sin and suffering and sorrow. May this great gathering which has drawn representatives from the far corners of the earth be richly blessed by the outpouring of the Spirit of God, which shall clarify our vision of present duty, and lead each and every one to a new dedication of

heart and life—and an endowment of power upon His people for the finishing of the work.

We who are gathered here are highly privileged. With world conditions so deeply disturbed, and transportation facilities so limited and uncertain, we feel particularly fortunate in having present representatives from eleven of our thirteen world divisions. Only our Central European and Russian divisions are not represented. We had hoped that at least some from our Central European Division might have been here, but political conditions have not settled as yet to the point where this has been possible. They send their greetings, and assure us of their prayers that this Conference may be richly blessed. We are glad, too, to be in touch again with the leaders of our Russian Division, and hope that soon the political barriers may be dissolved, and that we may be able to fellowship freely again with our believers in that great land. Their cordial greetings have already been presented to this Conference.



E. D. Dick

We are very sorry that the delegations from Southern Africa, the Far East, and China, are not so large as planned. The session having been postponed from 1945 until now, it was hoped that a full delegation could be present from all divisions. We miss particularly some of our national workers who had planned to be with us but who have not been able to attend because of severely limited shipping accommodations. We shall miss the inspiration which their presence would have brought.

Because of uncertain travel schedules and accommodations it has been necessary for some to be on their way to this meeting for many weeks. Some

have found it necessary to travel by air, requiring only a few days to come from the farthestmost points, while others coming by surface ship have been at sea as much as forty-two days without a stop except for clearance at the Suez Canal. We rejoice in the travel mercies of God. No accident has befallen any in this large delegation, whose total journeys aggregate many thousands of miles.

Since our last session, because of disturbed political conditions, it has not been possible for as many as usual of the representatives of the General Conference to visit our outlying overseas divisions, nor for representatives from these divisions to join our Autumn Councils, as heretofore. We have missed these helpful contacts. It is for this double reason that we extend to all delegates—from our overseas divisions and from the homeland—a most sincere, warm, and cordial welcome. We are glad it has been possible for so many to attend. We trust that God will richly bless us as we fellowship together in the few days of this Conference.

To those who have had the responsibility of planning for this meeting, one thing brings keen disappointment. Because of limited housing, catering, and meeting facilities, we have been able to accommodate only delegates. It distresses us to know that there are many faithful, loyal workers and laymen throughout the field who have given many years of unmeasured service and sacrifice and devotion to this cause, whom we have had to advise not to come because of a lack of accommodations. This is painful to us. We wish it had not been necessary. We wish all who so desired might have been permitted to come, but the realities of the situation have made it impossible. We fear that some, if not many, who live in the Washington area may likewise be disappointed because of inadequate meeting facilities.

We think, too, of those of our fellow workers who have not been able to attend because of conditions of health. It is for this reason that C. H. Watson is not with us today. For the same reason we miss the presence of J. L. Shaw, who continues bedfast at the Loma Linda Sanitarium; of F. C. Gilbert, here in Takoma Park; of A. T. Robinson, E. K. Slade, and many others, all of whom have borne heavy burdens in this cause and have contributed much to its advancement.

We also miss from our midst today a large number of former leaders who have passed away during the past five years. A special Memorial Service will be held in a few days, to pay respect and honor to those who gave so generously of their service, and who, since our last General Conference session, have been called to their rest.

A world-wide missionary program is certain to suffer reverses in a time of world war. While we have much for which to be grateful, yet the war brought to our leaders much perplexity, and to our work serious loss. When we met in our last session, May, 1941, Europe was in the midst of a "phony" war. Both major military

alliances were working feverishly to strengthen their armies while waiting for some surprise move by opposing forces. As time wore on, the war spread. America became involved, and our work throughout Europe was largely isolated from General Conference contacts.

When the clouds of war began to gather over the Far Eastern horizon, and the presence of our foreign workers became a menace to the safety of our national believers, our missionaries, mostly American, were withdrawn from Japan, Korea, Manchukuo, and Occupied China, to the Philippine Islands. Later, with the rapid advance of the Japanese armies to the south, such of our workers as could get away were evacuated from French Indo-China, Malaya, Burma, Java, Sumatra, Borneo, and the far-flung islands of the South Pacific. Some were unable to escape and were interned. Those evacuated earlier to the Philippine Islands were likewise interned. It was from among these two groups that we sustained the loss of some of our most valiant workers, whose names will be among those honored in the Memorial Service. Our missionaries in the Dutch East Indies (mostly German) were interned by the Dutch immediately following the German invasion of Holland. They were later removed to India, where they have been held in custody during the entire period of the war. We have reason to hope that they are now released and that some may arrive here in time to attend this meeting. Their families are in Japan.

With these rapid and sweeping political changes, our denominational organization was somewhat dislocated. The Far Eastern Division was unable to operate on the field. The Northern European Division ceased to function. The administration of the work in these territories fell back upon the General Conference Committee at headquarters. In the Near East our foreign staff was largely depleted through forced repatriation immediately prior to the outbreak of the war in 1939. Ethiopia, too, became isolated from its directing division, as did our work in West Africa, formerly under the direction of the Northern and Southern European divisions. In order to direct the work in these three areas, a Provisional Division was set up, having a quorum among the General Conference Committee, to care for the work in these fields temporarily. The task of administering the Northern European, Far Eastern, and the Provisional division fields greatly increased the administrative load of the headquarters office.

When the workers in the interior of China were cut off from their headquarters in the Philippine Islands where it had been established on an emergency basis, a Free China Division was established under the leadership of E. L. Longway and G. J. Appel, with their associate foreign and national workers. Their efforts were richly rewarded in the holding together of our work, the re-establishing and operating of our training school and publishing house, the maintenance of

our medical work, which was so desperately needed, and a substantial increase in the membership throughout the field. This was done at great personal sacrifice by our leaders, both national and foreign. Haunted by dwindling supplies, plagued by wild inflation, and worried by the breakdown of all transportation except such as they themselves operated, they often scarcely knew how to carry on. They will tell us of the results of their unstinted efforts and loyal devotion to the work in China's interior during the difficult war years. This division carried on in the interior with headquarters at Chungking until recently, when the headquarters have been re-established in Shanghai.

In recent months the Far Eastern Division, under the leadership of V. T. Armstrong and others formerly connected with that division, has begun to be re-established in the field. Progress is slow on account of disturbed political and economic conditions.

The working force in our Southern Asia Division was also reduced, owing to war in Burma and the threatened invasion of India. Some whose furloughs were not due sojourned in our Southern African Division and there engaged in the work. A number of these have since returned. Others have proceeded on furlough and are now ready to return to India.

Glimpses of Progress

But when we view the disturbances to the work which the war has caused and the losses sustained in some areas, we must not overlook the total picture, which is one of courage and progress, reminding us of the words of that "Battle Hymn of the Republic," whose grandeur of sentiment has been largely lost sight of:

"Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on."

Yes, His truth is indeed marching on. And the fourth stanza provides further inspiration:

"He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat;

Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him!
be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on."

Full evidence of this will be brought to us by our division leaders and our departmental secretaries' reports. May I be pardoned for sampling from these? They will tell you—

That the Sabbath school offerings for the past five years are 72 per cent greater than for the previous five years;

That our colporteur staff in our Australasian Division increased from 80 before the war to 251 during the peak years of the war;

That we have a net gain in membership in our China Division in the five years of war of 4,737;

Of miraculous deliverances of our members who stood before firing squads condemned to death;

Of our conference of a thousand members within the Arctic Circle;

Of the partial restoration of our publishing house in Hamburg; that they are now permitted to publish books, and have 106 employees engaged in this work;

That Finland had its all-time high in literature sales during the war. In this time they sold 95,000 copies of *Our Wonderful Bible*, one colporteur having sold 333 copies in one week;

Of a local district in Africa in which 415 were baptized;

Of the reopening of our food factory in Hamburg, now employing 57 workers, with present production equaling the 1943 output;

That since the beginning in 1942 of the Voice of Prophecy Correspondence School 408,550 have been enrolled in Bible study courses;

That last year the Voice of Prophecy received 555,514 letters;

That the 53d million dollars raised through the Sabbath schools was raised in two months, three weeks, and three days;

Of four colporteurs in the United States whose sales amounted to \$46,715 in 1945; and of another in Australia whose sales were £3,500;

Of 6,000 being baptized in one division (the Inter-American) in 1945.

But I must desist. We look forward with eager anticipation to the divisional and departmental reports, for they will bear strong evidence of the onward progress of the message all along our far-flung home and mission lines.

MEMBERSHIP

	1930	1935	1940	1945
North American	120,560	157,507	185,788	212,514
Overseas	198,693	265,461	318,964	360,797
Total	314,253	422,968	504,752	573,311
Net Increase		108,715	81,784	68,559

These are the facts. What are the trends? These can be best studied by examining the percentage gains for the same periods.

PERCENTAGE GAINS

	Per Cent of Gain 1925-30	Per Cent of Gain 1930-35	Per Cent of Gain 1935-40	Per Cent of Gain 1940-45
North American	10.81	30.65	17.96	14.39
Overseas	36.23	40.94	20.84	13.12
Combined Per Cent Gain	25.21	34.59	19.34	13.58

It seems appropriate that this report summarize these activities as reflected in the total world membership. The most recent figures which have come to us show the world membership to be 573,311. I regret that the records of membership are not fully up to date, owing to the fact that we have not been able to secure reports from all parts of the field. Without doubt the correct figure will be not less than those here shown.

Membership Gains

This certainly is an encouraging total. At the time of the last session the membership stood at 504,752. Considering our present membership as that given above, we have enjoyed a net gain during the five-year period of 68,559. Of this amount, 26,726 were gained in North America and 41,833 in our overseas divisions.

But we must go further and examine the situation in more detail. We must be candid if we are to be helpful. Are these gains as large as they should be?

How do they compare with like periods in the past? Let us study these figures as well:

It perhaps will be of interest to some to see the present membership by divisions and the percentage gains for the same periods given above.

It should be pointed out that the percentage gain by divisions in the last five years is not fully accurate, for there have been a number of transfers of territory from one division to another with corresponding membership losses and gains. Probably the five fields in which comparisons are correct are the North American, Australasian, Inter-American, South American, and Southern Asia divisions, where there have been no changes of territory.

From these facts before us we observe: 1. That the percentage gain for North America exceeded the percentage gain in our overseas divisions for the first time since our mission program got under way—certainly the first time in this century.

2. That this was an all-time low for our mission divisions, and reflects at least in part the shock to our overseas work caused by the war.

3. That the percentage gain in the North American Division (14.39) is the smallest since the five-year period, 1925-30, when it was 10.58 per cent.

4. That the percentage gain in both home and foreign fields is the smallest ever recorded in a recent like period.

5. That in some of our overseas fields the percentage increase is most encouraging, the Inter-American Division showing the largest percentage (excluding fields affected by territorial changes), and having the largest membership of all overseas divisions. These figures are worthy of further careful study and meditation.

It seems in order in this general report to mention certain significant developments of methods and activities which have had their origins largely since our last session. Some give promise of much larger extension in days to come.

Foremost should be listed the work

MEMBERSHIP OF DIVISIONS AND PERCENTAGE GAINS BY FIVE-YEAR PERIODS

Division	Per Cent of Gain 1925-30	Per Cent of Gain 1930-35	Per Cent of Gain 1935-40	Per Cent of Gain 1940-45	Present Membership
* North American	10.81	30.65	17.96	14.39	212,514†
* Australasian	22.09	40.94	20.84	10.67	22,552
Central European, I				10.31 loss	38,018
Central European, II	8.74	16.85	4.23		
China		43.36	24.47	17.76	22,940†
Far Eastern	59.24	44.83	42.55	7.59	36,152
* Inter-American	59.00	80.01	33.68	44.93	54,503†
Northern European		27.80	20.54	30.26 loss	27,526
* South American	23.33	36.01	28.99	25.24	41,284†
Southern African	117.76	74.50	28.40	43.89	46,460†
* Southern Asia	53.87	51.53	42.46	15.49	8,133
Southern European		43.42	1.38	45.21	38,005
General Conference Missions					8,711
U.S.S.R.			20.45		16,513
	25.21	34.59	19.34	13.58	573,311

* Divisions whose membership have not been disturbed by territorial changes.

† 1945 reports.

of the Radio Commission. From the enabling action taken at the 1941 Autumn Council a central, nation-wide radio broadcast under the caption of the Voice of Prophecy was put on the air. The work of the Commission includes the fostering and co-ordinating of local broadcasting by city or conference evangelists as well. It promotes religious broadcasting in a number of countries. Hitherto it has enjoyed phenomenal growth and promises a further wide development in many countries. This feature of our work will be brought to us in a separate report.

Closely allied to the radio work is the development and extension of the Bible Correspondence schools. Probably the largest is operated in connection with the Voice of Prophecy. Almost every conference likewise now offers such a study course. A further project, a step removed from the above, is the publicizing of these Bible Correspondence courses through newspaper advertisements. Phenomenal success has been experienced in this method of presenting the truth in our Southern African Division. Other divisions where religious radio programs are not permitted, are planning on the adoption of this method.

One of the huge tasks which we face in days to come is re-establishing and rebuilding our work in war-devastated areas. To what extent this will be possible in the immediate future is difficult to say at the present time. Scarcity of material, and skyrocketing building costs, may delay the restoration of our work in many areas. Probably in the restoration of our work in certain areas wide changes in procedure may be followed. It is good to know that at least some provision has been made in a financial way for this rebuilding program. The splendid response of our faithful and loyal people to the appeal for funds for rehabilitation of our work in war-affected lands was one of the most cheering phases of our work in recent years.

Another worthy and eminently successful undertaking has been the supplying of clothing to our believers in the war-devastated lands, principally in Europe and the Orient. The recipients of this help have been unrestrained in their expressions of gratitude.

Most recent is the united effort of the church in North America principally, though other divisions have indicated

their desire to have a part, to bring food to our brethren and sisters and their families, and through them to others as far as possible, who are in the famine areas in Europe, India, and the Far East.

Another plan has been initiated which will mean much to our body of believers in many lands in days to come. The plan calls for greatly extending the publication and distribution of the writings of the Spirit of prophecy into many languages in which these writings are not now available at a price range within the reach of our national believers even in economically depressed areas. We believe this will greatly help to inspire, strengthen, and unify our believers, particularly in those lands where our denominational literature is at present so very meager.

Visits to Overseas Divisions

It is highly desirable that General Conference representatives, administrative and departmental, make frequent contacts with our overseas divisions. During the past five years such visitation has been greatly restricted. We have, however, been able to visit some fields more frequently than might have been done had conditions been more normal. In this time representatives from the General Conference have visited eight of our overseas divisions; seventy-one visits have been made, forty-four to one division and fourteen to another. We regret that it has been impossible to maintain more frequent contacts with other fields.

One of the chief responsibilities of the Secretarial Department is the selecting and recommending to the General Conference Committee for appointment, candidates for foreign mission service, in response to the calls from our overseas divisions for workers. This task has been made difficult by war restrictions, shipping regulations and limitations. In spite of these our record of missionaries sent out during the past five years compares favorably with previous periods. In this time we sent out 522 new appointees, and 328 have returned to their fields following furlough. In order to attain even this record missionaries have had to proceed to their fields by devious routes; for instance, from Washington, D. C., to Cape Town via San Francisco and Cape Horn, South America; to Nigeria, West Africa, via Cairo, Egypt; to India via South

America and South Africa. Some have proceeded by air, landing on the field with their families with only the very limited luggage allowed on the plane, with their other supplies delayed for months before arriving. Others have been delayed in the homeland and en route many months awaiting transportation. When one considers the conditions which have prevailed, it would seem that we have much for which to be thankful.

The record of our outgoing appointees in the previous five-year periods since 1921 is as follows:

1921-25	776
1926-30	879
1931-35	245
1936-40	652
1941-45	522

We believe that it will be of interest to note the sending fields during the past five years:

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	Total
Australia	14	5	25	8	36	88
Northern Europe	4	2	1	7
South America	6	5	3	8	3	30
Southern Africa	17	7	25	7	15	71
North America	44	27	38	86	121	316
	81	44	100	111	186	522

From the beginning of this year 65 have already sailed from our North American base.

Since it is from the home fields we must draw our new appointees, it will be of interest to all here, we believe, to have an exhibit of the current calls from our overseas divisions for workers. At present we have calls from these divisions for 314 workers. Of this number 231 are in the process of being filled, while no steps have yet been taken to consummate the remaining 83 calls, due in part to the fact that in many cases complete authorization has not been given by the calling divisions. In other cases the calls have been placed with us by the leaders as they have come to this meeting.

The full position, with the type of worker which is being sought is shown in the table below.

This is a large number and is worthy of further comment. Taking the number sent out in the five years 1941 to 1945, or 522, plus the number which have sailed since January 1, 1946—65 (North American only), plus the number of calls now in hand, which are in the process of being worked out, or 231, we have the large total of 806. This is the number of workers (husbands and wives counted separately) which the home fields have been called upon to provide since our last session, with a further list of 83 calls awaiting action.

With these figures before us it is clear that an expression of appreciation is due the leaders of our work in the homelands, for the magnanimous

attitude they have displayed in opening up the way for these many calls to go on to their workers. We very well know that often the release of these workers has brought real perplexity in the administration of your fields and institutions. Often this has been indicated in letters of acknowledgment of the calls, of which the following are typical: "We don't know what we will do if he accepts, but we never stand in the way of a call to the mission field." "He's a good man and we don't want to lose him, but we never block a call to the mission field." Let me say again, this generous spirit of co-operation on the part of our field leaders in the home fields is deeply and sincerely appreciated. It has meant much to the success of the work in our overseas divisions, and has, we believe, returned to bless the work in the fields which have made these sacrifices.

The Outlook

While grateful to God for His guidance and blessings during the difficult years of the past quinquennium, we recognize a greater need in the days which lie before. "There remaineth yet very much land to be possessed." Much has been done, but a mighty task is yet before us. Many lands have been entered; yet many others await the coming of the missionary—the messengers of hope. Even in most mission lands in which we have worked for many years, great stretches of populous, unentered areas lie untouched. Many tongues and peoples know not the name of Jesus.

Nor is the great task which awaits us made easier by improved conditions, but rather the reverse. We have come upon evil days. The entire world is torn and troubled. It would seem that in no single country have conditions improved since the outbreak of the war. Rather, they have worsened. Hunger, famine, desolation, poverty, confusion, economic strife, inflation, pestilence, haunt the people of many nations, while fear, hatred, and suspicion fill their hearts. The Utopia for which so many hoped and longed has vanished. There is no promise or prospect of return to even prewar normalcy. Never was it more clear that what we have failed to do in times of prosperity we must now do in days of adversity.

But this should bring no surprise. Long have we expected and preached—that conditions shall wax worse and worse, that the walls of Jerusalem shall be rebuilt in troublous times, that in the days of the finishing of the work and the return of our Saviour "men's hearts [will be] failing them

for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth"; that immediately prior to His coming there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation.

Viewed from purely human considerations the prospect is not cheering. The task of giving the gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people might seem impossible. But such is not the case. Far from it. The prospects are as bright as the promises of God. One basic promise lightens the path of the believer to the very gates of heaven: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore. . . . And, remember, I am with you always, day by day, until the Close of the Age." Matt. 28:18-20, Weymouth.

Without these and similar promises from our Saviour the prospects would be dark indeed, but with the assurance of His presence and power we can go forward with the courage of heroes and the faith of martyrs. His biddings are His enablings, for He Himself has taken full responsibility for the complete success of the work given to us to perform. Of this we read from His messenger:

"Christ made full provision for the prosecution of the work entrusted to the disciples, and took upon Himself the responsibility of its success. So long as they obeyed His word, and worked in connection with Him, they could not fail. Go to all nations, He bade them. Go to the farthest part of the habitable globe, but know that My presence will be there. Labor in faith and confidence; for the time will never come when I will forsake you." "To us today, as verily as to the first disciples, the promise of the Spirit belongs. God will today endow men and women with power from above, as He endowed those who on the day of Pentecost heard the word of salvation. At this very hour His Spirit and His grace are for all who need them and will take Him at His word."—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, pp. 16, 17, 20.

With this full assurance of His continuous presence and His pentecostal power, we may know that in His own time His truth will triumph, and triumph gloriously. This promise comes to us in the cheering words:

"Clad in the armor of Christ's righteousness, the church is to enter upon her final conflict. 'Fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners,' she is to go forth into all the world, conquering and to conquer."—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 725.

"Ye Christian heralds! go, proclaim Salvation through Immanuel's name; To distant climes the tidings bear, And plant the Rose of Sharon there.

"He'll shield you with a wall of fire, With flaming zeal your breast inspire, Bid raging winds their fury cease, And hush the tempest into peace.

"And when our labors all are o'er, Then we shall meet to part no more— Meet with the blood-bought throng, to fall,

And crown our Jesus—Lord of all!"
—*Hymns and Tunes*, No. 1035.

Classification of Calls	Total Calls	Filled	Unfilled
Evangelists	67	61	6
Doctors and dentists	45	34	11
Nurses	41	30	11
Teachers	52	29	23
Principals	5	4	1
Press and school managers	5	4	1
Stenographers	7	4	3
Treasurers and cashiers	15	10	5
Union superintendents	5	4	1
Departmental secretaries	14	6	8
Directors—mission	26	15	11
General missionaries	19	15	4
Industrial leaders and technicians	11	4	7
Girls' school teachers, Bible instructors, preceptresses, matrons	17	7	10
	314	231	83

The Treasurer's Report

By W. E. NELSON

THE advent message that we all love and support is ever extending its influence in all parts of the earth and is gathering out a people prepared for the coming of the Lord. God in His providence uses many means of extending His work. He uses the whole man. Every talent we have can be used to His glory. Money and material things have always had an important part in extending the kingdom of God on earth. Giving and gathering money is a part of the gospel work and, where rightfully done, is a spiritual work of the highest order. Faith, honesty, love, and generosity, mingled with the spirit of sacrifice, are noble virtues that make progress of the advent message possible.

All can have a part in supporting the cause of God. Here in the North American Division, where the message first had its beginning, the larger part of our mission funds have been contributed. However, believers in all the world are active in their support of the advent movement, and in most parts of our overseas divisions the relation between the missionary offering and the tithe dollar is greater than it is in the North American Division. During the last five years many of our believers in countries outside of the Western Hemisphere have been deprived of contributing to the advent message. It has not been possible to send money for the support of our world mission program to many countries. Yet the love and loyalty to missions has continued to burn brightly, and our people have done the best they could.

Sabbath School Offerings

The greatest single offering for missions comes through the avenue of the Sabbath school. During the five-year period which is represented by this report \$12,056,774.72 has been contributed in North America and \$2,398,942.90 in overseas divisions, making a total of \$14,455,717.62. Our mission Ingathering work, in which we go to our friends and neighbors for funds, is the second largest source of income, and during the last five years has amounted to a total throughout the world of \$11,288,175.30. Of this amount \$7,522,221.14 was gathered in North America. The third largest source of mission gifts comes from our per cent of tithe from our local conferences in the North American Division, and during the last five years has amounted to \$10,752,071.02. Week of Sacrifice and Annual offerings have been combined in the last two years, and the total contributed in the two offerings during the last five years amounts to \$1,919,971.51. Of this amount \$469,896.52 was contributed in overseas divisions. Other offerings, such as Missions Extension, Midsummer Offering, etc., amounted to \$2,799,187.79. The grand total of all our offerings to carry on our world mission program amounts to \$31,036,225.93, and

about \$3,900,000 for reconstruction and special projects.

We have many thousand believers who do not attend Sabbath school and are thus deprived of the habitual weekly giving to our world mission program in the Sabbath school. We believe that following strictly the last Autumn Council action in every church in receiving on the second Sabbath of the month an offering for foreign missions will prove a great blessing to our people and also bring in a large sum of money for our mission program.

There is one aspect of our mission giving that I hesitate to bring to you, for it shows a decrease rather than an increase in our efforts, and that is the relationship between our mission offerings and the tithe paid in the United States and Canada. There has been a steady decline in this percentage relationship since 1930. If we had



W. E. Nelson

received as large a per cent of mission offerings as related to the tithe in 1945 as we did in 1928, our mission offerings for 1945 in the North American Division alone would have been \$4,041,024.64 greater than they were.

One of the very heavy tasks confronting our church membership in the conferences throughout the world is to secure proper churches for our membership. For many years we have had a fund known as the Church Extension Fund, created by setting aside 4 per cent of our mission offerings, annually. A ceiling was placed on the amount that was to be used annually for church extension, namely, \$100,000. In 1943 this ceiling was removed, so that now the entire 4 per cent of our mission offerings goes for church extension purposes each year. In 1945 the Autumn Council voted \$200,000 for church extension at home and abroad. The total appropriations to church ex-

tension during the last five years amount to \$844,806.67.

Since we last met in General Conference session, in 1941, the world has been engaged in the most destructive of all wars. Property and other resources measured by hundreds of billions of dollars have been destroyed. Many of our institutions have also suffered a like fate. Those that have not been wholly destroyed in the war area have been largely damaged.

Rehabilitation Funds

At this time it is quite impossible to give an accurate total of our losses, but we do know that these losses will mount up into many millions of dollars. The replacement of these resources or the repair of buildings will cost much in excess of the original cost of erecting the buildings years ago. To make it possible to re-establish our work in the war-devastated areas, the Autumn Council of 1942 voted to create the Rehabilitation Fund, and provided \$125,000 in the budget. Again in 1943 the Autumn Council voted \$1,050,000. In 1944, \$2,000,000 more was voted for rehabilitation, and plans were laid which called for a \$1,000,000 offering from the members in the Western Hemisphere and South Africa. This offering was received on February 3, 1945. We are pleased to report that nearly the full goal was received on that date. By the combined efforts of all the divisions mentioned above we received before the close of the year over \$1,035,000. This is undoubtedly the largest single mission offering ever received in one day by any Christian body. At the Autumn Council in 1944 gifts were received from our union and local conferences and institutions in North America in the amount of \$636,000, and at the Autumn Council in 1945 a sum of \$376,750 was subscribed.

By January 1, 1946, the total amount set aside for rehabilitation in the world was \$4,847,856.04. Out of this amount we have appropriated up to March 31, 1946, \$1,093,627.18. Requests amounting to several million dollars have been received in the past few months. Some of these requests have been granted, and careful study is being given to the whole field. We hope that some plan for the wise use of these funds will be laid at this session of the General Conference when representatives from most of our world divisions are present.

World War II is terminated as far as hostilities are concerned, but the effects are with us. Famine always follows a large war, and today we face a world shortage of food which is most serious. Millions of people will lose their lives through starvation unless decided action is taken. The countries of the world that have food surpluses have pledged themselves to render all the help possible for suffering humanity. In addition to helping in this general program of relief by our governments the members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United States and Canada have been called upon to raise the sum of \$500,000 for Famine Relief. A general offering

for this Famine Relief was received on May 4. It is too early to give a complete report, but we believe that a very fine offering was received on that date.

Our postwar clothing relief has been a very great success. About three quarters of a million pounds of clothing have been sent overseas from our warehouses in New York and San Francisco and by parcel post by our church members throughout North America. We have received scores of letters of appreciation from those who have benefited by this gift of clothing and food.

Sustentation

The support of our workers who have retired on account of age or illness, through what is known as the Sustentation Plan, has been a very great blessing to these workers. With a greatly increased tithe it has been possible to reduce the per cent of tithe paid into this fund by the conferences from ten to eight per cent, and a like proportion has been reduced in the payments given by our institutions.

During the five years covered by this report the total disbursement from the fund amounted to \$5,860,000.01. This includes the refunds made to conferences and institutions, appropriation of one million dollars to the Rehabilitation Fund, and also what has been paid out for beneficiaries of the Central European Division who have been residing in this country and other countries outside Central Europe. This has been necessary because it is impossible to send funds out of Central Europe for the support of these workers.

At the beginning of the five-year period we had 1,144 beneficiaries on the fund, and on December 31, 1945, there were a total of 1,324 who were receiving regular support from the fund.

Insurance Company

Ten years ago last April the General Conference authorized the organization of the International Insurance Company of Maryland. This company was chartered and licensed by the State of Maryland. The company and its agency are managed by a board of eleven directors elected to their office by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in session at Fall Council.

The company started operation with \$25,000 appropriated to it by the General Conference Corporation. The forming of our own denominational fire insurance company was an idea cherished by many of our leaders for years, but its incorporation did not take place until ten years ago. The beginning of this new enterprise was small, but as the years have passed, the company has made a steady growth. The company writes insurance on denominationally owned property only located in the United States, its possessions, and the provinces of Canada. Since its incorporation ten years ago, the company and its combined agency have received \$987,556 in premiums.

The total premium income for the year 1945 was \$173,422, and the first four months of 1946 show a gross premium income of \$67,565. The assets of the International Insurance Company and its combined agency as of May 1, 1946, totaled \$293,729.54, and the combined net worth was 267,778. The total liabilities May 1, 1946, were less than \$26,000. The total amount of insurance at risk May 1, 1946, was \$40,785,971. Of this total amount at risk the International Insurance Company carried \$6,378,464 as net insurance. During this period of ten years the combined net worth of our company has increased from \$25,000 to \$267,778 and at the same time we believe that the operation of the company has saved to its policyholders more than \$250,000.

The company has paid all its losses promptly. The International Insurance Company is under the supervision and regular inspection and auditing of the Insurance Commissioner's Office of the State of Maryland as well as being audited annually by the General Conference auditors.

The company's funds are largely invested in United States bonds and bonds of other corporations of such rating as are approved by the Maryland State Banking and Insurance Commissioners' regulations for the investment of a fire-insurance company.

On account of the war very little building has been possible during the past five years, with the result that many of our schools and other institutions are in great need of new buildings with which to care for our growing constituency. Our membership increase throughout the world in the last five years has been 68,559. This makes it necessary to provide additional building and equipment for our young people of school age, also additional housing for our church congregation.

With a large building program on in most of our unions in North America and other parts of the world, it will be necessary for every board and conference committee to redouble its efforts to keep inviolate our pledge to maintain our no-debt policy.

We are glad to say that most of our organizations, both at home and in the foreign fields, have now been able to accumulate a fair working capital, and many organizations and institutions have accumulated funds for the needed buildings that they propose to erect in the near future.

Debt Reductions

For some years many of our conferences and institutions have been under a heavy burden of indebtedness. From time to time efforts have been made to pay off these debts, but when necessary improvements were added, many times money was again borrowed, and the old debts or even greater debts were incurred. Ten years ago the aggregate note indebtedness of the denomination in all the world was about \$5,000,000, the greater part of the indebtedness being in North America.

We are glad to report that on Janu-

ary 1, 1946, these debts of our conferences and institutions were largely paid. In a few places there is still some obligation, but the greater part of these small obligations is owed by our institutions to conferences or conference associations.

It is indeed gratifying to know that now our full income may be used to build up and extend the work of God rather than paying interest and debts.

There are some financial obligations that our institutions and conferences have assumed in the form of trust agreements or for money deposited with these organizations without interest. The thought of the one depositing the money is that he may never call for his money, but if he does, it becomes a real indebtedness. Unless the money has been safeguarded and is available to repay the lender, the organization will be facing financial difficulties.

To this people has been given the task of proclaiming the advent message to all the world. All the physical and spiritual blessings, the food we eat, the water we drink, the clothes we wear, the air we breathe, are the gifts of God. These all bear witness to God's love for His children, and as long as we are the constant recipients of these blessings, we must continue to support His work. Not that God needs our offerings; we cannot enrich Him. All things are His. But by giving we enter into the only way we can show our love for Him and what He has done for us.

We read in *Testimonies*, volume 7, page 296: "The small and the larger streams of beneficence should ever be kept flowing. God's providence is far ahead of us, moving onward much faster than our liberalities." "Let none indulge the thought that we have attempted too much."—*Historical Sketches*, p. 294.

In closing this report we want to express our appreciation for every sacrifice made by our brethren to advance the work of God in the world.

Sowing and Reaping

BY ANNA MODINE MORAN

WHOEVER sows one seed of hope

Within a heart despairing
May see that seed become a tree,
The fruit of courage bearing.

He who ignites one spark of faith,
Dark unbelief to brighten,
Has lit a lamp whose cheery flame
A nation may enlighten.

Who plants one pure desire within
A carnal brain may find
The product of that one pure wish,
A clean and wholesome mind.

We sow the seeds by words and deeds
In fields we do not own;
And seeds produce their fruit in kind;
We reap what we have sown.

Both good and evil fertile seeds
We oft sow unawares.
What 'ill the seed thus sown produce,
A crop of grain, or tares?

General Conference Financial Statement

BALANCE SHEET—DECEMBER 31, 1945

ASSETS

Cash and Security Investments:

Current Operating Funds	\$ 3,071,988.22
Reserves Assigned Toward 1946 Appropriations	
Voted at 1945 Autumn Council	2,291,100.00
Rehabilitation Funds	4,846,763.99
Trust Funds	1,782,358.81
Exchange and Securities Reserve	535,662.96

Total Cash and Securities \$12,527,873.98

Cash and Banks \$ 2,994,721.98

Security Investments 9,533,152.00

\$12,527,873.98

Accounts Receivable 1,008,116.79

Accrued Interest on Securities 26,780.37

Supplies and Prepaid Items 31,949.02

Total Assets (All Current) \$13,594,720.16

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable \$ 281,674.00

Trust Funds 1,782,358.81

Total Liabilities 2,064,032.81

NET WORTH, DECEMBER 31, 1945 \$11,530,687.35

ANALYSIS OF NET WORTH

Reserves:

For Rehabilitation of Foreign Missions \$ 4,846,763.99

For Securities Contingency Fund 251,532.94

Foreign Exchange Reserve 284,130.02

Special Appropriations Granted at 1945 Autumn

 Council Toward 1946 Appropriations 2,291,100.00

Total Reserves 7,673,526.95

Regular Net Worth 3,857,160.40

TOTAL NET WORTH, DECEMBER 31, 1945 \$11,530,687.35

CONDENSED OPERATING STATEMENT

For Year Ended December 31, 1945

INCOME

TITHES:

Per Cent of Tithes Regular \$ 2,884,181.85

Per Cent of Tithes Special 1,078,716.15

Unions and Miscellaneous 288,952.33

Overseas Divisions 70,246.81 \$ 4,322,097.14

MISSION OFFERINGS:

Home Fields (Includes Revertible Funds) 6,065,824.66

Foreign Fields (Includes Revertible Funds) 2,036,892.68 8,102,717.34

MISCELLANEOUS INCOME:

Surplus Tithe 6,000.00

Interest and Dividends 195,177.72

Royalties 17,813.19

Funds Returned 28,091.95

Miscellaneous 58,770.86 305,853.72

TOTAL INCOME, YEAR 1945 \$12,730,668.20

EXPENSES

APPROPRIATIONS:

Overseas Divisions:

Regular	\$ 3,698,503.62
Reverted Funds	1,443,092.45
Specials—Autumn and Spring Councils	1,260,000.00
Miscellaneous	434,115.84

Total Foreign Appropriations \$ 6,835,711.91

North America:

Regular	483,325.74
Reverted Funds	1,147,147.79
Institutional Relief	877,781.69
Sustentation Fund	76,441.46
Ingathering Overflow	709,965.36
Special and Miscellaneous	853,606.56

Total Home Appropriations 4,148,268.60

Total Appropriations, 1945 10,983,980.51

GENERAL AND OPERATING EXPENSE:

Administrative and Departmental	440,948.31
Regular Operating Expense	58,863.86
Mission and Ingathering Promotion	90,995.77
Provision for General Conf. Session	5,000.00
Special Operating Expense	15,156.08

Total Operating and General 610,964.02

TOTAL EXPENSE, YEAR 1945 \$11,594,944.53

NET OPERATING GAIN, YEAR 1945 .. \$ 1,135,723.67

COMPARATIVE CONDENSED OPERATING STATEMENT

Years 1941-45

INCOME

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
TITHES:					
Home Field	\$1,249,353.64	\$1,756,278.71	\$2,473,515.50	\$ 3,990,748.93	\$ 4,251,850.33
Overseas	26,329.55	22,368.02	26,110.52	29,211.60	70,246.81
	1,275,683.19	1,778,646.73	2,499,626.02	4,019,960.53	4,322,097.14
MISSIONS OFFERING:					
Home Field	3,172,473.84	3,755,047.36	4,936,681.88	5,829,999.79	6,065,824.66
Overseas	1,018,846.41	1,016,296.40	1,112,549.33	1,485,449.39	2,036,892.68
	4,191,320.25	4,771,343.76	6,049,231.21	7,315,449.18	8,102,717.34
Miscellaneous Income	154,576.11	227,219.96	380,059.56	409,666.46	305,853.72
TOTAL INCOME	\$5,621,579.55	\$6,777,210.45	\$8,928,916.79	\$11,745,076.17	\$12,730,668.20

EXPENSES

APPROPRIATIONS:

Overseas	\$3,101,420.44	\$3,934,960.90	\$4,748,585.34	\$ 5,799,483.69	\$ 6,835,711.91
Home Field	1,192,011.09	1,540,398.00	2,442,027.16	3,764,556.59	4,148,268.60
	4,293,431.53	5,475,358.90	7,190,612.50	9,564,040.28	10,983,980.51

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSE:

Administrative and Departmental	284,996.41	329,634.93	395,915.63	431,212.53	440,948.31
Regular Operating	121,206.01	140,288.68	136,445.30	141,870.30	149,859.63
Special Operating	5,518.66	10,556.04	10,071.93	11,055.45	20,156.08

TOTAL EXPENSES \$4,705,152.61 \$5,955,838.55 \$7,733,045.36 \$10,148,178.56 \$11,594,944.53

NET GAIN FOR YEAR \$ 916,426.94 \$ 821,371.90 \$1,195,871.43 \$ 1,596,897.61 \$ 1,135,723.67

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET

Years 1941-45

ASSETS

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Cash and Bank	\$2,558,335.19	\$1,729,692.25	\$2,390,673.40	\$ 2,957,784.13	\$ 2,994,721.98
Securities	1,748,452.74	3,456,437.83	4,495,238.38	6,548,124.98	9,533,152.00
Accounts Receivable	591,884.77	467,613.28	321,783.00	516,650.82	1,008,116.79
Accrued Interest	11,069.48	12,829.86	13,975.82	24,881.82	26,780.37
Supplies and Prepaid Expense	14,042.38	100,879.05	74,389.16	53,733.29	31,949.02
Library—Net	1,503.29	1,134.62	683.87	185.56	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,925,287.85	\$5,768,586.89	\$7,296,743.63	\$10,101,360.60	\$13,594,720.16

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 160,817.12	\$ 317,183.92	\$ 125,499.91	\$ 123,146.29	\$ 281,674.00
Trust Funds	1,071,965.25	889,737.11	1,406,310.60	934,634.72	1,782,358.81
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$1,232,782.37	\$1,206,921.03	\$1,531,810.51	\$ 1,057,781.01	\$ 2,064,032.81

NET WORTH

DECEMBER 31	\$3,692,505.48	\$4,561,665.86	\$5,764,933.12	\$ 9,043,579.59	\$11,530,687.35
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CERTIFICATE OF AUDIT

TO THE CONSTITUENCY OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS:

We have examined the accounting records of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for the year ended December 31, 1945. Cash was in hand as called for by the records, and bank accounts were in reconciliation with statements from the respective banks. The securities have been verified by actual inspection and are valued in the Balance Sheet on the basis of market rates December 31, 1945, or cost, whichever was lower.

Funds received have been allocated in harmony with our general policies. All regular, special, and emergency appropriations have been disbursed as authorized by the Autumn Council and the Minority Committee.

We hereby certify that the accompanying Balance Sheet and the related Operating Statement have been prepared in harmony with the books of account, and, in our opinion, present fairly the financial position of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as of December 31, 1945, and the results of operating during the year then ended.

The General Conference accounting records were also audited for the years 1941, 1942, 1943, and 1944, and the financial reports with certificates of audit were presented to the annual spring meetings of the General Conference Executive Committee. The accompanying comparative condensed Balance Sheet and Operating Statement are true summaries of the annual reports covering the five-year period 1941-45, and present fairly the financial position of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at the close of each of these years, and the operating results for the five-year period ended December 31, 1945.

W. E. PHILLIPS,
H. W. BARROWS,
General Conference Auditors.

Takoma Park, D.C.
February 12, 1946

Report of Relief Work

Carried on by the General Conference During and Since the End of the War

By W. E. NELSON

WE BEGAN our relief work in 1938, in behalf of China, where war and famine had caused great distress, and where much additional hardship resulted from the great migration westward. In 1939 and 1940, following the Russian-Finnish Peace Pact, special relief measures went into effect in behalf of Finland.

The beginnings of our postwar clothing relief was started in July and August of 1944. We began by renting a warehouse in Peekskill, New York, in December, 1944, placing Adolph Dorn in charge. On March 14, 1945, this warehouse was closed and the work transferred to New York City, occupying two floors in connection with the Atlas Transportation Company, at 447 West 36th Street, where incoming and outgoing shipments are greatly facilitated. Brother Dorn continued in charge of the warehouse for a time, but later was succeeded by Mrs. Jacqueline Dusing as manager, who is still in charge of the work there.

In January, 1945, a warehouse was established on the West Coast, at 2877 California Street, San Francisco, California. For several months H. F. Newman was in charge of the Western warehouse, but because of health conditions he found it necessary to move to a milder climate, and Elder and Mrs. J. A. P. Green were placed in charge and have carried on a very successful work.

Churches located in the Rocky Mountain territory and West were directed to ship clothing to the San Francisco warehouse, and those east of the Rockies were directed to ship to New York. Over a million pounds, or 582 tons, of clothing have been gathered by our people, and nearly 500 tons of clothing have been shipped overseas.

Most of this clothing has been gathered by the Dorcas Societies of the Home Missionary Department, William A. Butler and Mrs. Grace D. Mace having taken a very active part in the promotion of this work. One million dollars is a very conservative estimate on the value of the clothing that has been gathered in. To each garment sent out a cloth label has been attached, bearing these words: "Contributed by Seventh-day Adventist churches in North America. Headquarters: Washington 12, D.C."

The work of processing all this clothing is a very great task. Each garment is checked and sorted according to suitability for the tropics or temperate and cold climates. Woolen garments are placed in mothproof containers. All clothing is baled and wrapped in water-resistant paper and covered with burlap. Each bale

weighs from 150 to 180 pounds. Shoes are packed in boxes and barrels. The capacity for processing clothing at the Eastern warehouse is about six to ten tons a week, and at the Western warehouse the capacity is a little less. At the New York warehouse three full-time workers, aside from Mrs. Dusing, the manager, have been employed, and an average of ten to sixteen volunteer workers from churches within a radius of ten to twelve miles of the warehouse have given their services regularly. At the San Francisco warehouse, in addition to Elder and Mrs. Green, one full-time worker has been employed. The churches in the San Francisco and Bay area have supplied volunteer help. Thousands of hours of service have been contributed by our faithful church members.

In addition to the large quantities of clothing furnished by our church members, the committee in charge of the relief work has made large purchases from surplus war material. These purchases include 2,000 blankets, 1,000 comforters, 1,000 pairs of new shoes, and 2,000 pairs of used shoes; also 10,000 suits of part-wool winter underwear, and 10,000 pairs of socks.

The Canadian Union has joined in this clothing relief work, and many tons of clothing have been shipped; but its work has had to be carried on independently, because of national law. Close co-operation has been maintained with the Canadian Red Cross, through Mrs. Florence Henderson, a registered nurse whose service is highly esteemed by our organization.

South America prepared a large shipment of clothing to be sent to Southern Europe.

The Lord has helped us greatly in securing transportation and opening up avenues for getting the clothing to our brethren in many countries, and letters of appreciation have been received from time to time.

Parcel-Post Shipments

In addition to the shipments of clothing sent from the warehouses, about 236,000 pounds of clothing have been sent by our people in the various churches direct to individuals in the devastated countries, by parcel post. As reported, there have been 25,939 parcel-post packages sent out, which would be equivalent to 118 tons of clothing and food supplies, representing a total postage investment of \$34,500. Addresses for these packages were furnished by our organizations in Europe, the Far East, and China. Help has also been supplied to victims of the earthquake in San Juan, Argentina; and in Jamaica people suffering as a result of the hurricane have received much help.

Famine follows war, and throughout the world there exists a very delicate balance between production and consumption. When this balance is unsettled, overproduction causes depression, and underproduction means famine, want, and death. Tens of millions of men formerly engaged in production were suddenly called into the war, and instead of producing they engaged in destruction, which unsettled the balance between production and consumption, and as a consequence we are plunged into a very severe famine, extending over many parts of the world.

Famine Relief

To meet this situation, the General Conference Committee sent out an SOS call for an offering for famine relief, to be received on May 4. From scattered reports, it appears that we shall receive well over \$500,000, which was the goal set.

To accomplish the greatest amount of relief in the shortest time, throughout the famine areas of Europe, the General Conference sent J. J. Strahle to Northern Europe, with headquarters at Copenhagen, Denmark; and J. J. Aitken to Switzerland, with headquarters in Bern. Elder Strahle took with him \$50,000, and has been cabled an additional \$75,000. If we bought food here in the United States, and had it processed and packaged and shipped to Europe, it would require many weeks and possibly months for it to reach our starving brethren in Europe. Elder Strahle has been able to purchase large quantities of food in Denmark and Sweden, and has obtained export permits to send it into the famine areas in Northern Europe. Elder Strahle will be able to report in person as to what he has been able to accomplish.

Elder Aitken has been able to purchase large quantities of food from the Red Cross and other sources in Switzerland. We have sent him 500,000 Swiss francs, or approximately \$120,000. To facilitate the distribution of food, Elder Aitken has been authorized to purchase trucks for transportation, and has established seven depots in Germany to which food is being sent. These depots are in the charge of our local brethren, who will distribute to our church members.

Six additional workers are under appointment to help in the distribution—three to assist Elder Strahle in Northern Europe, and three to assist Elder Aitken in Switzerland.

In addition to the food purchased by these brethren, there has been shipped from this country 4,000 packages, purchased from a relief organization in New York which has warehouses in a number of countries suffering from famine. Each package costs \$15, making a total of \$60,000. This company guarantees the delivery of packages to the addresses furnished them. These 4,000 packages have been assigned to Finland, Poland, and Holland. We believe that many lives will be saved as the result of our famine relief program in Europe.

The picture in the Orient is some-

what different from that in Europe. In China the famine area is isolated from transportation facilities, making it impossible for us to send food into these areas. But the leadership of the China Division assures us that it is possible to purchase rice and other food commodities in the famine areas if funds are forthcoming. To meet this very pressing need, the committee has appropriated \$25,000, which will make it possible to distribute rice to

our brethren where the need is greatest.

For India and Burma, we are endeavoring to purchase food from Australia and have it shipped to our union headquarters in these countries. We are also furnishing funds with which to buy food. The relief being sent in by the Government is not distributed free, but is for sale; and with funds supplied from our famine relief offering it will be possible for our brethren to purchase food.

we enter upon this next term. Shall we stand together while Brother Wilson prays?

N. C. WILSON: With deep gratitude in our hearts and with praise on our lips, dear Father, we come into Thy sacred and divine presence this afternoon. This is a vital and important moment to which we have come. This is a most vital and far-reaching meeting in which we are now engaged. [Voices: Amen.]

We feel, dear Father, conscious constantly of the need of God's blessing and help and guidance. We pray, dear Father, that as we proceed with the deliberations of this Conference, as from time to time, from hour to hour, as we gather, O God, grant us, we beseech Thee, the presence and the abiding blessing of the Holy Spirit. We pray, dear Lord, that not for a moment, not for an instant, may we be left to our own ways or our own devisings, but, O God, be Thou the great Leader of this meeting, the great Leader of this movement in all parts of the world.

We have come, dear Lord, at this moment, to in a special way pray for Thy blessing to fall in abundance upon Thy servant, Elder McElhany, who again has been called and set apart to lead the forces of God in all parts of the world in this hour of great opportunity and this hour of tremendous challenge and difficulty. O Lord, lay Thy hand upon Thy servant at this time. May God be gracious and kind to the man of Thy choosing as he plans and thinks and works for the upbuilding, the advancing, of the cause of truth in every part of the world, out to the ends of the earth. O God, be with him and guide his mind and his heart in counsel, and give him wisdom to know how to lead this movement, this people, on to great victory during coming days. We feel, dear Lord, that we have come to a time when we must move forward. We must press on. We must go along, dear Father, as we have never done before. Open up to us, dear Lord, the ways and means, and give us the wisdom and the grace and the courage to step forward as God shall open the way. Be with Thy servant, Elder McElhany, we beseech Thee again, dear Lord. We hold him up before Thee. Place Thine arms of support and comfort and love about him. May he know that the people of God love him, believe in him, and are praying for him.

Remember the other men who shall be chosen under God to lead in the work of the great world field in all parts of the world. O God, bless us and guide in this meeting. May we be conscious of the stately steppings of the God of Israel in this meeting, as we are here together from day to day.

Hear us, dear Lord, in this our prayer and be gracious to Thy people, to all of us who have gathered here counsellors together, and to all our brethren and sisters. May the Spirit of God be in our midst and may the love of God bind our hearts together, for we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Proceedings of the General Conference

Third Meeting

June 6, 1946, 3:45 P.M.

CHAIRMAN: L. H. Christian.

HYMN: "Faith of Our Fathers," announced by C. Gidlund, principal of the Missionary Seminary in Sweden.

PRAYER: W. G. C. Murdoch, principal of the Newbold Missionary College in England.

L. H. CHRISTIAN: I understand that the Nominating Committee is prepared to give us a partial report, and we wish to listen to that report as our first business this afternoon. Brother Turner, I believe, is the chairman of the Nominating Committee.

W. G. TURNER: Brother Chairman, your Committee on Nominations is prepared, as has been stated, to submit a partial report. On this committee are fifty-five men. All were present when the matter that was before us was considered. The report comes to this delegation as the unanimous vote of the Committee on Nominations.

Elder Wilson is the Secretary of the Committee.

N. C. WILSON: Brother Chairman, your Committee on Nominations has pleasure in respectfully submitting the following partial report:

For President of the General Conference, J. L. McElhany.

Mr. Chairman, I move the acceptance of this report.

L. H. CHRISTIAN: You have heard the partial report of the Nominating Committee. And it has been moved that it be accepted. Are there any remarks?

[The question was called.]

Those who favor this report as submitted, will you kindly show it by the uplifted hand?

That is a beautiful vote. I think everyone voted. I will ask, however, if there is anyone that is opposed to that action. I don't see a single hand. So Elder McElhany is unanimously elected President of the General Conference for the next quadrennial session.

There are many thoughts, brethren, that come to us when we take up the question of choosing leaders for the work of God in these momentous times. I am sure that what I express is only what everyone of you will be thinking, that we have never before chosen a President of the General Conference under such serious world conditions

and with such a glorious future before us as today. We think of the task ahead. We think of the trials before us. We think of the great triumph, by the grace of God, that we as an advent people will come to, as we know from the Scriptures. Really, at this time to ask anyone to be a leader of this movement is a matter of very great importance. You have all shown your confidence and your love by your unanimous vote, but I do wish to say just a word concerning this work and these years that have passed under Elder McElhany's leadership.

It is not only, brethren, that we have never before chosen a leader when conditions were on such a large scale for good and bad, as they are today, but we have never come to the end of a quadrennium—rather five-year period this time—when the reports from every department were as cheering, marvelously cheering, as they are today. I think those of us who have been closer perhaps to the center of God's great cause here in Washington than some of you who work in far-away fields—I know that I can speak for them—all believe God has marvelously blessed Elder McElhany through these five years, not only with the spirit of kindness and with the gift of uniting, but with vision and with courage to plan as God wants us to plan at this time.

I am very happy to state that in our associations here at the General Conference—and I have been a member of the General Conference Committee for many, many years—I have never been with a committee when I have felt that there was with us more of the sweet spirit of the Lord than we have experienced during these years that have now come to a close. God has been with His servants and in a very marked manner has sustained and blessed Elder McElhany. He has a heart of love for all of us.

I should not speak much. I will ask Elder McElhany if he wishes to say anything. I do not know that he does, for I had not known of this report until I heard it now here, but I think that before we proceed, we should have a word of prayer to God to sustain His servant, and to guide us all in this great time before us. I will ask Brother Wilson, the secretary, who is from one of our large unions and whom we all know so well, to pray, not only for Elder McElhany, but for us all as

L. H. CHRISTIAN: Is there anyone that wishes to say a word at this point? Brother McElhany, do you wish to speak? [Elder McElhany's response appears on page 48.]

L. H. CHRISTIAN: We have been definitely told in the Spirit of prophecy that we must not say the Lord may come in two years or three years or five years—I think I quoted verbatim—nor in ten or twenty, or set any time; but brethren, when we think of what must happen and will happen these next four years, if we have four years, I think we can enter into the feelings that Elder McElhany has just expressed; and we do need God's help in a very special manner.

Now, the further business this afternoon is first a report from the Home Study Institute, given by M. E. Olsen. [The report appears on page 38.]

L. H. CHRISTIAN: Our next item of business is to present a report from Northern Europe—the Northern European Division as a division, has not been able to function because of the war. We have many believers and brethren up in that country. Elder Cormack will lead us into the reports and introduce the men who are to speak to us.

A. W. CORMACK: We are very happy that three brethren from Northern Europe may speak to us this afternoon, bringing us a report from what was that division. G. A. Lindsay, H. W. Lowe, and P. G. Nelson. G. A. Lindsay is president of the East Nordic Union, and during these terrible days that have gone into history the General Conference took an action asking Elder Lindsay to be the General Conference representative over in that section of the world field. We are very happy that he can be with us, and he will speak to us.

[The report appears on page 39.]

A. W. CORMACK: I am sure that we all feel that the time available for these soul-stirring reports is all too short. H. W. Lowe, president of the British Union, is our next speaker.

[The report appears on page 41.]

A. W. CORMACK: P. G. Nelson is the president of the West Nordic Union. We are very glad that he was able to come and attend this meeting. He will now speak to us.

[The report appears on page 43.]

A. W. CORMACK: Our hearts are thrilled, I know, for these good reports that have come, and we want these brethren to tell their brethren and sisters overseas that we reciprocate very affectionately the greetings they have sent to us, and I am confident that we will find time to remember these dear brethren in our thoughts and prayers.

L. H. CHRISTIAN: You will have noticed, I am sure, that there are two of our brethren from Holland here. Holland too is part of Northern Europe. They will tell us about their experiences at a later meeting. We are very glad that they can be with us today at this Conference.

[A. H. Ham, president of the Southern Asia Division, will give his report during the evening hour. This report will appear in a later issue.]

Adjournment was taken.

Axel Varmer, president of the East Denmark Conference, announced the closing song, no. 354, "Stand Up for Jesus," and Pastor R. S. Joyce, president of the North England Conference, offered the benediction.

L. H. CHRISTIAN, *Chairman*,
A. W. CORMACK, *Secretary*.

Devotional Study

(Continued from page 23)

They are singing it, they are praying it in all the world. I was in Australia with a missionary from the New Hebrides, fresh from among cannibals. I copied down one of their songs, which is the song, in Atchinese, that we sing, "Happy day, happy day, when Jesus washed my sins away." Savages, redeemed by the grace of God, are singing it over in Atchin; and I, a preacher, need it just the same and just as much.

Brethren and sisters, it is a wonderful thing to be in this work and talk about it. O brethren, the time has come when the last things are being done. The last message is going to the world, and thank God, we have a part in it!

I don't know; how many were here in 1913? Stand up, will you? [Quite a number stood up.] Thank you. Well, brethren who can talk [turning to men on platform], how about the courage of 1913 and the courage of 1946, brother? For a few minutes let's think about it.

Response

J. L. McELHANY: As Brother Spicer has brought this very vivid picture before us of the progress of this message in all the world, it has deeply stirred my heart, and I have just thought of it in this light, that here on the platform we have a visible demonstration of it. Brother Diaz, stand up. Out in the Philippine Islands there are men and women responding to this message, aren't there?

P. R. DIAZ: There are thousands of men and women who are waiting for the coming of the Lord.

J. L. McELHANY: Amen. They are faithful men and women. If we had the time to hear the story of what they have endured and of the loyalty and faithfulness of these people, it would greatly stir us. Brother Olson, of South America, how about it there?

H. O. OLSON: In every country of our division we find thousands, too, waiting for the coming of the Lord and anxious to see this cause triumph.

J. L. McELHANY: Brother Anderson, what about Africa?

W. H. ANDERSON: I have met men who for a whole generation have been watching the path, waiting for God's message to come to them. Africa is waiting, Ethiopia is reaching out her hands after God, and the Lord has given us a marvelous harvest down there.

J. L. McELHANY: Brother Mookerjee, India.

L. G. MOOKERJEE: We have covered over half the territory of the Southern Asia Division with this message and a large number of the principal languages, and rejoice in the message of the blessed hope with you.

J. L. McELHANY: Brother Frost, a word from China.

S. L. FROST: From all reports that I hear, China is waiting today for this message. In all parts of that field we hear wonderful stories of the way the Lord is working upon the hearts of the people of China, and we believe that this is the day of God's power in that land [Amens], and that we shall see wonderful things happen in the bringing of souls to Christ. Our hearts are in this living work, and we are endeavoring to follow the living Saviour. May He soon bring to fruition this great work of gathering in the millions from China and all mission lands.

J. L. McELHANY: Brother Turner, from Australasia.

W. G. TURNER: From Australasia and the islands of the South Pacific, thousands of hearts are uplifted, minds turned to the glorious day of the coming of Jesus. The reports that are coming to us from the islands of the Southwest Pacific tell us of a great awakening among these more primitive peoples of northern New Guinea and a very definite turn on the part of the old men as a result of the war. They want this message and the coming of the Lord.

J. L. McELHANY: Well, if we had every land and every continent represented on this platform this morning bring a message, I am sure we would hear this same response from one and all. It is a wonderful thing to be connected with this movement. What a privilege is ours to be a part of that company that the Lord is preparing to stand eventually upon the sea of glass before the throne of God. Well, brethren, I feel this morning in my own heart to respond to this appeal that has come to us from Elder Spicer. I thank God He has spoken to our hearts through His servant. [Amens.] I am sure I voice the sentiment of everyone here this morning when I say, God help us. God save us from everything that is earthly and worldly and prepare us for that great day soon to come when Jesus shall be revealed.

L. G. Mookerjee of India announced the closing hymn, No. 185, "Heir of the Kingdom."

W. H. Anderson, of Africa, pronounced the benediction.

ARGUMENT is good in its place, but far more can be accomplished by simple explanations of the Word of God. The lessons of Christ were illustrated so clearly that the most ignorant could readily comprehend them. Jesus did not use long and difficult words in His discourses; He used plain language, adapted to the minds of the common people. He went no farther into the subject He was expounding than they were able to follow Him.—*Gospel Workers*, p. 169.

The Home Study Institute

By M. E. OLSEN

WE TURNED over a new leaf in the history of our educational work when, at the General Conference of 1909, held in Takoma Park, we authorized the starting of the Fireside Correspondence School, Frederick Griggs being its sponsor, and W. E. Howell its first principal. The new institution opened its doors to students on the first day of October, 1909. Then for the first time it became possible for all knowledge-hungry Adventists of North America, and ultimately for many in other countries, to study under the guidance of teachers who believe in Christian education.

The new institution was warmly welcomed from the first, and experienced a slow but steady growth. C. C. Lewis took over the reins in 1913 when Professor Howell found it necessary to give undivided attention to the performance of his duties as assistant educational secretary. Ten years later, in the summer of 1923, the health of Professor Lewis gave way, and his place was filled by the present incumbent. The financial depression of the early 1930's naturally had its effect upon the enrollment, but the institution kept on with its work and presently began once more to gain in income and enrollments. The name was changed in 1930 from Fireside Correspondence School to Home Study Institute, the new term being in line with the nomenclature of other leading educational institutions.

When the war broke out in Europe in the autumn of 1939, the school was doing a flourishing business of its own, and had a large branch with headquarters in Shanghai, which, under the inspiring leadership of W. A. Scharffenberg, was doing a great work for the Far Eastern and China divisions. There were also at that time branches in Australia, England, France, and India. When the Japanese army entered Shanghai, the Oriental branch had to close down. Now that the war is over, it will doubtless open again before long, and once more offer educational opportunities to thousands of eager students in those great mission fields. The branches in England, France, and India continued to function, though under difficulties, during World War II, and the branch in France, strange to say, was permitted to operate even after the country had been occupied by the Germans.

The enrollments and income grew rapidly during the war years, as the following figures will show:

- In the year 1940 we had 1,456 enrollments.
- In 1945 there were 2,729.
- During 1940 we issued 703 certificates for completed courses.
- During 1945 we sent out 1,330 certificates.
- Our gross income for 1920 was \$16,117.
- For 1945 it was \$52,038.

Figures in themselves do not mean a great deal. You will be interested to know something about the students who enroll for our courses. First, they come from all classes and conditions of life. Farmers, bricklayers, plumbers, printers, laborers, and their wives rub shoulders with ministers, Bible instructors, conference treasurers, colporteurs, teachers of church schools, etc.; and we find excellent students among them all. Second, these students live in many different parts of the world. Here are a few of the countries on our list: France, England, Scotland, Canada, Holland, Liberia, Nyasaland in West Africa, Rhodesia and Cape Town in South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Philippine Islands, Bermuda, British Guiana, Honduras, Jamaica, Leeward Islands, Mexico, Canal Zone, Alaska, Brazil, Korea, Okinawa.

The Home Study Institute has en-



M. E. Olsen

rolled from time to time a goodly number of our ministers, chiefly younger men, but also some who have been in the work for a long time. An evangelist in charge of one of our city churches enrolled some years ago for our \$90 course in accountancy, and brought it to successful completion. He is now one of our union presidents, and speaks from personal experience when he urges his workers to devote some of their leisure time to advanced study.

As an illustration of the practical value of our courses, I may mention the case of another union president, who was chairman in a business meeting at which the nominating committee brought in a new name for conference president. Nearly half the delegates wanted to re-elect the old one, and so there were motions and amendments, amendments to the

amendments, and appeals to the chair, until things were pretty much in a tangle.

Immediately following that meeting the officer who had presided inquired whether the Home Study Institute had a course in parliamentary practice. On learning that it had, he enrolled at once. Being a busy man, he carried the textbook around in his pocket and conned his lessons in leisure moments. A General Conference officer noticed this habit of his and asked to see the book and lessons he was carrying about. This officer liked the course and enrolled for it. While he was traveling in one of our foreign fields, the president of the division saw him consulting his pocket volume from time to time, and he, too, enrolled for parliamentary practice. This is a fair example of how we get some of our students.

Church history, New Testament Greek, Hebrew, First and Second Corinthians, pastoral problems, sociology, public speaking, non-Christian religions, and parliamentary practice are among the courses that our ministers and Bible instructors select rather generally. New courses in Romans and Galatians will soon be ready, and we believe they will meet a widely felt need. Some of the women selected by certain ministers to assist them in Bible work take studies through the Institute, and in time become full-fledged Bible instructors, still continuing, however, to study with us. Their test papers do not come in at such frequent intervals as those from less busy people, but they are traveling steadily the upward path toward higher efficiency. Conference treasurers are often encouraged to take courses suited to their needs, advanced bookkeeping and accounting being favorites. Academy and church school teachers are often found on our roll of students.

In recent years we have had a steady influx of student-minded colporteurs. In New York City something like seventy-five of these bookmen are pursuing our course in salesmanship. On a recent visit to Jamaica I was able to enroll some fifty colporteurs in that island for the course. Some of our colporteurs, after completing the course in salesmanship, go on to enroll for various other courses in Bible, English, history, etc.

The great majority of our students are lay members. Boys and girls living on farms make excellent students, especially during the winter months. During the war we had as our students a large number of servicemen, most of them in camps and some on the fighting fronts. One of these young men completed enough courses to enable him to take sophomore rank when he entered college last fall. Others took from three to four and even five courses, and said they enjoyed the experience. Many of these young men were enrolled for Bible courses.

Every year students hindered by illness from attending a resident school enroll in our courses. Infantile paralysis, weak lungs, and other diseases make it necessary for many

young people to continue their education with the help of the postman. One young man who had returned home after spending five months as a patient at Warm Springs Foundation in Georgia, sent us a photograph showing him in his wheel chair, with leg braces reaching back to his hips and his right hand in a splint. Before him in a small table are his Bible and some of the books used for his Home Study course in lay evangelism. Recovery has got so far that he can walk a few steps at a time, but his legs are still very weak.

Some of our students think they find real advantages in the Home Study plan as compared with that followed in the resident school. They say they are always making headway, either reciting on paper or studying the assignment. No time is spent in listening to others recite. Naturally when older men and women undertake a correspondence course, they must do it in addition to a large variety of home duties. Women students head the list when it comes to making diligent use of the spare minutes that usually go to waste. Here is a woman who puts in an eight-hour day in a planer mill. On returning home in the evening she has supper to get, dishes to wash, and various other household tasks demanding attention. Nevertheless, her test papers come regularly, though somewhat far apart.

Many persons, both men and women, study because they like it. One of them has completed our courses in news writing and Victorian prose, and is now taking the one in non-Christian religions. She wrote me the other day, saying, "I am very much enjoying my home study courses, and I am pleased with the grades my teacher is giving me. I am going to take lots more courses from the Institute. I am only sixty-eight years old."

One man studies to keep himself young. The calendar says that this man, living on a ranch in California, is sixty-six years old, but he sends in excellent test papers at rather frequent intervals. At different times in the past he completed our courses in geology, Daniel and Revelation, and church history. Recently he has enrolled for New Testament history and the Spirit of prophecy. Why didn't he do this studying years ago? Because he was busy earning the money with which to put a large family through school and college. "Now that the children are through school," he writes, "I have the time and the funds to take up some studies I have wanted to take, but could not for lack of time and means. If the good Lord continues to give me health, I may take additional studies. I have a son and a daughter in the mission field; two daughters who are nurses, one of them in the Army in the South Seas; another daughter who is a church school teacher; and a son who is taking the medical course at Loma Linda."

In the winter of 1924 the school turned over a new leaf by getting out its first real course in lay evangelism. It came about in this way. The Columbia Union Conference was holding

its quadrennial session, and two well-known pastor-evangelists came forward with this request: "We wish you would offer a course that would prepare our forward-looking lay members to give Bible studies to their neighbors, and lead them skillfully step by step to a full knowledge of the message. Make it a good stiff course calling for the memorizing of important texts, and charge about five dollars for it. These lay members ask us preachers to train them, but we are not teachers. It is our business to preach, and when a class is organized we preach to the students, and they listen and approve, but they don't learn the art of teaching others the truth." The result of this interview was the preparation of our first series of lessons in lay evangelism, which, by the way, has been translated into a dozen different languages, and after various revisions continues to be popular.

Trains for Evangelism

Among the early pupils was a woman belonging to one of our Midwestern conferences. She had never held office in the church, neither had she distinguished herself in any other way, but she had applied herself earnestly to mastering this course in lay evangelism. When about half through with it she began to conduct Bible studies with her neighbors, and was enjoying some success. Meanwhile she had persuaded other members of the church to enroll for the course, and naturally they looked to her for guidance and help, so that, from being a very obscure and inactive church member, she became, in the pastor's words, "the most useful woman in my church." At the latest report this student had brought twelve persons into the truth, besides giving much-appreciated guidance and help to a number of the church members. This experience is typical of the good results achieved when a person of average ability applies himself earnestly to meet the requirements of a soul-winning course. It is not merely the course itself that helps the student but the fact that the test papers he or she prepares are carefully looked over and criticized constructively by a person who is giving his life to the fine art of discovering and developing talent.

In recent years groups of students paying one dollar each have been organized in various churches. These groups start in various ways. In one of our larger churches the pastor used the eleven o'clock hour for a stirring sermon on the need of trained soul winners, and followed with a brief statement concerning the lay evangelism course offered by the Home Study Institute. He said he would be willing to lead out in the study of these lessons, and suggested that the major part of the prayer meeting hour be devoted to the study of soul-winning methods, and later to current experiences of men and women who are actually working for their neighbors. There was an excellent response. More than two hundred of the members present handed in their names, and others joined later. The fruitage was not dis-

appointing. The members of the class were spiritually refreshed by the studies, and had some real success in winning men and women for the truth.

In another church a group was started for the study of the course in lay preaching, prepared jointly by the Home Missionary Department and the Home Study Institute. The interest developed in a quiet way. One of the younger members of the church felt a desire to take the course himself, and began to enlist some of his friends. "At first," writes the pastor, "there were only a half dozen who decided to take the course. By the time they organized, another half dozen had joined them. When the date for the first meeting was announced, a dozen more signed up, so there were just twenty-four present when our first roll call was made. And since then three more have joined, and only one has dropped out. Now there are twenty-six in the class, and we are having some lively times together. The membership is made up largely of church officers. We have the two elders, four of the six deacons, the treasurer, three deaconesses, the Sabbath school superintendent, her assistant and secretary, six Sabbath school teachers, the young people's leader with her assistant, the Dorcas leader, and the janitor. The remaining five are members who mean to be useful. Two are high school students. All are determined under God to do something as lay workers in bringing others the message of Christ's return. Our motto is, 'Warn and Win All Within Our Reach in the Wyoming Valley.'"

In the last four years it has been our privilege to co-operate with the Educational Department by printing and sending out to the various conferences supplies of the four sets of lessons in home education which are being used in connection with the meetings of the Parent-Teacher Associations. We count this phase of adult education as one of outstanding importance.

Some of the letters that come to our office are in various foreign languages, such as Spanish, French, Italian, and Danish-Norwegian; and others are written in what we must call very strange English. Now and then we have an odd request. For instance, in one of our announcements we quoted from the book *Education* a short passage pointing out the powerful influence that the mind exercises over the body, and saying that "the electric power of the brain, promoted by mental activity, vitalizes the whole system," whereupon an eager aspirant after knowledge wrote us almost by return mail: "Please send me 'the electric power of the brain.'"

Our hope for the future is that we may continue to enjoy the co-operation of schools and colleges and leaders in all departments of the work. We feel that in the large field of adult education we should be able to co-operate more closely with the Home Missionary Department, which is doing so much to encourage our lay members to study and practice the fine art of winning men and women for Christ.

The East Nordic Union Conference

By G. A. LINDSAY, President

WHEN we in the East Nordic Union Conference look back over the past few years' experiences since the last General Conference session in 1941 and behold God's wonderful dealings with us, we are led to exclaim with one of the great prophets in ancient times: "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness." Lam. 3:22, 23.

Already in 1941 we were cut off from travel to America, and therefore we were not able to send any delegates to the meeting in San Francisco. A few who were already over here at the time were, however, asked to serve as delegates from our field, and we were glad that we could thus in a direct way have part in that session, too. Now we are grateful that the way has opened so that several of our brethren who carry heavy responsibilities in the advent movement in Finland and Sweden can attend this General Conference session.

The East Nordic Union Conference comprises the four conferences in Finland and Sweden. I am glad to report that the advent movement has a strong foothold in this field. The day has long since passed when Adventists were looked upon as being a group of fanatics with some Old Testament ideas about the day of rest and about meats and drinks. Adventists are respected and loved by vast numbers of both prominent and common people who have either heard the advent message preached or else have seen it lived in sincerity by faithful members in our churches or workers in our health institutions. These have not yet felt free to join our ranks, but not a few are already secret disciples.

Adding together the results in the different kinds of endeavors in our organized work during the past five years and noticing the gains that we are able to record, we cannot feel satisfied. We had hoped for much more in these tremendous times, when people's minds have been so agitated over the happenings of the hour. But we are grateful to God that we have seen the advent movement make progress along all lines. At times we have had to apply ourselves altogether to new endeavors because of the war conditions. We have had to give ourselves more than ever before to the work of benevolence and mercy, and we are happy that the Lord saw fit to use us in this way to bring relief and shelter to many.

Sweden was one of the few countries in Europe that escaped the horrors of war devastation or occupation. When we on several occasions realized how near we were to being plunged into the war and still escaped, we felt that God had a purpose in leaving Sweden in the north as a city of refuge to which thousands could come and find refuge. This feeling was general with all

classes of people in Sweden, with all parties and creeds. That made the whole nation ready and eager to play the part of the good Samaritan wherever possible. And let me add: Adventists were not content to take a back seat either. I am happy for the way in which our people responded with liberal offerings for relief work, making it possible for us to do as much as we did for the many who came as refugees, poor and destitute.

Considering the handicapped way in which we had to do the evangelistic work during the whole of this five-year period, we have great reason to thank the Lord, because the number of baptisms and the net gain in membership was larger than during the previous



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five-year period. During the five years 1941-45, 1,863 new members were received as compared with 1,789 in the five-year period 1936-40. The net gain for the last five years was 828 as compared with 672 in the former period. The membership in the union was 6,388 at the close of 1945.

As I said before, our evangelistic activities were much handicapped. Although Sweden was not engaged in the war, the Swedish army was mobilized the whole time, and practically all our workers below the age of forty-seven had to give about 40 per cent of their time annually to such work as the government assigned to those who refused to bear arms. They were given work in the forests or on some old-time historic castles that should be preserved for the future, or else assigned to the fire department in some of the larger cities. This often broke into the evangelistic efforts. It was not always easy to direct another worker to take up the effort, for so many were called at the same time. Then it was hard to get meeting halls.

Such halls that we used to rent were now requisitioned by the army, which needed them for barracks for the soldiers.

In Finland the handicaps were of a different order. All the conference workers but two evangelists were regularly in government service for the whole duration of the war. Black-outs and the danger of air raids in the cities were also factors that militated against the evangelistic efforts. Difficulty in securing halls and fuel shortage had also to be reckoned with.

When but two ministers were left free to engage in public work, our good sisters in the Bible work came to fill the gaps in the ranks of the evangelists. They were sent out two by two to work as the brethren had done, holding series of evangelistic meetings and preaching the advent message with force and enthusiasm. God blessed their endeavors. Two young sisters were successful in bringing 100 souls to the truth in five years in a district where there was no Adventist church before. Now we have a live, working church there.

The church members in the East Nordic Union Conference loyally support the cause by their tithes and offerings. The following figures will give a picture of the increases that we have been happy to register as we compare this five-year period with the former one:

<i>Tithes</i>	
1941-45	\$484,854
1936-41	320,552
Gain	\$164,302
<i>Mission Offerings</i>	
1941-45	\$384,035
1936-41	248,401
Gain	\$135,634

With the Swedish and Finnish currency converted into dollars one gets an accurate comparison. If we had made the comparisons in local currency the gains in Finland would have been out of all proportion, inasmuch as the Finnish mark today is worth only one third of its value of two years ago. Our people in Finland recognize the deflated value of their money and give more in their offerings than ever before.

We thank God for such gains, and we pray that much good may be wrought in the field abroad with the mission offerings that workers and church members together give so willingly. Had Finland been able to carry on the Ingathering work as Sweden did, the gains would have been much greater.

There is no crisis with the Lord. We see that time and again as we are engaged in His work. When the war broke out and so many of our men colporteurs were called for national service, we wondered how it would go with the literature ministry. It happened at times that both the union and the local field missionary secretaries were inducted at the same time, and there was no chance of getting someone's service order deferred. But our

good colporteurs went right ahead with their work just the same. To aid the student colporteurs during the summer months, we had to appoint some of the more experienced students as assistants to the field missionary secretaries in their work while they were away from the field.

Statistical reports on the value of sales of literature during this period would not mean very much in this connection, but we can truthfully say that the literature sales in our union have made enormous increases in the last five years. Two years ago, before inflation really was noticed in Finland, the colporteurs over there sold more books in two weeks than they had done in one year about twelve years ago. The book *Our Wonderful Bible*, by Arthur Maxwell, has been sold for a number of years in Finland. In 1945 our colporteurs sold not less than 34,790 copies as compared to 19,761 in 1944. The health journal in Finland has now reached a monthly edition of 42,400 copies. This is almost twice the edition of five years ago. In Sweden our health magazine has also doubled its edition in the past few years and now they print 20,000 copies monthly.

People have been very willing to buy books put out by our publishing houses. Some of the books that we have printed have received fine comments in newspapers from outside reviewers, and this has greatly aided the colporteurs in their work. We firmly believe that the literature ministry is a very important factor in bringing the advent message to the people. There is no doubt but that the statement that we read in the Spirit of prophecy, "In a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven with great power, and who lightens the earth with his glory," is already beginning to see its fulfillment. God can make the adversities of the people steppingstones to higher ground, leading them to find present truth, which brings light and hope to discouraged and disillusioned humanity.

Departmental Activities

With the departmental secretaries inducted into national service nearly half the time, and many strong local church leaders in the same predicament, there naturally was a decline in some of the work that is usually carried on by the various departments. But on the whole the work did not suffer. More souls were brought to the truth through the personal work done by our church members during this five-year period than during the previous one.

The Dorcas Societies and the welfare workers accomplished wonderful results, both in Finland and in Sweden. During the last year and a half the Dorcas Societies in Sweden and hundreds of individual church members have made it possible for us to send out about six tons of clothing to Finland and Norway from our offices in Stockholm and Gothenburg.

We are glad that we have been able to carry on our Ingathering campaigns

in Sweden year by year during the war and to send out the mission funds that we collected. In the last five years the two conferences in Sweden collected nearly \$200,000, while in the preceding five-year period the whole union collected \$125,000, which then seemed good.

Medical Institutions

The sanitariums at Hultafors and Nyhyttan, in Sweden, are doing excellent work. Because of the closed borders, people who used to frequent health resorts on the Continent have had to stay at home during these years, and many of these have come to our institutions and have expressed their pleasure in having discovered such well-equipped institutions right at home. The treatment rooms and clinics in Helsingfors and Stockholm have also enjoyed an increased patronage. What these institutions really mean to the advent movement is perhaps not yet fully understood. But it is evident that they make many friends for this cause. This is often seen when we go out soliciting funds for missions in the Ingathering campaign. Patrons of our sanitariums often give large donations to church members who happen to come to them and solicit, at the same time mentioning that they know the Adventists through their sanitarium work.

One prominent Lutheran clergyman, who often visits our institutions, said in a devotional meeting for the guests that he was asked to conduct at Hultafors Sanitarium a year ago: "We tired and worn-out people surely have reason to be grateful to this denomination for the institutions they have set up, where we can come and build up our health and regain strength to go back and carry on our work. Here we also learn how to keep Sabbath and begin and end every day right."

Our missionary training schools at Ekebyholm in Sweden and Toionlinna in Finland are doing good work. Owing to the fact that so many of the young men have been inducted during the

war, the enrollment naturally went down. But this last school year the enrollment increased again. There are 84 students at the school in Sweden and 90 in Finland. During the war the school in Finland was requisitioned by the state for little more than a year and used as a home for people who were evacuated from eastern Finland. The missionary spirit in both schools is strong, and we hope that the time may soon come when some of the students will be called to the mission fields.

Conclusion

In closing I want to bring you all the hearty greetings from the Advent believers in Finland and Sweden and a number of Estonians who sojourn with us in Sweden. I can assure you that they have faithfully pledged themselves to do all that they are able to do by the grace of God to promote the spreading of the advent message at home and abroad. At the same time they want ever to be found eagerly waiting for the blessed hope, the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the clouds of glory.

Our people are grateful to the brethren of the General Conference that they sent us L. H. Christian, E. W. Dunbar, and W. H. Teesdale as soon as the lines of transportation were opened again. It had been more than six years since we last saw any of our brethren, either from the General Conference or from the Northern European Division. The timely messages that our brethren brought us and the good reports from far-off fields, from which we had heard nothing during these years, inspired us with new faith and courage to act well our part in finishing the work committed to us.

May God greatly bless this important convocation of His people. We want His will to be done in all the plans for the furtherance of this cause in the future that will here be acted upon. We feel that the day is not far off when we shall witness the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour. May we all have a part in that great gathering of His saints.



The Hultafors Sanitarium in Sweden

The British Union Conference

By H. W. LOWE, President

THOSE of us who come to this important assembly of God's people from Northern Europe feel like a body of men who, having passed through a long, dark, and dangerous night, emerge into a free, sunlit, and exhilarating atmosphere. We have behind us a difficult experience that is hard to describe, but we want you to know that during the nightmare years of war and isolation our confidence in God and this message has been our stay, and we rejoice to say that our people are strong in the Lord and the power of His might. We bring you the heartfelt greetings of a tired but loyal people, whose great ambition in life is to see the advent message triumph everywhere, and to look soon upon the face of our blessed Master.

I wish to read a passage of Scripture which I am sure is applicable to God's people in many lands today. It is taken from that great text in Hebrews, chapters 10 and 11, which surely must be the grandest statement on faith found anywhere in Christian literature. In verse 32 of chapter 10 the apostle speaks of the recent experiences of these believers, who are said to have endured "a great fight of afflictions," which came upon them because they had joined a people who felt the hostility of the world. (Verse 33.) Then follows a description of their experience, and an exhortation to even greater faith: "For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.... For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry." (Verses 34-37.)

The Faith of Jesus

If I were asked what enabled our people to endure the worst experience in the history of our work in Britain, I would not say it was because they possessed any natural qualities beyond the rest of mankind; I would explain it by using two of the greatest words in Hebrews 11: "By faith."

I knew an Adventist and his wife who one night in 1942 had suddenly to run from their beautiful home to seek protection in an underground shelter in the garden. After the ruthless and indiscriminate bombing of a wholly residential town was over, their home was gone. The neighbors, many of whom had similarly suffered, stood around, some hurling defiant curses at the departing raiders in the sky. The good brother consoled his grief-stricken wife, and, their first bitter heartaches over, he said as he led her away, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." It takes a mountain of faith to say that under such conditions, but those two souls are today still re-

joicing in the promise that a more "enduring substance" in heaven is the reward of our faith in Jesus.

Battling Against Losses

The day war broke out we lost our sanitarium and nurses' home in England, and only a day or two before we left for this meeting were they returned to denominational control. We were able to keep a fair number of our Adventist staff in the government hospital established there, including the manager, and they have done a difficult but praiseworthy job in caring for our interests and representing this truth as they worked with the world for six years. Incidentally, a few of the non-Adventist hospital staff have accepted the truth through this experience.

In January, 1942, we were compulsorily relieved of our Newbold Mission-



H. W. Lowe

ary College, which is still retained by the government. This was a severe blow because (1) our work can never grow anywhere without an educational institution of this kind; (2) alternative accommodation was extremely difficult to find, and, when found, it was altogether unsuitable. Our college staff have had a most difficult time, but they have carried on and graduated about sixty-five students during this period.

Recently we purchased a new college campus for \$160,000 as a venture of faith, and we hope soon to have the most modern training college we ever had at a total cost of some \$280,000. Unfortunately, conscription sadly hinders our enrollment prospects, and we have never during the war had more than 90 students. We hope this will soon rise to about 150.

Our educational work, however, has had its brighter side. We have estab-

lished a new secondary school or academy during the war. It is a thriving concern with an enrollment of more than 300, and has a rising reputation both inside and outside the cause.

Other severe losses came to us in the form of damage to twenty church buildings, and the complete loss of two others. Our evangelists had the most trying time of their lives. To have churches destroyed or damaged, to begin a public campaign only to have the hall put out of use overnight, to be almost unable to obtain handbills and quite unable to advertise in the newspapers, to have practically no tracts or small literature for interested people, to launch a campaign in towns which might, on account of raids, have many of the inhabitants evacuated overnight—these were discouragements to test the stoutest hearts. Yet our evangelists stuck to their posts and stayed by our people in their darkest hours.

Progress Under Trials

Altogether 2,191 souls were won from 1941 to 1945, but our losses, as is the case in times of war, were heavy (1,700). During the war years 1939-45 our total membership, despite heavy losses, has grown by over 600. There was a time when our work looked as if it might be brought to a standstill, but our people and workers grimly and devotedly held on. Not a church was closed, with the solitary exception of Folkestone, where our building was in range of the German cross-Channel guns.

At the beginning of 1941 we had 90 organized churches; today we have 100.

During the war period thirty of our members were killed in air raids, and over fifty were injured.

In the period 1936-40 our tithe income was £153,881 (\$615,524), but from 1941 to 1945 it rose to £264,035 (\$1,056,140) an increase of over 71 per cent.

Our total mission offerings (excluding Ingathering) for 1936-40 amounted to £90,953 (\$363,812), but between 1941 and 1945 they rose to £164,405 (\$657,620), a gain of 80.7 per cent.

The war years have created great difficulties in our Ingathering work. To begin with, we had very little paper for magazines and leaflets. Then the bombing brought great disruption and unsettlement. Our own people were tremendously busy with voluntary and compulsory war work, and on top of this we now have stringent government regulations to conform to if we wish our permit to be renewed each year. Yet our people never did better work for missions. For the years 1936-40 they raised £54,992 (\$223,968), but for the period of this report (1941-45) this was increased to £91,104 (\$364,416), which is a gain of almost 66 per cent. We are now raising a per capita Ingathering of \$16.50 each year throughout our union. Our people often did their soliciting in streets and districts very recently bombed and shattered, but nothing seems to have given our Ingathering any setback for the past ten years.

Our hard-driven people, every able-

bodied person among them between fifteen and fifty being harnessed to government work, did not allow their home missionary duties to lapse. They circulated over 1,250,000 pieces of literature between 1941 and 1945. They gave 40,500 Bible studies and paid 104,000 missionary visits, as a result of which activities 224 new members were won to the truth. Even our Dorcas Societies kept busily at work, though where our women found any surplus clothing from our meager wardrobes puzzles me. Here let me say that war is very hard on our womenfolk, and they have borne a heavy burden with great fortitude.

It would not seem to most people that a small, overcrowded, and incessantly bombed island was the right place in which to purchase church properties; yet we have acquired nine new churches during the war, some of them in danger areas. One evangelist and his assistants were making some roof repairs on one newly acquired building when they heard and saw a flying bomb approaching them. The preacher says he never got off a roof in less time in his life. The bomb blew out the windows they had just put in at one end of the church, but they went to work again, and we dedicated that building in the center of a district that is said to have been the most-bombed section of London.

Institutional Progress

Although our paper quota has allowed us only 30 per cent of our prewar supply for books and 17 per cent for periodicals, it is little short of marvelous that our literature sales for 1941-45 were £151,584 (\$606,336).

All our colporteurs except one remained with us, but everyone had to appear before a tribunal to state his religious opinions, etc.

Because we cannot buy space in newspapers, and because we have no paper for a large course of lessons, we have hitherto not been able to launch the Voice of Prophecy plan. But recently our editor tested out the plan by inserting an advertisement in each subscription book sold by our colporteurs. In a short time we had hundreds of names which are now beginning to bear fruit in baptisms. As soon as we can advertise and obtain paper for follow-up lessons we know this plan can be worked in a large way here.

Our health-food work has, like all our departments, battled against great labor problems, but we never sold so much produce as during recent years. Plans are afoot for enlarging our factory and for establishing area depots all over the country. Our health foods have a far wider public than at any time in our history, and we must capitalize on this wartime advertising and expand this department.

Our "tight little island" has certainly lived up to this apt description during the war. From all quarters we were invaded by the friendliest armies we ever saw. At one time we had well over 2,000 American Adventist soldiers on our mailing list, and

with others from Norway, Holland, Poland, France, in addition to Britishers, we must have had some 3,000 overseas Adventists in our midst. They came at a bad time, but they cheerfully fitted into our trying conditions and brought us a good deal of inspiration. We have held several baptisms for U. S. and other soldiers who came overseas to find the truth.

At present we have a number of German and Central European prisoners of war with us. One young Adventist joined the Hitler Youth and lost his faith completely. Later came the collapse and weary months as a prisoner, during which he had little to do but think. One day our camp pastor found him unexpectedly, and that boy is today back in the truth and ready for rebaptism. Still another German prisoner had nothing to read but *Steps to Christ* (paper edition). It has been read and loaned to thousands of men till it is falling to pieces.

Our soldiers stood nobly for the standards of truth under severely testing conditions.

Some years ago a man in the New-castle area accepted the truth and had to give up a good position as inspector on a transport service. He decided to enter the colporteur work and to return to his native village as a center for his operations. He scattered our books thoroughly and soon had cottage meetings in his own home. Some of these people had purchased *The Great Controversy* and *Patriarchs and Prophets* twenty years ago from another colporteur. Eventually an evangelist was called in, and a series of Saturday meetings started. Opposition arose, and a united public meeting was held to protest against the work of Seventh-day Adventists. But today twelve staunch Adventists form a company there and, of course, have a man in their midst who wants to take up the colporteur work, and also two of the sisters. How these colporteurs make colporteurs! And how Mrs. White's words are fulfilled about our books, left untouched on shelves in people's homes, bearing fruit after many years! Yes, "by faith" today, as in the long ago, and through "a great fight of affliction," the work of God moves on-

ward, and soon "He that shall come will come, and will not tarry."

Almost everything we try to do today in postwar Europe is fraught with frustration, opposition, difficulty. We have had nothing like the present problems involved in finding houses and halls, and faint hearts would be easily daunted. But no Adventist should be a faintheart. Over and over we have proved the truth of the words: "The precious Saviour will send help just when we need it. . . . The time of trouble is a fearful ordeal for God's people; but it is the time for every true believer to look up, and by faith he may see the bow of promise encircling him."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 633.

Our greatest trouble has not been bombs or rockets or destruction. The worst thing war brings to the church is isolation and the host of psychological reactions which make men think small or turn inward upon themselves. Isolation is bad for the church, in large as well as in small countries. Today nations in the war zones are enervated, their substance is spent, and their minds are disillusioned. They will tend to turn to their own desperate needs. It will not be easy to understand each other in a world where so few have and so many have not, and it will take patience, pentecostal faith and power, and large and unselfish planning if our work is to be rehabilitated and strengthened and carried forward to its grand conclusion. Above all else Northern Europe needs a larger evangelistic program, which must include considerable educational expansion.

We have deeply appreciated the sympathetic support of the General Conference during times when so much had to be left unsaid. The used clothing sent from here and from Canada has been a godsend to many people, and the fine food parcels from Australasia brought a welcome change to our tedious diets. I speak for our people and our workers when I say that from the bottom of our hearts we love the Advent family, this happy band of brothers who by dauntless faith and high courage shall stand with King Jesus in the day of His power.



Students of Newbold Missionary College Skating on the Lake in Front of the College

The West Nordic Union

By P. G. NELSON, President

THE territory of the West Nordic Union consists of Norway and Denmark, and under ordinary conditions also includes Iceland and Faroe Islands. On April 9, 1940, we were separated from these islands, and the following report does not include the Iceland-Faroes Conference. From the year 1941 Norway and Denmark had to operate without any connection with each other in the administration of our work. It was almost impossible to travel between the countries, and even mail was very difficult to send. The readers of the REVIEW AND HERALD will later see a special report from Iceland and the Faroe Islands. There are 7,000,000 people within the territory of the West Nordic Union. We have a membership of 7,459: in Denmark 3,302, and in Norway 4,157.

The advent message came to Norway and Denmark in the year 1877. Our honored pioneer John G. Matteson did a marvelous work when he laid the foundation for the message. He was an earnest, energetic, and talented worker, and we thank God that He raised up a man with a burden in his heart for Scandinavia. We have had many zealous workers who have given all they had of strength and ability to build up the work of God in Norway and Denmark. In this connection we would like to remember Knud Brorson, C. C. Hansen, E. G. Olsen, O. A. Olsen (president of the General Conference for some years), Lewis Johnson, J. C. Raft, O. A. Johnson, M. M. Olsen, and Steen Rasmussen.

We thank God for the 142 churches we have in our union: 67 in Denmark, and 75 in Norway. During the war God helped us to continue the work in its various branches in spite of the difficulties we had to meet in many ways. Every winter our ministers held their efforts and advertised their subjects, although they had to be more careful with their advertisements. In the last five years we have baptized in Norway 1191 new believers. In Denmark we have baptized 607 members in the same period. That makes a total of nearly 1800.

Our members have been faithful in supporting God's work. They have shown this in their Ingathering efforts. In many cases our young people have had marvelous success in Ingathering, especially in Norway. One of our sisters in Bergen, Norway, who has her home and children to take care of, went out in her spare time, and at the end of the Ingathering campaign she had solicited kr. 15,000. According to the present rate of exchange that is \$3,000. When speaking about the Ingathering campaign for the last five years we shall only mention the totals in Norway and Denmark. The result in Norway was kr. 1,231,816.70 and in Denmark kr. 280,263.31.

In Norway it was impossible to

have Ingathering solely for foreign missions. The brethren therefore had as the aim for the Ingathering in 1942 the missionary work among the Lapps in the northern part of Norway, and in the three following years the campaign was for the purpose of building a hospital for patients suffering from the results of infantile paralysis. The people of Norway showed a wonderful interest in these aims. And as soon as possible we are going to build such a hospital. Two of our doctors in Norway will visit the United States in order to study the hospitals for this malady and also the sanitarium work among our people in America. Norway is waiting for its new sanitarium. For many years



P. G. Nelson

both Denmark and Sweden have had their own sanitariums, but the only medical unit our denomination has had in Norway is a clinic in the city of Oslo.

This clinic did wonderful work during the war. The manager, Bj. Rost, has done his very best. This clinic is about fifty years old, so our health work in Norway is not new. But we are longing for the day when we shall have our new sanitarium.

The years of war were a rather trying time for the Skodsborg Sanitarium. In 1943 the Germans took two thirds of the sanitarium, so in the war years we had not more than one hundred guests. The medical superintendent, Dr. A. Andersen, and his helpers had many hard problems to solve, but God helped our people at the sanitarium. Although many times it looked very dark, God was a present help, and we thank Him for His guidance and providence during the past years. We have had heavy losses financially on account of the war and occupation by the Germans. But we know that God will help us, so at

last we shall be able to pay all our debts. Just now we cannot use more than two thirds of the sanitarium. Ordinarily the capacity is 350 beds. At the present time the sanitarium has about 200 patients.

At the beginning of the war we had a clinic in Copenhagen in a property owned by our denomination. When we started the clinic, which formerly was owned by the late Dr. Carl Ottosen, we had some trying years, but from 1940 until the present time there has been a steady increase of its patronage.

In this first report from the West Nordic Union after the end of the war we want to pay a tribute to the achievements of Dr. Carl Ottosen, who was the pioneer of the health work in Denmark. He was always an inspiration. We miss his efficiency and warm belief in this part of the message that is as essential to the cause of God as the right arm is to the body. For nearly forty years he was chief editor of our health paper in Norway and Denmark. When mentioning those who have passed away during the war, we shall not forget C. Pederson, who was business manager for Skodsborg Sanitarium when he had to end his work. This brother was a faithful worker for many years and an appreciated treasurer both for the union conference many years ago and for the Northern European Division.

Our publishing house in Norway has had wonderful success during the war period. From 1941 to 1944 there has been a total sale of kr. 2,766,523.18. The total weight of paper for our publications in these years is 83 tons. When looking at these figures for our work in Norway, one can easily see that there has been more money among the people in Norway than in Denmark during the war. This was in great degree due to the scarcity of supplies in Norway. The people could not buy very much food, practically no clothing, and not very much of any other supplies. In Denmark the sales have also been very encouraging. The publishing house was not allowed to let the canvassers visit more than about half the territory. But truth-filled literature has been distributed to many thousands of homes, and we have seen good results from what the colporteurs have done. At the present time we have fifty colporteurs in Norway and about thirty in Denmark. Paul J. Olsen is carrying the responsibility for the publishing house in Norway. In Denmark R. F. Jensen is the business manager for our Danish publishing house, with O. S. Sorensen as field missionary secretary. L. Munderspach is taking care of the editorial department in Denmark, and K. Abrahamsen, in Norway.

We are thankful to God that He has held His protecting hand over our mission training schools in Norway and Denmark. Only the last year of the war the Germans took the Onsrud Mission School from us. But in Denmark the school was untouched during the war. In Norway the school

has been filled with students to its utmost capacity, and in Denmark we also have had a fairly good number of students each year. In the later years two classes have been added to the school program in Norway, and in Denmark there is an increase of one new class. As soon as possible we must enlarge the school capacity. In Denmark we have planned for a new girls' dormitory, and in Norway one more building must be added to the school. This means that we must use a good deal of money for the extension of these schools, but we hope that the Lord will help us to find a way. The training schools in Norway and Denmark have six teachers each.

At the present time the West Nordic Union has seven conferences, when we include the conference of Iceland and Faroe Islands, where O. J. Olsen has been the president for over thirty years. There are four conferences in Norway and in Denmark two. North Norway Conference is situated in the Arctic Circle and is a very promising field, with the headquarters at Tromsø, where we are going to build a clinic and a new church building. O. Frenning is the president of the conference. Three church buildings in this conference were entirely destroyed by the German soldiers.

Farther South we find the Central Norway Conference with headquarters in the city of Trondheim. O. Jordahl is carrying the responsibility for the leadership of this conference. In this field one church building was burned down. East Norway Conference, with headquarters in Oslo, is the largest conference in Norway, with the greatest membership, and here L. Sæbøe-Larsen is the president. In the West Norway Conference, with headquarters at the city of Stavanger, Elias Bjaanæs is the president. The East Denmark Conference has its headquarters in the city of Copenhagen. Axel Varmer has for a number of years been the president and has held efforts in Copenhagen each winter during the war. The West Denmark Conference is the same size in territory and member-

ship as the conference in the east, and its president is H. Muderspach. This conference has a well-developed young people's work.

The various departments in our denomination have been active during the war. We have 86 Sabbath schools in Denmark and 108 in Norway, with a total membership of 6,343. There has been a steady increase of the Sabbath school offerings—in Norway an increase of kr. 50,000 during the last five years. Norway reports 148 persons baptized during the last three years as a result of the home missionary department. In Norway there are 31 young people's societies, and in Denmark, 33. As a result of Bible studies given in private houses by a young people's society, eight new members were baptized. Brother Lohne, in Norway, has been doing faithful work during the war in taking care of the departmental work. When Norway and Denmark were separated in 1941 T. Tobiassen took the leadership and responsibility for the work in Norway and he has been doing a good and faithful work for the cause of God.

Many readers of the REVIEW AND HERALD are acquainted with the secretary-treasurer for the West Nordic Union, A. C. Christensen, who has been a faithful worker for over fifty-five years. He is still doing a full day's work each day.

It was certainly a new experience to us when L. H. Christian, W. H. Teesdale, and later E. W. Dunbar came as the first representatives from the General Conference and visited Norway and Denmark. We were happy to see them again. They gave us much valuable help and good counsel that will be of importance to the work in our union.

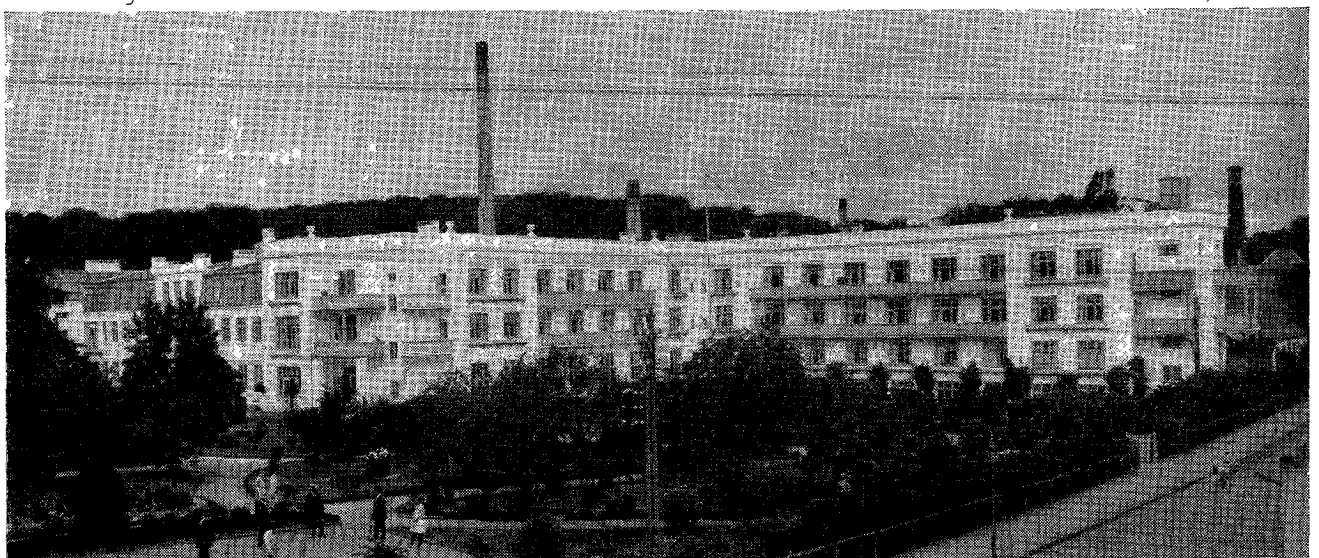
In Denmark, in the last three years, we found it necessary to do more social help work in the cities, and began, therefore, in Copenhagen, and later in two more places, furnishing vegetarian dinners, consisting of two dishes, each meal free of charge. This was in the East Denmark Conference. In the West Denmark Conference free

meals were given in four cities last winter. The food was served in the winter season to people from the slum quarter and to older, poorer people who very seldom had cooked meals in their homes. The work has been a real blessing to many hundreds of persons. About fifteen have been won to the truth during the two years we have had this social work. About 76,000 free meals have been served in this comparatively new work. We intend to continue with this activity.

We bring our heartfelt gratitude to the Lord. He has been with His cause during the dark years just past. We have seen clearly the fulfillment of His precious promises to us in many ways. We have seen His protecting hand following our workers on their ways both on sea and on land. Many times dangers lay ahead both from sabotage and from the Germans who were at work. Only three of our members as far as we know were killed during the war, and we must thank the Lord for His wonderful assistance.

Our great desire and hope is that the advent message shall be preached and received by many more precious souls during the short time left for our work. To this end we need the power of the Holy Spirit. "The night cometh, when no man can work."

In the work of helping others we may gain most precious victories. We should devote ourselves with untiring zeal, with earnest fidelity, with self-denial, and with patience, to the work of helping those who need to develop. Kind, encouraging words will do wonders. There are many who, if a constant, cheerful effort is put forth in their behalf, without faultfinding or chiding, will show themselves susceptible of improvement. The less we criticize others, the greater will be our influence over them for good. To many, frequent, positive admonitions will do more harm than good. Let Christlike kindness be enjoined upon all.—*Medical Ministry*, pp. 208, 209.



Skodsborg Sanitarium, Denmark

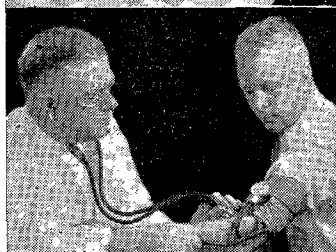
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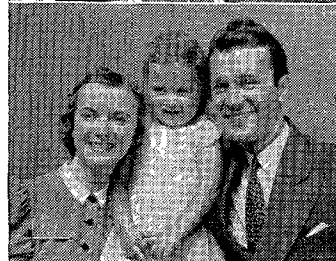
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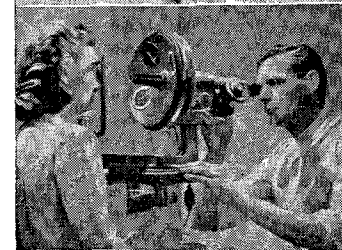
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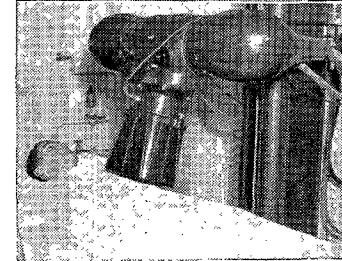
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Christ Reveals the Father

God has bound our hearts to Him by unnumbered tokens in heaven and in earth. Through the things of nature and the deepest and tenderest earthly ties that human hearts can know, He has sought to reveal Himself to us. Yet these but imperfectly represent His love. Though all these evidences have been given, the enemy of good blinded the minds of men, so that they looked upon God with fear; they thought of Him as severe and unforgiving. Satan led men to conceive of God as a being whose chief attribute is stern justice—one who is a severe judge, a harsh, exacting creditor. He pictured the Creator as a being who is watching with jealous eye to discern the errors and mistakes of men that He may visit judgments upon them. It was to remove this dark shadow, by revealing to the world the infinite love of God, that Jesus came to live among men.

The Son of God came from heaven to make manifest the Father. "No man hath seen God at any time; the only-begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him." "Neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him." When one of the disciples made the request, "Shew us the Father," Jesus answered, "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? he that hath seen Me hath seen

the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?"

In describing His earthly mission, Jesus said, The Lord "hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised." This was His work. He went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by Satan. There were whole villages where there was not a moan of sickness in any house, for He had passed through them and healed all their sick. His work gave evidence of His divine anointing. Love, mercy, and compassion were revealed in every act of His life; His heart went out in tender sympathy to the children of men. He took man's nature that He might reach man's wants. The poorest and humblest were not afraid to approach Him. Even little children were attracted to Him. They loved to climb upon His knees and gaze into the pensive face, benignant with love. —*Steps to Christ*, pp. 11-13.

So perished the Medo-Persian kingdom, and the kingdoms of Grecia and Rome. And so perishes all that has not God for its foundation. Only that which is bound up with His purpose, and expresses His character, can endure. His principles are the only steadfast things our world knows.—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 548.

THE ADVENT SABBATH REVIEW AND HERALD

General Church Paper of the Seventh-day
Adventists

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A Statement by J. L. McElhany Following His Re-election

ONE does not need to be a prophet to foresee something of the unfolding of events in this world during the next four years. On many occasions I have remarked that in my judgment the next four years would bring the greatest problems, the most difficult situations that we as a denomination have ever been called upon to face, and that it would require more than human wisdom to know how to carry on in the face of all these things.

As I have realized what it would mean, I have hoped in my heart that at this time it might seem wise to the brethren to ask someone else to take up the burdens and to carry them on. I realize from the experiences of the past ten years what the next four years will mean and what they may bring. I can assure you, my dear brethren and sisters, that this report brings to me no satisfaction or realization of any ambition or any desire to serve in any way except as I might help forward the cause of God. Only by God's blessing and help can I go on. I must be sustained by your prayers.

I feel very humble. There is nothing of a sense of exaltation in my heart over this action. I had looked forward with pleasurable anticipation

to assisting in a humble way in the cause of God, but now that you have taken this action, it brings to me a new sense of responsibility and of what it will mean in the days to come.

I must have your prayers. I have thought of that beautiful spiritual that I have heard our brethren in the South sing so many times. Somehow it aptly illustrates the feeling in my heart this afternoon. There is one strain of that beautiful spiritual that says, "And it's me, O Lord, that's standing in the need of prayer." Please pray for me.

An Auspicious Start

THE first full day of the Conference is ended. The colorfully robed Southern Asia delegation has left the rostrum, and their bright and impressive symposium will be fully reported later. The lights are going out in the auditorium, and the spokesmen of a movement launched by prophetic angels, are seeking rest for the night. Outside the stars are shining, the same stars that shone down on the pioneers who looked heavenward a century ago in anticipation of their Lord's return. A few miles away the sky is lighted by the brilliance of the capital city, where diplomats from all lands are found. For Washington is no mean

city. Rather it is the seat of one of earth's mightiest nations.

But it was not of earthly cities or national leaders that we thought as we turned homeward. No, we thought, instead, of how strange is this Conference we are holding. We are not meeting to reform the world. Many conferences are held for that purpose, and by many good people. And certainly we are not meeting to create a new political party or to campaign for some secular goal. We are meeting as the representatives of a half million and more people over the earth whose chiefest desire is to leave this earth and not return to it for a thousand years. And our purpose in meeting is to discover ever more effective ways to plant that same desire in the hearts of others.

Could any project sound more unreal and fanciful than this! That is, to the man who thinks only of this present earth and spends his life's energies and resources trying to acquire as much of it as he can! But we find our strength and fervor in the conviction that our project, our objective, becomes ever more real and reasonable as the events of the last days unfold. We have preached from earliest days that the earth and all therein is to be burned up, and now the scientists speak in strangely similar strains.

Yes, we are unique as a conference group. We are meeting to decide, among other things, how to spend millions on buildings over the earth. Yet we expect those buildings to be destroyed by the fires of the last days! To the worldly onlooker that seems folly. But we have a different sense of values. We see the buildings, not as an end in themselves, but as a means to an end, the salvaging of men and women out of this world. We seek to build well, not that we may stay here forever, but that we may be most strongly entrenched while we carry on the good fight for the souls of men.

We meet to select men to lead us onward for the next four years. And again we are unique. There is no list of candidates for office, no campaign speeches, nothing that even remotely resembles an ordinary assembly of earthbound men and women who gather to elect new leaders. We are not perfect. Would God that we were, for then the kingdom would be at hand. Our critics keep us reminded that we are still earthy. But we may thank God for what His grace has done for our poor hearts. We have come from all corners of the earth, have drawn a cross section of our number into a nominating committee, and have found unanimity and conviction without delay and without pressure or passion.

Here is something to hearten the angels. Here is something to quicken our spirits. No, we are not perfect, and we have not accomplished all we should for God. But we are on the right road to perfection and to accomplishment when love and unity pervade our assemblies. The forty-fifth session of the General Conference has begun auspiciously!

F. D. N.



Elder McElhany Addressing the Conference After His Re-election to the Presidency