

We Wish You a Happy New Year

BY THE EDITOR



THE old year is ended; tomorrow we begin the new. To each of you who reads the REVIEW we say: A happy new year. We know this salutation is heard on every side, every year. And how often it means little, an empty phrase repeated by force of habit. But we are not here thinking of the shallow, rootless kind of happiness, the noisy, synthetic kind, that so often distinguishes the holiday season. We mean the true kind of happiness that is deep and abiding, unshaken by adverse winds or tumultuous events.

And because we wish you genuine happiness, we wish for you happiness in the Lord. The center and source of all true joy must ever be found in Him. We would be specific in suggesting how such happiness may be secured and maintained. An abiding sense of joy in the Lord springs from a sense of fellowship with Him. This, in turn, springs from a clear confidence that nothing stands between us and our Lord. This is but another way of saying that the prime secret of such happiness is the assurance of sins forgiven. Sin broke the fellowship between God and man and led Adam to flee at the sound of God's footfall at even. We cannot at one and the same time hold on to a sin and hold on to the hand of God. Sin is rooted in hell, God dwells in heaven, and the distance between is too great for us to span. We may hold to one or the other, we cannot hold to both.

But fellowship with God calls for more than the negative act of renouncing sin, for such renunciation simply opens the way for communion. If we would fellowship with God, we must talk with God. Speech conveys thoughts and desires and thus opens the way for mutuality of understanding, purpose, and plans. When we speak to God in prayer we build the bonds of fellowship. We further strengthen those bonds when we read His Holy Book, which presents His self-portraiture and instructs us as to what we should say to Him.

We build ever more strong the sense of fellowship by faithful visits to the earthly house of our Great Friend, to the house dedicated to Him, where He dwells by His Spirit. If we are really in earnest about having fellowship with God, we shall seek every opportunity

to linger in His sanctuary. The miracles of God's grace are performed for those who are obedient to Him. If we wish the miracle of fellowship performed for us, we shall not forget the holy command to come to the house of God.

Nor will we forget that this fellowship can continue and increase only as we give obedience to *all* of God's holy precepts. The Ten Commandments are not so many cold legal requirements, they are ten aids to fellowship with God. They are an expression of the mind and character of God. If we would have oneness of spirit with Him, and such oneness is the foundation of fellowship, then we shall call mightily upon Him to give us obedient hearts. Our refusal to break His commands will spring, not from a fear of consuming fire that will destroy the disobedient, but from the awful certainty that breaking those commands will shut us away forever from the face of our God.

Some think that their obedience is complete when they narrowly observe only what is written in the ten precepts. They forget that all of the Bible is instruction for our lives. Some even shortchange God and then wonder why the peace and happiness of heaven do not abide with them. If we think of the tithe as involving the matter of communion with God, we can see it in its true light. We cannot have sweet communion with Him when we hold back what belongs to Him.

But there is something more that is called for if we would know the full joy of the Lord. Not only must we commune with Him; we must work together with Him. It is in joint labor that the closest bonds of fellowship are woven. We have not yet discovered the fullness of heavenly happiness until we have entered into service for God. The happy Christian is the working Christian.

Yes, we wish you a happy new year, not as the world wishes it, but as Heaven wishes it. A true Seventh-day Adventist should be the happiest person in the world. Not only has he fellowship here and now with his Lord; he anticipates ere long that he shall gaze upon the face of God, and go literally to dwell with Him forevermore. Such may be our present and our anticipated happiness at the beginning of this new year.

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The Religious World



[These news items are taken from Religious News Service. We do not necessarily concur in statements made in these items. We publish them simply to give our readers a picture of current religious developments.]

► Church Contributions Reach Record High

Contributions to 46 United States Protestant and Eastern Orthodox communions reached a record total of \$1,401,114,217 for all purposes in the past year. This was reported by Thomas K. Thompson, executive director of the Joint Department of Stewardship and Benevolence of the National Council of Churches, at the department's annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. The figure is a gain of 8.9 per cent over the previous 12-month period, when the total was \$1,286,323,160. Benevolence giving by the 46 communions showed a 14.8 per cent gain, with \$286,303,369 reported. This represented an increase of more than \$35,000,000 over the previous year.

► Court Recognizes Radio Bible Class as Organized Church

A radio Bible class may be regarded as a regularly organized house of worship under the Michigan sales tax law, Circuit Judge Karl K. Leibrand ruled in Bay City, Michigan. As a result of the ruling, Dr. Martin R. DeHaan, Grand Rapids radio preacher, is entitled to a refund of \$1,200 from the Michigan State Department of Revenue for taxes paid on religious pamphlets and folders sent to radio listeners in many parts of the country. The case, called "unusual" by the judge himself, hinged on a contention by the Baptist minister that his weekly radio Bible class was a regularly organized church and thus was exempt from the Michigan sales tax.

► 25 Million Scriptures to Be Circulated in 1954

More than 25,000,000 copies of the Scriptures will be published or circulated throughout the world in 1954, but the actual need is for twice that number, the advisory council of the American Bible Society was told at its 35th annual meeting in New York. Dr. Gilbert Darlington, treasurer of the society and head of its publication department, said that the figure of 25,000,000 represents the combined program of the 24 national Bible groups associated in the United Bible Societies. In the past 150 years, he added, these societies have distributed, donated, or sold below cost well over 1,200,000,000 copies of the Scriptures in about 900 languages and dialects. Of these, about 66 per cent were separate Gospels or books of the Bible, about 19 per cent were New Testaments, and about 15 per cent were Bibles.

► Pope Inaugurates Marian Year

Pope Pius XII solemnly inaugurated the Marian Year during which Roman Catholics throughout the world will celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the dogma of the immaculate conception. The dogma was decreed an article of faith by Pope Pius IX on December 8, 1854. It teaches that the virgin Mary was free from original sin from the moment of her conception in her mother's womb. A joyful noonday pealing by the big master bell of St. Peter's marked the start of the centenary observance which will last until December 8, 1954. One by one the bells of Rome's nearly 500 churches joined in a fifteen-minute medley of the Ave Maria.

► Court Upholds Jehovah's Witness Claim as Minister

The United States Supreme Court, in a 6-3 decision, recognized the claims of a Jehovah's Witness to a IV-D (ministerial) draft classification although he had no formal theological training and was not ordained. The ruling reversed a decision of the Federal district court at San Francisco which had sentenced George Lewis Dickinson, of Coahugua, California, to two years in prison for refusing to take the oath at an Army induction center.

Blessings of the Family Altar

By W. H. BRANSON

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." There is no security for the family or for the nation apart from obedience to the laws of God, daily acknowledgment of the heavenly Father as the source of all our blessings, and constant instruction in the Word, which is able to make us wise unto salvation. When by the uniting of two lives a new home is established, it should be dedicated to God by the establishing of the family altar.

Daily study of the Scriptures, with husband and wife joining in prayer, will bring the angels of heaven into the home and make of it a place of happy refuge from the toils and vexations of the world. When children come to widen the family circle, the altar of praise and prayer will be ready to welcome them. No child born to Christian parents should be able to remember a day when the voice of prayer was not heard or when the song of praise was unknown. The stories of the Bible should be the very first to entertain the young mind, and the daily or weekly memory verse should be so faithfully taught that no other influence can ever blot out the words of truth learned at the fireside in the earliest years of life.

When Prayer Is Neglected

The flimsiest excuse we know of for neglecting family worship is lack of time, but it seems to be the devil's favorite. Of course there is no place on Satan's program for prayer or Bible reading. Neither is there time for church attendance or money for offerings or strength for missionary work. The enemy will do his utmost to crowd out the worship period. Every possible interruption and distraction will be brought in to bring discouragement and tempt us to abandon the plan. But a home where family worship is unknown is a home where the children are in peril and where the parents are failing in their God-given duty.

"In too many households, prayer is neglected. Parents feel that they have no time for morning and evening worship. They cannot spare a few moments to be spent in thanksgiving to God for His abundant mercies,—for the blessed sunshine and the showers of rain, which cause vegetation to flourish, and for the guardianship of holy angels. They have no time to offer prayer for divine help and guidance, and for the abiding presence of Jesus in the household. They go forth to labor as the ox or the horse goes, without one thought of God or heaven. They have souls so precious that rather than permit them to be hopelessly lost, the Son of God gave His life to ransom them; but they

have little more appreciation of His great goodness than have the beasts that perish."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 143, 144.

In the days of the sanctuary service of ancient Israel—

"as the priests morning and evening entered the holy place at the time of incense, the daily sacrifice was ready to be offered upon the altar in the court without. This was a time of intense interest to the worshipers who assembled at the tabernacle. Before entering into the presence of God through the ministration of the priest, they were to engage in earnest searching of heart and confession of sin. They united in silent prayer, with their faces toward the holy place. Thus their petitions ascended with the cloud of incense, while faith laid hold upon the merits of the promised Saviour prefigured by the atoning sacrifice. The hours appointed for the morning and the evening sacrifice were regarded as sacred, and they came to be observed as the set time for worship throughout the Jewish nation. And when in later times the Jews were scattered as captives in distant lands, they still at the appointed hour turned their faces toward Jerusalem, and offered up their petitions to the God of Israel. In this custom, Christians have an example for morning and evening prayer. While God condemns a mere round of ceremonies, without the spirit of worship, He looks with great pleasure upon those who love Him, bowing morning and evening to seek pardon for sins committed, and to present their requests for needed blessings."—*Ibid.*, pp. 353, 354.

Mother's Translation Best

Two men were on one occasion discussing the modern translations of the Bible. One said, "Of all the translations, I like my mother's best."

"Oh," exclaimed the other, "I did not know your mother had made a translation of the Bible."

"Yes," replied the first man, "she *lived* her translation every day."—James R. Webb, Jr.

The recent increase of lawlessness, crime, and juvenile delinquency and vandalism in the cities of the United States has aroused the nation. Youth from good homes with every material advantage have become roving gangs of desperadoes, smashing windows, defacing buildings, destroying equipment, stealing cars, assaulting and terrorizing the neighborhood.

This is a sad but certain fulfillment of the Scripture declaration that in the last

days men will become disobedient to parents, unholy, fierce, despisers of those that are good. The diligent care and faithful teaching of godly parents that is the true safeguard of youth is largely unknown. Domestic infidelity, with broken hearts and divided homes, has brought tension, fear, and insecurity to countless children until they are bewildered, nervous wrecks. Without the loving protection and spiritual guidance of a Christian home where God is revered, where the Scriptures are the rule of life and conduct, and where prayer is recognized as the vital breath of the soul, the frail foundation of their lives is soon swept away and they become an easy prey to drunkenness, narcotics, insanity, moral corruption, disease, and crime.

Influences of Family Worship

The godly household has always depended upon the family altar. Just as Abraham in the early days erected an altar to the living God wherever he pitched his tent, in order that he might faithfully worship the Creator and "command his children and his household after him," so at the end of time when evil men and seducers are waxing worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived, those who in Christ are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise are to teach the Word diligently to their children. They are to offer as a daily sacrifice upon the family altar their earnest, fervent prayers, in order that their households may be preserved in the midst of impending ruin and that through their faithful witness may shine forth the message of a soon-coming Lord.

God is calling upon many of us to repair the altar of the Lord that has been broken down. No Seventh-day Adventist family should think of starting the day without worship. It is the duty of the parents "morning and evening, by earnest prayer and persevering faith, to make a hedge about their children.... Train the children to offer their simple words of prayer. Tell them that God delights to have them call upon Him."—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 110.

We have come to a new year. The tide of evil was never stronger, the temptations of Satan were never more subtle and alluring, than at the present time. If by our negligence or because of the cares of this life or for any other reason the family altar has been neglected, let the beginning of 1954 witness an earnest and heartfelt reform. Let us acknowledge the reason for our spiritual poverty and our lack of victory. We have not, because we ask not.

Prayer is still "the key in the hand of faith," enabling us to draw upon the rich supplies of heavenly grace to satisfy our daily needs. Prayer is still able to move the arm of Omnipotence. It is still the will of God that men ought always to pray, and not to faint, but to lift up holy hands without wrath and doubting. Prayer to the Lord of the harvest is still Heaven's

method for bringing forth laborers into the whitened fields, to hasten the day of the Master's return.

Family prayer is the means ordained of Heaven to draw the hearts of the parents to the children, uniting them in a spiritual fellowship that will be a sure defense against the wiles of the enemy and that will endure unto life everlasting.

"Your Redemption Draweth Nigh"

By W. R. Beach

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28).

This is the Adventist text par excellence. It is a three-point statement in which Jesus sets forth the essentials of the everlasting gospel in the setting of His second coming. There is the fact of redemption, "your redemption"; the time of redemption, "when these things begin to come to pass"; and the attitude of the faithful to the fact and the time of redemption, "Look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

The fact of redemption, to be sure, stands first and foremost. It strikes a responsive chord in the heart, for it meets the fundamental need of every human being. "The whole creation groaneth and travaleth in pain. . . . Even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption" (Rom. 8:22, 23). This has been the case since that fateful day in Eden, when our first parents fell into "the snare of the devil" and were "taken captive by him" (2 Tim. 2:26).

The original estate of man was wonderful beyond words. Adam and Eve basked in God's presence. Then all changed. They beheld one day a sight unseen before. They saw a leaf fall to earth; it was dry, it was dead. They realized that the powers of death had taken over, that one day they too, like dead leaves, would return to earth. Then was born the desire for redemption.

Redemption is the work of God. Jesus paid the full price on Calvary's tree. Nothing must discount the importance of that fact. We must recognize, however, that redemption includes release from the present evil world. When shall this be? The time of redemption is important too.

The Master recognized the importance of the time factor. He said, "When these things begin to come to pass, . . . your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28). In the preceding verses He mentions what "these things" are. Who can look

out upon the world today and fail to recognize the fulfillment of these and other prophecies!

One major forecast remains unfulfilled. Yes, Jesus made it clear that the good news of approaching redemption would be heralded to the ends of the earth. Said He: "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).

A century ago we undertook this last phase of God's work. We set out, in fact, upon a spiritual trek to the ends of the earth. We purposed to take the message of redemption across the street and across the seas at the same time. This undertaking has met with success. Well can we rejoice in the achievements that have been ours under God.

Reaching the Uttermost Parts

The statistical secretary indicates for 1952 that Seventh-day Adventists have entered 197 of the total 230 countries, islands, and island groups listed officially in the *Statesmen's Yearbook*. There remain only 33 countries in which we are not yet officially pursuing our activities. The populations of the 197 countries we have entered represent 98.5 per cent of the total world population!

Surely we are reaching out to the "uttermost part of the earth." Much remains to be done; millions are still unwarmed in these entered territories. But, brethren, much has been done. The languages have been learned; institutions and evangelistic facilities are there. Even some of the most isolated areas are now hearing the redemption story. This was impressed upon me during a trip down the east coast of Africa.

I stepped off the boat at Mombasa for an unscheduled stop. I had never visited our mission there, nor were the brethren expecting me this time. At the bottom of the gangplank I found three African boys in earnest discussion. One of them appeared well informed, so I put my question to him: "Do you know the Seventh-day Adventist mission at Mombasa?" He smiled broadly and replied in broken English: "No, sir, I do not know where the Seventh-day Adventist mission is in

Mombasa. I am looking for it. I am a Seventh-day Adventist. I come from the Seychelles Islands." Now, the Seychelles are tiny islands far off in mid-Indian Ocean, with 45,000 inhabitants. There on the docks at Mombasa I met this dear brother.

Our work is quickly covering the African continent. Elder Branson reported in his opening remarks that 14,000 believers have been baptized into church fellowship this year in the Southern African Division. When you add to that number the baptisms of other divisions operating missions on the African continent, you find that nearly 18,000 Africans this year have marched into our ranks. The problem today is not how many people we can warn and win in Africa; it is how many can we prepare and train and build up in the holy faith.

Then there are the hard places. I think of Greece, that forgotten land. Many times have I thought: The Macedonian call has done so much for so many, and yet so little for the people in behalf of whom it was made. When the war closed we hardly had a budget for Greece, and we had one lone church property.

Today, the situation is changing. Advance has knocked at Greece's door. A few years ago we dedicated to God's service an evangelistic center in the heart of Athens. Hundreds of Athenians have already heard the story of redemption within those walls. Then, a church has been provided for Piraeus. Our property at Salonia has been rebuilt and remodeled. A handful of small churches are scattered across that beautiful land. It is a marvelous experience to meet with the group at Berea. Our people there belong to that noble sort of which the great apostle spoke in laudatory terms. Throughout Greece the gospel plow is breaking a larger furrow. We had recently a baptismal ceremony with six candidates! I have seen hundreds baptized into this faith in a day, but this baptism in Athens was incomparably more significant.

Large Growth in Europe

Brethren, thousands of redeemed souls today are flocking into the Advent Movement in every part of the world. The lands of Eastern Europe are no exception. Our membership has practically doubled in those fields since the close of World War II. In some cases it has more than tripled. Today we have more than 50,000 Sabbathkeepers in Rumania, some 13,000 in Yugoslavia, and the figures are soaring upward elsewhere. The Lord's work is being done in these lands. In Russia we have at least 304 certified churches. I would judge, on the basis of other Eastern lands, that this means upward of 90,000 Sabbathkeepers. I am persuaded that we are approaching in Eastern Europe the greatest spiritual revival in the history of Christianity since Pentecost.

Messengers of truth are hard at work in many difficult places. I think of that good brother from Macedonia. I met him at Belgrade just a year and a half ago. He told me how he came to this truth. His eyes almost frozen shut, he walked along the way seeking truth. He wasn't then a Seventh-day Adventist. He lifted his heart to God, and he heard the voice that said: "Get the Book." So he went to the priest in the village. The priest was a good man and gave him a New Testament. He read the Book and found instruction. He learned to keep the Sabbath. He learned to believe in the second coming of Christ and to prepare for it. He later met one of our colporteurs, and another child was born into God's kingdom.

Thousands of such messengers of truth are at work today. Everything, even the wrath of men, is being turned to the glorifying of God. The arm of Omnipotence is shaping up events quickly for the last great acts of world evangelism.

Such is the picture of the measured advance of the Advent message. But think of the unmeasured outreach of truth. Think of the billions of printed words that have been scattered like the leaves of autumn. They have done their work. They are doing their work. Think of the

spoken words, the acts of mercy, the missionary visits, the radio broadcasts, the medical treatments, and all the circumstances that this Advent Movement has brought into play to finish God's work. They are on the march, unmeasured by human knowledge.

Adventists Well Known

In one field it is reported that 60 per cent of the people visited by our Ingathering workers were acquainted with one or the other of our radio programs. Think of it, 60 per cent of the people had heard something.

Over in Casablanca, French Morocco, the president of the mission handed me an envelope. It carried an incomplete address: *Oeuvre de l'Evangile* (Work of the Gospel), Casablanca. The city counts more than half a million inhabitants. Many churches and missions have representatives there. But the postman brought the letter to our mission. It contained five thousand francs for the "Work of the Gospel." The brethren asked the postman: "Why did you bring the envelope to the Seventh-day Adventist mission?" "Why," he said, "everyone knows that the Adventists are the people that are doing the work of the gospel today."

Everyone knows? I am sure millions do, and are convinced in their hearts that this people proclaim the message of God to the world at such a time as this.

Just a few months ago I was asked to visit Angola and the islands of the Indian Ocean. The work is advancing in those faraway places. In Angola we are now reaping the harvest of more than twenty years of consecrated sowing. I had a very heartening experience there this time. We had meetings at Benguela, near Lobito Bay. We have a church now in Benguela. After the meetings of the Sabbath day, we sat in the missionary's home and listened to the first program of the Voice of Prophecy broadcast in Angola. We waited, anxious and still, for the start of the program. Would something yet make it impossible? Then, suddenly, the strains of the theme song came over the air in Portuguese: "Lift up the trumpet, and loud let it ring: Jesus is coming again!" Brethren, the thrill of it brought us to our feet.

Impact of Our Radio Work

It is impossible to measure in statistics the impact of this program. But we do have a small conception of what the radio broadcasts and Bible correspondence schools are doing in faraway Madagascar. We have two programs weekly: one in French, and one in Malagasy. The workers who sponsor these programs are capable and zealous. Radio Tananarive can be heard throughout the Indian Ocean. In Madagascar the number of receiving sets is not large, but the French Government very generously has provided for the needs of the people. In almost every important village a public-address system has been installed, so that all can benefit by the radio facilities. I stood in a public square and listened with many others.

any of these virtues would we find it "out of stock" in our experience, or perhaps rusty from idleness or contaminated with some darling sin?

As we take spiritual inventory for another year of service has our store of faith lost any of its luster, any pure ideal become stained, any practice become self-indulgent, any proud benefaction been mislabeled charity? Some of the traits we have counted as virtues may have to be discarded or revalued because they are tainted with self-righteous approval. Honest self-appraisal in the light of God's standard of holiness would help us to set our spiritual house in order for greater efficiency in witnessing.

Our special talents are assets most likely to become shelfworn from disuse. Holding them for a more convenient season robs the world and God's cause of their value. Luigi Tarisio was found dead one morning with scarce a comfort in his home, but with 246 exquisitely fashioned violins he had been collecting all his life crammed into the attic and about the house. A rare Stradivarius was found in a rickety bureau drawer. In his devotion to his violins he had deprived the world of all the music they might have produced.

Let us not be like Tarisio, hording valuable possessions in the form of talents and virtues that might bless the world. A violin is not less rare because it is used. Our talents are not of less value in God's service because they are small. The only requisite is that they be consecrated and untainted by devotion to selfish ends, for heaven runs no bargain counters. Let us seek God's aid then in striking a true spiritual balance and pray with David, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: . . . and lead me in the way everlasting."



Minute Meditations

By Harry M. Tippett

Inventory Values

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Ps. 139:23, 24).

When I worked in a large grocery firm years ago, we dreaded the approach of inventory time. Taking stock at the turn of the year was distasteful labor, but we knew it was necessary for an accurate knowledge of profit and loss. Many a factor changed the values of both stock and equipment. We found some items so shelfworn that they could not be sold at standard prices. Perishable merchandise like grain products were often spoiled by moisture or rats in the warehouse. Canned goods with soiled or lost labels were marked for the bargain counter.

As we discard the kitchen calendar and hang a bright new one for the ensuing wavelmonth, is it not an appropriate time or some spiritual stocktaking? The turn of the year offers a unique challenge to new resolution and holy endeavor as we take inventory of our spiritual resources.

The staples of Christian character are easily recognizable—love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, humility, honesty, kindness, industry, cheerfulness, and every form of fidelity to God's standard. But should sudden demand be made upon

the annual meeting in Tananarive the radio secretary put up a map of Madagascar. On it he had indicated the groups of Bible correspondence school students who are in contact with our central school office and are studying regularly the lessons. I wish you might see that map. The island of Madagascar is literally pinpointed with student groups. A young seminarist joined the school and has now asked for baptism. Think of it! There are today groups of people in regions of Madagascar where never a missionary has trod who are begging to be instructed and baptized into the Advent faith.

An Experience in Rome

In Rome, Italy, I met a man who was much interested in the Advent message. He was waiting to speak to me at the close of a lecture. He seemed to know a lot about the truth, and yet he said this was his first attendance at a Seventh-day Adventist meeting. I asked, "How have you learned so much about the Seventh-day Adventist Church's doctrines?" His

reply: "I am a student of the Voce della Speranza [Voice of Hope]. I am almost through with the course."

That told the story. He seemed to be a very cultivated, refined man and I continued the conversation for a time. "Do you work in Rome?" I asked. "No," he replied, "I am employed in Vatican City."

Brethren, such is the picture of the measured and unmeasured outreach of the Advent message. Who can say how far we are along the way to a finished task? This is God's work. He will do it. He is doing it. Truly the stage is set today for the last great flash of power and the finishing of the work. The last sign is being fulfilled. The time of redemption's release is fast approaching. We are not far from home.

"O blessed thought!"

The traveler's lonely heart to cheer;
Which oft a healing balm has brought
And dried the mourner's tear."

What, then, shall be our attitude to the

fact and the time of redemption? The Master's counsel is: "When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads."

I like the rendering of this text in French. It says: "When these things begin to come to pass, then stand straight up and lift up your heads."

He who adopts this triumphant attitude to the fact and the time of redemption will never fall by the way. He will have no misgivings about the Advent message. The coming of Jesus will be more real to him with each passing day. He will live today as though Jesus were crucified yesterday, resurrected this morning, and expected to come tonight.

Brethren, isn't it wonderful to be a Seventh-day Adventist? It is glorious to live on the last frontiers of prophecy, when the last scenes of history are about to burst upon us. At such a time let us believe victory, think victory, proclaim victory, and live victoriously for God.

of the day He saw His two earthly children standing in the shadows, ashamed and confused over what they had done. He knew better than they that no amount of good decisions or good resolutions would change their dilemma. So He graciously told them of the Saviour who would come and by His life and sacrifice rectify their tragic mistake. An animal sacrifice was then offered and the skins removed. With these God covered the nakedness of the guilty pair. And there in the presence of the first man and his wife, He opened up the future scenes in the long and bitterly fought controversy between Christ and Satan for the souls of men (see Gen. 3:15). The law of the Ten Commandments would be the central issue in this struggle. "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" would be opposed to the rebellious "law of sin and death"; the first, if obeyed, would restore the Ten Commandments to the place they should occupy in every victorious life; the latter, if followed, would yield "sin and death."

The promise of victory in the conflict was assured in the hopeful words that the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head and that the instigator of rebellion, the author of the law of evil would finally be put down.

Victory was promised through the grace of Christ, who by His death on the cross paid the penalty for Adam's transgression and by His righteous life brought man back into harmony with the moral law. Paul tells us salvation is a gift of God. He declares that "death reigned . . . over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who was the figure of him that was to come but not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace which is by one man Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many" (Rom. 5:14, 15).

Paul makes it clear that "when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:6-8).

Safe From the Wrath of the Law

Grace provided salvation from the wrath of God's broken law through the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ. A Chrysostom once said, "The rod of . . . the law smote Christ, the rock, and life giving water and blood flowed from his side." But grace does more than provide a substitute for sin. "If by one man offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:17). That is, God's grace is abundant and provides more than the vicarious act of Ca-

Law and Grace in the Christian Life—6

The Two Laws in Human Experience

By D. A. Delafield

When God made Adam and placed him in the garden, he was without sin of any kind, a moral man under the smile and blessing of the moral law. By obedience Adam could have retained his purity and his life, for the law was ordained to impart purity and life. Adam would have lived forever and developed in moral worth and power if he had continued to obey God. But he did not choose to do this. Instead, he disobeyed. In this fatal choice he accepted a rule or principle of life contrary to the law of God.

In the New Testament Paul calls this principle of conduct "the law of sin and death" (Rom. 8:2). And since "sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4), the law that operates in sinful flesh is really the law of transgression or lawlessness. All men are controlled to a greater or lesser degree by this rule of rebellion. It is Satan's substitute for "the law of the Spirit of life" (Rom. 8:2), which controls the true followers of God and which was present in Adam before he sinned. This law, "the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus," becomes operative in the descendants of Adam when by faith the soul reaches out and accepts Christ as Lord and Saviour and claims the new covenant promise of Hebrews 8:8-13. God writes upon the heart the new covenant law, the Ten Commandments, and His grace, operating through the Word and the Spirit, makes possible a willing and hearty obedience to the moral law.

Adam's tragic capture in the snare of rebellion made it impossible for him to

obey the law he had broken, or to conform to it in any degree without the direct intervention of God. The law he had broken was a good law, but he was no longer a good man. "The law is good in itself," declared Dr. Maclaren, "but it has to work through our sinful nature. The only powers to which it can appeal are those already in rebellion. A disrowned king whose only forces to conquer his rebellious subjects are the rebels themselves is not likely to regain his crown."

Under the Rule of Satan

The "law of sin and death," which now operated in fallen man, placed him under the authority and rule of the great transgressor, Satan. He was bound by chains of steel to a principle of rebellion that had been forged by the archenemy of God. Adam was now a rebel, an antagonist of the moral law, which he could not keep even though he wanted to obey it. He was unable to serve God with the freedom he once enjoyed. Deprived of his robe of light, he saw his nakedness and hid from God. He knew that a decision on his part to renew allegiance to God and the moral law would not satisfy God or the claims of His broken law. Adam was in a position in which he was forced to throw himself upon God's mercy. Otherwise, he knew he would die, and his wife would die with him.

It is at this point in human life and experience that we witness for the first time the power of God's grace. When the Lord walked in the garden in the cool

vary. Grace also provides righteousness and moral redemption.

The grace that provided an atoning Saviour reconciles us to God and to His moral law, but salvation is only for the Christian who believes in Christ and by faith lays hold of His merits. "By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8). Salvation is the gracious response of God to the desperate need of man. God's grace flows earthward into the repentant sinner's heart, and the Holy Spirit operates upon the yielded life, setting into motion the new law of obedience and purity. Thus the converted man receives and works out in his life "imparted righteousness" while God imputes to him as a free gift the righteousness which he lacks but which the moral law requires.

Salvation has always been "by grace . . .

through faith," from Adam's time down through Abraham, Moses, and all the Old and New Testament characters. Abraham is the best example we have of how grace and faith work in the redemption of the soul. Keep in mind, however, that this redemption consists of a change in the moral nature of man, not a change in the moral law of God.

In the fourth chapter of Romans, Paul describes the experience of Abraham, who was called the father of the faithful and the friend of God. Abraham was a justified man because he "believed God, and it was accounted unto him for righteousness" (Rom. 4:3). Paul shows clearly that if Abraham had sought salvation by good works, then he would have received it as the payment of a debt. If salvation could be secured in this way, then, Paul reasons, it would not be of grace at all. "To him

that worketh," writes the apostle, "is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt" (verse 4). The apostle shows that salvation is a free gift. "To him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works" (verses 5, 6).

Salvation in God's Way

The original promise made to Adam (Gen. 3:15) and renewed through Abraham (see Gen. 12:1-3) was an assurance by God that grace would accomplish what man could not do, because he was living under the condemnation of the moral law. Poor lost man, if he wanted salvation, had to get it in God's way. There was no other way.

"It is of faith," Paul says, "that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed" (Rom. 4:16). That is, to all the children of faith, to any man who believes, whether he is Jew or Gentile. The promise that Abraham should be the heir of the world "was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed" (Rom 4:13-16).

The Jews followed the law of God as a means of salvation. They could not understand or did not want to understand that human nature apart from the saving work of Christ is powerless to obey the law. "We know that what things so ever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law," wrote Paul, "that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God" (Rom. 3:19). No amount of lawkeeping will rectify guilt. What is needed here is not law but grace, not works but faith.

The Moral Weakness of Man

Good works and voluntary subjection to divine law never bring salvation. "By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin" (verse 20). "The law," said Moody, "is like a mirror let down from heaven. It shows us the dirt on our face but it cannot wash it off." The law opposes sin. It also exposes it. Augustine once said that "the law is not in fault, but our evil and wicked nature; even as a heap of lime is still and quiet until water is poured thereon; but then it begins to smoke and burn, not from fault of the water, but from the nature and kind of the lime, which will not endure water." That is, when the law touches our evil nature, it exposes it for the iniquitous thing it is.

A Mother's Prayer at Evening

By Jean Crager Pleasants

Dear Lord, I'm tired;
I cannot think.
This day was long and trying.
I kneel at dusk
To pray to Thee
Just as the day is dying.

But as I try
Upon my knees
To frame the words of prayer,
I can't remember
What it was
I needed strength to bear.

I know I slipped
Along the way—
Sharp words for those I love.
Dear Lord, it isn't
Some great sin
That mars Thy book above,

But many small
And petty sins
That snared my feet today,
Which come before me
One by one
As on my knees I pray.

I didn't mean
To speak in haste
Cross words to those I love.
I did so want
Today to keep
Thy patience from above.

I long for that
Sweet spirit calm,
No matter what or when.
Forgive, dear Lord,
Thy tired child,
And give sweet rest. Amen.

PAUL REMMEL, ARTIST



Law keeping is essential to righteousness, and righteousness is essential to obtaining God's favor, but law keeping is impossible for the unconverted sinner. So it is clear that righteousness by self-effort is beyond the reach of men, for all men are sinners. Only one who is wholly in harmony with the law and undefiled by transgression can be justified by the law. Christ possesses such righteousness. This righteousness He offers to us as a gift. "The righteousness of God without the law is manifested [that is, without self-righteousness on our part], being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all . . . them that believe" (verses 21, 22). This righteousness is a gift of grace, as Paul says, "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (verse 24). "Therefore we conclude," Paul states, "that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law" (verse 28). A man's faith in Christ is counted to him for righteousness. He is justified or made righteous by faith.

As it is grace that justifies the sinner, so it is grace also that sanctifies. "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" is restored to man through the gospel. The Christian's life is transformed by the righteousness of a law that is fulfilled in us. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Rom. 8:1-4).

Nowhere in the Old Testament or the New Testament is the suggestion made that the moral law is a faulty instrument that should be revised or rejected. There is no trouble with the law of God. It does not pose a problem. But man poses a problem. If there is one law that needs to be abolished, it is the "law of sin and death" that operates in sinners. This law is crucified by the gospel. But the law of ten commandments has never and will never be crucified.

We Die Daily to Sin

"The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" destroys the old "law of sin and death" that operates in humanity. We die daily. The old man of sin is crucified. The lustful members are mortified. "The law of the Spirit of life" destroys the law of sin and death through the operations of divine grace and the Holy Spirit. But there is a struggle which persists throughout the life (see Gal. 5:17-25).

It is as Paul said, "If Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the

Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live" (Rom. 8:10-13).

The two laws that operate in the experience of every Christian are antagonists, even as Christ and Satan are antagonists one of the other. There is pres-

ent in every life—no matter how righteous or evil—these elements of the conflict between truth and error. How encouraged we should be with the knowledge of Christ's victory over the law of evil that operates in human nature. His life was an uninterrupted series of victories over sin. "The law of the Spirit of life" had full sway in Jesus' experience. And His victory is ours. Where sin abounds, grace much more abounds. "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work" (2 Cor. 9:8).

A New and Better Year in Your Home

By Mrs. Kenneth A. Wright

John, the most affectionate of all Jesus' disciples, gives us a beautiful New Year's greeting in 3 John 2: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." The last phrase, "even as thy soul prospereth," offers to us a wonderful challenge to get right with God in '54. Take a spiritual inventory and see just what habits and characteristics may be committed to the rubbish pile so that He may prosper us in "all things."

A Sabbath or two before the old year ends our churches have the ordinances of humility, a time for renewing our baptismal vows, of putting away any known sins, of forgiving our brethren. An experience comes to our attention of two brethren in one of our churches who were at odds with each other. Their differences they shared with other members of the

church, which caused dissatisfaction and strife that almost made a division in the church. Neither brother would humble himself to make the thing right. It was nearing time for the ordinances to be celebrated. Brother A finally went to Brother B and made the first move toward a reconciliation. They were able at last to talk the thing through, ask each other for forgiveness, and take part in the ordinance together, washing each other's feet. They had taken part in the "breaking of bread" and were just raising the glasses of "wine" to their lips when Brother A slumped over in his seat—dead!

At such an hour as we think not our call may come. Moment by moment we're kept in God's care if we start every day with Him. We must seek Him in the morning to have the assurance of His presence throughout the day.

"The camel kneels, at break of day,
To have his guide replace his load
Then rises up anew to take
The desert road.

"So thou shouldst kneel, at morning's dawn,
That God may give thee daily care
Assured that He no load too great
Will make thee bear."

January, the first month, the new-begging month, gets its name from the Roman god Janus, which had two faces, one looking backward and one looking forward. But Christians need only to look back momentarily for the lessons it teaches. Their look should be forward and up to God.

A young man, who had served a prison sentence, came to Henry Ford looking for employment. He wanted to make good, but felt that in all fairness to Mr. Ford he should explain his misdeeds. He proceeded to tell of his unhappy past but was scarcely well started when Mr. Ford placed his hand on his shoulder and stopped him kindly by saying, "Stay

This I Have Seen

A few weeks ago it was my privilege to attend the Nevada-Utah Conference regional meeting held in the beautiful new Reno church. The attendance was good. Our laity expressed courage and confidence in the blessed Advent message. The leaders of the field were frequently complimented for their daring for God. All believed this to be our most blessed hour of opportunity.

F. W. Schnepper, the Pacific Union Conference treasurer, made the call for a large mission offering, expressing the thought: Don't give till it hurts; give until it feels good. That's it, brethren and sisters, we of the Advent faith are not called to give till it hurts. Catching the vision of a coming Christ, we are called to give until it feels good.

Envision the thrill of the early believers on that memorable morning of September 15, 1874. J. N. Andrews, our first foreign missionary, was sailing from Boston for far-away lands. Sacrifice, yes. Yet not giving until it hurt. All felt good, truly giving until it felt good. R. J. CHRISTIAN

where you stand. Never mind the past."

Jesus has placed this confidence in us through His answer to the adulterous woman: "Neither do I condemn thee; go, and sin no more" (John 8:11).

Are we thirsty? We may drink at the fountain that never runs dry. "And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Rev. 22:17). Who can read the Bible daily without being refreshed?

Are we hungry? We may eat of the bread of life and hunger no more. In John 6:35 Jesus says, "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

Are we weary? He will give us rest. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28).

Are we grief stricken? He will give us joy in service to others. He was a Man of Sorrows. There is no greater joy than one can bring into his own life than that which comes as a result of caring for others and brightening sad lives.

Are we tired? He has promised strength sufficient for each day.

Are our lessons burdensome? The promise in James 1:5 has brought courage to many students. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." This promise is conditional, however, for James 1:6 says, "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed."

Are we holding up the banner of true Christians? Are we good neighbors? Are we making our homes happy? "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27). It takes ever so much patience and grace to deal with our everyday problems, such as sickness and trials in the home. It is not His will that His children shall be sick physically or spiritually, but if it takes this to purify and make us ready for the kingdom, it is a reasonable sacrifice.

Spreading the Gospel Message

It is our blessed privilege to live in this grand and awful time, to begin the new year with so many of the signs already fulfilled—our gospel message going so rapidly to every nation, kindred, and tongue by the printed page, the radio, by television, and the work of preachers, missionaries, laymen, and not the least, by the testimony of our church school boys and girls. The latter must be remembered. Our Sabbath school children are spreading the gospel and tiny tots are uttering truths for these times.

Little Cheryl, just past three, was singing "Jesus Loves Me." She looked up

A Story for the Children

BY ARTHUR S. MAXWELL



Stories About Joseph—8

Noblest of All

The ten brothers could hardly believe their ears. Dine with the governor! What could it mean?

They were more frightened than ever. "It's because of the money that was in our sacks," they said to one another. "Now he is going to punish us and take us for bondmen."

But they were mistaken. When they appeared before Joseph, he began to talk to them about their father.

"Is your father well?" he asked; "the old man of whom ye spake? Is he yet alive?"

"Thy servant our father is in good health," they replied. And they all bowed low again before him.

Suddenly Joseph caught sight of Benjamin, and was so overcome at seeing his little brother again that he hurried out of the room and burst into tears. How he longed to throw his arms around him! But he dared not do it yet.

Presently Joseph returned to the dining hall, seemingly quite calm, and ordered the meal to be served. He sat at one table with his Egyptian officers, while his brothers, being Hebrews, sat at another table, looking in amazement at the magnificent meal that had been prepared for them. The Bible says they "marvelled one at another," and the more so when they saw how, by the governor's order, Benjamin's plate was heaped with five times as much food as anyone else's.

Yet still they did not guess who the governor was.

Then Joseph did one more thing to them. He gave orders that when their sacks were filled with grain this time, his own silver cup was to be placed in Benjamin's sack.

Presently the brothers set off for home, very proud of themselves at having been invited to dinner with the governor of Egypt and very happy that everything had turned out so well after all. But soon they heard the sound of horses galloping, and, looking round, were horrified to find that it was the governor's steward, with a bodyguard, coming to arrest them!

Roughly he accused them of stealing the governor's silver cup, which he greatly prized.

Of course they denied doing any such thing, and their blank looks were enough to convince anybody that they were innocent. But the steward demanded that the sacks be examined, and, of course, the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

What a sad journey that was back to the city! All their joy of the morning was gone. Now they were filled with new fears.

Back at the governor's palace, they once more fell on their faces before Joseph, pleading their innocence. This was more than Joseph could stand. Suddenly he raised his voice in command, saying, "Cause every man to go out from me!"

"And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren."

What a meeting was that!

"And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard."

At first the brothers wondered what all this might mean. Then, as Joseph was able to control himself, he said, "I am Joseph; doth my father yet live?"

Then they were afraid. Joseph! Could this be Joseph? If it were, what would he do to them in revenge for all they had made him suffer?

But there was no revenge in Joseph's heart. Only love. He had forgiven them long ago, and all he wanted was to be their brother again.

In their fear they had moved away from him, but he said, so gently, "Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earring nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God."

How beautifully did he try to take all the worry out of their hearts! He didn't want them to blame themselves for what happened; all was in the providence of God.

Only a truly noble man could speak like that!

Then he told them of his plan to bring the whole family into the land of Goshen, a section of Egypt, where he could provide them with food through the five years of famine still to come.

"There will I nourish thee," he said, "lest thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast, come to poverty."

There was not a trace of meanness in Joseph's character. Powerful and wealthy though he was, he never once thought of trying to "get even" with these men who had been so cruel to him.

"And he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck. Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them."

Yes, he kissed them all. Reuben, Simeon, Judah—every one, even those who had actually thrown him into the pit, and who had sold him into slavery. He kissed them! What love! What forgiveness! Surely he was indeed the noblest of them all. How God must have loved him for his greatness of spirit!

Joseph was truly a kind and generous man. He has set a noble example for all of us to follow.

brightly and said: "Nana, Jesus came down to see me, wasn't He good?"

"Yes, indeed!" was the answer. "Jesus is good to everybody."

"And do you know something, Nana? He's coming again to take us to His house. Nana, does Jesus have a car?"

"Well, He has just everything to make people happy, and He'll have a wonderful way for us to travel to heaven. Maybe we will fly like the angels you saw in the Picture Roll in Sabbath school."

"Then after we're there a while He's going to bring us back here to live," added Cheryl.

Out of the mouth of babes! Such a fine Bible study on the second coming of Christ, the result of the Sabbath school lessons. Those precious lessons printed on the impressionable hearts of little tots will never be forgotten. How important to be faithful in Sabbath school attendance in the new year, even if one has to be a home division member.

Are we grateful for our everyday blessings—food, clothing, shelter, water? They are precious indeed when we don't have them. Let us be more grateful to our heavenly Father for His daily benefits toward us and to our families.

"Ring out the old, ring in the new." Throw out the old sinful characteristics and put on the new robe of righteousness. Send out the old year with a prayer of gratitude for victories won; not as the world does, drinking to the full and to sadness of heart, and beginning the new year in a drunken state.

Are we living within our means? Make the new year an occasion to prove God concerning our finances and judgment as He asks us to do in Malachi by paying a faithful tithe. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Mal. 3:10).

The Secret of Abiding

May we learn the blessed secret of abiding in His love. May Jesus be the author and finisher of our lives. Begin each day with Jesus. Remember God answers prayer in the morning. God answers prayer at noon.

A young man had joined the Navy and gone to sea against his mother's wishes. She was a Christian, and he was a wayward lad. In a dreadful storm one day the ship was in great danger, and all seemed lost. The captain, knowing the grave danger of sudden death, would not command one of his men to climb up the rope ladder and fix the topsail, but all would be lost, he explained, unless there was a volunteer willing to take the chance.

The men shuddered—all too well they knew the danger. All eyes fell suddenly on the young sailor lad as he stepped toward

the captain and asked, "What time is it, sir?" The captain answered, and the boy said, "I'll go, sir, in ten minutes." They waited in silence.

The men stood helpless and breathless while the boy started up the rope ladder. His hands worked fast, and in a few minutes he was back on the deck and all was safe. The men were amazed and nearly speechless—more experienced sailors wouldn't have dared. Finally the captain spoke: "Lad, why did you ask the time before you climbed the rope?"

The sailor said: "You see, sir, my mother didn't want me to come to sea. Her last words as I was leaving home were, 'Son, wherever you are I'll be praying for you—at noon I'll always be praying for you! I'm not a Christian, sir, but when you told me the time, I saw that it was approaching noon in Boston. I could

see my mother on her knees, sir, and I knew that I was safe in God's hands."

God answers prayer in the evening, so "keep your heart in tune."

"The camel at the close of day
Kneels down upon the sandy plain
To have his burden lifted off
And rest again.

"My soul, thou too shouldst to thy
knees
When daylight draweth to a close,
And let thy Master lift thy load,
And grant repose."

Paul, though confined to a Roman prison and shut out from light, said:

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . . Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Rom. 8:35-37).

Why Does the Lord Delay His Coming?

By I. A. Crane

"If all who had labored unitedly in the work in 1844, had received the third angel's message and proclaimed it in the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord would have wrought mightily with their efforts. A flood of light would have been shed upon the world. Years ago the inhabitants of earth would have been warned, the closing work completed, and Christ would have come for the redemption of His people."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 458.

This is but one of twelve statements in the *Testimonies* given to impress us with the solemn fact that but for the careless indifference of those to whom the message has been given the work might have been finished and Jesus would have come years ago. This thought is also forcibly illustrated by the call to the supper in Luke 14, where the supper was long delayed because those who were bidden failed to come. The house was to be filled before the supper, and others had to be called to take the places of those who had first been invited.

John was given a view of the redeemed host who are safe in the kingdom of God:

"The seer of Patmos, looking down through the ages to the time of this restoration of Israel in the earth made new, testified: 'I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands.' Rev. 7:9."—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 720, 721.

When this glad time shall come depends upon how soon this company can be gathered out from the sinful inhabitants of earth.

While we cannot know the exact time when this will take place, the many signs

God has given us reveal beyond question that the end is near. We are living in the time of Laodicea, the last of the seven churches. This is not only the last one of the seven churches, but as the name indicates, it is the time of the judging of the people. Yet how few in Laodicea are awake to what it means to be living at such a time.

What does it mean to be living in the time of the judgment? We read the solemn statement that God shall bring "every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Eccl. 12:14). God has appointed the time when He will "judge the world in righteousness" (Acts 17:31). At that time He will judge both the "quick [living] and dead" (Acts 10:42). The names of all the dead as well as of the living must meet the test of the judgment.

The Judgment-Hour Message

The judgment day had not come in the days of Christ. He told those Jews who hated and rejected Him that it would be more tolerable for the people of Sodom than for them in the day of judgment (Matt. 11:22). When the time came that the world should be warned of the impending judgment, the angel of Revelation 14:6, 7, carried the message to all nations: "Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come" (Rev. 14:7). The very time when this should come had been long foretold by the angel in the hearing of Daniel the prophet, "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed" (Dan. 8:14).

That the cleansing of the sanctuary is the work of the judgment is clearly shown

from what took place in the earthly sanctuary once each year on the Day of Atonement. On that day, the only time in all the year, the high priest entered the most holy place of the sanctuary to make atonement for the people. This was a solemn day of fasting and prayer, and if any should pass this day carelessly, they were to be cut off from among the people. When the priest had sprinkled the blood in the most holy place, he came and confessed the sins of repentant Israel upon the head of the scapegoat, which was at once carried out of the camp (Lev. 23:27-30).

This was typical of what was done by Christ, our High Priest, on the day of judgment as was foretold to the prophet Daniel in Daniel 7:9-13. As the sins of repentant Israel were placed upon the scapegoat and removed from the camp, so will the sins that have been confessed be blotted out of the books of record at the time of the judgment. On the other hand, as those who were unrepentant on the Day of Atonement were separated from Israel, so the names of unrepentant sinners will be blotted out of the book of life to await final destruction of sin and sinners (Rev. 20:12-15).

This is what the cleansing of the sanctuary means, the blotting out of the sins of those who have accepted salvation and the blotting out of the names of those who choose the way of sin. O what a record those books contain and how much is meant by the cleansing of the sanctuary at the judgment! How solemn is the work of which the first angel has warned the world!

Solemn and important as the warning of the first angel was, it was ignored and rejected by the Protestant churches who professed to serve God. It was because of this that the second angel was sent with the message, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath [madness] of her fornication" (Rev. 14:8). When the professed people of God refused the warning God had sent them, the nations were encouraged in rebellion against God. What could be expected when the churches refused to repent and prepare for the judgment! It was then necessary that the last and final warning was to be given.

The Third Angel's Message

The third angel then warned against the worship of the beast and his image and began the work of gathering out those who "keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Rev. 14:9-12). As might be expected, this last message would be a message to those who are living at a time when judgment is going on. It is the "last message. There are no more to follow" (*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 207).

The work the Lord sent this third angel to do was to gather and seal the

remnant church. "I then saw the third angel. Said my accompanying angel, 'Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner.'" —*Early Writings*, p. 118. "The third angel is binding, or sealing, them in bundles for the heavenly garner." —*Ibid.*, p. 89.

Since this angel was to begin the work of sealing the remnant of the redeemed in 1844, we have the positive statement that this work has been going on since that time with Satan's bitter opposition. In the chapter on the "Open Door," written March 24, 1849, we have the following statement: "Satan is now using every device in this sealing time to keep the minds of God's people from the present truth. I saw that Satan was at work in these ways to distract, deceive, and draw away God's people, just now in this sealing time." —*Ibid.*, pp. 43, 44. (Italics supplied.)

While this angel was sent to do this sealing work, angels of God were sent to hold the winds until this work is finished (Rev. 7:1-4). As before stated, no one can know just when this work that has been going on all these years will be closed, for no one knows just when the last saint is sealed. It will come in an hour "that ye think not." When this third angel finishes his work and the saints are all sealed, he will return and report

to Jesus. In the chapter entitled, "The Third Message Closed," we read, "An angel with writer's inkhorn by his side returned from the earth and reported to Jesus that his work was done, and the saints were numbered and sealed." —*Ibid.*, p. 279.

Following this is the statement that Jesus then threw down His censer and announced the solemn fact that probation was closed. At that time "every case has been decided." "The subjects of the kingdom were made up." After the angels no longer hold the winds and Satan has full control of the finally impenitent, the time of trouble comes and the seven last plagues begin to fall.

If Satan was at work to bring in confusion when this work first began, we can know that he is at that work now and will be until the end. This is why we need to pay most earnest heed to the message God has given us. If this sealing work has been going on all these years since 1844, we must be near the time when the work will be finished and the last saint sealed.

Will we be among the drowsy Lao-diceans, or among those who receive the seal of the living God? Will we, because of our failure to do the work that is so vitally important, still delay the glad day of salvation? May God awaken us from all lethargy and fit us for service here and for a home among the redeemed in the great hereafter.

Can God Depend on You?

By R. L. Klingbeil

That we must depend on God fully and continually for salvation is made plain in Holy Writ. Furthermore, Christian experience has added its testimony. How often we have felt strong when we were weak. As a result, instead of heeding the instruction, "Take heed lest ye fall," we have gone on alone, without the upholding hand of God, and have fallen. It is good to impress our minds daily with the fact that "as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me" (John 15:4). "Without Me you cannot overcome one sin, or resist one temptation" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 676.

Nevertheless the time is coming when God will depend on us! But before that solemn day arrives, we will have learned to depend on God so fully that His character will have been reproduced in us.

Let us consider briefly these two vital relationships.

It is unnatural for the human heart to depend on God. Self-sufficiency is a universal trait. Our twentieth-century civilization has provided mankind with props

and gadgets for his existence. Because of the multiplication of conveniences the desire to acquire as many as possible has become well-nigh irresistible. Satan has taken many of the legitimate things of life and made them instruments of sin. The automobile, radio, printing press, television, and the moving picture can be great blessings. They can be the means of hastening the coming of the Lord. But they can hinder His coming also.

Too many Christians substitute a Sabbath automobile ride for the act of worship; find it more enjoyable to listen to the radio and watch television than to be with God in prayer; to read emotional literature more than spiritual writings. Unless certain modern conveniences are used with sanctified judgment, they may harm us. Those who indulge in them will discover at the end of the journey that they have been paid with counterfeit money, that they have been living in false security, and enjoying a peace that is no peace.

How distressing to think that many professing Christians are only enjoying

a peace of human making. Their minds are at ease, not because Christ dwells within, but because circumstances conspire to eliminate discomfort. Neighbors are kind; the kitchen is well stocked with good food. But let sudden calamity remove them all, and the peace that they enjoyed suddenly disappears.

The peace that Christ provides is independent of material things or outward circumstances. It results from forgiveness of sin, justification, and subsequent growth in grace. The change-over from the false to the genuine peace is made only by a creative act of God in the soul, and by our submission to His grace.

A Finished Work

Soon His work will be finished in His children. They will then be without "spot, or wrinkle." God's image will have been restored in them. It is then that God will depend on His children. He will depend on them to vindicate His name on earth and before unnumbered fallen hosts of other worlds.

Let us consider this second phase with deep humility and awe. Satan has ever been the accuser not only of the brethren but of God Himself. In the days that lie ahead, when the mystery of God will be finished, he will make one more desperate attempt to win the war against righteousness. In order to make the conflict decisive, Christ will no longer plead for fallen man. He will remove His grace from those who have continued in rebellion. Exposed to the unchecked fury of men and demons, God's faithful few on earth will be tested to the limit. Can man truly live a life of righteousness amid unchecked evil? Can human beings truly obey the law of God? Well does God know that His chosen ones will not fail Him in this hour. They will vindicate the reasonableness of His claims and justify His demands. They will provide undisputable evidence that God's requirements can be met under the most adverse circumstances.

In that last bitter hour of trial God's saints will have nothing left in which to trust save their faith in God. Amid the fury of spiritual wickedness and the physical sufferings at the hand of abandoned sinners, the saints will not fear, for God has strengthened them to endure the conflict.

Those whose peace today depends on material conveniences or the favor of men will have no peace in that day when *every earthly support* will be removed. But the saints, whose peace comes from God, will continue to trust in Him. Then God will be able to depend on them to be His faithful witnesses. Then the humble folk of earth will prove the righteousness of God's law. Then when the controversy is over, God's saints will be ushered into the kingdom of heaven. The sweat of battle will be wiped from their faces, and they will reflect forever the glory of their Lord.

A Losing Battle

By C. E. Moon

It is hard to fight against God. Who can contend with the Almighty (Job 40:2)? Pharaoh of Egypt found it a losing battle. He kept up his defiance until his land was destroyed, his first-born dead, and he finally lost his life.

Saul of Tarsus thought to do many things against Jesus of Nazareth. He found, after fighting a losing battle, that it was hard to kick against the pricks (Acts 9:5). This illustration is best understood where the ox still is used as a beast of burden. The goad, a long pole, sharp at one end, is used to drive the oxen. At times, the oxen resent the painful thrusts of the driver and kick back at him. If, perchance, he kicks against the sharp goad, it leaves him limping from the pain. Paul found it hard to fight against God. It only gave him more trouble until he surrendered to the Lord.

Pastor E. Ponce tells of a brother in southern Mexico who carried on a losing battle against the Lord. This man had to make a trip to a nearby city to have some dental work done. To cover his expenses he sold a steer from a herd of cattle, which brought him six hundred dollars. His wife, learning of the deal, and that he had received the money, gently reminded him, "Now that you have sold this animal, don't forget to acknowledge your Lord as the Giver of all, and before you take this trip, return to the Lord His own." The brother paid no at-

AN HONEST BUSINESSMAN

"If any man here," shouted the temperance speaker, "can name an honest business that has been helped by the saloon, I will spend the rest of my life working for the liquor people."

A man in the audience arose. "I consider mine honest," he said, "and it has been helped by the saloon."

"What is your business?" asked the orator. "I, sir," replied the man, "am an undertaker."

—ATA Bulletin.

tention to his wife's admonition; the enemy put selfishness in his heart and influenced him to take this trip without paying his tithe.

His trip was a success; he had his dental work done, but his money scarcely held out to buy his ticket for his return trip. Upon his arrival, his wife again reminded him of the unpaid tithe. This time he became much displeased with his wife and told her in no uncertain tones, "Don't bother me about this tithe, as that is my own affair, whether I pay tithe or not."

Three days later he was leading a

beautiful young mare out to pasture to halterbreak her. He tied her up near a ditch where water had collected from the late rain, and then returned to the house. The following morning he returned to saddle her, and great was his surprise to find her dead. She had become tangled in her rope, and had fallen into the water and drowned. The brother returned to the house in a bad humor. His wife suggested that possibly this had happened because he had failed to recognize God as the Owner of all and that he had better return to Him His own. The brother answered that now he could less afford to pay tithe in that he had lost this mare, which was worth five hundred dollars.

Again, after eight days, he took some sheep to town to sell in order to buy some roofing for a new house he was building. He was successful in getting four hundred and fifty dollars for the sheep. Again, not listening to the counsel of his wife to pay his tithe, he boarded a bus for the city where he was to buy the roofing. He placed his purse with the money in it in the pocket of his blouse, which was well buttoned up. Since there were no empty seats on the bus, he had to stand up with other passengers. Arriving in the city, he went at once to buy the roofing, but when he reached for his purse to pay for it, he found to his dismay that he had been robbed.

It was a very sad man who reached his home that night, but even then he did not want to listen to his wife's entreaties. He was in no state of mind to talk with her. When she started to talk with him, he threatened to beat her if she didn't keep still.

Two days later he went out to the cornfield to bring in some corn on the back of a colt. This animal had not been broken, and when the corn was half loaded he began to buck. Our brother had to tie the colt's nose down to one of his feet in order to load the corn. Then the animal began to lunge and throw himself backward, and finally fell in a pool of water. By the time our brother could get the load loose and the colt disentangled, the animal had drowned.

Heartsick over his losses and troubled in spirit over his unfaithfulness to God, he returned to his house a humbled, repentant man. His wife, upon seeing him coming, thought that something worse had happened to him. He asked her to pray with him that God might forgive his offenses and that His hand might not be laid upon him.

With tears of repentance and confession, he promised to pay all his back tithe and even on the animals that had died, according to their value. He sold a cow and paid all that he owed to the Lord. Today this brother is very happy in his stewardship and faithful to his God. He has received many blessings and has been able to replace all his losses.

EDITORIALS



Never Doubt God

From the dark pit of conflict and trial into which Job had fallen we hear him exclaim: "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him" (Job 13:15). This is the ultimate of faith and confidence. It should be the attitude of everyone who knows God.

A good motto for the new year would be, "Never doubt God." Never should we allow trying circumstances or momentary discouragement to cause us to mistrust the One who doeth all things well. We should always remember that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. A change in our lot from prosperity to poverty, from health to sickness, from hope to disappointment, makes no change in God. His relation to us is ever the same—that of a loving and merciful heavenly Father.

Though the Bible is filled with narratives of sorrow and judgment; yet it is primarily a book revealing the goodness and mercy of God. Out of the night and gloom that it portrays shine the bright stars of hope. In it we see men who have been greatly afflicted, rising up to proclaim that God is just in all His ways and that He ever waits to help those who call upon Him.

Expressions of Confidence

It was this confidence to which Caleb and Joshua clung when all seemed lost. Israel was frightened by the evil report of the faithless spies. The murmurers were crying, "Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt!" They were ready to give up and return to the place from which God had so marvelously delivered them. Panic seized the multitude. It was at this juncture that Caleb and Joshua cried out:

"The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey" (Num. 14:7, 8).

Such an attitude of confidence in God's power to overcome all obstacles took more than a daring spirit. It demonstrated their trust in the promises of God.

It was such confidence that the prophet Habakkuk manifested when at the close of his prophecy of judgment upon the land he said,

"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation" (Hab. 3:17, 18).

The Psalmist Sings of Trust

This song of trust reaches its highest pitch in the psalms of David. No man suffered more at the hands of his kindred and friends, or suffered more remorse because of his sins, than the sweet singer of Israel. Hear him declaring when he had to flee from Absalom, his son:

"But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. . . . I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about" (Ps. 3:3-6).

The same trust was manifested on other such occasions when he wrote:

"Some trust in chariots and some in horses: but we will

remember the name of the Lord our God" (Ps. 20:7).

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me" (Ps. 23:4).

"Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock" (Ps. 27:3-5).

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea" (Ps. 46:1, 2).

Was not all this written for our learning upon whom the ends of the world come? Let us then gather strength from the courage and trust of these men of old.

Paul Committed His Ways to God

Paul also was among those who endured persecution and trials of every kind without complaint, because he looked to One to whom he entrusted his life. From the midst of a prison cell he wrote to Timothy:

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (2 Tim. 1:12).

"I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

How marvelous is such unquestioning resignation! How great such an undimmed vision! Too many today are concerned with present trials and it is hard for them to believe "that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Rom. 5:3-5).

"Never doubt God." That is the continuous message throughout the Scriptures. The way may be dark and stony, but the unseen God is watching over His dear ones. "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust" (Ps. 103:13, 14). In all our trials let us believe and say as did Job, "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10).

So, brethren and sisters, let us never doubt God. He is our only source of unfailing hope in this fast-fading world. May the coming year find us living this life of calm trust in Him who has our interest at heart and who is working out His purpose in our lives.

F. L.

THERE will be no future probation in which to prepare for eternity. It is in this life that we are to put on the robe of Christ's righteousness. This is our only opportunity to form characters for the home which Christ has made ready for those who obey His commandments.—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 319.



News From the World Field

Northern European Division Council

By R. R. Figuhr
Vice-President, General Conference

This year the division council of the Northern European Division was held in Amsterdam from November 18 to 25. The president of the division sounded the keynote of the council in the words: "A closer walk with God, a richer fellowship with one another, and a mightier witness for God."

The territory of this division, E. B. Rudge informed us, extends from the Arctic Circle in the north to the equator in the south and twenty-five countries are encompassed therein. To proclaim this message, workers are using no less than thirty-five languages. The population of this territory is around one hundred sixty million, a third of whom are in Great Britain. The baptized church membership now stands at 45,314, or an equivalent of one Seventh-day Adventist to every 3,500 of the population.

Two hundred thousand dollars' worth more literature was sold during 1952 and 1953 than during the former equal period, G. D. King, the publishing department secretary, reported. In West Africa, where a new publishing house is just going into production, more literature was sold during the first nine months of 1953 than during the entire year of 1952. This year for the first time the Ivory Coast reports literature sales. Greenland has for the first time also been entered, and colporteurs have reached one sixth of the population with books and tracts.

Students play an important part in the distribution of literature. In Finland a young woman accepted the truth and as a result she lost her position. She joined the colporteur force and sold close to six hundred message-filled books, thereby easily earning a scholarship to one of our schools, where she is now studying. In the same country a man bought a copy of *The Great Controversy* twenty years ago. Only this year he began reading it. Now both he and his son are in the truth and the son is studying in one of our schools.

In 1947 the Bible correspondence school was launched in Northern Europe. To date 2,442 students have been baptized, 340 of these during the first six months of this year. Contributions have covered one half of the cost of operating the school.

The five conference presidents of the East Nordic Union hold evangelistic efforts each year. This accounts for the 33 per cent increase in baptisms in that union. Fifteen hundred children have been gathered into Sunday schools, with the result that parents have become interested in the truth. Alert press secretaries are utilizing the newspapers to good advantage. After an article appeared in the paper on our work a businessman called the conference office and expressed his interest in and appreciation for the work of Seventh-day Adventists. Then he sent his check for one hundred kroner.

"If you want to know the spirit of the Seventh-day Adventist Church read *Steps to Christ*," says a Dutch writer in a book just out on the various churches working in the Netherlands. After speaking of other churches he turns to the Adventists and tells of their activity in the radio and Bible school field, as well as of their work with literature. A number of our good books in Dutch are named and recommended. Then he suggests that those de-

siring to discover the real spirit of this church will find it in *Steps to Christ* by Mrs. E. G. White.

In Northern Europe we are operating nineteen sanatoriums, clinics, and dispensaries, from the large Skodsborg institution, with its 240-bed capacity, to the new and recently opened clinic far up in the Arctic Circle. The combined patient capacity of these institutions is 1,612. In one year a total of 130,000 patients are treated, 39,000 of whom are charity patients. A newspaperman visiting the Skodsborg Sanitarium and observing the attendance of the staff at the religious services in the chapel turned to Dr. Anderson and said, "This is your powerhouse."

West Africa believes that by General Conference time it will have doubled its membership since the last General Conference session. During 1952 the laymen of this union won 646 members. For this year they have set their goal at 988. Already this year they have conducted nineteen evangelistic meetings. What probably is the nicest building in West Africa—the Centennial Building in Liberia—has been offered us free of cost for evangelistic meetings. It seats between one thousand and fifteen hundred.

The excellent impression made at the time of the dedication of our church in Monrovia seems to have opened doors for us. At that service the president of the republic of Liberia and other high officials attended and spoke. An offering amounting to \$1,000 was taken. In his remarks the president declared that Seventh-day Adventists are correct in keeping the seventh day—Saturday.

Space does not permit the inclusion in this brief report of accounts of the progress of the work in all the countries of this division. But everywhere the work is advancing. Ethiopia is doubling its membership; Iceland reports good progress, with doors wide open for the message; the large evangelistic effort held in London has given a gratifying impetus to evangelism in the British Union, which has a population of more than fifty million people. The beautiful new evangelistic center in London is putting our church before the public in a new and most favorable manner.

It was most heartening to see the fine spirit of cooperation and confidence that reigned throughout the council. A. F. Tarr, who is giving good leadership in the division, is ably assisted by Brethren Rudge and Lindsay. G. W. Bozarth, of the General Conference, was present

The Arab Refugees of the Middle East

We have heard much of the tragic plight of the refugees of Europe, but little of the 800,000 Arab refugees of the Middle East, who for the past five years have had to live under very distressing and uncertain circumstances. They are mostly without suitable clothing, and for them the future is dark.

Some have sought to provide for the necessities of these poor people. In 1952 the Lutheran World Federation supplied clothing to more than 200,000 Arab refugees. This organization, along with others such as Church World Service and the Middle East Relief, Inc., has rendered valuable service to them. Because of limited funds UNRWA, which issues them an average ration of fifteen hundred calories per day, is not able to supply them with clothing.

The strong attachment of these people to their religion and ancestral customs is a stabilizing influence that has prevented moral disintegration even though they are living under demoralizing conditions.—Taken from information supplied by American Friends of the Middle East Relief, Inc.

throughout the council and gave much valuable help.

Three quarters of a century has passed since the beginning of our work in Northern Europe, but the influence of those early and stalwart pioneers still lives today. The foundation they laid back there was founded upon the Rock. The edifice that is rising upon that foundation is of God's building and will surely stand the severe test of time. We thank God for the loyal workers and faithful members of Northern Europe.

Self-supporting Medical Practice in Rhodesia

By J. G. Foster, M.D.

A few hundred miles beyond the great Zambezi River and the famous Victoria Falls lies the capital of Northern Rhodesia, Lusaka. Since the beginning of the century the town has served as a railway stop. Here in this town I am now practicing medicine. I left a very busy practice in North Hollywood, California, among many friends, to come to Africa to do self-supporting work. I had seen Lusaka in 1938, when I came to register with the medical council here.

Personally I had hoped to have my practice in Bulawayo, where there is a

Seventh-day Adventist community, a church and church school for my children, and a nucleus from which to start. But things just did not open, so I pushed farther north. Then it seemed that I should go to the prosperous copper belt area, up on the border of the Belgian Congo. But try as I would, I could not find either a house or an office to rent or even buy. So I had to start back. At Lusaka I got off the train and began making the rounds of real estate offices, hoping to find a house and an office to rent. But there was nothing. However, I was told to inquire from a building firm about some houses they had that would soon be completed. This I did, and here I discovered that the man who had left the office as I walked in had just canceled the lease on one of the new houses, and this one I was able to get. This firm sent me to see another man who was just finishing an office building, and I was able to rent space from him.

That was two and a half years ago. We didn't know one person here. We spent the first three weeks in the hotel, until the house we had leased was finished and approved by the Health Department, and then we moved in to begin housekeeping. We soon had the office ready and in order and the door open for patients. We have had a wonderful experience of God's leading power and His proving of an-

swered prayers. Our second son, Ray, we left on a farm in the Cape with one of our dear Afrikaans families, with the promise that they would help him learn to speak their language. The two younger children we brought along with us. When school opened at Helderberg they were ready and off on the train with the other children going back.

A Building Boom in Lusaka

Today there is nothing sleepy or quiet about Lusaka. For suddenly, almost overnight, like a mushroom it started to grow, and almost phenomenal has been its rapid development. The population has doubled itself several times in a few years, and new buildings and buildings in process of erection meet the eye in every direction, a sure sign of prosperity and growth. We do not have a church building here. At present we are holding meetings in the home of one of the members. We have also been holding cottage meetings for a few who have shown an interest. We are hoping soon to erect a church building of our own. We need a Bible instructor and a minister here very badly, someone with a burden for souls. We have our tracts and booklets in the waiting room, and they are read and studied with interest. Now we need someone to go into the homes of these interested ones and do follow-up work.

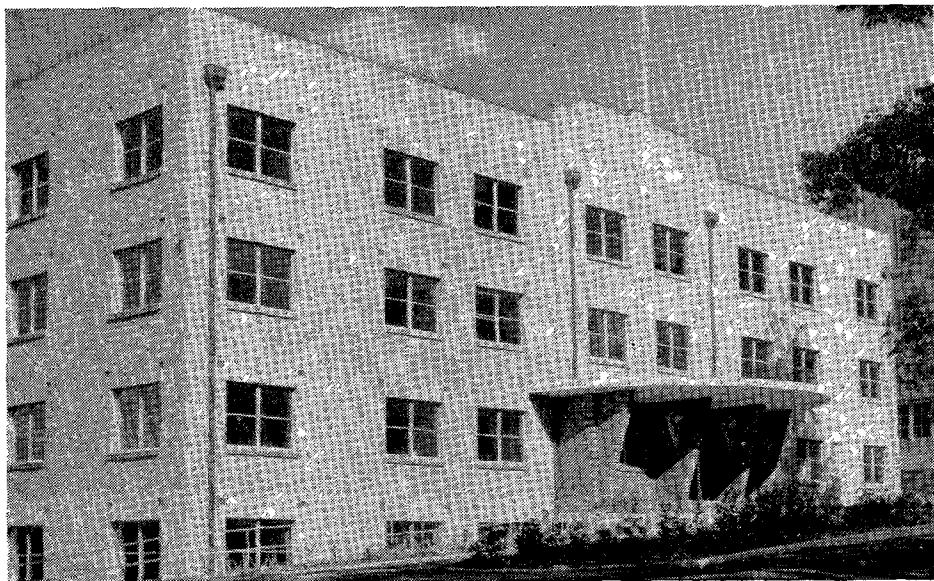
There is a wonderful opportunity waiting here for three or four consecrated qualified nurses and a dietitian, to run a small hospital, as self-supporting workers. Surely the time is right for this now.

The work for the Africans has not been neglected. We have a department for them, with an African to interpret for us. While they are waiting, he gives them Bible studies and gives the interested ones literature. He took a group to the native camp meeting this year, and some were baptized.

There is a good-sized Indian community here also. Three Indians have asked for Bibles in their language, which we were able to get for them.

The first six months of this year I delivered more than fifty babies in the European hospital. In one case the mother was in good condition but the baby's heart was getting weaker and weaker, so I did an emergency cesarean, hoping to save the baby. It was almost lifeless at birth, but God heard our prayers, and this little one is a fine robust little fellow now. I am thinking of another tiny mite that came into the world, a premature six-month baby, weighing less than three pounds. God intervened for this little one, and he is doing very well. The child will soon be a year old.

Self-supporting medical work offers a challenge, yet gives its reward not only in seeing one's patients regain health but also in seeing them show an interest in healthful living and in spiritual things. Surely God hears and answers prayer.



Building Progress at Avondale, Australia

This school year has seen a radical change in the Avondale campus, for a new brick dormitory has been completed. It is three stories high and has a large basement. It accommodates seventy young women, providing comfortable facilities for the occupants. There are also a sick bay, guest rooms, and quarters for the preceptress and matron. The building was erected by our own college building team and planned and designed by G. W. Richardson, our own architect, formerly head of our manual arts department.

Very good progress is now being made on the next unit of our rebuilding program, and although the utility hall, with large basement, is not by any means complete, it is expected to be sufficiently advanced to be ready for our graduation closing exercises. These new brick buildings are providing facilities that give added impetus to the work of Christian education in this center selected more than half a century ago by the messenger of the Lord.

E. E. WHITE, Principal

Minnesota Workers' Meeting

By E. W. Voyles

The Minnesota Conference workers' meeting was held in Minneapolis, November 23-27, at the Steven's Avenue church. More than fifty local conference workers and their wives, five conference office secretaries, and the ten union officers and their wives were in attendance.

R. M. Whitsett, associate secretary of the General Conference Ministerial Department, gave studies on a more effective ministry. W. E. Read, general field secretary of the General Conference, spoke on our historic interpretations of faith and showed how modern archeology is supporting our tenets of Bible faith. E. N. Dick, of the International Medical Cadet Corps, talked on the medical cadet work. He said that the armed forces will take more men next year than they have this year, and that because our boys will now be trained nearer their homes, they may have some difficulties in basic training. He asked that each worker encourage probable inductees to attend the Twentieth Anniversary Medical Cadet Camp to be held at Grand Ledge, Michigan, next spring.

A most practical study was given by a layman, Dr. E. C. Mitchell, of Mound, who interrupted his hospital calls to appear before the workers. He emphasized the dangers of modern living, with the resulting tensions upon mind and body. He stated that both the minister and the layman alike are subject to these dangerous conditions. Ways and means of solving or avoiding these modern pitfalls were presented along with the plea that we make a practical personal application of every phase of the Spirit of prophecy instruction for our spiritual, mental, and physical betterment.

A Linguist Accepts the Message

By C. B. Mensah

"Good morning, Pastor," was the greeting of one of our church leaders. "Good morning, Brother Paul, and what's the trouble?" The pastor wanted to know the cause for the excitement that showed in the face of the leader.

"Oh, nothing wrong, but rather good news. Kyeame (Linguist) Agyeman Badu wants you to come and enroll his name as one of our members. He expressed the desire to come himself to see you about it, but he is feeling indisposed. He told me of a dream he had last night in which some religious people gathered round about him, endeavoring to draw him into their faith. He noticed an Adventist preacher there too. All of a sudden, a man



C. B. Mensah, associate president of the Gold Coast Mission, West Africa.

with a fair complexion appeared and, pointing to the Adventist preacher, said, 'Follow this man.' He awoke, and as he was pondering over his dream as to what it could mean, I appeared and started to talk to him about our faith." Brother Paul continued, "He at once realized that the Lord had sent me to call him to the true church he has been seeking after for a long time."

Hurriedly, I prepared to go and see this man to whom one of our laymen had been giving Bible studies.

"I Have Decided to Be an Adventist"

"Good morning, Mr. Agyeman Badu."

"Good morning, Pastor," he answered, and offered us seats. "I need not ask you to tell me the reason of your visit, for I sent to call you. I have now come to the conclusion and decided fully to be an Adventist. I have studied with one of your Bible instructors and also have attended some of your meetings and have had discussions with other denominations, and I am satisfied that your teaching is truth. Tell me all that I should not do as a member, and by the grace of God I will keep myself from them," he said.

I offered him our baptismal class card and said, "Will you please write your name on the space provided before I talk more with you." He did so with pleasure.

"Nana," I said (Nana is the title given to all people connected with the chieftaincy. This man, for a number of years, had been the mouthpiece or linguist of the Mampongene, the paramount chief of Mampong Ashanti), "what are your plans to dispose of your ancestral black stools to which on festive days you pour libations and to which you offer sacrifice?"

"It is no problem, for I have decided to hand them all over to my relatives," he answered.

"You are the spokesman of the Mampongene and as such you are entitled

to read addresses to government officials and you are often deputed to represent the Mampongene on special occasions, and to swear in people who come before the Mampongene to give evidence or swear an oath of allegiance to him; what will you do about this swearing of fetish oaths since they are contrary to Christianity?" I queried.

"I am going to make my position clear to the state council as an Adventist. I know I cannot be a Christian and still continue to be mixed up with heathen customs. They will have to decide that for themselves, for I will not swear. I am not a small boy. I have been working with the government, and have acquired some experiences from my connection with influential men. Before I took this decision I thought much about it and prayed over it. I am fully convinced that what I am doing is right," he added.

We could see that he had been well informed of the principles of our belief. His answers to some questions put to him about his private life and his desire for more knowledge of the truth indicated that the hand of the Lord was in his conversion.

We prayed with him, and before we left he asked me to buy him a hymnbook, *Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly*, and a baptismal manual.

In my visits and discussions with him, I found that for health's sake he has not been smoking, drinking, or eating snails and swine's flesh. He has not been involved in any political party, neither has taken sides in certain troubles that are common in this district.

I beseech all the brethren to remember him in their prayers that the Lord may keep him faithful to the end.

Dedication of Olean, New York, Church

By J. J. Reiswig, President
New York Conference

Another house of worship has been dedicated in the New York Conference.

When the Olean congregation met Sabbath morning, November 21, 1953, we could see joy in the faces of the members because their building had now been paid for and renovations had been made in the church school room. And they now were ready to dedicate this house to the spreading of the third angel's message.

Esther Schnell, the church clerk and one of the older members of the church, gave a brief history of the church organization. L. E. Lenheim, president of the Atlantic Union Conference, brought the members face to face with the challenge of the hour in his dedicatory sermon. He made a solemn appeal to this church to go forward to greater soul-winning service. J. J. Reiswig gave the dedicatory prayer, and the act of dedication was read by the pastor, L. H. Cox.

Oklahoma Looks Forward

By H. L. Rudy

The work in a local conference is always fascinating and satisfying. There one comes in direct contact with the church membership and the various forms of personal soul winning. There, too, one sees the front-line workers—evangelists, pastors, teachers, colporteurs, et cetera—in action, gathering, holding, and preparing a people for the kingdom.

Under the inspirational leadership of H. C. Klement and his committee the Oklahoma Conference is a field where the workers and the churches are moving forward unitedly in advancing the interests of God's work. On November 16 and 17 the workers of the conference

met in Oklahoma City to chart the work program for another year. The item of immediate urgency was the annual Ingathering for missions. By unanimous vote the workers agreed to make Oklahoma a Minute Man conference.

L. C. Evans, president of the Southwestern Union Conference, made a special appeal to the workers on behalf of the Ingathering. He pointed out that the Ingathering returns for 1953 for the union had exceeded the 1952 results by 33 per cent. This is the largest increase of any union conference in North America. The increase in the Oklahoma Conference came to 43 per cent in 1953. The acceptance of the Minute Man goal for the conference will doubtless result in a further substantial increase in 1954.

Among the other items on the agenda, "Evangelism for Winter and Spring, 1953

and 1954," taken from the recent Autumn Council recommendations, received thorough and enthusiastic consideration. Its implementation was immediate.

As guests from the General Conference it was a real pleasure for Mrs. Rudy and me to join the Oklahoma workers in a series of revival and evangelistic meetings immediately after the workers' meeting. We joined D. C. Aalborg for a series of four meetings in the Okeene-East Cooper district, and A. G. Streifling for a district rally in Shattuck, November 21 and 22. H. C. Klement and O. J. Bell from the conference and E. A. Lemon of the Panhandle district joined us in the Shattuck rally.

The countryside in Oklahoma was a delight to the eye. The beautiful, green fields of grain, dotted with herds of feeding cattle, give promise of a year of plenty. Coupled with a spirit of love and sacrifice on the part of our dear people in that State, the outlook for a year of spiritual prosperity is most encouraging for the Oklahoma Conference.



Six Servicemen Won to the Message

The accompanying picture was taken at the recent Japan congress for servicemen, held at the beautiful chapel center in Tokyo, which faces the emperor's palace. Young men present at this meeting came from all points in Japan, some from as far as Hokkaido Island, seven hundred miles north of Tokyo.

One of the interesting features of the congress was the six men there who had not known of the truth before putting on the uniform of their country. In each case the soldier had become interested through the efforts of his fellows in the service who were letting their light shine. The method chosen in each case was the literature program of the Voice of Prophecy. It was a great privilege to be with these men who are now rejoicing and happy in the blessed hope. One, a sailor, who lives in Boston, has already won his wife to the message, and she plans to follow her husband in baptism. All of these men are now baptized, and the story of the missionary effort which they in turn are putting forth to win others in the forces is a thrilling one.

WM. H. BERGHERM

Light and Darkness in Santo Domingo

By H. A. B. Robinson

While Ingathering with G. F. Ruf a few days ago, I heard a number of people state that they had read in the newspaper of the activities of our medical cadets and also about our building a new home for children. Our secondary school is a great blessing to our field, and we shall soon be able to use those who finish their studies for field and office work.

The school now has telephone service as a result of the help of a high government official. The new canal nearby will soon give us more water. The personal representative of the administration witnessed the graduating exercises of the medical cadets, and all our boys are free from practice marching in government service on the Sabbath day.

Laws have been enacted making it obligatory for the state religion to be taught in all public schools, and this is bringing some trials to children of our believers who do not have them in our own schools. The law makes provision for the exemption of those who do not wish their children to have this instruction, but some priests and other zealous teachers are making it hard for those who object. There are teachers who do not care to present these religious views to those who do not wish it, and they are also running into difficulties. One of our small schools in one place has been threatened with closure, and a committee was sent up to the capital to have an order issued for its closing. The local teacher wants all the children in the public school, where they will get the state church religious teaching.

In another small town a worker has been giving studies, with the help of a small projector, and nearly two hundred people have been attending, among them a woman who has been a local catechist. Now her interest is growing, and she is studying. She has invited the worker to give his meetings in her home, since she does not wish to do any more catechizing with the state religion.

Our Sunday radio programs are opening the eyes of many to the present truth, and the Bible correspondence courses are doing even more for the people still in darkness. The interested ones are much more than we can satisfactorily attend to with visits and studies. One worker told of seeing on one of his trips a loud-speaker wagon with advertising on the sides, "Voice of Prophecy Church." We know nothing at all of the origin of this work. There are a large number of interested listeners in our field, and requests for literature come from as far as Mexico and Venezuela, Puerto Rico, and even the United States. We hope to have many in this land ready to meet Jesus when He comes to gather the faithful.

A London Theater Becomes a Temple of God

By D. E. Rebok

The New Gallery in the heart of London has been converted, not in name but in fact. The old carpets, chairs, and mural decorations that served the cinema for so many years have been removed. Every mark of the old business, which served the purposes of the devil, has now been changed and completely transformed to serve the cause of God and the work of the church.

The remodeling has been accomplished in a remarkably short time. The workmen have taken a keen interest in converting this theater into a temple for God. They have done exceptionally good work, and are justly proud of their achievement. My heart thrilled as I stepped into that building and saw the beautiful lighting, the new seats and carpet, the rebuilt pipe organ, the comfortably appointed reading room, and the space for cooking classes and the care of children. God has marvelously opened the way and solved the problems involved in securing this evangelistic center on the "Fifth Avenue" of London.

A bishop of the established church passed by the crowded shops on Regent

Street until he stood before the door of the New Gallery. Looking in all directions first, he then stepped into the lobby and wandered into the newly opened, newly decorated evangelistic center.

As he carefully surveyed the converted theater and took in the full significance of what he saw, the janitor at work nearby observed the bishop nod his head in manifest approval as he uttered but one comment—"Remarkable, remarkable!"

Camp Meetings in Bechuanaland

By M. M. Webster

It gives me joy to give to you a glimpse of the camp meetings in Bechuanaland, Africa, during 1953. We have to condense all our meetings into the months of August and September, for during the other months the people are out in their gardens or at their cattle kraals, which in most places are fifteen to thirty miles from the village.

In some places our camp meetings are conducted in the churches in the village, whereas at other places they are held in temporary camps, and all the people come to the meetings. They come to seek God and to find the truth in the Bible. To

them these meetings are very important occasions. It does one's soul good to meet with people who are in these temporary camps, for they have the real spirit of camp meeting. They have left their homes to go to worship God, and they join in every meeting. Whether the audience is composed of few or many, the Spirit is there to answer everyone's expectations.

At Tsessebe camp meeting we were disappointed to find absent from the camp a loyal bushman and his company. We missed him because every year for five years he has been present, though he has to walk 150 miles. He always has his candidates ready for baptism, though he has had no education. He would always have with him his tithe and camp meeting offering. We

are fearful that he must either be dead or very ill. We sent someone to find out, but word has not reached us yet.

The people who attend this meeting come from the area in which there has been unrest. The Sabbath is still being fought, owing to prejudice, but through the Lord's intervention men and women everywhere are observing the commandments of God even under persecution. One woman attending the meeting testified that she had been thrashed by her husband for accepting the truth, but her courage is good and she is determined to endure anything for Him who died for her. She eagerly learned to sing all the hymns taught at the camp meeting and she has gone home singing the gospel.

Walter Cooks and I traveled to many meetings in the northern part of the Bechuanaland Protectorate. Distances are vast, and the roads in some places are only sand and more sand, but at the end of that wearisome road there live many thousands who hunger for the truth.

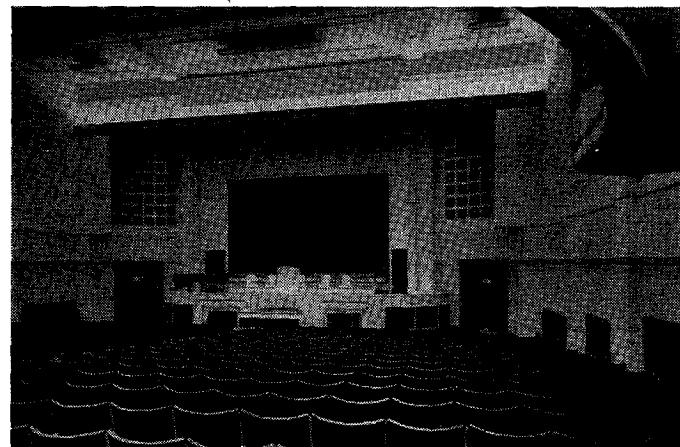
Approximately ten to twelve years ago our work was closed down in the Caprivi Concession because of some misunderstanding, and the Catholics have been granted full sway. However, the people have held fast all this time to the faith they once experienced.

An Encouraging Outlook

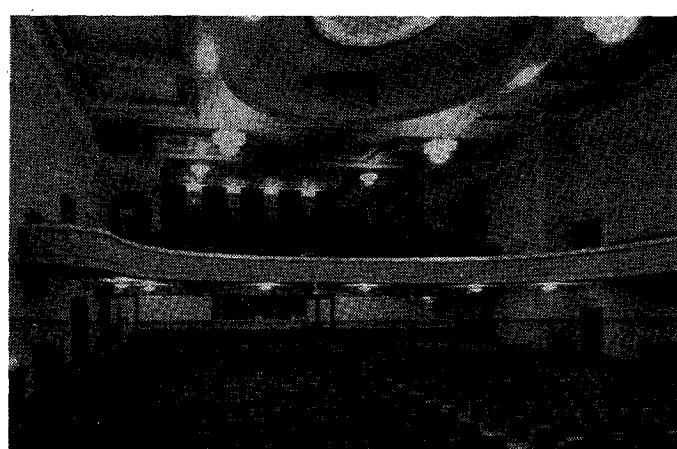
Today there is a new district commissioner, and the outlook is encouraging. We have been invited to make whatever application we desire for the re-establishment of our work in this populated area, and we are promised that it will be presented with interest. There is a crying need for churches and schools right away to help save these men and women.

At one meeting we attended in this area there were six hundred people present, a real revival for the Bechuanaland area. The chief, with his headmen, was a regular attendant at all the meetings. Forty followed their Lord in baptism and forty gave themselves to the Lord to have Him rule in their lives. They gave willingly to the Lord of what they had, and it amounted to £22.10. It would have done your heart good to watch in that camp the spirit of giving that was manifested.

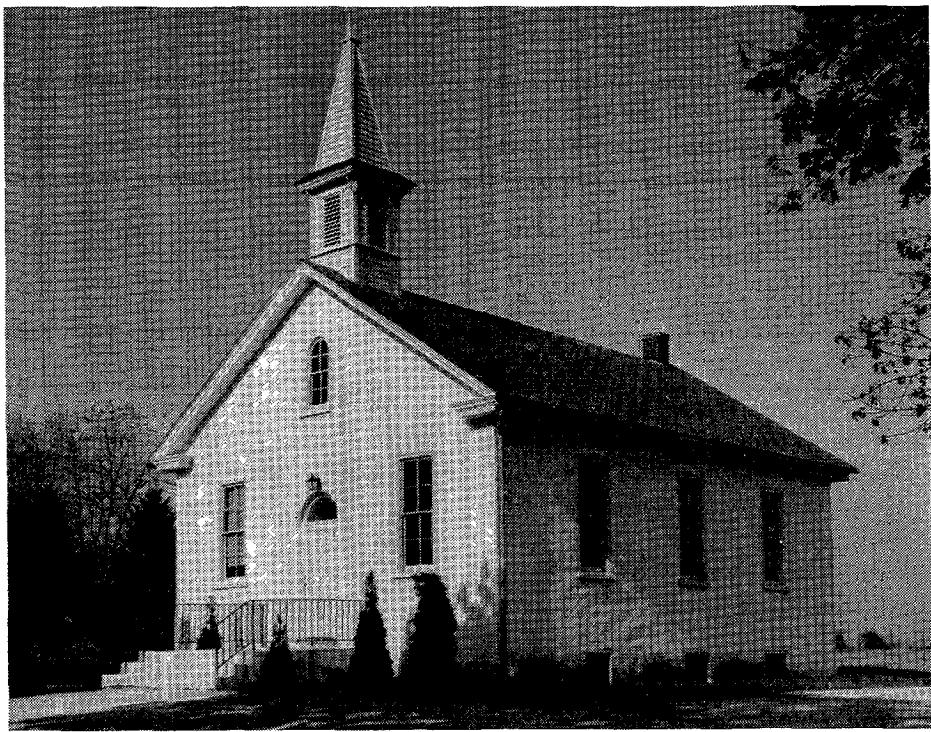
We appreciate the help of our believers in the home base. Five hundred pounds was passed on to us this year by the Southern African Division, made up of the many gifts that you have given. It was to build a church in the Kachikau area, in the northern part of the Protectorate just adjoining the Caprivi. It costs a great amount of money to build in places so far removed from the sources of supplies, but to show how we struggle to spend every penny honestly, Pastor Cooks himself went down there and worked with his builders in order to finish the church. Today the people are worshiping in it, thanking God that the spirit of giving is still operating among His people.



Interior view of New Gallery Theatre in London. This newly decorated building now serves as an evangelistic center in that city.



View of New Gallery Theatre interior from the platform.



East Pennsylvania Dedicates New Church

The thirty-one members of the Royersford Seventh-day Adventist church rejoiced greatly as they participated in the dedication exercises of their beautiful Wayside Chapel on November 14, 1953. The church, originally known as the Phoenixville Seventh-day Adventist church, was organized in 1916 by H. M. S. Richards. Through the intervening years the congregation worshiped in rented halls. In 1951 the members purchased an abandoned country schoolhouse, and after months of volunteer labor by the members and their friends the building was ready for occupancy July 12, 1952.

A Friday evening consecration service opened the weekend dedication exercises. D. A. Ochs, union conference president, preached the dedicatory sermon Sabbath afternoon. Sunday afternoon a special service for the community was conducted by the students of Philadelphia Academy. Open house was held Sunday evening, and considerable interest was manifested by the neighborhood. A period of rapid growth in membership is anticipated now that the congregation is comfortably housed.

T. E. UNRUH, President,
East Pennsylvania Conference

The Isles Are Waiting

By Roger A. Evans, Publishing
Secretary, Far Eastern Island Mission

We arrived on this beautiful South Sea island of Guam on June 18, 1953. Our territory comprises the Mariana, Marshall, Caroline, Palau, and remote Pacific islands. Guam is the largest island in the Mariana group.

After our arrival I gave some prayerful study as to the best method to use in beginning my colporteur ministry on Guam.

First, I went to the public health department and secured a letter of recommendation from the director of public health and medical services. Then I approached the director of commerce, the director of agriculture, the chief of police, the fire chief, the director of Civil Defense, the chief commissioner, and the commissioners of each village. I have letters from all of these men endorsing our books. Later I called on the governor. He was friendly, and endorsed my work.

I was showing *Drama of the Ages* to a woman in her home. She grasped the book in her arms and holding it close to her, she said in a whisper, "Oh, I must have this book. I'm not supposed to, but I'll keep it under the mattress, where I keep my Bible." In my work with the people here I find that there are many who are tired of their old religion.

Every Sabbath afternoon I take a group of young people from the church, and we hand out between six and seven hundred pieces of literature. The people are eager to read our papers and tracts. We visit the same homes with the literature each Sabbath. Fifteen families have signed up for the Bible course.

The chief commissioner of Rota Island, which is our nearest neighbor to the north, visited Guam recently. I met him and talked to him of Jesus' soon return. He was very eager to secure a copy of the Bible, *Drama of the Ages*, and *Modern Medical Counselor*. Then he said, "I want you to come to Rota and tell my people there what you have told me.

I will take you in my own ship, and you can stay at my home. I will take you to every home and tell my people they must have these books." When I told him I could not go until after the first of the year, he looked sad and said, "Please come just as soon as you can. My people have never heard anything like this. I will say a rosary every day for you until you come."

As I parted with this man the words on Isaiah 42:4 came to my mind, "The isles shall wait for his law." The people of these remote islands in the Pacific are truly waiting for the message.

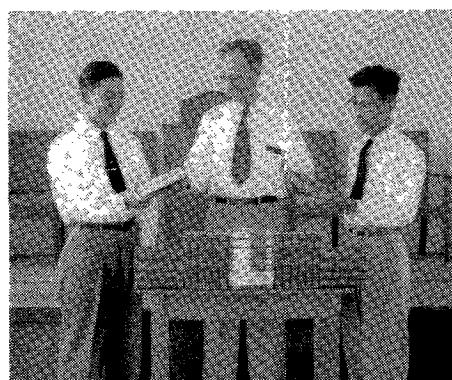
A Valuable Gift for Okinawan Workers

By E. E. Jensen

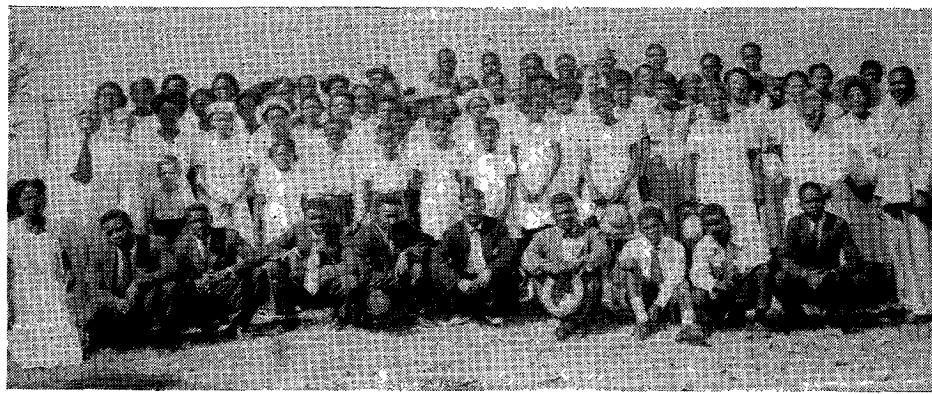
Owing to the difficulties of translation and insufficient funds, our Japanese believers have never been privileged to have a complete set of the Spirit of prophecy writings in their language. We are glad that earnest efforts are being put forth to make as many of these writings available as possible, for we realize that the strength of our people lies to a great extent in their acceptance of the Spirit of prophecy.

In the Okinawa Mission at present there are two young ministerial interns. They are both able to read English fluently, and it was felt that the strength of their work would be greatly increased if they had access to more of the writings of the Spirit of prophecy.

Unknown to these two young men the matter was discussed by the English Sabbath school class, and it was decided to purchase a number of Spirit of prophecy books for these workers. A donation was accepted from each member, and as a result more than sixty dollars was received. With this money thirty-two volumes were purchased, and on a recent Sabbath they were presented to these two young ministers. We believe that this will have far-reaching effects upon the work in the Okinawa Mission and that these workers will be greatly strengthened as they put into practice the wonderful counsel given to us by the messenger of God.



Two young ministers of Okinawa, each receiving a set of the *Testimonies* from E. E. Jensen.



Seventy-two candidates recently baptized in Barbados as a result of effort conducted by O. P. Reid.

Tent Meetings in Barbados

By O. P. Reid

A series of evangelistic meetings began on April 19, 1953, on the island of Barbados. These meetings continued nightly for fourteen weeks. Hundreds of persons attended from the very beginning, with the result that a baptism was conducted on August 30. More than seven hundred people were on the beach as witnesses when seventy-two were buried with their Lord in baptism. These new members came mainly as a result of the tent effort.

The work of the laymen of the churches in this district should be mentioned. Charles Gibson brought in nine candidates to be baptized; Cane Vale church, seven; Advent Avenue, three; Jacksons, one; Dayrells Road church and Government Hill church shared in the harvest from the tent effort.

The workers who shared in the effort are Mrs. O. P. Reid, Miss Wilma Gooding, and Mr. C. Babb, all of whom did valuable work as Bible instructors. C. Lashley, song leader; Miss Sylvia McClean and Miss Joyce Phillips, pianists, all did faithful work along with the members of the churches.

We thank God for His blessings and for this harvest of souls. Barbados is an island twenty-one miles long and fourteen miles wide, with a population of 220,000 people, with 38 different religious faiths.

The Power of Prayer

By M. K. Eckenroth

Sunday evening, November 15, 1953, brought a real blessing to the evangelistic staff of the Prophetic Crusade, which is in progress in the city of Baltimore. A large number of people were present to hear M. K. Eckenroth present the Sabbath question. Before he spoke a thrilling testimony from one member of the audience brought courage and faith to those who put their trust in prayer.

One of the features of the Crusade is a large prayer list containing well over

one thousand names. This list is about seventy-five feet in length. This large scroll contains the names of those who are taken to the Lord in special prayer. A woman whose name was placed on the list by an Adventist neighbor came to give her testimony of gratitude for God's answer to prayer. This is her story:

Two weeks before this occasion she was seriously ill. The doctors were unable to give her treatment. She was suffering intensely when her neighbor placed her name on the prayer list. The very next day things began to happen. Her condition improved, and she was quickly restored to health. Before that great audience she stood, and through her tears, bore a testimony to God. She said, "I am a Roman Catholic. This is the first time I have attended these meetings, but when I became ill and my neighbor placed my name on your prayer list, a wonderful change for the better took place in my life, and I just had to come and thank the people who were praying for me. Though I am a Catholic, I am not too

narrow to come and express my gratitude to the people who prayed for me, and to their God, who has done such wonderful things for me."

This simple heart-warming testimony prepared the way for the reception of the Sabbath message by hundreds that night, and the Spirit of God came into the meeting in a wonderful way.

A Turkish Family Accepts the Truth

By Raymond H. Hartwell, President
East Mediterranean Union Mission

Verily the Lord has "a thousand ways . . . , of which we know nothing." We also "thanked God, and took courage" (Acts 28:15) as we saw a letter from a man in Southern Europe. He wrote to ask for a Bible in the Turkish language! In his letter he stated that he was a Turk and had been a Mohammedan. "Now," he wrote, "I am a Christian. My wife and I and our children are now Sabbathkeepers, and we have joined an Adventist church of about sixty members in one of the countries of Southern Europe."

His letter explained how he had found more light. It was in a dream! In his dream he saw Jesus, and He talked to him about His sacrifice. Jesus held out His nail-pierced hand and appealed to his heart. Like Saul on the way to Damascus, he saw a light and heard a voice. His heart was convicted. His soul was stirred, and he went out to look for the people who had "the faith of Jesus" and loved Him enough to keep His commandments. The Lord was with him, and he found the Advent people. Since this is one of the first fruits from Turkey, we rejoice greatly.

Brief Current News

NORTH AMERICA

Atlantic Union

• The New Haven, Connecticut, church was dedicated on November 14. Taking part in the services, in addition to conference officials, were O. J. Ritz, pastor; Harry Hadley Schyde and Ralph McGann, vocal soloists; Thomas Howell, church treasurer; Howard Thomas and James O'Brien.

• A. M. Petrone baptized 6 on November 28 who will join the Italian Bronx church.

• November baptisms in the Southern New England Conference include four in Boston by L. O. Coon, three in New Bedford by A. R. Friedrich, two in Fitchburg by D. J. Sandstrom, two in Providence by O. D. Wright, and two in Wilimantic by S. A. Renzi. The 1953 total

for the conference to the end of November is 228.

• Morris Taylor, instructor in piano and theory of music at Atlantic Union College, left for Army service on December 1.

Canadian Union

• Four individuals were baptized in Ottawa, Ontario, on Sabbath, November 14, by Darren L. Michael, for H. Ward Hill. Already Pastor Hill has prepared ten people for baptism this year, with several more in various stages of study.

• Miss Helen McKibbin, R.N., of Lacombe, Alberta, has recently joined the staff of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference as conference nurse and medical secretary. Miss McKibbin is a former student of Canadian Union College and also of Pacific Union College, and is a gradu-

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ARTHUR S. MAXWELL

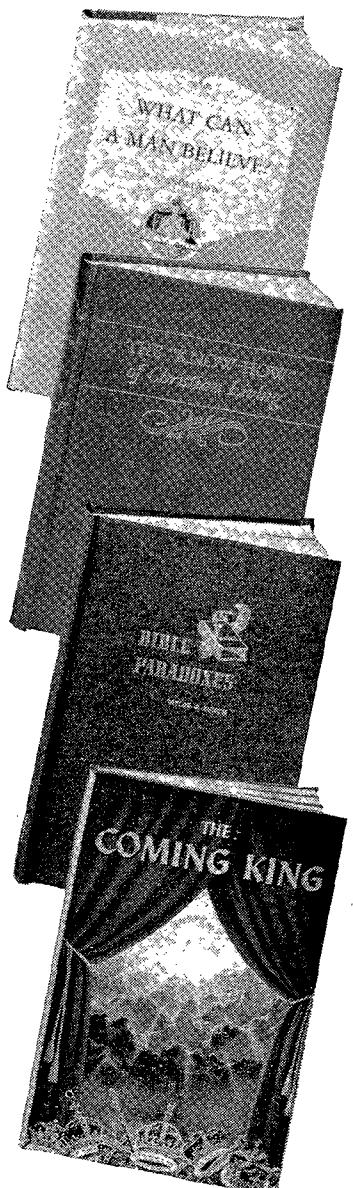
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ate of the College of Medical Evangelists School of Nursing, class of 1951.

Central Union

• Reverence and quietness reigned Sabbath, September 12, in the Buffalo, Wyoming, church as the dedication service of the church was conducted. M. V. Campbell, Central Union president, gave the dedicatory sermon.

• On Sabbath, October 31, the Riverton believers were made very happy as they organized a company of Seventh-day Adventists in another city in Wyoming. The group is small, but each member is eager to serve.

Columbia Union

• Ground was broken for the new Middletown, Ohio, church on October 4. The church is to be a colonial-style brick structure and will cost \$65,000.

• M. A. Burgess and Alonzo Wagner are conducting evangelistic meetings in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

• The Philadelphia Academy temperance team was invited recently to present a program in the Church of the Brethren in Reading, Pennsylvania. The response was overwhelming, and they were immediately invited to return. This event marked a milestone in the advance of the temperance work in this area. It is hoped that all sections of the East Pennsylvania Conference will be reached with a real temperance education program.

Lake Union

• A new church school has been organized at Mount Vernon, Illinois, with Mrs. Bertha Pontious, an experienced teacher, in charge. Earlier this year a new school was organized at West Frankfort, Illinois now has a total of 21 church schools, with an enrollment of 512.

• D. S. Wallack, pastor of the Kalamazoo, Michigan, district, reports that they have recently purchased a new building from the public school system and remodeled it at a cost of \$16,000 into a very fine home for the Kalamazoo Junior Academy. They have an enrollment of 61 pupils at the present time. The official opening was held on October 4. H. R. Nelson, educational secretary of the Michigan Conference, was present, as well as some of the prominent citizens of Kalamazoo.

• Through the efforts of Mrs. C. J. Cain, another Sabbath school has been started in the Lake Region Conference, at Grand Rapids, Michigan. On November 14, D. B. Simons, Sabbath school secretary of the conference, met with the group. Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Brantley, of Oakwood College, who at present are on leave of absence in Detroit, were also present and took an active part in the Sabbath school.

Northern Union

• The new church at Cleveland, North Dakota, was dedicated on November 14, 1953. M. C. Torkelsen, the district pastor, reports that about 300 people crowded into the building and heard Jere D.

Smith, Northern Union Conference president, give the dedicatory sermon.

• Paul Gregoroff, pastor at Burlington, Iowa, conducted the Week of Prayer services at Oak Park Academy, and T. P. Misenko, the Duluth, Minnesota, pastor had the Week of Prayer services at Maplewood Academy.

North Pacific Union

• The first baptismal service resulting from the efforts of the evangelistic company in Tacoma, Washington, was held Sabbath afternoon, November 21. D. H. Spillman, union conference evangelist, introduced 59 candidates, which is the largest single baptism ever conducted in the Washington Conference.

• At the request of the General Conference, Theodore Carcich, president of the Washington Conference, is making a tour in the Far Eastern Division. He expects to return to Seattle some time in February.

• Members of the Pocatello Missionary Volunteer Society are holding meetings in the Blackfoot church by means of the S.A.V.E. projector and recorder. The Blackfoot church has a small membership of 11, but several non-Adventists have been attending regularly the meetings held Monday and Thursday evenings. R. R. Cronk is superintendent of the Pocatello district.

Pacific Union

• Members of the churches in the Honolulu area greatly appreciated the visit of J. E. Edwards of the General Conference Home Missionary Department. He spoke in the morning and afternoon services, reporting experiences noted in a tour of many countries.

• Students of Newbury Park Academy are conducting an effort at Ventura, California, a few miles away, under the direction of the Bible teacher, Reuben Hilde. Meetings are held each Sunday night. Students distributed thousands of pieces of literature in the area in preparation for the meetings.

• An excellent interest is being shown in meetings conducted by J. L. Shuler and his associate at Yucaipa, California. When the change of the Sabbath was presented, a number made decisions to unite with the church. There is a good-sized baptismal class preparing for church membership, with two baptisms scheduled for December.

Southern Union

• W. C. Hatch, pastor of the Jacksonville church in the Florida Conference, writes that so far 40 have been baptized this year in his church. He says, "We have had some of our lay workers go forward at each baptism with those whom they have helped bring into the truth."

• On November 21, seven were baptized in the Louisville church, in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

• H. R. Murphy, president of the South Central Conference, reports that a new church has been organized in Belzoni,

Mississippi, where G. H. Rainey held an effort this past summer and baptized 105. L. G. Newton baptized 104 as a result of the effort in Hattiesburg. Out of ten efforts held in the conference, six were in the State of Mississippi, where, he says, more than a million colored Americans live. Elder Murphy also reports that at the end of October, 431 had been baptized in the conference.

• Early in November it was the privilege of Southern Missionary College to have R. M. Whitsett and Miss Louise Kleuser, of the Ministerial Association, conduct a workshop in evangelism for the students of the division of religion. The classes held by these two visitors were enthusiastically attended by the students, and it is felt that the inspiration and information received by them will find a permanent place in the training they have received for service.

Southwestern Union

• On Sabbath, November 28, 46 were baptized in Dallas as the first fruits of the Detamore meetings and the long preparatory work of the pastor, C. J. Dornburg, his associates, and faithful church members.

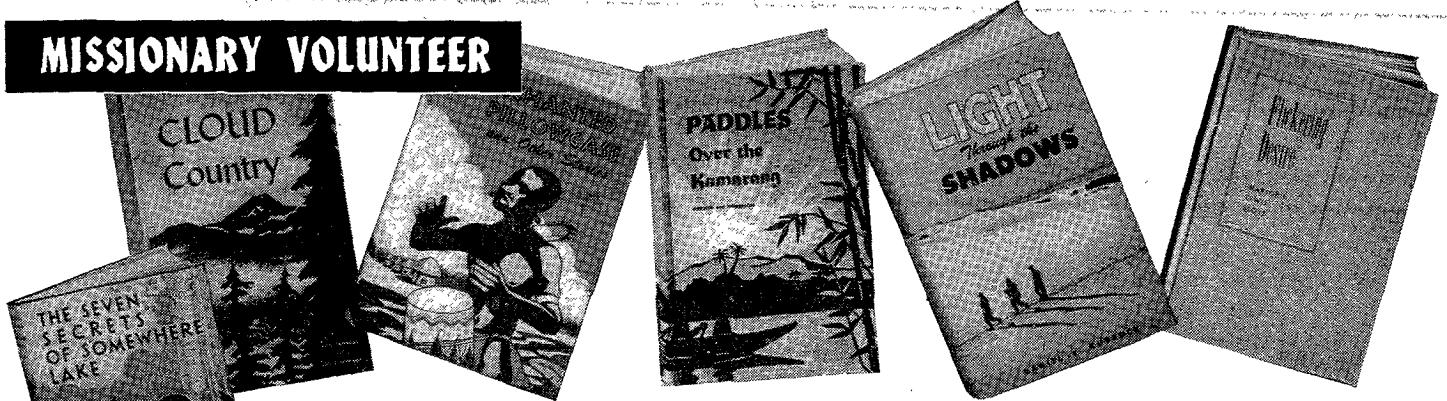
• The following churches in the Oklahoma Conference had baptisms during the month of November: Ketchum 5, Okeene 6, Oklahoma City 2, Sapulpa 2, Shattuck 7, Shawnee 4, and Tulsa 17. This makes a total of 48.

• At the Southwest Region Conference workers' meeting, the following workers reported baptisms as indicated: L. B. Baker 64, D. C. Batson 8, W. J. Cleveland 27, J. E. Cox 60, D. J. Dixon 4, T. M. Fountain 4, A. B. Humphrey 25, F. W. Parker 9, J. H. Williams 9, H. Pettway 2, L. R. Proctor 2, H. J. Fordham, Sr., 3, Carl Bailey, 15 (self-supporting).

Church Calendar for 1954

Jan. 2	Home Missionary Day (Family Altar)
Jan. 16-23	Religious Liberty Campaign
Jan. 23	Religious Liberty Offering
Feb. 6	Christian Home Day
Feb. 13-20	Signs Campaign
Feb. 27	Television Offering
March 6	Home Visitation Day
March 6-13	Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer
March 13	Korean Rehabilitation Offering
March 20	Ingathering Rally Day
March 20-May 1	Ingathering Campaign
March 27	13th Sabbath Offering (South America)
April 3	Home Missionary Day (Dorcas Welfare)
April 10	Spirit of Prophecy Day
May 1	Medical Missionary Day
May 8	Literature for Servicemen Offering
May 24-June 5	General Conference Session
June 5	Literature Evangelism
June 19	College of Medical Evangelists Offering
June 26	13th Sabbath Offering (Inter-American)
July 3	Bible Correspondence School
July 10	Midsummer Offering and Service
July 24	Educational Day and Elementary School Off.
Aug. 7	Enlightening Dark Counties
Aug. 28	Riverside Sanitarium Offering
Sept. 4	Colporteur Rally Day
Sept. 11	Missions Extension Day and Offering
Sept. 25	13th Sabbath Offering (Northern Europe)
Oct. 2	Neighborhood Evangelism (Visitation Day)
Oct. 9	Voice of Prophecy Offering
Oct. 16-23	These Times and Message Campaign
Oct. 30	Temperance Day and Offering
Nov. 6	Witnessing Laymen
Nov. 6-27	Review and Herald Campaign
Nov. 13-20	Week of Prayer and Sacrifice
Nov. 20	Week of Sacrifice Offering
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 25	13th Sabbath Offering (Formosa, Hong Kong, and Macao)

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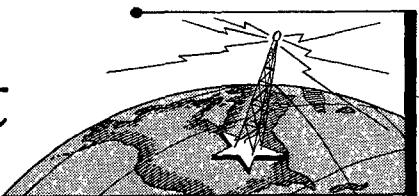
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Items of Special Interest



Death of A. W. Spalding

We sorrowfully announce the sudden death of A. W. Spalding on December 15. For long years he made a major contribution in the editorial and educational fields. Even since his retirement he has written much. A more extended life sketch will appear later. We extend to his family our Christian sympathy.

Camp Meetings in Fiji

T. L. Oswald, Home Missionary secretary of the General Conference, is now on an extended tour of the Australasian Division mission fields. Writing from the Fiji Islands, he describes the progress of our work there:

"It was my privilege to spend a little more than two weeks in the Central Pacific Union Mission. While in this union C. C. Weis, home missionary secretary of the Australasian Division, and I attended the West Fiji Mission camp meeting at Naqia and the East Fiji camp meeting at Buca Bay. In the West Fiji camp meeting the attendance from the 22 churches, with their membership of 647, was very high. From six-thirty in the morning until nine-thirty in the evening, with time out only for meals, the people attended every meeting and eagerly drank in the Word of God. At the baptism, which closed the Sabbath afternoon program, 15 more people joined the 78 who had already been baptized during the past year. C. S. Adams, president of the West Fiji Mission, anticipates that many more will unite with God's people before the year closes.

"W. G. Ferris, president of the East Fiji Mission, welcomed us as we arrived at Buca Bay for their camp meeting. Here, as in the west section, temporary buildings made of bamboo rods and roofs of banana leaves accommodated the people who attended. Every available place was filled when the assemblies were called, and the area echoed with their beautiful singing. Six of the licensed ministers were ordained to the gospel ministry on the last Sabbath afternoon. During this meeting 42 people were baptized. This increased the membership in that field to 427.

"Gordon Branster, the president of the union, who speaks the native language very well, and Reuben Hare, of the division office, were much appreciated as they gave studies and helpful instruction to the members. The people returned to their villages full of courage and de-

termined to do more than ever before in gathering precious souls for God's kingdom.

"The Fulton Missionary College, at Karovau, Fiji, where Elder Weis and I visited after these camp meetings, was named after J. E. Fulton, who worked for many years among the people of these islands and laid the foundation for the present successful work there. Here 250 young men and women, anxious to learn and prepare themselves for work among their people, are studying. Several young men are finishing the college course at the close of this school year, and will be placed by the mission in different parts of the union as workers."

Voice of Prophecy Rallies in Southern Asia

Our Voice of Prophecy listeners have during recent weeks heard the voice of H. M. S. Richards coming from various remote parts of the earth. This week's mail brings us a report of his intensive visitation and radio rally work in the Southern Asia Division. A. E. Rawson, radio secretary of the division writes:

"I am back now after being with Elder Richards for almost five weeks. We held 22 rallies and about 30 meetings in all. We traveled around 9,000 miles. The average attendance at each rally was about a thousand. At one rally we had 2,500 present, at another 2,000, and another 1,800. Of course, we held many small rallies in our churches. We made a host of friends, and I should say from 60 to 70 per cent of all those who attended the rallies were Voice of Prophecy students or radio listeners."

E. R. WALDE

Our Loyal Canadian Colporteurs

J. M. Bucy, publishing department secretary of the Canadian Union, in a recent letter described the activities of one of his loyal colporteurs who represents an excellent corps of literature evangelists in that large field:

"A fine young man by the name of Del Sudds felt the call to colporteur evangelism about 17 months ago. He carefully learned his canvass word for word. He specialized in one large religious volume, giving the same canvass practically word for word in every home. The first twelve months' sales report showed more than \$12,000 worth of literature delivered. This

year he has already delivered over \$9,000, using the same canvass. Some days he sells as high as nine large volumes. He works four days every week, 10 to 12 hours daily. His book orders are in by the eighth of every month, and his Bible House account is always paid by the end of the month. This faithful colporteur is following the divine blueprint, and God is marvelously blessing his colporteur ministry. He drives a nice car and makes a good living. Besides carrying on his colporteur ministry, we understand he has three groups of people who are now keeping the Sabbath as a result of colporteur contacts.

"We thank God for men like Colporteur Evangelist Del Sudds, of the Ontario-Quebec Conference, for showing us that 'it can be done.' When a colporteur learns his canvass word for word and gives himself wholeheartedly on the altar of service, results are certain to follow. His is an example worth emulating! 'Men are looking for better methods. God is looking for better men. Men are God's methods.'"

Korean Soldiers Turning to Christianity

I have recently visited the Island of Chejudo, once famous as a refugee island, but now one of the largest training centers in the free world. In the center of this immense Korean training camp is a large Christian church built of stone, with a seating capacity of approximately 1,500. A meeting was held there for our Seventh-day Adventist boys in uniform. I was told that Protestant services always bring a full house. A corner is reserved for the commanding general and his staff, who are also Christians.

It is estimated that 30 per cent of the Korean troops now attend Christian services. There are 224 Korean army chaplains, supported in Korea, not by the government, but by the various Christian missions, 191 of these being Protestant. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Emil Zund, of Korean Military Advisory Group, informed me that in one recent month these chaplains reported 6,028 new converts to Christianity.

Surely this is a remarkable development in a land where heretofore only 4 to 5 per cent of the people have been listed as even nominally Christian. It is another miracle of modern missions. God is preparing the way in Korea.

W. H. BERGERM