

The Advent **REVIEW** and Sabbath **HERALD**

GENERAL CHURCH PAPER OF
THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Behold, Thy King Cometh!

SERMON, SABBATH MORNING, JUNE 5, 1954, AT COW PALACE

By ARTHUR S. MAXWELL

It is my purpose this morning to bring you a message of courage and good hope in the Lord.

My text is found in the ninth chapter of the book of Zechariah, verses 9 and 10: "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass. . . . And he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth."

We have here one of the most thrilling prophecies in all the Bible. These two brief verses picture the entire plan of redemption. They embrace the first coming of Christ, the spread of the gospel, and finally, through His Second Advent, the establishment of His glorious kingdom throughout all the earth.

And the burden of the prophet to all who hear his words is, Rejoice! Take heart! Renew your hope! God has not forgotten you. He is not unmindful of your sufferings. He is planning deliverance. He is coming Himself to save you.

We are all aware of the partial fulfillment of this dramatic prediction at the time of Christ's entry into Jerusalem near the climax of His earthly sojourn. The story is told in the twenty-first chapter of Matthew, where we read that, as the simple procession moved up toward the gate of the city, "a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way. And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest" (verses 8, 9).

Then the children came running to see what was going on—for who can keep them from a procession?—and they joined their voices in the song of praise, crying, "Hosanna to the son of David" (verse 15).

So Jesus moved on His royal way into old Jerusalem.

Today we are about to witness the final fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy. Jesus is coming again. Once more He is on His royal way. Soon He will be seen riding in triumph down the skies, past the glowing constellations of the watch-

ing universe, crowned King of the ages, King of creation, King of the world, King of kings.

This time He is coming, not to die upon a cross, but to bring an end to sin, sorrow, suffering, and death. He is coming to deliver the saints, to raise the dead, and to bestow immortality upon all who love Him. He is coming to establish His kingdom of righteousness "from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth."

And the burden of the prophet—indeed, of all the prophets—to us who live in these latter days is, Rejoice! Be glad! "Behold, thy King cometh!"

Sometimes I wonder whether we fully appreciate what this greatest event of the ages will mean to us. We have emphasized the darker aspects so much. We have preached about the destruction of the wicked, of the collapse of civilization, and of the desolation of the earth, until we have made people frightened of the Second Advent. We have spoken of it as though it were the most dreadful event of history. We have said, in short, Look out! Beware! The end of the world is upon you! But in so doing we have missed the most glorious part of the message God has called us to give to mankind today.

Beloved, we are looking for a blessed *hope*, not a blessed *doom*! The day of Christ's coming may be for everyone the happiest day in history.

True, the world is coming to an end; true, civilization is about to collapse; true, the world is soon to be desolated and the wicked destroyed: but the greatest fact of our time, the sublimest truth of all, is that Jesus Christ, our blessed, glorious Lord, is coming again to save His people and fulfill every precious promise He has made to them.

Not long ago I listened to a Baptist minister preaching on the Second Advent. It was a mighty sermon, and its power lay in its simplicity.

"I am so glad Jesus is coming again," said this godly man, "for when I see Him riding down the skies in His glory, crowned King of kings and Lord of lords, my glasses will fall off; I shall never need them again."

How true! How gloriously true!

Then he held up his right hand, and I saw that one finger was crooked.

"I am so glad Jesus is coming soon," he went on, "for when I see Him coming in all the pageantry of heaven, this poor finger will become straight, and never, never, never, will it be crooked again."

This man had discovered the glory, the beauty, the power of the blessed hope for himself. He had come to see what Christ's coming will mean to him personally, and to all who love the Lord in sincerity.

Some months ago, in Palo Alto, California, a little boy was dying of a strange disease. Though three years old, he couldn't stand. His arms were so feeble he couldn't lift a spoon to his mouth. His eyes never moved. He could hardly swallow. His parents had spent thirty thousand dollars trying to find a cure.

Then one day a doctor from overseas happened to visit the hospital where the boy was lying. Instantly he recognized the symptoms and suggested a different drug.

Eagerly the mother watched as the injection was given. Suddenly she cried, "Look! His eyes are beginning to change!"

"Impossible," said the doctor. "Too soon."

Ten minutes later the mother cried again, "Something is happening! He's moving his muscles!"

"Just imagination, I fear," said the doctor.

"No!" cried the mother. "Look! He's coming to life!"

She was right. The doctor snapped his fingers beside the little boy's ear. The child turned his eyes to see what was happening. Then he slid off his mother's lap and stood up.

No words can describe that mother's joy or her gratitude to the man who knew what to do.

Brethren, sisters, it's going to be like that when Jesus comes. He knows what to do for every trouble—yours and mine—and it won't take Him long to put things right; to put everything right. Not ten minutes, nor five, nor even two; for we read that "in the twinkling of an eye" shall "this corruptible . . . put on incorruption, and this mortal . . . immortality."

Sudden, Wonderful Healing

Take another look at this marvelous promise. "This perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality," is the rendering of the Revised Standard Version. Maybe we can understand that a little better. These human bodies of ours are good for fifty, sixty, maybe seventy years of active service, yet they are perishing just a little every day. Slowly the

hair grows whiter—and thinner. The bones become more brittle, the arteries harder, the muscles less supple, and the vision less clear. But when Jesus returns, the process of decay and deterioration will cease, suddenly and forever. The “perishable” will become “imperishable” and the mortal, immortal.

Do you realize what this may mean to you?

If you are a child of God, then at the first glimpse of the Lord Jesus riding down the skies, followed by the shining hosts of heaven, new life from above will surge through your body, rejuvenating every faculty and eliminating every weakness. At that moment, as Isaiah predicted long ago, “the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing” (Isa. 35:5, 6).

Perhaps you have weak eyes and wear glasses. Suddenly, miraculously, your vision will be restored. You will see with a clarity you haven’t known since childhood. You will throw your glasses away. You will never need them again.

Perhaps you have had polio and one leg is shorter than the other. You have had to wear a brace and can only hobble around. Suddenly that withered limb will be restored like the other, just as you have hoped and prayed so often that it would be. The brace you will throw away with your glasses.

Perhaps you have arthritis, and your joints are all crippled. It is terribly painful for you to move. You have spent thousands of dollars on doctors’ fees and Cortisone. Suddenly the pain will cease, those ugly bumps will disappear, and your skin will become smooth again. You will find you can run and jump as you did when you were a child. As for the Cortisone, you will just forget you bought it.

Perhaps you have heart trouble, and have already felt the first frightening signs that the faithful old pump is wearing out. You have been ordered to rest and have been given special medicine to take. Suddenly the irregular beating will stop. Strength will return. You will leap to your feet like a young man in a ball game. Your heart will never trouble you again. It will beat on with perfect rhythm through all eternity. And you will never need that medicine any more.

Perhaps you have cancer. Maybe the doctor has just broken the dread news, like a judge giving sentence of death. He has prescribed drugs to relieve the unendurable pain. Suddenly the ordeal will be over. The pain will be gone. Like a cleansing, healing torrent, the life of God will rush into your mortal frame, removing every trace of the disease. You will be perfectly well, never to know sickness again. And the drugs you will leave behind.

Oh, wonderful day! Surely it cannot come too soon! No wonder the aged apostle prayed, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Rev. 22:20).

But suppose you should die before He comes, what then? This presents no problem to the Author of life. “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet: . . . the dead shall be raised incorruptible” (1 Cor. 15:52). Even if you have been buried in some marble tomb, or drowned in the deep Atlantic, or blown to pieces on some distant battlefield, the great Creator knows how to recreate you—your very self—and bring you forth a living, thinking being, radiant with strength, vigor, beauty, and eternal life.

That is why I say that the day of His return will be the most wonderful day in all the history of this old world. It will be the most glorious day, the most thrilling day, the happiest day. It will mark the end of so many harsh, cruel, and ugly things—things that strike fear to the heart and weigh it down with anxiety and sorrow. War between nations, conflict between capital and labor, strife between members of families—all will cease suddenly and forever. So too will all oppression of the poor, all tyranny over the weak, all exploitation of the innocent and helpless. All weapons of death will be destroyed. Never again will the atomic bomb, the hydrogen bomb, or any other kind of bomb be a threat to humanity.

All this is part of the blessed hope that will be gloriously fulfilled when Jesus comes again. What a story to tell to the nations! What a message to bring to our neighbors and friends! Never did anyone have such “tidings of great joy” to give to mankind as do the Advent people in 1954 awaiting their Lord’s return.

But when will these glowing dreams come true? How long must we wait for history’s glorious climax? A thousand years? A half millennium? Two hundred years or so?

No, indeed! The day of the Lord is near.

I know that no man knows the day nor the hour of Christ’s appearing, but, brethren, let us not be guilty of the sin of saying, “My Lord delayeth his coming.”

Today, as never before since He ascended to the right hand of the Father, the signs of the times declare in trumpet tones that His return is near, even at the doors. One earth-shaking event after another declares with the voice of thunder, “Behold thy King cometh!”

Prove it, someone may say, prove it! How do you know Christ is coming?

I will tell you.

I know Christ is coming soon—

1. *Because* the present terrible state of the world is exactly as Christ said it would be immediately before His return. There would be, He said, “upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; . . . men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth” (Luke 21:25, 26). Have we not seen enough to convince us that this prophecy is meeting its final, global fulfillment now? Have we not seen in our time the greatest wars, the greatest famines, the greatest pestilences, the

greatest earthquakes of all time? Are we not only too well aware of the seething unrest among the nations, the drift toward a third world war, and the frightful destructive power of the hydrogen bomb?

Significant indeed is the fact that the clock on the cover of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* is now set at two minutes to midnight.

2. *Because* the corruption and decay of modern society is a startling fulfillment of Christ’s prediction of moral conditions in the last days. “As it was in the days of Noe,” He said, and “as it was in the days of Lot,” so shall it be in the day of the Son of man. The shocking crime and vice statistics—not to mention the Kinsey reports—are ample evidence that those days are here again, that violence fills the earth once more.

3. *Because* the mad, swift pace of modern life exactly fits the prophetic description of the “time of the end” given us in Daniel 12:4. There we are told that “many shall run to and fro” and “knowledge shall be increased,” and never were the words more true than now.

4. *Because* the sudden awakening of the vast masses of Asia and Africa is in clear fulfillment of Joel’s prediction concerning events to precede Christ’s coming. “Let the heathen be awakened,” Joel cried, “for the day of the Lord is near.” They are awakened at last.

5. *Because* the rise to world power in our day of the most callous, sinister, atheistic tyranny of all time is in dramatic fulfillment of the prophecy concerning the rising wrath of the dragon in history’s closing hours (Rev. 12:17).

6. *Because* the worldwide proclamation of the gospel is almost completed, fulfilling Christ’s prediction, “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). By means of radio, television, and the printing press the name of Christ is now known in all the world.

7. *Because* all men are “in expectation” of His return, even as they were in expectation of His coming when He came as a Babe to Bethlehem in the long ago (Luke 3:15). This may well be the greatest of the signs of the imminence of His Second Advent.

Never have so many people been convinced that His personal, glorious return is near. Like a tidal wave the Advent message is sweeping on “to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people.” This great world conference of Seventh-day Adventists, which has been in session here in San Francisco for the past ten days, is striking testimony to the fact that believers in Christ’s soon coming are now to be found in almost every country on the face of the earth.

The fact is, one could travel by air in any direction around the globe and stay every night in an Adventist home—a home where godly men and women are looking and praying for the coming of the Lord Jesus.

This wave of Advent truth is even now lapping at the doors of the World Council of Churches. This August, when the General Assembly of this important body meets at Evanston, Illinois, the central theme of discussion will be "Christ, the Hope of the World." Already the great theologians of the constituent churches are arguing about the nature of this hope. Opinions are divided as to what it is and how it will be fulfilled; but as a result, in God's wondrous providence, the fact of Christ's soon return in person and power is receiving wider public notice today than at any other time in history.

Recently it was my privilege to attend a Congress on Prophecy in the Calvary Baptist church, New York City. Delegates were present from sixteen denominations. Sponsoring the gathering was the American Association for the Evangelization of the Jews. Throughout the congress the chief subject of discussion was none other than the imminent, personal, glorious return of Jesus. For ten days Baptists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and others declared, with great forcefulness, their conviction that His coming is near, "even at the doors." To hear them sing, "Glory! Glory! Jesus will come someday!" was an unforgettable experience.

Among the sermon titles were the following: "Waiting for Christ's Return"; "The Return of Christ the Hope of the World"; "Bible Prayers for Our Lord's Return"; "Signs of the Times"; "The Message of the Prophet Daniel for Today"; "The Final Battle Between Christ and Satan"; "Rewards of the Faithful at Christ's Return."

While on certain matters of detail the speakers did not agree with one another, it was heartening to note that on the central theme of Christ's imminent, literal, visible, audible return in power and glory there was complete unanimity.

In the bookstore next to the Calvary Baptist church there was a unique display of books dealing with the Second Advent. Written by ministers of various denominations during the past two or three years, they covered almost every phase of the subject. Some had more dynamic titles than others, but all had one feature in common: they stressed the soon coming of the Lord.

One volume in particular arrested my attention. Entitled *Behold, Thy King Cometh!* it was compiled by a certain "Brother Edward" belonging to one of the monastic orders fostered by the Church of England. Among the contributors are the following: the Dean of King's College, London, one of the chaplains to the late King George VI of England; a member of the Community of the Resurrection—one of the "Mirfield Monks"; a member of the Orthodox Church in Syria; the head of the Order of the Franciscan Brothers at Cerne Abbas, Dorsetshire, England; the Hebrew lecturer at King's College, London; the vicar of Fenny Stratford, specially mentioned as being a member of the committee of "The Guild of Prayer for the Return of Our Lord."

In the preface to this remarkable book occurs this challenging statement: "The Second Advent of our Lord is being trumpeted by the great argument of events.

History has taken over the proclamation of the New Testament hope of the Lord's return, thereby rebuking the Church and her theologians for their too long neglect of this great theme."

On page thirteen there appears yet another striking statement which, coming from one closely associated with the Anglo-Catholic, or High Church, section of the Church of England, may well have a deeper meaning than the author supposed. "I am told," he says, "that the Pope has lately instructed Cardinal Spellman to bid his people study the Signs of the Times." If this is indeed correct, then it still further emphasizes how widespread today is discussion concerning the meaning of current events, and the possibility that they may be consummated by Christ's return in glory.

Examples of this ever-growing interest in the Second Advent are innumerable. One more must suffice.

The Salvation Army, deeply engrossed in its diverse works of mercy, has not in

Just Beyond

MRS. G. L. BROWN

Although the clouds hang dark and dense

And look so still and high,
Although the light is dull and grey,
Just beyond's—the sky!

Although dark clouds hang o'er our lives
And bring us tears and sighs,
Just beyond is peace and calm
To banish all our fears.

Let's look in steadfast faith "beyond"
When trials seem to harm,
And as we look the clouds will part
And bring us peace and calm.

Just beyond life's mystery and grief
Is new and throbbing life.
When heaven's joys will greet our sight
And end all earthly strife.

years past given much emphasis to the doctrine of the "last things," but on November 10, 1951, General Albert Osborn wrote an article for the *War Cry* which was nothing less than a clarion call to every member of his great organization to prepare for the imminent Second Advent. Writing under the title "The Midnight Cry," he said, "It is my conviction that the world's clock is nearly at midnight. The night is real, the midnight dark and menacing, but the morning cometh. We believe profoundly and look with earnest expectation to the coming of the Lord, and to the reign of peace and righteousness. We must sound an alarm in God's holy mountain, Awake, awake, the King is at hand!"

Thus today, as once before, nineteen centuries ago, the Great Expectation is spreading—from heart to heart, from church to church, from nation to nation. Every day new voices join the chorus, "Jesus Is Coming Again!" Every day more and more people begin to pray, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

There was never anything like it. Never were so many men and women looking for "that blessed hope." Never were so many longing for their Lord's return. Never were so many eager to look up into His glorious face and say, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us" (Isa. 25:9).

So, if you ask me, "Where is the promise of His coming?" I say to you, It is here, and here, and here. It is all about you. Year by year, month by month, the evidence multiplies that the greatest day, the most wonderful day, the happiest day of all history is drawing near.

"Behold, thy King cometh!"

Let this thrilling message ring forth to all mankind from this great meeting like the crash of golden bells. May its gladsome sound echo and re-echo from every mountain and hill, from peak to peak, from nation to nation, till every soul on earth has heard the tidings that Jesus is coming again.

May I ask who has believed this Advent message for seventy-five years or more? fifty years? twenty years? ten years? five years? one year? Do you believe it now? Let the whole world hear your answer. Are you determined, by God's grace, to remain loyal and true to Jesus till He comes in glory?

A young soldier was on a short leave from Korea. By the time he reached the city nearest his home, it was late at night. To his chagrin he discovered he had missed the last bus that would have taken him near the farm where his parents lived. He was desperate. Time was short, and rain was streaming down. He went to a garage and saw an old Model-T Ford standing in the yard. He bought it with the last money he had, and set off for home. The rain poured in through the broken windshield. Soon he was soaking wet. But he didn't care. He was going to see his mother and his father, and every time the wheels turned round they seemed to cry, Home, home, home!

So, in this last stormy night of human history, we are nearing the end of our journey. Every step we take, every service we render to our Lord, cries Home, home, home! Soon our long, arduous journey will be over. Soon we shall see Jesus face to face. Soon we shall feel His arms wrapped about us in radiant welcome! Oh, wondrous event!

"Glory! Glory! Jesus will come someday!"

Let us pray.

O Christ, the King of glory and the Lord of history, we rejoice that Thou art coming again to this earth in majesty and power. We thank Thee that Thou hast not forgotten Thy church or the righteous cause Thou didst espouse in the long ago; we praise Thee that Thou art coming back, and coming soon, to take Thy people home.

Prepare our hearts, O Christ, for that great day. Cleanse us of all sin, all that is unworthy of Thy love for us. Make us ready to meet Thee, and keep us ready. Grant that all of us gathered in this great meeting—and Thy faithful ones in all the earth—may meet Thee in the morning of Thy triumph with the exultant cry upon our lips, "Lo, this is our God!" In Thy dear name, Amen.

HIGH LIGHTS of the DAY

Our Reporter's Story for Friday, June 4

By LAWRENCE MAXWELL

"Stop preaching Christianity or death will follow," said the message received by the Adventist deacon in Africa's Kenya, the Mau Mau land. "What should he do—obey or risk the consequences?" E. D. Hanson was telling the story, and the hushed audience listened closely. It was part of Southern Africa's report.

I'll tell you the end of the story in a minute, but we must not get ahead of ourselves. First you should hear about the man the angels sent to church, and listen to the children's choir sing.

This junior choir was a high light of last night's song service. Ever since the session began, boys and girls had been practicing daily. Last night we heard the result of their labors. There must have been close to eighty of them on the platform, in choir robes, or white shirts, or blouses. Mrs. Lester Quade and Miss Mildred Ostich led as they sang four numbers including "Fairest Lord Jesus" and "For the Beauty of the Earth," all in two-part harmony. It was beautiful, and demonstrated that children can do almost anything if they are properly trained.

There were other good musical numbers. And then from off in the corner by the door came "Tom-tom-tom-a-te-tom"—an African drum beating out a secret message. From a hidden place near the platform a heavier, deeper drum answered. And from the back balcony toward one side a third drum took up the conversation—and then a fourth from the other side. We were surrounded! The audience sat up looking about apprehensively, trying to find the drums, wondering what would happen next. And the drums beat on. Sometimes answering one another, sometimes all talking at once, filling the auditorium with noise.

Then—silence, and from the stillness the sound of voices singing an African song, weird, mysterious, haunting, as from both sides came onto the platform streams of African delegates and former workers, many of whom were clothed in national dress.

F. G. Clifford was in charge of the program. Be sure to read all the details in the Bulletin. You will find there a thrilling account of mission advance, of multitudes drawn to Christ, and memberships that were more than doubled.

The presidents of the five unions reported briefly and so did the departmental secretaries. Charts, Kodachrome slides, and motion pictures were used to make the report more realistic and interesting.

The story of the man the angels sent to church was told by the first union president to report, S. G. Maxwell, who has

spent thirty-four years in Africa. But he was quick to point out that on the platform was another who has been there far longer, A. A. Carscallen, who came to Africa in 1906. Elder Maxwell told of the dwellers on the Kalahari Desert, whose language is a series of clicks and who store water by putting it into ostrich eggs, and burying it in the sand.

"In that desert," he said, "was an ignorant cattle herder, Sekuba. In a dream the angel said 'Go in search of the truth.' So he sold his animals and went to the city of Johannesburg, where he joined himself to the church. But in a vision he was told to look again. Back to the desert he went and joined a mission society. They gave him a Bible and a copy of *Pilgrim's Progress*. But he could not read. In answer to prayer the Lord gave him the ability to read, and he studied the Bible. The third time the message came, 'Go search once more.' Seeing a strange cloud in the sky he followed it 150 miles to the home of an Adventist young man who offered to give him a Bible study. Unconsciously the Adventist took down from his shelf a copy of the *Testimonies* and Sekuba cried out, 'These are the books I saw in my dream.' Today he is a baptized member and every year walks those 150 miles to camp meeting, bringing his tithe, his offerings, and a number of persons for baptism.

Twenty lepers were baptized at the Malamulo leper church last year. A. W. Austen reported from Nyasaland, the Southeastern Africa Union. More and more the Africans are assuming leadership of the work in their own land. Four mission stations are directed and operated solely by Africans. Altogether there are 282 African teacher-evangelists, 38 ordained and 20 licensed ministers.

Elder Austen introduced one of the veterans, James Ngaiyaye, who told us he had been a missionary among his own people forty-seven years. Last year 109 souls were baptized in his area.

The Mau Mau story was told by E. D. Hanson, president of the East African Union. The Mau Mau are fanatically anti-Christian, he explained. The house of the pastor of one of the churches was burned to the ground by the Mau Mau. The pastor left, and the deacon took over, holding meetings under the trees on Sabbaths. Then came the message to stop preaching or be killed. But the deacon called his people together as usual. Suddenly one Sabbath afternoon a band of Mau Mau warriors rushed upon the assembled believers brandishing spears and knives, completely surrounding the group. They seized the deacon and cut him down in

the sight of his congregation, then ordered the believers to disperse. But those Adventists would not be discouraged. They elected a new deacon, and still meet—under different trees—to worship God. The attendance moreover is greater now than ever before.

During the program I slipped out to walk around a few minutes. I noticed three uniformed men together, two policemen and a fireman. "Expecting a riot?" I asked. They grinned. "No," said one, "it's routine to have two policemen here." "I don't know what we're here for, there's nothing to do," said the other. "They are a nice crowd," added the fireman.

The Congo Union almost tripled its membership during the last four years, K. F. Amba revealed, jumping from 12,281 in 1950 to 31,363 at the end of 1953. He called African Pastor Jonas Mbyirubira to the microphone. "We are sorry we had to bring such a short representative," he apologized. "Members of his tribe grow much taller." Pastor Jonas was one of the tallest men on the platform! He spoke in Swahili, telling of a layman who has brought thirty-four people into the truth. The members in his country once a year give three hours every day for six weeks to evangelism.

A talking drum with both male and female voices was demonstrated by J. P. Sundquist. He showed how by beating the drum in various places the high or low pitches were produced.

Perhaps more encouraging than anything else was a picture F. G. Clifford flashed on the screen. Superimposed on an outline map of the United States were large black dots in the shape of areas in Africa that have not yet been entered. They covered almost half of America. "They should be a block upon the conscience of the people of God," Elder Clifford declared. "Young people and workers, if you get a call to Africa, go."

Then before our eyes was a motion picture, a ghastly thing. There were young men with their fingers wasted away from leprosy. Young women with ugly swelling on their faces, a young boy pulling himself along by his hands as his scrawny legs swayed uselessly behind him. And there was a little baby with a great hole where her mouth would have been had not some tropical disease rotted her lips away. We wanted to tell them to shut the machine off, to say that the pictures weren't really true, that men and women and little children don't actually suffer this way today. From the darkness beside the screen Mrs. E. D. Hanson asked,

"Is it nothing to you, oh ye Christians

That in Africa's faraway land

There are thousands of people pleading
For the touch of the Saviour's hand?"

"It does mean something to us," we wanted to shout, and we vowed we would do something for Africa and the teeming millions in darkness around the world, that their suffering would end and Jesus quickly come.

That, after all, is what this forty-seventh session of the General Conference is here for, to plan how to finish the work in the shortest possible time.

The session was coming quickly to a

close. Today has been the last opportunity for business, and there were important items still to be attended to. But they were not so important that there was not time to pause and worship God in the morning.

C. E. Moseley gave a heart-warming study on the glories of the home of the saved. A large audience was present, as usual. The speaker read to us again the beautiful promises of the Bible and the Spirit of prophecy describing the new earth. Be sure to read the entire text in the Bulletin.

Later in the morning the Colored Department gave its quadrennial report. Again C. E. Moseley was the principal speaker. Graphically he described the first trip of the *Morning Star*, the Adventist steamboat that carried Edson White down the Mississippi in 1895 to begin work among the colored people of the South. He told of the membership advances in the last four years, which have brought the number of Negro Adventists from 25,526 to 31,078.

And then the North American Division reported. Unlike the other divisions, they had no native costumes to display. But then, as we thought more about it, we realized that they did. They were all in native costume—the ordinary clothing of the United States and Canada! W. B. Ochs, vice-president, North American Division, interviewed the presidents of the ten unions. They were a happy group, each one trying to show the distinctive character of his union. But there was a deeply serious note underneath, as they told of the increase in membership and offerings in the last four years.

Contrary to the usual custom, there was no program in the arena at one-thirty. Indications that the session was coming to an end were visible everywhere. The signs telling the delegates where to sit had already been removed from the main floor. I walked around the second floor. The once beautiful booths were drab and bare. Those in charge were hurriedly dismantling them. The cashier's office, whither I went for a little assistance for the homeward journey, was full of others in a similar last-minute rush for funds. Three large bulletin boards in the back hall were crowded with newspaper clippings, mute evidence that something important had been going on. I tried to count the clippings, but became hopelessly confused. There were so many, of so many shapes and sizes. But I think there were at least 175.

At 2:45, fifteen minutes earlier than usual, the final business session was called to order. The attendance was small. Many delegates, it seemed, had not heard the announcement of the earlier hour. A male quartet from Oakwood College sang.

Only a few items remained to be considered. The first was a resolution on evangelism. As soon as it had been read, R. A. Anderson seconded it and hurried up from the floor to deliver from the pulpit a strong speech in its support. The resolution was voted unanimously.

When the other resolutions had been voted, Ralph W. Bayliss, secretary of the Pacific District of the American Bible Society, spoke in behalf of the society, and was photographed receiving a replica

of the \$25,000 check given by the denomination to the society this year.

Two Bible Society films followed. We watched as Luke dictated his gospel, and Paul's letters were read in the early Christian churches. We saw Jerome preparing the Vulgate, and a group of dauntless Frenchmen accepting the death penalty from the church authorities for reading the Bible in their own tongue. We were told that the films would soon be available for showing to local groups, and literature was available, giving particulars how the film would be made available.

And, speaking of literature, there was plenty of it given out at this session. Last night, just to see what I would get, I toured the booths, asking for everything that was free. I returned to my hotel with a stack two inches thick! By actual count there were 112 items! Here were an invitation to attend college, directions for giving artificial respiration, the announcement of a filing system. There were book-marks from the Far East and the *MV Program Kit*, a transparent window sticker from the Voice of Prophecy, blotters from

the Home Study Institute. Most ambitious, without doubt, was the second volume of *The Bible Story* for boys and girls, a \$4.75 book given free to all delegates, by the Review and Herald Publishing Association. The most intriguing was the smallest, a red bean, the size of a pea, containing a perfectly carved ivory elephant. It came from South Asia, and I had to sign for it, right beside the autograph of Kata Ragoso.

The Bible picture was ended. R. R. Figuhr came to the rostrum. "Let us enter the next four years with confidence in God. Let us keep dominant in our lives and testimony the imminence of our Lord's return; and if we have another session, return with reports of greater progress." We sang, "Lead on, O King Eternal," W. H. Branson prayed God's blessing on the plans which had been formulated here, and the forty-seventh session of the General Conference stood adjourned, *sine die*.

But the greatest day was still ahead, the final, climactic Sabbath. M. R. Thurber will tell you about it.

Our Reporter's Story for Sabbath, June 5

By MERWIN R. THURBER

The business sessions of the 1954 General Conference have drawn to a close—some might be tempted to say, at long last. And yet General Conference is not over. The benediction remains to be said.

And this last Sabbath is that benediction.

Out at the Cow Palace this Friday evening happy people in a steady stream poured through the main doorway into the arena. Smaller rivulets emerged from doorways high up against the walls and trickled down the gallery aisles into seats close to the center ellipse.

That sounds as if it is easy to fill this cavernous amphitheater with human beings, and so it is. But getting into or out of the Cow Palace grounds is no mean feat, as several thousand motorists discovered last week. This isn't like going to church back home.

Inside, as I sit at the reporters' table, the organ prelude, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," reminds me that this vast meetingplace does not have a pipe organ. Instead we are being served by the Leatherby Company, which has installed a Connsonatta electric organ. Toned harmonies rolled out over the rippling throng in cathedral-like majesty, filling the remotest recesses of this tremendous room with music.

J. Wesley Rhodes, of Union College, chorister for tonight, turns our attention to glory land by leading us in the "Glory Song." "That will be glory for me"—with friends and loved ones; yes, but best of all with Christ our Saviour. How the congregation sings it! And I turn to look again at the promise of Jesus in giant letters across the front above the choir, "Behold, I Come!"

And then the choir sings, "I'm nearer my home than ever I've been before."

After the overflowing blessings of this General Conference, our hearts are sure that we are not far from home. The service of song continues with solos, ensembles, choir, and congregation providing the atmosphere for a Friday evening meeting—an atmosphere dear to the hearts of thousands of Seventh-day Adventists. Entirely in character the music portion of this program closes with "Day Is Dying in the West" as the ministers file onto the rostrum.

Welcome, prayer, and singing over, we settle back to receive the Word of God at the hand of His chosen servant. All through the sessions of this meeting has run an undercurrent of seeking God, a pleading for His empowering Spirit to fill our hearts and lives for the completion of His work on earth. The first day of the conference was a day of fasting and prayer. Devotion marked the beginning of each day. And Elder George Vandeman announced at the very beginning of his introduction that this would be a night of consecration.

But before he gave us his opening text he told of a few of the marvelous providences of God that have attended the opening of the new evangelistic center in London. The finding of the property, the selection of a film on the life of Christ for first showing in England, and the response from the ministers of England's church—it all reads like a chapter from the Book of Acts.

At the crossroads of the British Empire there shines a light, the light of God's last-day announcement of Christ's second coming. And around the world that light is reflected.

Elder Vandeman's call for entire consecration was based on Revelation 12:10-12 and Ephesians 6:6-12—"The devil

is come down unto you, having great wrath." And, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood."

He told of the resurgence of spiritism in a refined form among cultured and religious people. In certain parts of England every death is registered with a spiritualist, and within twenty-four hours an invitation is sent to the bereaved family to speak with the spirits of the departed.

He challenged us with questions, "What kind of consecration is necessary to face a world ensnared in Spiritualism? Do we have a consecration commensurate with the stupendous future just ahead?" The entire congregation stood in complete dedication when this call was made, and additional hundreds pressed to the front as the speaker drew his appeal into sharply defined lines. At the close he invited to remain only those who were looking forward to baptism or rebaptism. The Spirit of God was manifestly present as many came forward with tears of repentance.

Quietly the great audience slipped out of the arena, subdued and reverent.

Sabbath morning.

As we entered the Cow Palace this morning the Inter-American Division was on hand in costume. Three women in the colorful garb of our next-door neighbors to the south were passing out an attractive leaflet on the work in Inter-America. The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering overflow this quarter goes to projects in this fast-growing field—the Caribbean Training College, Central American medical units, and the Colombia-Venezuela Union Training School.

Several times during the organ prelude L. L. Moffitt, secretary of the General Conference Sabbath School Department, called the attention of parents in the gathering through that Sabbath school was being conducted for kindergarten, primary, and junior divisions in another part of this great gathering place.

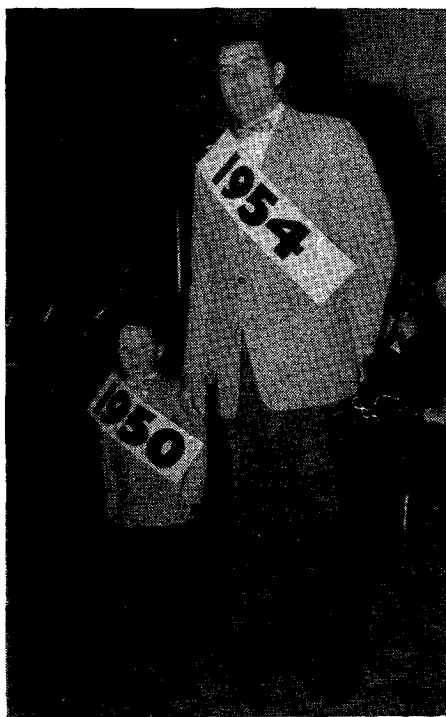
Ray Turner, bass singer for years with the King's Heralds, was song leader for Sabbath school. Cheerful and enthusiastic, he made everyone feel at home. This is no small achievement in a gathering like this, made up of members from many local churches.

"O worship the King, all glorious above," was the opening song announced by R. R. Breitigam, and L. L. Moffitt invoked God's blessing on the school.

This was a model Sabbath school—if anything this large could be called a model. All the regular features of Sabbath school were provided with one exception. There were no *classes*—just one big class. Under the circumstances I am sure that everyone present could overlook the departure from our general department recommendation.

The report by Elders Harris and Hare revealed that last week 16,100 attended Sabbath school in the Cow Palace and 7,000 were at the Civic Auditorium. The offering amounted to \$6,615.61.

When the time arrived for the mission talk by W. A. Wild, it was plain why Inter-Americans met us at the door. With the help of workers from his field the speaker explained the needs that will be filled by the overflow offering. Soon after



An interesting way to show the tremendous growth of baptisms of our young people during the last quadrennium is here illustrated by Billy Holbrook from Peru (1950) and M. E. Loewen, dean of men, Washington Missionary College (1954).

you read this you will be talking of those same projects in your own schools. Brother Wild appealed for \$100,000 in the offering this quarter. Every penny will be used to save souls for the kingdom. Since you studied the same lessons at home that we did here, I need not cover them in this report.

Sabbath school closed on time and the Home Missionary leader had ten minutes for the promotion of missionary activities. The subject today, "Can Laymen Win Souls?"

On the platform to answer this question was a group of nationals. The enthusiasm of the representatives from the mission fields sent an electric thrill through the audience. Laymen can and do win souls and they must before Christ can come.

In keeping with the theme of this whole conference and of this Sabbath service the congregation sang "Face to Face"—"a blessed day is coming when His glory shall be seen."

After the announcements so necessary in such a meeting as this, the massed choir sang to the well-known music of "Finlandia" the song "Why Was He There?" from the new book *Choir Melodies*. You will find it on page 1, and you will love it, as we did here at San Francisco.

As I look over this vast throng in the Cow Palace, faces aglow with joy at being here, my mind goes out to all the people around the world who are looking wistfully this way. They all wanted to be here too. But only a few could come. How I wish you *all* were here! What a tremendous throng you would make! But what place on earth could hold us all? Only on the sea of glass shall we all stand together in one grand assembly.

As Arthur S. Maxwell opened to our hearts again the blessed hope of the coming of Jesus Christ, he painted it as the happiest day of history. Surely Christ cannot come too soon. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

In response to a heart-moving appeal by the president of the General Conference, the members of the congregation brought an offering to God for the work of the gospel in all the world. Many not present here in San Francisco joined in today's offering by sending gifts. Especially touching was the gift from our believers in Korea. The world divisions also contributed, as did the unions and institutions of North America. The large donations announced publicly amounted to more than \$203,000.

Time out for lunch, provided as it was last week, brought us to an hour of music. It has been necessary to omit many of the musical treats from our report for lack of space. Just as I wrote that, the Portland Rose Chorale, directed by Harlan Abel, sang "Song of Heaven and Homeland." Other numbers followed in a soul-satisfying program of song that provided the setting for the afternoon symposium.

As we have stated several times in these reports, the theme of this General Conference is the second coming of Christ. In motto and picture, in sermon and song, we have preached it, prayed it, sung it.

This afternoon the subject crescendos to a high final note of certainty and enthusiasm, longing and hope. Not everything about the Second Advent can be said in one sermon, nor can one preacher say it all.

Elder Branson put it aptly when he said, "Our program this afternoon is a continuation of our meeting this morning."

"We believe it to be altogether fitting that a group of Adventists gathered in from earth's far ends should dedicate the entire last day of their gathering to a serious and worshipful consideration of this greatest of all events, the second coming of Christ our Lord to this earth."

Four speakers reviewed the doctrine of the Second Advent.

F. D. Nichol spoke on the subject, "Why Christ Must Come."

E. E. Cleveland continued with the question, "Is His Coming Near?"

L. K. Dickson asked and answered, "What Will Happen When Christ Comes?"

W. B. Ochs turned our attention to "The Better World Beyond," in these present evil times upon which we have fallen.

Sabbath was still here when the afternoon service ended, and so we made our way to the Civic Auditorium for a final vesper service. Friends lingered in the halls for a last good-by, reluctant to admit that the 1954 General Conference is at last over.

"THE Christian is given the invitation to carry his burdens to God in prayer, and fasten himself closely to Christ by the cords of living faith."

An Evening With the Inter-American Division

May 30, 1954, 8:00 P.M.

A. H. ROTH, Narrator: From the lands of the Spanish Main and the islands of the Caribbean Sea, the Inter-American Division—100,000 Seventh-day Adventists—send you their Christian love and greetings. As do *you*, they hope for, look for, and work for the soon return of the Master, our Lord Jesus. Most Inter-American Adventists are young in the faith, but they are zealous and earnest. They bring to the Advent family the graces and gifts for which their countries and people are noted.

Thus, in Inter-American Adventism you sense at once the romance of Mexico, the color of Guatemala, the drive of El Salvador, the reticence of Honduras, the laughter of Nicaragua, the beauty of Costa Rica, the fancifulness of Panama.

You are conscious of the seriousness of Colombia, the independence of Venezuela, the religiousness of Jamaica, the mysteriousness of Haiti, the remoteness of the Guianas, the intensity of Puerto Rico, the leisureliness of Barbados.

You experience the confidence of the Dominican Republic, the eagerness of the French West Indies, the gaiety of Cuba, the activity of Trinidad, the friendliness of the Bahamas.

Your Inter-American Seventh-day Adventist brethren can best be explained to you with two of our own words: *adventistas simpáticos*. *Adventistas* means "Adventists"; *simpáticos* has no complete English counterpart. It embraces a world of meaning: friendly, kind, thoughtful, helpful, graceful, good-natured, cheerful, charming—and a score of other virtues all bundled together into one beautiful word—*simpáticos*.

You would love the Inter-Americans, I know. They love you. You shared with them the precious Advent faith. Now, they are bound up with you in the great hope of the Master's return. That hope and your fellowship fills their hearts with courage and cheer. Listen! . . . Here they come! . . . Watch!

[Mexican brethren and sisters entered in costume, greeted the audience, and sang a Spanish song.]

NARRATOR: Those people really are *simpáticos*! How their souls thrill with music, poetry, and color. Great Britain holds the allegiance of the majority of the nonindependent islands of the Caribbean. Like the jewels in Her Britannic Majesty's crown, the British West Indies adorn Inter-American territory. Almost all the islands claim to be either the jewels or the gems or the pearls of the Antilles. Their natural beauty merits real admiration. The people of the British West Indies!

[Workers and believers from the British West Indies filed onto the platform, and brought greetings to the conference.]

NARRATOR: The people of British West Indies are renowned for their loyalty, steadfastness, and devotion. They are men

and women of deep and earnest feelings.

Long before the Europeans came to America the Mayas had developed one of earth's finest civilizations.

[An Indian group entered and greeted audience.]

NARRATOR: They built magnificent temples. They paved their avenues with stone. They were careful astronomers. They erected pyramids as grandiose as the Egyptians. They were precise mathematicians. They developed a calendar. They drank chocolate:

Before you is a son and a daughter of the ancient Mayas. They come to you directly from Mayaland: Guatemala, Yucatan, and Southern Mexico. These are Seventh-day Adventist Christians, but thousands upon thousands of their copper-skinned brethren are as pagan as were their forefathers who worshiped Dios Mundo, Tzultaca, Jefe Dios, and Tojil.

But when they do accept the Lord Jesus as their Saviour, they serve Him with a zeal and earnestness that only men and women whose ancestors for centuries have sought after god in stone and wood and water and fire and air and sunlight can express. Their hearts thrill over the prospects of soon bowing in the very presence of the Creator of the universe at His second coming.

[Colombia-Venezuela group entered.]

NARRATOR: From the Andes countries of northern South America—Colombia and Venezuela—comes the next company. These people could tell us much tonight about trials and persecution, but they prefer to talk about God's love and goodness. In that group is Tirso Escandón and his wife. Tirso is a member of one of Latin America's finest Seventh-day Adventist families. Tirso Escandón is one

of eight children. Of the eight children, seven are Seventh-day Adventist workers today.

[Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Cubans entered.]

NARRATOR: Still more Inter-Americans—the Puerto Ricans, the Dominicans, the Cubans. They come from the very cradle of European civilization in the Western World—the lands Columbus loved most.

[French West Indian entered in costume.]

NARRATOR: Look at this lady from the French West Indies. She comes from the homeland of Napoleon's Josephine. The people are proud of their French citizenship. Equally proud are the free French-speaking people of Haiti. No land is more intriguing than Haiti—steeped in mystery and voodoo.

[Delegate from Haiti entered and demonstrated voodoo drum.]

NARRATOR: That's the voice of paganism calling to its worshipers. But today the light of Advent truth has shone into sixteen thousand Haitian hearts. This is Pastor Alexis, your Adventist brother.

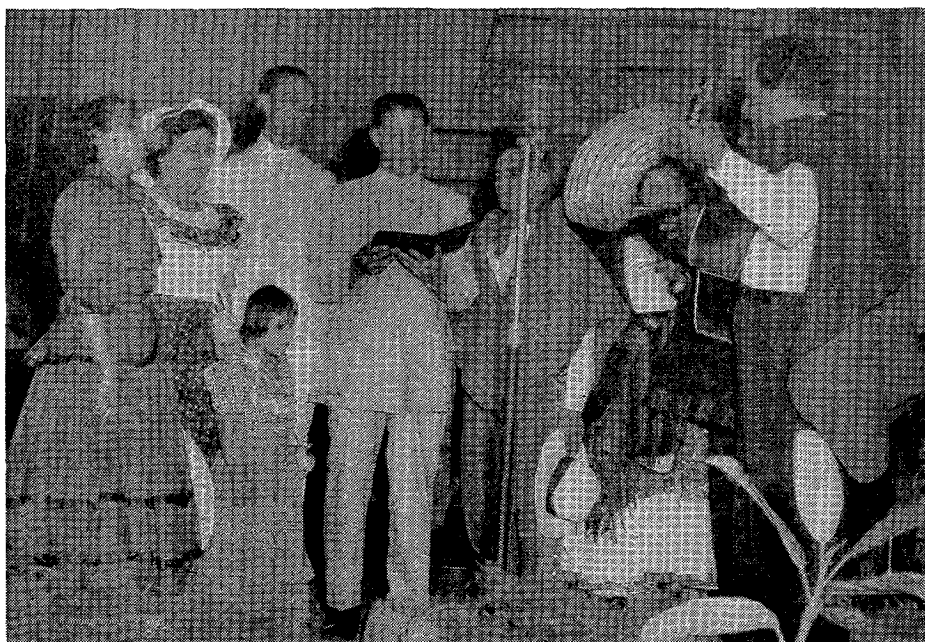
ALEXIS [smiling and extending hands]: I'm happy to be your brother in Jesus Christ!

[Another group came on the platform in costume.]

NARRATOR: More Central Americans. And another one of those eight Escandóns. This one is Jorge Escandón. Now we have Jorge and Tirso. I knew it would have to happen during Inter-America's report. It couldn't be otherwise, with all these Latin Americans on the platform tonight.

[The two brothers embraced in Latin American style.]

NARRATOR: That is the *abrazo*, Latin America's warmest greeting. The *abrazo* means so much among friends and loved ones. Tirso and Jorge haven't seen each other for several years. They had to come to San Francisco to give each other that brotherly *abrazo*! Wonderful men, those



Pastor Bustamante of Colombia re-enacting a scene that frequently occurs among our believers who are driven to the mountains by persecution in Colombia. They are shown here singing praise to God.

Escandón brothers: a mission president and a union publishing secretary.

We take pleasure in introducing to you a typical little Seventh-day Adventist Inter-American family, representatives of your denominational workers in the Spanish countries of the Inter-American Division, Brother and Sister Bustamante and their two children.

G. BUSTAMANTE: I am pleased to make to you a gift of our *Bienvenida* song.

[He sang one stanza of *Bienvenida* in Spanish.]

NARRATOR: Everybody in Inter-America sings this song of welcome.

G. BUSTAMANTE: Come, everybody sing. [All on the platform sang.]

NARRATOR: *Bienvenidos!* Welcome! A real Inter-American welcome to you—a welcome we express with flowers.

[Marimba continued playing *Bienvenidos* while flower girls threw flowers out over the audience.]

NARRATOR: Ladies and gentlemen, the president of the Inter-American Division, Elder Glenn Calkins.

GLENN CALKINS: We welcome you, dear fellow believers, to Inter-America—to the many intriguing countries and island fields comprising these lands of Spanish romance and of British, French, and Dutch colonial history. I wish each of you might have the privilege of visiting these most interesting places. Some of you already have, but for all of you, we shall try to bring a bit of the Inter-American spirit in the report that is to follow.

[Elder Calkins presented his report with the assistance of members of the division staff. The report appears on page 136, May 31 Bulletin.]

NARRATOR: For over fifty years the light of Adventism has shone over the Caribbean and to the mountains and valleys of the continent. At no time has it shone brighter or clearer than in the lives of those who have suffered persecution for the Master's sake.

[Organ background: "Faith of Our Fathers."]

NARRATOR: Many of our people in parts of the division have suffered great tribulation. Deprived of liberty, driven from their homes, often having lost all their material possessions, your Adventist brethren have found refuge in mountains and jungles. Isolated from the world and living by faith from day to day they have remained constant and steadfast.

[Group of Colombian believers entered.]

NARRATOR: Before you are some of these faithful Seventh-day Adventists, gathered as they might be under cover of night out on some lonely mountainside—hidden from their persecutors, far from their homes, but thanking God for His protection and claiming His promises. Would you expect to find them discouraged, downhearted, and disappointed? Those who know, tell us they have yet to find the first downhearted one among them! Watch their faces.

Listen as they talk to one another. These are some of the things they say. . . . We have lost all our earthly goods. . . . But we have Jesus. . . . We have the Master's wonderful promises. . . . thank God. . . . We are under His wings. . . . We have the blessed hope. . . . We shall reach the New Jerusalem. . . . We shall build houses and inhabit them. . . . We shall plant vineyards and eat the fruit. . . . God shall wipe away all tears. . . . There shall be no more sorrow. . . . Jesus is coming soon. . . . Right now their leader is inviting them to sing one of those loved songs composed for them and taught to them by veteran missionaries, Baasch and Ross. Listen!

[G. Bustamante strummed guitar and sang a stanza of *¿Has Oído El Mensaje?*]

NARRATOR: That's a much-loved Inter-American Adventist song. The people like to sing it because it buoys them up and carries them in thought to their heavenly home.

[The entire group sang.]

"Have you heard the wondrous message of the coming of the Lord?"

He will call the faithful to the other shore.

If you've made the preparation, when the midnight trumpet sounds

He will take you to His home forevermore.

Chorus:

"He's coming! He's coming! Behold! The glorious event long foretold.

Pearly gates will open wide for the saved and glorified,

Who will find a beautiful Eden now restored.

In triumphant song uniting with the happy angel throng

They shall dwell forever with the Lord."

NARRATOR: In 1910 Caracas, capital of Venezuela, became the home of Elder and Mrs. F. G. Lane and Brother Greenidge. [Greenidge and Lane on platform.] This was the first mission center in Venezuela. Foreign customs to learn, strange foods to eat, new ways of living, all faced the new missionary and his family at once. But most baffling and difficult was the new language—the language they needed to speak in order to give the message they held in their hearts. Weeks passed—seemingly endless and unfruitful weeks. [Greenidge took up carpenter tools. Lane started painting on charts.] Looking forward to the time when they might be able to announce meetings and teach the people in Spanish, Brother Greenidge began building some little rustic wooden benches as limited funds allowed. Brother Lane put his artistic ability to use and began drawing and painting a series of charts illustrating the fearsome beasts of Daniel 7. Continually they prayed for some opening by which to give their message.

[A lumberman entered to deliver lumber, clapping hands. Greenidge went to the door. Lumberman carried lumber across to where Greenidge was working. Lane kept on painting.]

NARRATOR: A little more lumber, bought with whatever money Lane and Greenidge were able to afford out of their meager missionary salary, is being delivered. With this, two or three more benches can be built, and they hope that little by little there will eventually be sufficient benches to accommodate a small congregation. But look, the lumberman has never before seen pictures of such terrifying beasts. He stops to gaze in wonderment. Then he loosens a barrage of observations and questions!

[On way out lumberman stopped to look at paintings, tapped Lane on shoulder and asked in Spanish about pictures. Lane didn't understand.]

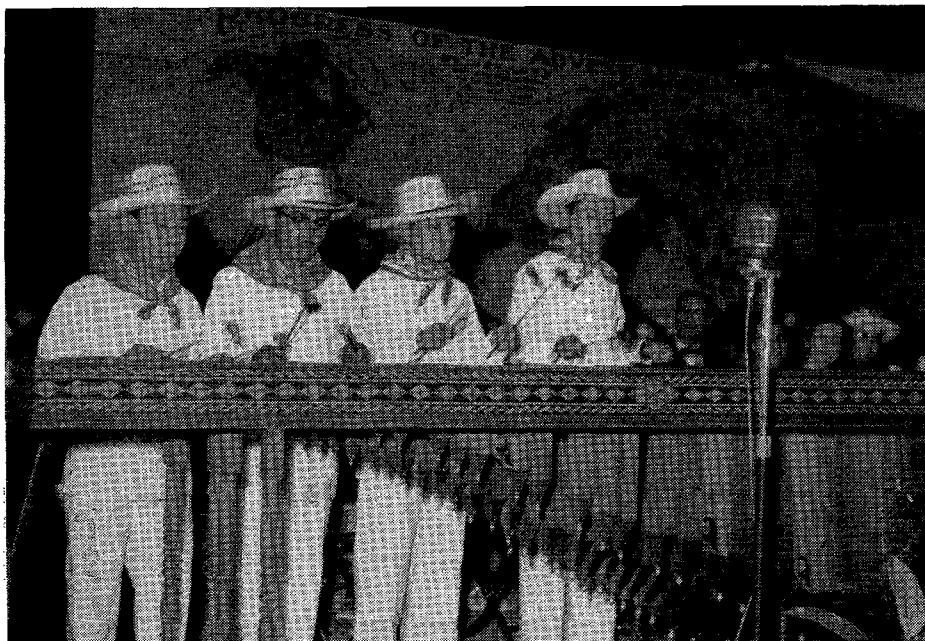
NARRATOR: The men are baffled. There's that language again—a flood of words which means little to the missionary. Oh, how he wishes he could speak the language and give this man the message!

F. G. LANE [to Greenidge]: Do you understand what he's saying?

GREENIDGE: No.

[Lumberman interrupted in Spanish again, trying to get question across. Pointed to pictures.]

NARRATOR: How helpless the men feel! Here's a man who is curious—he wants to know. Here's a door opening, and there



Once again the audience was thrilled with the soothing music of the marimba played by students from our school in Montemorelos, Mexico.

seems to be no way of stepping into it.

F. G. LANE: I have an idea. Where's my Spanish Bible?

GREENIDGE: [picking up his Bible]: Here's mine. Use this.

NARRATOR: Did you ever hear about a Bible study being given without either party understanding each other? This is such a study. Missionaries in new language areas know about this experience. [Lane found the book of Daniel, pointed to text, and then to picture. Man read, looked at chart, read again. Lane pointed to Bible again. Man nodded in understanding.] Lane has found the story of Daniel's vision in the Spanish Bible. Now he points to the Spanish text . . . now to the picture . . . and thus is given the first Seventh-day Adventist Bible study in the republic of Venezuela. [Lumberman talked excitedly as he began to understand. Nodded affirmatively. Said he's going to get another friend.]

NARRATOR: Lane didn't know what his Bible study accomplished. However, he felt that something had been gained. Still he didn't realize how genuinely impressed was this lumberman. Two hours later, when he reappeared at the door, this time accompanied by a friend and asking for another Bible study, Lane and Greenridge realized that the Lord had blessed their first Bible study with success. These two men were among the charter members of the Caracas church when it was organized a few months later.

Thus by the providences of God the Advent message has been carried to the great centers of the Caribbean. Today in almost every city of Inter-America shines the light of truth.

Inter-America has yet other things it should report to you—the Missionary Volunteers! Elder David H. Baasch, their leader:

D. H. BAASCH: Inter-America's Missionary Volunteers live their faith and share their faith. They are the conquerors of outposts for Jesus Christ. They are the real, top-quality article. Thirty years ago Inter-America's first Missionary Volunteer secretary was appointed: an unassuming but convincing little lady, wife of Inter-America's first division president and our "first ranking" Missionary Volunteer. It was she who took the Missionary Volunteer Society and its activities—the Bible Year, the Missionary Volunteer Classes, the Book Clubs, and the true meaning of "Missionary Volunteers" to most of our youth in the Caribbean. Tonight Inter-America is glad to have you meet its first "first lady" and first Missionary Volunteer secretary: Mrs. Matilda Erickson Andross.

D. H. BAASCH: Sister Andross, 1954 marks exactly thirty years since you became Missionary Volunteer secretary of our division. I believe we could make some interesting comparisons between then and now. For instance, how many societies did you have in the whole division that first year?

MRS. ANDROSS: I think we had eighty-seven societies.

D. H. BAASCH: I used to be a member of one of those societies. You know those 87 societies have increased to 1,511. I wish you could visit every one and speak to them as you used to speak to us in



An interesting scene re-enacted: Two newly arrived missionaries in Caracas, Venezuela, unacquainted with Spanish, are giving a Bible study from a Spanish Bible to a lumberman, shown in the center, who is viewing the terrible symbol of the fourth beast of Daniel 7.

ours. How many Missionary Volunteers did you have in those societies?

MRS. ANDROSS: Around two thousand that first year.

D. H. BAASCH: In 1954 I can bring you the greetings of thirty-eight thousand Missionary Volunteers in the Inter-American Division.

MRS. ANDROSS: Brother Baasch, are our youth in Inter-America still as enthusiastic about missionary endeavor as they used to be—I guess you call it Share Your Faith now, don't you? Back in 1924 our young people won 292 people to Christ.

D. H. BAASCH: Yes, they are. Just last year they helped win 2,920 youth and other persons. Why, that is exactly ten times as many!

MRS. ANDROSS: Wonderful! These past thirty years have seen marvelous advance.

D. H. BAASCH: Yes, they certainly have been thirty years of Missionary Volunteer progress.

[Pathfinders entered across the platform.]

D. H. BAASCH: Look! Here comes a sample of our shiniest, newest, most advanced model: Inter-American Division's 1954 Pathfinder! Equipped with all the power features that your heart could wish for, plus the newest Missionary Volunteer-type motor and genuine Dyna-Faith Drive. How do you like them?

MRS. ANDROSS: I like them fine. Just as good or better than ever! There's lots of energy there.

D. H. BAASCH: Yes, Inter-America's Missionary Volunteers pledge their strength to carry the Advent message to all the world in this generation.

NARRATOR: Great people, those Missionary Volunteers. The Voice of Prophecy—*La Voz de la Esperanza* in Spanish—covers the Caribbean, blankets the Andes, and sweeps over the lowlands of Inter-America. Eighty-five stations carry the message "Jesus Is Coming Again."

Lloyd Reile is Inter-America's radio secretary.

L. REILE: Because of the Voice of Prophecy and Radio Bible correspondence schools, 1,594 new Seventh-day Adventists worshiped in our churches throughout Inter-America yesterday. Do you realize that this is equivalent to forty new churches, averaging forty members each?

Our evangelistic workers report new churches, new Sabbath schools, and large baptisms as a result of English, Spanish, and French radio Bible school work. A recent example comes from the English-speaking island of Exuma in the British West Indies Union: Alson Rolle received an application blank for the Bible correspondence school courses. The offer interested him sufficiently to cause him to enroll. When the lessons came, he found them so helpful that he persuaded his wife to join in the study. He also enrolled several of his friends. All began learning new, yet most precious truths that changed their manner of living completely. Then without ever having spoken with a Seventh-day Adventist they began keeping the Sabbath and advised the correspondence school of their decision.

No worker was available to send over to the island, so the instructor in the Bible school sent some explanations on how to conduct a Sabbath school and church service. Brother Rolle arranged for those meetings to be held in his own home, with eight adults and twenty children attending. Soon the mission office received a remittance of tithes and offerings from these new believers.

It was evident that a worker had to visit them, and R. E. Gibson, the mission president, went. He found many interested in the truth. The group was growing. A regular house of worship was urgently needed, so he encouraged these new believers to gather building materials such as sand and stone and to burn lime.

Then the mission supplied funds to secure lumber and roofing materials, so that a substantial building with a seating capacity of seventy-five people could be erected.

This story has an interesting sequel, and I am asking John Palmer of the British West Indies Union to tell it.

J. PALMER: This new group called for a worker to give further instruction in the message, for their only contacts with Adventists had been the lessons and Elder Gibson's visit. Accordingly, arrangements were made for a young evangelist and an intern to conduct an effort. After only four weeks of meetings the leader of the largest church on the island decided to join God's people, and immediately offered us his church building, with a seating capacity of two hundred.

The deed has now been given to us for the property, and in early April a church of about twenty members was organized, all as a direct result of the radio and Bible school work.

L. REILE: Truly, radio is preaching Christ to the millions in Inter-America! Listen to the story of another church—this time in Spanish Guatemala—raised up by the Bible correspondence school work.

[Marimba provided musical background for participants in market scene.]

NARRATOR: This is noon on market day in the city of Quezaltenango, Guatemala. José Pancheco, Maya-Quiché witchcraft priest, has had a busy morning casting out evil spells burning incense to the Indian deity Ik-um Habil, chanting incantations for sick Indians, and sharing drinks of firewater with Dios Mundo. Now you see him sitting in the market place as he finishes his noonday meal of beans, rice, corn cakes, and as a special delicacy, chuleta: french-fried pig skin.

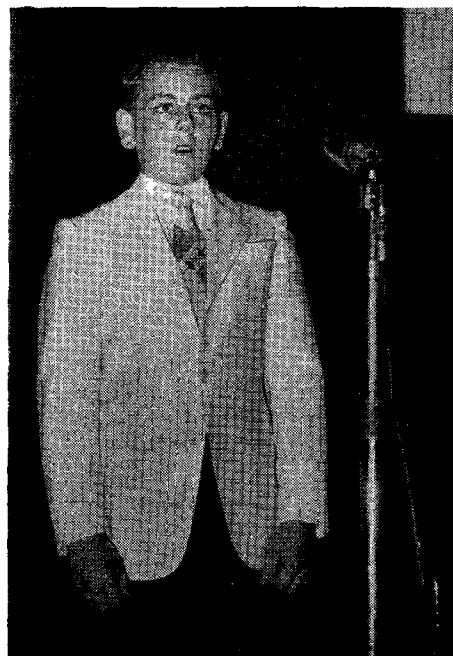
He is anxious to return to his witchcraft service, because on market day business is good. Just as he turns to leave, however, he is approached by a Maya-

Quiché Indian whose manner is different from that of the regular worshipers who ordinarily seek his services. Respectfully he is greeted and immediately handed a leaflet and a Bible correspondence school enrollment card. As he examines the card the Seventh-day Adventist Lopez offers him a pencil—symbol in Mayaland of intellectual attainment. Pleased, he signs his name and receives his first lesson. Then Lopez is on his way to continue his missionary work.

Glancing at the lesson sheet he has just received, Pancheco is perplexed, because he finds it new and difficult. It speaks of things about which he understands little. He is puzzled, and finally puts it into his pocket and goes about his business.

Market day comes once a week to most Guatemalan towns. It is the day when Maya-Quiché Indians come to town to buy, sell, gossip, gamble, worship, drink, and enter into the mood of fiesta. From trails and highways they pour into the main street and plaza of the town—men, women, and children in colorful and varied costumes—each with a burden on back or head. Some herd broods of goats, ducks, or little spotted pigs. Most popular is that part of the market lined on both sides with food shops, from which rise savory odors from open charcoal fires and small ovens accompanied by the soft pitty-pat of tortilla-shaping hands. Among baskets of mangoes, avocados, and a score of other succulent fruits, squat the real salespeople of this busy Indian world—the little sober-faced Guatemalan women.

Along with the merchants on every market day come the Indian witch priests. [Pancheco entered.] Today again we find José Pancheco, this time in the market at Totonicapán, offering his services as a mediator between the Indian and his multiple deities: Tojil, Jefe Dios, Tzultáca, Hurakan, or Ek Ahau. But as in Quezaltenango and in many other towns, so also in Totonicapán—our Adventist Maya-Quiché brethren are oc-



Robert Peele, fourteen years old, thrilled the audience with his beautiful voice during one of the musical sections of an evening service. He is from Takoma Park, Maryland, and has just recently joined the church, having learned of the truth while attending the church school there.

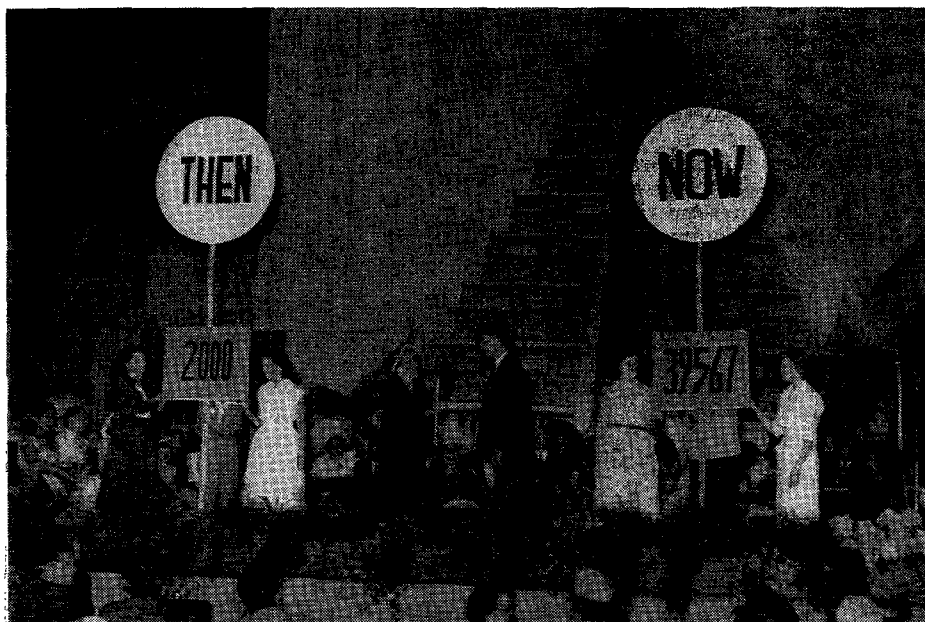
cupied in the Lord's business. Pancheco is being approached again this time by Brother Gutierrez, and courteously invited to enroll in the Bible correspondence course. Immediately it reminds him of that first lesson sheet which he has kept carefully folded in his pocket for several weeks. "Is that the same as this?" he asks as he pulls out that first lesson.

Our lay missionary is surprised for a moment, but thinking quickly asks, "Yes, but why haven't you filled it out?" A glance at Pancheco's face gives him the answer, so he quickly adds, "Would you like me to help you?"

Right there in the midst of that market place the two sit down and begin studying. Out comes our laymen's hidden weapon—his little Bible—and together they fill out the test sheet. Pancheco is taking God's Word in his hands for the first time. New and wonderful truth is found. The difficult and perplexing lesson becomes for him the inspiring message of a God greater than he had ever known before. So began a series of studies which transformed Pancheco, the witch priest, into Pancheco, the Adventist lay missionary. Today in the community of Patzaracmac, Pancheco's home town, stands an Adventist church of sixty-four members—every one a convert from spiritism, a direct result of the Bible correspondence school and of the conversion of José Pancheco. And now may I introduce to you José Pancheco's pastor—Moisés Tahay.

[He made an appeal for the support of believers everywhere, in prayers and means, for the advance of the gospel in Inter-America.]

The program concluded when the audience joined those on the platform in singing *Mas Alla Del Sol* ("Beyond the Sun"), and S. L. Gadsby of the South Caribbean Conference gave the benediction.



A very interesting passage in the Inter-American program was when Pastor H. Baasch interviewed Mrs. Matilda Erickson Andross, whose husband, E. E. Andross, was the first president of the Inter-American Division. At that time there were only 2,000 Missionary Volunteers. Now there are 39,567.

Proceedings of the General Conference

Forty-seventh Session, May 24-June 5, 1954

Seventeenth Meeting

June 2, 1954, 3:00 P.M.

CHAIRMAN: L. K. Dickson.

HYMN: "Jesus Calls Us."

PRAYER: W. G. Turner.

L. K. DICKSON: Our first business this afternoon will be the calling of certain legal meetings which several days ago were adjourned until this hour. Elder Branson is the chairman of these legal bodies, and will bring on the business.

[Minutes of the June 2 Legal Meetings appear immediately following the minutes of the seventeenth meeting. First legal meetings held May 26, appear on page 77.]

L. K. DICKSON: There is a further report from the Committee on the Seating of Delegates. Our secretary will read this report.

N. W. DUNN: The Committee on the Seating of Delegates recommends that the following persons be seated as regular delegates to this General Conference session: Mr. Henry Mills, Mrs. Henry Mills, Miss Edith Bourne.

I move that this recommendation be adopted.

[It was voted.]

N. W. DUNN: The Inter-American Division would like the following changes to be made in their list of delegates: From the Mexican Union they would like the following delegates to be stricken from the list: E. Rivera, Apolonia Camarena.

To be appointed in place of the two mentioned above: Isaac Vallejo, Silvestre Angeles.

The Central American Union is recommending that the following be stricken from the list: Miguel Lin. To be appointed in his place: C. W. Omphroy.

[This change of delegates was voted.]

L. K. DICKSON: At this time we are to hear the report of the secretary of the Ellen G. White Publications. Elder Olson is the chairman of that board and will bring on the report.

A. V. OLSON: One of the greatest gifts that God has given to His remnant church is the Spirit of prophecy. During seventy years Sister White lived among us. She often spoke in our gatherings. She wrote many volumes, articles, and letters. All these have been preserved. Before she died she set up a self-perpetuating board of trustees to serve as the guardians of her work. These trustees have done a great deal of work during the years. In the fear of God they have done their best to encourage the promotion of the books. This afternoon we shall have a report from the secretary of this board of trustees, Arthur White.

[Arthur L. White presented the report, which appears on page 246, June 4 Bulletin.]

L. K. DICKSON: We wish to bring before you a recommendation on the Spirit of prophecy.

[The secretary read the following:]

The Spirit of Prophecy

WHEREAS, We recognize that in the early days of the remnant church there was given to it the gift of the Spirit of prophecy, and through this gift by voice and pen during the life of Ellen G. White and through her writings since her death, we have been counseled, guided, and led to higher plans of spiritual experience, to higher standards, and to a clear concept of coming events, and

WHEREAS, We recognize that the principles set forth in the Spirit of prophecy writings do not change with the passage of the years, that "time and trial have not made void the instruction given," and "the instruction that was given in the early days of the message is to be held as safe instruction to follow in these its closing days," (*R & H*, July 18, 1907) and

WHEREAS, We recognize the value of the Spirit of prophecy messages to the church throughout the world and that the principles enunciated by the servant of the Lord in Europe, Australasia, and North America are of equal value to the church in all lands in fostering Bible standards, encouraging the spirit of devotion and sacrifice, and guarding and unifying the church, therefore be it

Resolved: 1. That we reaffirm our fundamental belief: a. That God has placed in His church the gifts of the Holy Spirit and that these gifts, operating in harmony with the divine principles of the Bible, are given for the perfecting of the saints, the work of the ministry, the edifying of the body of Christ, and that the gift of prophecy, one of the identifying marks of the remnant church, was manifested in the life and ministry of Ellen G. White.

b. That the writings of Mrs. E. G. White were given to the church, not as a substitute for the Holy Scriptures, nor as a new rule of faith, but for the spiritual uplift of the church, for instruction, for warning, for reproof, for admonition, for illumination of doctrine, and for the special guidance of God's people through these perilous last days.

2. a. That we call our church members throughout the world to a diligent study of the Spirit of prophecy writings as they may be available in their languages and to a practical application in the individual lives and work of the church.

b. That we encourage all overseas fields to hasten the publication of the Spirit of prophecy books. We commend the course now being followed in many fields in developing the "Introductory Spirit of Prophecy Library," to be followed by other of the books as circumstances may indicate.

c. That we encourage our administrators, evangelists, and pastors to provide for the adequate presentation of the doctrine of the Spirit of prophecy and its value and place in the church, at our large gatherings, in our evangelistic meetings, and in our local churches, and that

the annual Spirit of Prophecy Sabbath be observed.

d. That we urge our church members to build a Spirit of prophecy library in their homes, thus making readily available to all members of the family the timely and helpful "counsels, warnings and reproofs," so much needed in these perilous days.

3. a. That as the truth presented in the E. G. White books written for circulation among the general public "is light needed to arouse the people to prepare for the great day of God, which is just before us and these books contain God's direct appeal to the people" (*MS* 23, 1890), we encourage every Seventh-day Adventist to join in the wide dissemination of these inspired books and particularly during 1954 in giving an unprecedented circulation to *The Great Controversy* with its vital message, placing the special one-dollar missionary edition in English in as many homes as possible.

b. That we call our colporteur evangelists to a renewed effort to distribute the message-filled Spirit of prophecy subscription books.

c. That we urge the publishers of the E. G. White subscription books in English to hasten the completion of the work of making the five volumes of the Conflict of the Ages Series, in its entirety, available for colporteur sale, taking such steps as may be necessary to furnish to the world the inspired volumes presenting the whole Bible story either in the single volumes or in the form of the popular Treasures of Life Series.

4. That we express appreciation to the publishers of the E. G. White books in North America for the steps they have taken in issuing no less than twenty-one of these volumes in the inexpensive, convenient form of the Christian Home Library, and

We recommend, That as rapidly as consistent with publishing procedures the list of Spirit of prophecy books in this form be extended, thus assuring an ever-widening distribution of these volumes, which are of inestimable value to the church.

A. V. OLSON: One of the first books that I ever read was entitled *Spiritual Experiences*, by Sister White. That book thrilled my heart. I understood, even though young, that that book had been inspired by the same spirit that inspired the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and other books of the Bible. Since that time I have read, I think, every book of Sister White's that is in print. I have found these books very helpful for my own Christian experience. Somehow they create in my heart a greater love for God and a deeper devotion to Him and to the truth. The more I read of her writings, the more I want to read the Bible.

What has been true in my experience, I know has been true in the experience of many, many thousands of people throughout the world field. For a number of years I have cherished the hope that our publishers would find a way to bring out some of these books at a cheaper price. I am so happy that at last this has come to be a reality.

After our publishers made their first attempt to bring out one of our larger books in a small form, and it was to be

sold at a reduced price, I hoped that *The Great Controversy* would soon be included in the list. I kept urging it, and I am glad that the book is now ready. Here it is in this form. Is it not wonderful that a book that before has been selling for \$10.50 is now available for all our people at \$1.00? But not simply for their own use, but also for the purpose of placing it in the hands and the homes of neighbors and friends. I do wish that we could send a million copies of this book out into the world. I want to read here what Sister White has said about this book:

"*Great Controversy* should be very widely circulated. It contains the story of the past, the present, and the future. In its outline of the closing scenes of this earth's history it bears a powerful testimony in behalf of the truth. I am more anxious to see a wide circulation for this book than for any others I have written. For in *Great Controversy* the last message of warning to the world is given more distinctly than in any other of my books."

Now that's a strong recommendation for *The Great Controversy*. The one who has written so many of these books that we admire and that we appreciate and love, says of this that it contains a message in a clearer, more comprehensive form than any of the other books.

Now, there are some of our people who seem to think that this is not a very good book to place in the hands of Roman Catholics. I believe it is a good book for all people—for Seventh-day Adventists, Methodists, Baptists, Roman Catholics, Greek Catholics, for the heathen and Mohammedans, and all people. You know, in my wide travels throughout the world field in my labors, I have found that literally hundreds and thousands of men and women have accepted Christ and the message that you and I love as the result of reading this book.

In 1945 I was in Lisbon, Portugal. During a conference session with the Portuguese Conference, we ordained a former Roman Catholic priest to the gospel ministry. After the ordination service I said, "Brother, tell me how you happened to accept this message." "Well," he said, "that is an interesting story." He told how a parishioner had come to the confessional box and confessed the awful sin of having read an Adventist tract. The priest replied, "I wish I could see that tract."

It was brought to him. He read it, enjoyed it, found the address of our publishing house in Lisbon, and sent a request for more reading matter. They sent him *The Great Controversy*. He said, "I began to read, and was fascinated by it. I read it every spare moment I had. I studied it. I devoured it. When I was through reading, I was a Seventh-day Adventist in my heart. Let no man tell me that the one who wrote that book was not inspired by the same Spirit that inspired the writings of the Bible."

He handed in his resignation to his bishop, came to our pastor and talked to him, if I remember rightly, received some Bible studies, was baptized, then went out and sold some of our books, came into our publishing house to do some work, became an editor, became one of our preachers, became a teacher in our schools. He was at the head of the school

at the time that we ordained him. He is here today in this audience as president of the Portuguese Union—Brother Ferreira. He was brought into the truth through reading this book. He is only one among thousands who have accepted the truth through reading it, and I hope we will take this matter on our hearts and give this book the widest circulation of any book that we have ever printed, now that it is available at one dollar a copy. I wish we could make it a million copies. Shall we not do our best, brethren and sisters?

L. K. DICKSON: Thank you, Brother Olson. Are there any other remarks? C. L. Paddock, from the Pacific Press:

C. L. PADDOCK: If we print and you circulate a million copies, it would be twenty railroad cars full. It is the greatest book bargain in the history of the denomination, 736 pages of literature for one dollar. The Northern California Conference is planning to circulate seventy-five thousand copies. We sent ten thousand in one shipment to Southern California, and I have quotations from all over the United States. There is a wonderful response in the field. We are sure we will print a half million, and we hope it will be a million copies. We know that if we circulate these books, Seventh-day Adventists will spring up wherever the seed is sown.

I think of one church in Saskatchewan, Canada, that I have visited many times. It is in existence today because a colporteur sold a *Great Controversy* in that area. It lay in a trunk for thirteen years. Then it was taken out and read, and as a result a church was raised up in that place. We have already printed 150,000 of them, or three carloads. We have paper coming for another 100,000, and we hope that you will make it a million copies, because it will make thousands of Seventh-day Adventists.

L. K. DICKSON: Thank you, Brother Paddock.

[The Spirit of prophecy recommendation was voted.]

L. K. DICKSON: We have two important committee reports to be heard before we adjourn. The first one is the report of the Nominating Committee. Elder Dick will introduce it.

E. D. DICK: Before bringing on the report, I wish to make a statement concerning two matters. E. N. Dick, whom we elected yesterday to serve as head of the National Service Organization, has indicated his desire to be released from that work, although he has indicated his willingness to serve as an associate secretary if it were desired by the Nominating Committee. Hence, you will notice a recommendation from the Nominating Committee that he be released from his secretaryship.

A further recommendation has to do with the matter of the Industrial Relations work. This formerly has been a part of the War Service Commission. It does not seem that this properly belongs in that department, and on recommendation from the administration, that service is being transferred to the Religious Liberty Department. The recommendation we are making concerning that work is premised upon this recommendation. Our secretary, Brother Bauer, will bring on the report.

C. L. BAUER: We have to submit, for consideration of the delegates, the following partial report:

[See page 195, June 3 Bulletin for the report as voted.]

L. K. DICKSON: Now we will hear the report of the Committee on Credentials and Licenses. Elder Read is the chairman of this committee.

W. E. READ: Your Committee on Credentials and Licenses is prepared to bring in its report. Brother Robison is our secretary, but before he presents this, there are two matters I would like to mention. The report we bring in will cover the names of those to whom the following papers are granted: Ministerial Creden-



A high point in the report rendered by E. W. Dunbar, secretary of the General Conference Missionary Volunteer Society, was when he called to the desk three other veterans in young people's work. From left to right, E. W. Dunbar, A. W. Peterson, H. T. Elliott, and M. E. Kern, with a total service to young people's activities of ninety years.

tials, which, as we know, are granted to all our ordained ministers; then Bible Instructor Credentials; following that will be Missionary Credentials; and then Ministerial Licenses.

There is another paper that we grant to our workers, some who are office secretaries and others in other lines of service, and that is known as the Missionary License. But it has been our practice through the years to issue such papers by the General Conference Committee and not by the General Conference in session.

The other matter is this: The names of those that are listed are those who have been called to serve in various lines of service in the General Conference staff. In addition, all the division presidents are listed. Further, there will be those who constitute part of the twenty-five elective members of the General Conference Committee, and those to whom honorary credentials should be issued. Some of you will observe that some names are not listed when the report is read. This is due to the fact that it has not yet been determined concerning some who have in the past held credentials from the General Conference, where they will labor in the future. We are voting the credentials for four years. Their work may lie outside the General Conference staff in other fields. So we are recommending that such names be referred to the General Conference Committee for action.

Brother Robison will now bring the report to you.

J. I. ROBISON: I would move that this report be received with one reading. I will read it slowly, giving opportunity for any question, and thus I do not think we will need two readings.

L. K. DICKSON: You have heard the motion and it has been seconded. The pause after each name will give you opportunity, if you wish to raise any question.

[J. I. Robison read the following report which was adopted unanimously.]

For Ministerial Credentials

The General Conference Staff

R. H. Adair, Roger Altman, R. A. Anderson, V. T. Armstrong, W. R. Beach, W. H. Beaven, W. H. Bergherm, O. A. Blake, C. W. Bozarth, W. P. Bradley, W. H. Branson, N. F. Brewer, H. F. Brown, J. A. Buckwalter, Glenn Calkins, G. W. Chambers, J. E. Chase, E. E. Cleveland, E. E. Cossentine, L. K. Dickson, E. W. Dunbar, N. W. Dunn.

J. E. Edwards, H. T. Elliott, W. P. Elliott, A. A. Esteb, R. R. Figuhr, T. R. Flaiz, L. E. Froom, C. E. Guenther, A. L. Ham, E. B. Hare, W. H. Harris, W. A. Higgins, E. J. Lornitz, H. W. Lowe, T. E. Lucas, G. M. Mathews, D. A. McAdams, J. L. McElhany, J. W. McFarland, E. L. Minchin, L. L. Moffitt, C. W. Moseley, Jr., W. B. Ochs, A. V. Olson, T. L. Oswald, F. L. Peterson, L. R. Rasmussen, W. E. Read, D. E. Rebok, K. J. Reynolds.

J. I. Robison, E. E. Roenfelt, H. L. Rudy, A. H. Rulkoetter, W. A. Scharffenberger, W. Schubert, L. A. Skinner, F. A. Soper, Carl Sundin, J. C. Thompson, C. L. Torrey, G. E. Vandeman, R. F. Waddell, B. E. Wagner, E. R. Walde, C. H. Watson, H. B. Weeks, F. H. Yost.

Division Presidents

G. J. Appel, M. V. Campbell, F. G. Clifford, O. O. Mattison, F. A. Mote, Wilhelm Mueller, W. E. Murray, A. H. Roth, A. F. Tarr, R. S. Watts.

General Institutional Workers and Elective Committee Members

Wesley Amundsen, G. T. Anderson, A. W. Cormack, C. W. Degering, E. D. Dick, M. K. Eckenroth, H. P. Evens, C. B. Haynes, Earl Hilgert, S. H. Horn, T. H. Jemison, R. E. Loasby, W. E. Macpherson, Garland Millett, H. A. Morrison, W. G. C. Murdoch, C. J. Nagele, J. J. Nethery, F. D. Nichol, G. E. Peters, H. M. S. Richards, W. H. Shephard, J. C. Shull, W. H. Teesdale, H. H. Votaw, C. W. Weniger, A. L. White, I. J. Woodman, K. A. Wright.

Chaplains

Glen Bowen, F. E. Bresee, C. R. Holden, J. E. Keplinger, E. T. Lee, R. L. Mole, Kenneth Moore, J. T. Powell, Christy Taylor.

Camp Pastors

H. E. Kurtz.

Honorary

M. L. Andreasen, T. E. Bowen, M. N. Campbell, W. W. Eastman, L. Halswick, L. A. Hansen, M. E. Kern, D. H. Kress, C. S. Longacre, Meade MacGuire, G. A. Roberts, W. A. Ruble, R. Ruhling, H. F. Schuberth, J. A. Stevens, E. A. Sutherland, S. A. Wellman.

For Bible Instructor Credentials

Louise C. Kleuser.

For Missionary Credentials

General Conference Staff and Elective Committee Members

D. Lois Burnett, H. W. Klaser, F. B. Knight, H. S. Nelson, M. C. Taft, Donn Thomas.

General Institutions, etc.

W. H. G. Benwell, C. A. Dent, B. J. Kohler, W. H. Raley, J. G. Slate, Helen Smith, Theodora Wirak, J. H. Wirsz.

Honorary

Erna Borm, H. H. Cobban, H. G. Childs, Claude Conard, Rosamond Gintner, Lizzie M. Gregg, Mrs. Grace Mace, S. E. McNeill, Sarah Peck, Mabel Porter, Margaret Wier, Elizabeth Zeidler.

For Ministerial License

General Conference Staff and Elective Committee Members

H. W. Barrows, H. P. Bloum, F. Brennwald, J. F. Cummins, E. N. Dick, G. A. Huse, A. W. Johnson, W. E. Phillips, E. L. Place, W. H. Williams.

We recommend further, That all other names of those who may be entitled to credentials of licenses from the General Conference be referred to the General Conference Committee in Washington.

L. K. DICKSON: C. L. Torrey has a statement that he wishes to make.

C. L. TORREY: I would like to mention the retirement of W. H. Williams from

the treasury after about fifty-five years of service. We have greatly appreciated his service. I think that there is no man in the General Conference who has worked so long as Brother Williams, and I want to pay honor to him today for his long years of faithful service. Shall we give him a hand.

[Applause.]

L. K. DICKSON: I'm sure we all are in agreement with the words of Brother Torrey regarding Brother Williams.

Meeting adjourned.

BENEDICTION: J. L. McElhany.

L. K. DICKSON, *Chairman*.

N. W. DUNN, *Secretary*.

Legal Meetings

Meeting of the General Conference Corporation

June 2, 1954, 3:00 P.M.

W. H. BRANSON: This is an adjourned meeting of the General Conference Corporation. We had a meeting on May 26 and adjourned to this hour. At that time there was a Nominating Committee appointed, and today we are to receive their report. First, we should have a report, however, by the secretary, of the May 26 meeting.

R. H. ADAIR: The minutes of the meeting of May 26 have been printed in the Bulletin and appeared on pages 77, 78. The minutes as they appeared there are verbatim as the meeting proceeded. The meeting was called to order by W. H. Branson, following which the call of the meeting was read by the secretary. When the meeting was declared open by W. H. Branson, the full number of delegates was present. Following this the financial report was presented by W. H. Williams, and certified to by the auditor. This report was adopted. The Nominating Committee was requested by action to present recommendations for the Board of Trustees. Following this the meeting was adjourned until this afternoon at three o'clock.

W. H. BRANSON: Do you wish to adopt the report of the secretary?

[The adoption of the report was moved by L. K. Dickson and seconded by G. A. Huse. The motion to adopt was carried.]

W. H. BRANSON: Now we shall call for a report of the Nominating Committee, which will be a report on the trustees of this organization for the new period.

R. H. ADAIR: It is usual for the secretary of the Nominating Committee to read this report, but he is not present here this afternoon. The Nominating Committee makes the following recommendations for trustees for the General Conference Corporation: R. H. Adair, R. R. Figuhr, J. F. Cummins, H. T. Elliott, W. B. Ochs, W. R. Beach, C. L. Torrey, O. A. Blake, L. K. Dickson.

W. H. BRANSON: You have heard the reading of this report. Do we hear a motion to adopt it? [C. B. Haynes moved its adoption and F. D. Nichol seconded the motion. The motion was carried after question had been called on each name as the report was reread.]

W. H. BRANSON: The next item of business will be the secretary's report on the meeting we are now holding.

R. H. ADAIR: The minutes of this meeting are also being printed in the Bulletin and are being recorded verbatim. The meeting was called to order by W. H. Branson, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted. The following persons have been elected as members of the Board of Trustees for the General Conference Corporation [see names above].

W. H. BRANSON: We can waive the reading, I think, as they have been read twice.

R. H. ADAIR: I move that the meeting now adjourn.

W. H. BRANSON: You have heard the reading of the report. Before we adjourn we should adopt the report of the secretary. Do we have a motion to do that? [W. E. Read moved that the report be adopted. The motion was seconded by D. W. Hunter. The motion was carried.]

W. H. BRANSON: Now we have before us a motion to adjourn. Are you ready for the question on that? [Question was called and the motion carried.]

W. H. BRANSON, *President*.
R. H. ADAIR, *Secretary*.

Meeting of the General Conference Association

W. H. BRANSON: We turn now to the General Conference Association. We will ask the secretary to read the report of that meeting, which was also held on May 26.

R. H. ADAIR: The proceedings were practically the same in connection with the association as with the corporation. The meeting was called to order, the call for the meeting was read, the financial statement was read and approved, and the certificate of audit was read. It was voted to refer the matter of the nomination of the officers of the association to the Nominating Committee of the session. The minutes as they appear in the Bulletin, pages 77 and 78, have been recorded verbatim. I move their adoption.

[R. H. Adair's motion was seconded by T. G. Bunch and was then voted.]

W. H. BRANSON: Now we will ask for the report of the Nominating Committee on the trustees for the General Conference Association. C. L. Bauer, the secretary of the committee, will read this report.

C. L. BAUER: The Nominating Committee has to suggest for the Board of Trustees for the General Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists the following names: R. H. Adair, R. R. Figuhr, J. F. Cummins, H. T. Elliott, W. B. Ochs, W. R. Beach, C. L. Torrey, O. A. Blake, L. K. Dickson. I move the adoption of the report.

[The motion was seconded by A. V. Olson. The report was reread, question was called on each name, and the motion was carried.]

W. H. BRANSON: Now we will have the secretary's report for this meeting before adjournment.

R. H. ADAIR: The proceedings of this meeting have been taken verbatim and will appear in the *General Conference Bulletin*. The meeting was called to or-

der by W. H. Branson. The minutes of the meeting held May 26, 1954, were read and adopted. The following persons were elected as trustees for the General Conference Association [see names above]. I move the adoption of these minutes. [The motion was seconded by F. H. Yost. It was carried.]

R. H. ADAIR: I move that this meeting be adjourned.

[W. E. Read seconded the motion and it was carried.]

W. H. BRANSON, *President*.
R. H. ADAIR, *Secretary*.

North American Conference Corporation

W. H. BRANSON: One more legal meeting, that of the North American Conference Corporation. We had a meeting on the 26th of May, and I will ask the secretary to read the report of that meeting.

R. H. ADAIR: The minutes of this meeting also appear in the *General Conference Bulletin*, pages 77 and 78. The meeting was called to order by the chairman, and the record of the meeting was read by the secretary. The chairman declared the meeting open for business, and then was read the statement to the effect that the corporation has no known assets or liabilities, and the statement by the auditors verifying this. It was then voted that the nomination of officers be referred to the Nominating Committee of this session. Following this the meeting adjourned. I move that the minutes be adopted.

[G. A. Huse seconded the motion. It was carried.]

W. H. BRANSON: We will call on the secretary of the Nominating Committee to read the report of the Nominating Committee, bringing us nominations for trustees of this organization.

C. L. BAUER: The constitution calls for eight as the number of members of the Board of Trustees, and we have to submit for your consideration the following as the Board of Trustees: R. H. Adair, R. R. Figuhr, C. L. Torrey, W. B. Ochs, W. R. Beach, O. A. Blake, H. T. Elliott, J. F. Cummins. I move the adoption of the report.

[E. D. Dick seconded the motion. The report was reread, question was called on each name, and the motion was carried.]

W. H. BRANSON: Now we will ask the secretary to read his report of this meeting, and then we will adjourn.

R. H. ADAIR: The minutes of this meeting are being recorded verbatim, and will appear in the *General Conference Bulletin*. W. H. Branson, chairman of the meeting, called the meeting to order. The secretary's report was read and adopted. The following persons were elected as trustees of the North American Corporation [see names above].

W. H. BRANSON: Do we have a motion to adopt the secretary's report?

[Moved by F. D. Nichol, and seconded by N. F. Brewer. The motion was carried. R. H. Adair moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by L. K. Dickson and was carried.]

W. H. BRANSON, *President*.
R. H. ADAIR, *Secretary*.

Proceedings of the General Conference

Eighteenth Meeting

June 3, 1954, 10:00 A.M.

CHAIRMAN: R. R. Figuhr.

HYMN: "O Worship the King."

PRAYER: K. A. Wright.

R. R. FIGUHR: There is scattered throughout the land a group of men and women who are making a valuable contribution to our work. They labor, not as salaried workers in the organized work, but are one with us in purpose and in objective. They have built up a number of self-supporting institutions, and these are carrying on to assist us in the great work of proclaiming this message throughout the land. Elder Amundsen has been working with this group of Seventh-day Adventist institutions, and he will present their report.

[The report of the Association of Self-supporting Institutions was read. It appears on page 274.]

R. R. FIGUHR: Thank you, Brother Amundsen, for this splendid report. It is encouraging to know the spirit that animates the self-supporting workers in these many privately sustained institutions. They are a valuable adjunct to the work of God.

Now we will have a thirty-minute presentation of pictures from Inter-America.

[Following the pictures, the session resumed its business.]

R. R. FIGUHR: We have a number of recommendations. First is the report of the Committee on Distribution of Labor.

[The secretary read the following report, which was adopted:]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DISTRIBUTION OF LABOR

Your Committee on Distribution of Labor recommends,

1. That the North Pacific Union and Walla Walla College be requested to release Emile Kafrouni to connect with the Middle East Division to serve in the Nile Union as an accountant.

2. That the Australasian Inter-Union Conference and Australasian Missionary College be requested to release Miss Edna Luke to connect with the Northern European Division to serve in the Ethiopian Union Mission as an office worker.

3. That the Southern Union and the Carolina Conference be requested to release B. R. Bickley to connect with the Southern African Division to serve in the Congo Union as Educational and Missionary Volunteer Secretary.

4. That the Northern Union Conference be requested to release J. D. Smith to connect with the Central Union as its president.

5. That the Southern Union and Florida Conference be requested to release R. H. Nightingale to connect with the Northern Union as its president.

6. That W. A. Clarke, a returned missionary, be invited to connect with the Central Union to labor in the Colorado Conference as a district leader.

7. That Miss Anna Kwapinski, a returned missionary, be invited to connect with the Columbia Union to serve in the Ohio Conference as a teacher.

8. That R. M. Whitsett be invited to connect with the Columbia Union to serve in the Potomac Conference in pastoral evangelistic work.

9. That the Pacific Union and Central California Conference be requested to release R. R. Archuleta to connect with the Lake Union to serve in the Illinois Conference in Spanish work.

10. That E. D. Clifford, a returned missionary, be invited to connect with the Northern Union to labor in the Minnesota Conference.

11. That the Canadian Union and Canadian Union College be requested to release G. S. Balharrie to connect with the North Pacific Union to serve as a Bible teacher at Walla Walla College.

12. That the Pacific Union and Southern California Conference be requested to release Miss Dorothy Greeley to connect with the North Pacific Union Conference office as office secretary in the Educational Department.

13. That the Lake Union and Emmanuel Missionary College be requested to release M. S. Peterson to connect with the Pacific Union to serve in Pacific Union College as a teacher in the elementary school.

14. That the Southern Union and Southern Missionary College be requested to release C. V. Cowles to connect with the Pacific Union and Southern California Conference to serve as a band instructor in elementary schools.

15. That E. A. Crane, a returned missionary, be invited to connect with the Southern Union to serve in connection with the union Bible school.

16. That the North Pacific Union and Walla Walla College be requested to release Miss Evelyn Wright to connect with the Southern Union to serve at

Southern Missionary College as head of the Home Economics Department.

17. That the North Pacific Union and Walla Walla College be requested to release Miss Grace Prentice to connect with the Southwestern Union to serve as librarian at Southwestern Junior College.

18. That Charles R. Beeler, a returned missionary, be invited to connect with the Southern Union Conference to serve in the union Bible school.

19. That the Pacific Union and Northern California conferences be requested to release J. L. Tucker to connect with the Lake Union to labor in the Michigan Conference; and that the Lake Union and Michigan conferences be requested to release A. H. Johns to connect with the Pacific Union to labor in the Northern California Conference.

20. That B. M. Wickwire, a returned missionary, be invited to connect with the Southern Union Conference as Publishing Department Secretary.

21. That J. M. Hnatyshyn, a returned missionary, be invited to connect with the Canadian Union Conference as one of the union departmental secretaries.

R. R. FIGUHR: There are a number whose names do not appear on the list here, who will be placed later on.

We have some resolutions now to present to the session.

[The secretary, H. T. Elliott, read the following recommendations, which were adopted:]

Evangelism

WHEREAS, The only reason for the existence of the Advent Movement is to proclaim a message preparing individuals for the kingdom; and

WHEREAS, We are informed in the Spirit of prophecy that there are thousands on the verge of the kingdom awaiting only to be gathered in, and that overwhelming evidence points with deadly accuracy to the soon close of

probation, when man's opportunity for salvation will be past;

We recommend, 1. That our pastor-evangelists give earnest, heart-warming appeals in their sermons for full surrender of heart to Christ, for the benefit of those in their congregations who may not be Christians, and urgent invitations to others who may not have taken a decided stand for baptism and church membership.

2. That our pastor-evangelists endeavor to conduct at least one baptism a month in each church or district, endeavoring to quickly finish the gospel work and hasten the glorious return of Christ.

Highway Church Signs

WHEREAS, We appreciate the importance of our capitalizing on the increasing publicity being given to Seventh-day Adventists today,

We recommend, 1. That we call upon our pastors and district leaders to give urgent attention to the publicizing of the location of our churches and the time of services through highway signs to be placed on roads or highways leading into towns and cities where our churches are located; and

2. That we request the General Conference Bureau of Public Relations to design an attractive and appropriate luminous highway sign to be used by our churches throughout North America and other countries where such publicity is practicable; and

3. That we request the Bureau of Public Relations to arrange through the General Conference Committee with a suitable concern for the production of these highway signs.

Regional Councils for Evangelistic Workers

WHEREAS, At this forty-seventh session of the General Conference there has been sounded a rallying call for a great evangelistic advance by all our ministers and lay members; and

WHEREAS, The ministers should be in the vanguard in this great forward movement; therefore,

We recommend, That study be given at an Autumn Council to the laying of plans for holding at suitable intervals regional interunion councils where our pastors, evangelists, and Bible instructors can consider related problems and gather inspiration and ideas to help them play their full part in the greatest soul-winning endeavor in our history.

Need of Dietitians

WHEREAS, An acute shortage of qualified dietitians exists in Seventh-day Adventist ranks; and

WHEREAS, Difficulty is encountered in seeking to interest young people to enter this profession; and

WHEREAS, Lack of professional recognition and status is one reason for the inadequate number of students seeking training in this field; therefore,

We recommend, 1. That a qualified dietitian be included as a member of the medical team in our sanitariums and hospitals; and



Left to right: Milton Lee, Frederick Lee, Howard M. Lee, Donald S. Lee, James M. Lee, Frederick Lee is the father of Milton Lee, both missionaries to China. Howard Lee is the father of James Lee and Donald Lee, all missionaries to Korea. Howard Lee and Frederick Lee are brothers. These missionaries, with their wives, represent a total of 180 years in foreign mission service.

2. That more adequate recognition be given to the professional and administrative responsibilities carried by the dietitian in our medical and educational institutions.

*** Spiritual Objectives of Medical Institutions**

WHEREAS, Our medical institutions have been established under divine instruction and guidance to be a large factor in the soul-winning program of the church to the very close of time; therefore,

We recommend, The strengthening of our medical evangelistic activities along the following lines:

1. By a greater emphasis on medical evangelism and health education in our institutions, conferences, and churches.

2. By encouraging our denominational educational leaders, and faculties in academies, colleges, and professional schools to hold before their students the aims and objectives of our health message and that this be accomplished by formal courses of study and by leading the students into actual field activities in these lines.

3. By a wider coverage of medical evangelistic interests in all our denominational publications; and further,

We recommend, 1. That for the strengthening of the leadership of our chaplains in the spiritual activities of our medical institutions a specialized, practical course be developed for chaplains at the Theological Seminary.

2. That the chaplain as the spiritual leader actively participate in planning the over-all spiritual program of the institution.

3. That we encourage all our medical institutions to foster more strongly programs of temperance and health education in their respective areas.

4. That boards of management and conference committees be encouraged to add sufficient qualified personnel, including Bible instructors, more fully to meet the spiritual needs of the institution and do all possible by way of providing counseling rooms, prayer chapels, adequate supply of literature, broadcasting equipment, and such other facilities as the spiritual program of the institution might require.

5. That more frequent opportunity be provided our chaplains to meet to study their program, preferably with institutional administrators joining in this study.

Training of Chefs

WHEREAS, It is generally recognized that there is a shortage of properly trained chefs within our denomination, and inasmuch as at the forty-sixth session of the General Conference a recommendation was passed to inaugurate a program for training chefs; therefore,

We recommend, That this program be implemented and that it be set up on the following basis:

1. To be one academic year in length; to include instruction in healthful, tasteful cooking and baking, simple fundamentals of nutrition, high standards of sanitation, and control of waste and cost.

2. To be given under the direction of

the dietitians at the College of Medical Evangelists Hospital and in such other institutions as may be qualified.

Medical Interns for S.D.A. Institutions

WHEREAS, The matter of supplying interns for our institutions has become an acute problem in that an increasingly large number of internships have been unfilled by our own graduates, during the past two years; and,

WHEREAS, There is a feeling that the policy by which graduates are encouraged to take their internships in the area where they are planning to locate has adversely affected the filling of internships in our own institutions; therefore,

We recommend, 1. That our medical institutions be encouraged to qualify where possible, for the giving of approved internships and residencies.

2. That our medical institutions which offer internships give serious study to the strengthening of their internship programs.

3. That the Medical Department be requested to set up a committee of counsel, including representation from the College of Medical Evangelists, for the purpose of assisting our medical institutions offering internships and residencies by a program of regular inspection, evaluation, and recommendations for the improvement of such programs, in harmony with accepted standards for graduate training.

4. That the College of Medical Evangelists be requested to further strengthen the program of positive encouragement to our medical students throughout the entire medical course to intern in our own institutions.

5. That each conference or mission encourage its sponsored medical students and graduates to consider as first choice an internship in one of our own institutions.

R. R. FIGUHR: We have some more resolutions to present at our session this afternoon. At this time let us stand and sing "America."

[The congregation stood and sang as Rear Admiral A. G. Cook, USN, and Mr. Harry H. Stoops, Civil Defense officials, came onto platform.]

R. R. FIGUHR: We feel highly honored this morning to have with us two representatives from our Government; Elder Haynes will present them to us.

C. B. HAYNES: You are all familiar with the work of civil defense. Eighteen thousand of our church members in North American have prepared themselves for it by taking the First Aid Courses of the American Red Cross. We have with us today Rear Admiral A. G. Cook, USN (retired), Director of Disaster Council and Corps, San Francisco Area. Admiral Cook.

ADMIRAL COOK: Ladies and gentlemen, it is a great privilege and pleasure for me to be here with you today. One of our most important works in civil defense is to try to bring people faith, faith in themselves, faith in their country, faith in what they are doing. The world today faces a great challenge, primarily because the tremendous advance made in material things has not been matched by similar advances in the spiritual and social fields. This great country was built by men of

faith and daring. They had faith in their God, in their neighbor, in themselves, and in their country. They were able and willing to help themselves, and were ready at any time to help their neighbor. In this country, if we are to succeed, we must have a return to these spiritual values, an awakening by every individual to the needs of his own community. Every family, every group, every organization, every individual, who values freedom of conscience, freedom of speech and thought, freedom from fear, must realize that we stand to lose all those vital things that are essential to a full life unless we are willing to stand up and be counted.

Essentially, this means we must have the desire and confidence to do what we can to help ourselves and a willingness to lend a hand to our neighbors and to the community.

I am familiar with the magnificent program for home preparedness that has been carried out by Seventh-day Adventists in Tacoma, Washington. The disaster kit prepared by the members of that congregation would be of tremendous value in any type of emergency. I have never hesitated to copy good things that I saw, because in these days no one community can stand on its own. I sincerely hope that the Seventh-day Adventists in San Francisco and in the entire Bay area will see fit to carry out this program of preparing every home to be a citadel of its own, for it is in the integrity of the home and the spiritual values of the family as a unit that the true strength of America lies.

C. B. HAYNES: Admiral Cook has mentioned our civil defense cooperation, especially in the church at Tacoma, Washington. The pastor of that church is here today. He has produced a disaster kit that has been adopted in civil administration activities, and I recommend it for all of our churches.

Our next speaker is Harry H. Stoops, regional coordinator of the Office of Civil Defense, State of California. Mr. Stoops.

HARRY H. STOOPS: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I should like to talk with you about disaster preparedness. Adventists in the Tacoma, Washington, area have demonstrated their ability to recognize a very important need. We in civil defense and disaster preparedness sincerely hope that the rest of you throughout the country will take this vital idea home with you, and that you'll find out how such a project was accomplished. This, to our way of thinking, is one of the finest things we have seen, and we commend highly Mr. Osgood for his leadership and his people who actually did the work.

Not only have you prepared the material with which to work, but you have taken the next important step. You have taught people what to do and how to do it. It's fine to have a first aid kit, but what good is it if you don't know what to do with it? If disaster should strike, either natural or man made, you and members of your family would be called upon more than ever to take care of yourselves. The telephones would no longer be available to you. The doctors would be busy taking care of other people injured worse than you. So self-sufficiency within a family is to me a vital

point. I think you people have demonstrated that many times, for you have the material and you have the knowledge.

I have been told basically about this kit, and I've had the pleasure of seeing it. I hope the idea catches like wildfire. Let's take this good thing home, and we shall be doing something for ourselves, something for our family, something for our neighbors, and something for our church.

I am told that you people have been vitally interested in first aid. You have some eighteen thousand trained first aiders. Among your own group are more than a thousand trained instructors. I am told further that your Medical Cadet training program has reached some seventeen thousand young men in your colleges and schools. Further, plans are made for the use of your churches and schools in the event of major disaster. I am positive that there is not a church in your denomination that would not be thrown open immediately to take care of the suffering and the homeless wherever disaster might occur. [Applause.]

For those of you that have already recognized the problem and have done something about it, my heartiest congratulations. Your efforts are highly commendable. To those of you who haven't as yet seen fit to get started, take that good idea home with you. Find out who is the civil defense director in your own community. Find out who the Red Cross disaster chairman is. Know what your resources are. Talk to your own people and your own church. Get them interested. Get them trained. Disaster may come. We hope if it has to come, it will be a natural disaster and not man made. Civil defense, basically, is nothing more than an enlargement of disaster preparedness, and we today salute you as a group of people who are well aware of the importance of disaster preparedness. Thank you. [Applause.]

C. B. HAYNES: How many are there here who have taken the first aid courses—either the first or second—home nursing courses, trainers' courses, instructors' training courses, and Medical Corps training? Will you stand?

[Almost the entire congregation stood.]

Mr. Stoops, we are ready to go! I have a telegram received this morning from Val Peterson, national civil defense administrator, Washington, D.C., and former governor of Nebraska. He is a friend of ours. He thinks highly of what Seventh-day Adventists are doing. I will read the telegram:

"PLEASE EXTEND MY WARMEST GREETINGS TO THE 30,000 SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS GATHERED IN WORLD CONFERENCE IN SAN FRANCISCO, TOGETHER WITH MY BEST WISHES FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUCCESS. I AM KEENLY AWARE OF CURRENT ADVENTIST SUPPORT FOR CIVIL DEFENSE AT ALL LEVELS OF INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY. WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT YOUR SUPPORT FOR CIVIL DEFENSE WILL BE GREATLY INTENSIFIED IN THE COMING YEAR."



During the temperance rally the audience was thrilled to hear two youthful orators, Buddy Hadley (right), from Forest Lake Academy, Florida, and John Westeberg, from Union College. Both are winners of the International Temperance Association oratorical awards.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower telegraphed this morning and asked that this telegram be read to you:

"MY WARM GREETINGS TO ALL DELEGATES TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS FOR THEIR VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF CIVIL DEFENSE. I AM PARTICULARLY GLAD TO SEND CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE DELEGATES FROM THE UNITED STATES. TO DELEGATES FROM FOREIGN LANDS, I EXTEND BEST WISHES FOR AN ENJOYABLE VISIT ON THESE SHORES." Dwight D. Eisenhower, White House, Washington, D.C.

R. R. FIGUHR: We surely appreciate the time these gentlemen have taken to come and address us, and we assure them of our cooperation in this magnificent program. And it is a program that should have the cooperation of every Adventist. Meeting adjourned.

BENEDICTION: T. Carcich.

R. R. FIGUHR, *Chairman*,
H. T. ELLIOTT, *Secretary*.

Nineteenth Meeting

June 3, 1954, 3:00 P.M.

CHAIRMAN: R. R. Figuhr.

HYMN: "Onward, Christian Soldiers."

PRAYER: Henry F. Brown.

R. R. FIGUHR: This afternoon we are to receive a report from the International Temperance Association. Elder Scharffenberg, who is secretary of the International Temperance Association, will lead out.

The report of the International Temperance Association was presented.

[See report on page 252, June 4 Bulletin.]

W. A. SCHARFFENBERG: I would like to move that we admit into membership of the International Temperance Association, three new societies: the Austrian Temperance Society in the Southern European Division; the Malayan Temperance Society in the Far Eastern Division; and the Swedish Temperance Society in the Northern European Division. The constitutions of these societies have been adopted, and the organization has been set up by their respective committees. At this juncture I move that we admit these three societies into the International Temperance Association.

[This recommendation was voted.]

R. R. FIGUHR: We shall now turn to the resolution that has to do with our goal for souls for the next period. You will recall that during the preceding quadrennium there were about 480,000 baptisms, with a net gain of about 208,000 members. The suggestion is that we endeavor during the coming quadrennial period, as a minimum goal, to double what we did in the past four years. I believe we can do that. The secretary will read the resolution.

[The resolution was read and after some discussion was adopted as follows:]

Increasing Our Membership

WHEREAS, The remnant church has the one goal of advancing the gospel of Christ to every "nation, kindred, tongue and people," and

WHEREAS, We have God's promise that the work will be "cut short in righteousness,"

We recommend, 1. That during the four-year period, January 1, 1954, to December 31, 1957, we dedicate ourselves to the task of evangelizing the world field by enlisting every gospel worker, every church member, all departments of the church, and every institution in the greatest evangelistic program ever undertaken by the church.

2. That, in our diligent labors toward the realization of this goal, we continue to keep before our workers the vital principle which has been recognized throughout our history as fundamental in all our soul-winning endeavor on the part of both ministry and laity, namely, that those who are added to the church are to be joined to the Lord, soundly converted, thoroughly indoctrinated, and firmly established in present truth.

R. R. FIGUHR: Now we are going to have some pictures.

J. A. BUCKWALTER: The College of Medical Evangelists through the years has made a major contribution to the world mission program of this denomination. We felt that the delegates here today at this world convention would like to see the new picture that has been made regarding the expansion program at C.M.E.

[New film on the College of Medical Evangelists was shown.]

R. R. FIGUHR: We will now have the report of the Colored Department of North America. This will be presented by C. E. Moseley, Jr., the secretary of the department.

[The report of the Colored Department will appear in a later Bulletin.]

R. R. FIGUHR: The Nominating Committee has a report for us. E. D. Dick is the chairman.

E. D. DICK: Your Committee on Nominations would like to present its final report. Brother Bauer, our secretary, will bring on this report.

[See page 227, June 4 Bulletin for the report, which was duly voted.]

Meeting adjourned.

BENEDICTION: C. E. Moseley, Jr.

R. R. FIGUHR, *Chairman*.
W. P. BRADLEY, *Secretary*.

Association of Self-supporting Institutions

By WESLEY AMUNDSEN, *Secretary*

In presenting the report of the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Self-supporting Institutions, perhaps a brief history of the inception of this organization might be of interest.

An action of the 1945 Autumn Council provided for the creation of the Commission on Rural Living and the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Self-supporting Institutions. The commission began to function at the time of the General Conference session in 1946, but the association did not actually come into being until the 1947 Autumn Council.

E. A. Sutherland, M.D., was the first secretary of the commission, and C. B. Haynes, the assistant secretary. This commission later also functioned as the Commission on Self-supporting Enterprises. In 1947 Dr. Sutherland was elected as president of the association, with J. W. McFarland, M.D., as secretary-treasurer. The work of these organizations was directed by special committees set up by the General Conference.

At the time of the General Conference in 1950, Dr. Sutherland resigned both his offices and W. A. Butler was appointed secretary of the commission. W. E. Straw was then serving as president of the association, with Dr. McFarland continuing as secretary-treasurer.

New Organization

In view of the fact that there was some overlapping of promotion and effort by these organizations, a merger was effected by the time of the Grand Ledge meeting in 1951. Election of officers was postponed until the time of the 1951 Autumn Council, at which time L. A. Senseman, M.D., of the Fuller Memorial Sanitarium, was elected as president, with Wesley Amundsen as secretary-treasurer. W. B. Ochs was elected as vice-chairman.

The present organization is directed by a committee of fourteen, seven of whom are appointed by the General Conference Committee, and seven from self-supporting member institutions. A constitution and bylaws set forth the regulations and operating standards for the association.

The secretary-treasurer, as a member of the General Conference staff, works under the direction of the North American Division Committee, and is the active field representative. His salary and expenses, together with office operating expense and stenographic help, are all provided for in the General Conference budget. Association secretaries have been appointed in all of the union and local conferences in North America. They are expected to foster the objectives of the self-supporting work and the rural living program.

The association began in 1947 with a charter membership of twenty-five. By October, 1953, the membership had increased to 138. These members include such institutions as sanitariums, hospitals, clinics, treatment rooms, medical groups, nursing homes, orphanages, schools, nat-

ural food manufacturers and distributors, stores, cafeterias, foundations, and missionary industries.

These member organizations employ more than 2,000 workers and own approximately 9,000 acres of land. The medical institutions provide beds for not less than 2,500 patients. The estimated value of all this property is more than \$9,500,000. The reports from 98 members in 1952 reveal an annual payroll of \$2,697,235.19.

That these self-supporting institutions are an aid in financing the work of God



Wesley Amundsen

is evident from these same reports, for \$252,551.38 in tithe and \$77,138.51 in offerings were sent to the various conferences in one year. Several church buildings have been erected through the generosity of the operators and workers of these medical institutions.

Soul-winning Results

The most important feature of this work is, of course, that which contributes directly to soul winning. We do not have time to relate many of the thrilling experiences that have come to us from the field. Not all missionary experiences are to be found in foreign mission lands; we have them here at home too.

I think of Luella Doub and her twenty-five-bed sanitarium and treatment room in Atlanta, Georgia. Patients return to her for treatments not only to receive physical relief but for the spiritual therapy she provides for their souls. It was through this channel that the noted educator and traveler, Dr. Ambrose Suhrie, now at Southern Missionary College, found the Lord and His Sabbath truth.

We hear of conversions of liquor dealers and criminals, as well as of others. Heart-throbbing stories are told, such as that of the woman fifty years of age, dying from cancer who was brought into Sister Martin's Nursing Home. There was only one bed vacant, and Sister Martin did not take cancer patients as a rule. It must have been God who sent this woman, for at her first contact with Sister Martin she cried out in desperation, "Oh, I am afraid to die! I don't know how to die!" The doctors had given her but three months to live.

Yes, Sister Martin, together with the district pastor, helped this poor lost soul find Christ and His truth. At the end of the three months she died—a Seventh-day Adventist.

Could we have the full story of the seventeen years of medical missionary work carried on by Dr. and Mrs. E. E. Pohle at Tempe, Arizona, I am sure our hearts would be overjoyed. We have been told that not less than two hundred persons rejoice in the truth because of their contact with these medical missionaries. For years they paid the full salary of a minister-chaplain. The church building stands as a memorial to their faith. They have been foster parents to more than twenty drifting youth. Every patient who comes to the Tempe Clinic-Hospital is made a special object of prayer and provided with opportunity to receive spiritual help.

Medical Missionaries

In central California we visited a beautiful modern medical clinic operated by three physicians. Only Seventh-day Adventist literature was provided for patients to read. Each year more than one thousand dollars' worth of our literature is given away. The leading physician conducts Bible classes for patients in the waiting room every Monday night. Many of the patients attend Sabbath school. A full-time Bible instructor is in the employ of this group. Souls are born into the kingdom of God every year.

Our reports indicate that 122 souls were baptized in a recent year as a result of the work done by the member institutions of the A.S.I.

Another group of physicians organized as a nonprofit foundation in the Pacific Northwest. They paid the salary of two Bible instructors who visited the patients of these physicians in their homes. The harvest the first year was over ninety souls, the second year seventy, and the third year between seventy and eighty. This is real medical missionary ministry. The right hand of the gospel thus opens doors for the gospel to enter.

This story could be a long one. From Portland, Maine, to San Diego, California, and from Bellingham, Washington, to Miami, Florida, the lights are shining brightly from scores of these private self-sustaining enterprises. Many experiences as interesting as the ones already related could be told.

We must not close without saying a word about rural living. This phase of denominational life needs to come into clearer focus as we approach the great

(Continued on page 277)

The Southern African Division

By R. S. WATTS, President

We invite you to turn back the pages of time—ten, twenty, thirty-three years—and visit the committee of the then African Division in session. Three men are seated at a table earnestly studying a lengthy agenda. They seem perplexed. The minutes record: "Whereas the constitution of the General Conference requires that not less than five persons shall be empowered to transact any business, and, Whereas the remaining members of the Division Section are not able to meet with us at this time, it was Agreed: That in the absence of the necessary quorum that Brother Casey, representing the medical work, and Brother Jenks the publishing work, be asked to sit for the present as proxy for the members who cannot be with us at this time." And so the problem was solved, and Brother W. H. Branson, as chairman; Brother W. B. Commin, secretary-treasurer, and Brother W. B. White, the only union president, carried on with the business in hand.

That was in August, 1920, thirty-three years ago. At that time the entire membership of the African Division did not exceed 2,200. Truly that was a day of small beginnings, when men of mighty faith moved forward courageously and laid the solid foundation upon which we are now building. Today the sixteen members of the present Southern African Division committee represent 115,574 baptized church members and 86,357 probationary members in that division, scattered over a territory of 3,500,000 square miles.

We desire to express our gratitude to Almighty God for His wondrous love and watchcare over His work and His people in Southern Africa. He has done mighty things in our midst. He has met with us in our councils and providentially opened ways for us to press forward. We express our deep appreciation to the General Conference for its generous gifts of appropriations and special grants during the past years.

Membership and Baptisms

It took the Seventh-day Adventist denomination sixty-nine years to reach the first 100,000 members. The Southern African Division reached this number after sixty-six years of operation. Here are the membership gains during the last two quadrennial periods:

	1946-1949	1950-1953
	44,353-66,349	66,349-115,574
Increase	50%	74%

At the present time there are 86,357 persons enrolled in the Bible classes preparing for baptism. While in these classes these new believers not only study the teachings of the church but become acquainted with the Sabbath school and other church services. They also begin paying their tithe and offerings while in the preparatory classes.

What child of God does not rejoice at

the sound of the word *baptisms*. While we have here to report our baptisms in what may seem to be cold figures, yet these same figures represent to us the souls of sincere men and women to whom the righteousness of Christ has been imputed. These children of God are all candidates for heaven. Listen to the sound of their marching feet toward the kingdom of God: 1946-1949, 32,498; 1950-1953, 64,900. You will notice that our baptisms for the last quadrennial period represent a 100 per cent gain over the baptisms of the previous period. This has greatly cheered our hearts.



R. S. Watts

Evangelism is the lifeblood of the Advent Movement. A continual program of evangelism in all parts of the division is bearing fruit. The South African Union evangelistic team, headed by B. L. Hasenpflug and H. R. Turner, and functioning in the Union of South Africa, have had a successful series of campaigns in the larger cities. Their attractive auditorium and high standard of music have drawn large audiences, and as a result of their labors the Adventist churches in these cities have added many new members. Other evangelistic efforts have been conducted in Afrikaans and English. Some of our busy conference and mission presidents have personally set the pace in public evangelism. In Uganda, Central Africa, M. E. Lind has just finished a most successful effort. There were overflow audiences at most of the services, among whom were influential and professional men from the court of Uganda's king. Hundreds and hundreds of other evangelistic meetings have been held by our many African ministers and teacher-evangelists in all parts of the division.

The large increase in baptisms testify to the splendid results.

Tithes and Offerings

Ingathering figures have mounted steadily year by year. In 1917, at the launching of this campaign in Africa, \$42.50 was the total amount raised. However, the receipts for the year 1953 amounted to \$211,335.07. There are some workers in this field whose final yearly Ingathering totals are as high as \$4,760. J. J. Oosthuizen, of the South African Union, has this record to his credit. Many friends in the business world have been gained and many advantageous contacts have been established that we feel will prove of benefit to the work during the coming years.

The tithe received in the Southern African Division, which comes quite largely through our European conferences, has steadily increased year by year. During the past four years (1950-1953) \$2,001,285.05 was given, and the offerings, excluding Ingathering, amounted to \$493,454.76. These figures declare in clarion tones the faithfulness of our believers and their willingness to speed the message on its way.

Sabbath Schools

The Sabbath schools in the division continue to absorb our interest with their development and activities. Here are comparative figures for 1950 and 1953:

	1950	1953
Number of Sabbath schools	2,452	3,292
Membership	143,422	221,689

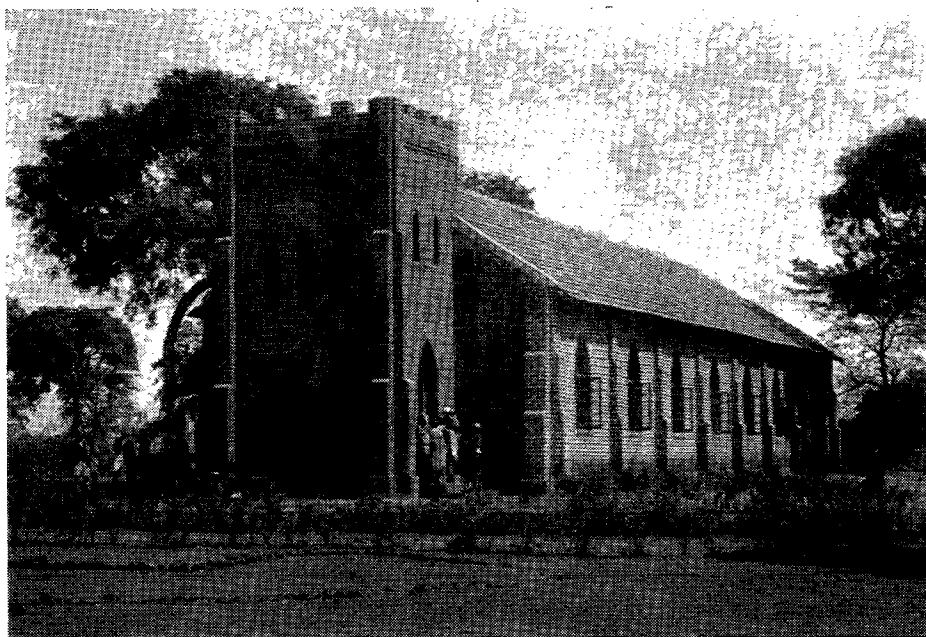
A picture that never fails to thrill is that of the branch Sabbath schools being conducted in isolated villages and among many primitive tribes. At the present time we have 736 of these schools. They are proving a veritable vanguard to evangelism. Our African Missionary Volunteers in their youthful enthusiasm and zeal and their simple trust in God are mainly responsible for conducting these branch schools. Remarkable indeed are the results being achieved.

Missionary Volunteers

The report of our Missionary Volunteers reveals that considerable gains have been made in the investiture of our youth in the pre-Friend classes, and the increase of Master Guides has been phenomenal. During the years 1952-1953, the figures jumped from 8 to 135. In the Union of South Africa a number of well-organized and conducted youth congresses have brought great inspiration and spiritual strength to our young people. Also, European youth camps are held yearly in the Union of South Africa at our two denominationally owned campsites. Sacred indeed is the ground at these camps, for here many of our youth first give their hearts to their Saviour. They return to their homes renewed in mind and spirit, and many become leaders in their churches.

Literature Ministry

As you view the map of the territory of the Southern African Division, perhaps you can visualize 283 men and women—



Church building at Chileka Mission, near Blantyre, Nyasaland, Africa.

Christian colporteurs—driving in the busy streets of modern cities, tramping the jungle paths of dense undergrowth, meeting the high and low, the rich and poor, the intellectual and the ignorant. All these colporteur ministers have but one aim—to leave some truth-filled literature in each home. Can you estimate what the impact of \$634,453 worth of books sold in four years must be having on the thinking of men and women in this country? And can you imagine what results will be revealed when the heavenly records are laid bare for our inspection?

Department of Education

Think of the influence being exerted for the truth by 2,109 teachers upon 78,011 students in our 1,566 schools. These are the figures for the close of 1953. Perhaps the most important development in educational work in the Southern African Division in the past four years has been in the advancement of the level of education. Four years ago there were few schools in the division offering academic work above the eighth grade level. Today, in addition to eleven worker training institutions, there are eight secondary schools in the division. Helderberg College, our advanced school for European students, now offers a full four-year college course leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree. Old Solusi Training School, the denomination's first mission school to the heathen in all the world, began offering academic work on the secondary level recently. The first class of native Africans to sit for full high school external examinations in a Seventh-day Adventist school in Southern Africa will write their examinations at the end of 1954. It is planned to begin college work at Solusi at the beginning of 1955. Thus Solusi will become the Southern African Division's African college for the training of future African leaders.

Three other schools, Sedaven High School in the Transvaal Province of South Africa, Bugema Missionary College in

Uganda, and the Good Hope Training School in the Cape Province of South Africa, now offer full high school work.

Medical Department

Some interesting facts gleaned from the division medical department secretary, Dr. C. Paul Bringle, reveal that in our eleven hospitals and thirty-six dispensaries, nineteen doctors and thirty-three European nurses are carrying on a continually heavy program of medical missionary work. One outstanding item of their meritorious work is the 1,406 lepers treated during 1953. Here is a word from Dr. J. A. Hay, medical superintendent of the Kanye Mission Hospital in Bechuanaland, concerning the new dispensary he has opened at Tshane in the heart of the Kalahari Desert: "This is the land of the Makgalagadi native of Bantu origin, the Hottentot, and the nomadic Bushman. It is one of the most wild and primitive areas remaining undeveloped in all of Africa. The days are almost unbearably hot in summer, but the coming of night brings a welcome coolness, and it is during these hours that the traveling is done. The truck, laboring through heavy sand at a slow speed, must carry a complete range of spare parts, since no help of any kind is available for the round trip of six hundred miles. The Bushmen are the most difficult to reach, because they are nomadic and adhere to almost unbelievably primitive customs and superstitions."

During the period under review our public and press relations department was organized and has made steady progress. Our publicity films *This Is Africa* and *Daybreak Over Africa* have been seen by many thousands of persons, and just last month they were shown in all the leading cities of South Africa.

Many prominent persons—businessmen, professional men, and officials—have had the opportunity of viewing these films. There has been much applause and many expressions of appreciation, but perhaps the most common reaction has

been: "Why haven't you told us about these things before?"

In the past few weeks six press relations workshops have been held in the main centers of the Union of South Africa. This is proving to be a spur to still greater activity in using this method of bringing our denomination and its activities before the public.

Our publicity department has prepared an attractive brochure *We Are Working for a Better World*, setting forth the beginnings, activities, organization, and fundamental beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists. This is being widely distributed in the right quarters.

Religious Liberty Department

There are two areas of activity with which the religious liberty department has been mainly concerned:

1. *Sunday-law enforcement.*—One of the most outstanding religious liberty problems in South Africa has to do with the enforcement of Sunday laws consisting mainly of nineteenth century Sunday laws enacted in the various provinces and ratified by the government of the Union of South Africa when it came into existence in 1910. There are strong forces today championing the enforcement of these laws. This was forcibly drawn to our attention a few months ago when the leading church in South Africa in its synod passed a resolution to ask the government to apply the existing Sunday laws more strictly and to widen their scope. By voice and by pen and by every possible means we are attempting to show the threat to religious liberty inherent in these laws.

2. *Defense force trainees.*—It would seem doubtful with the army setup in South Africa and the small number of white trainees involved that we can hope to establish a recognized medical training system in the foreseeable future. Consequently our young men who are called up for training under the ballot system which prevails in South Africa, must inevitably face some difficulties in adjustment to army life. We are pleased to report, however, that the Department of Defense has taken a liberal view with regard to Sabbath privileges for our young men and reassignment to noncombatant units. It is possible that all young men who so desire can find their way into the army medical corps. The deputy chaplain-general of the South African forces has done and is continuing to do everything possible to help our Seventh-day Adventist boys to solve their problems.

Like streams of light, Bible lessons from the correspondence schools wing their way across the length and breadth of this continent, entering the homes of European and African alike. In the Belgian Congo, French and Flemish lessons tell the wonderful news of Jesus' return. From Cape Town, "the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" are proclaimed in English, Afrikaans, and in three African languages. The division has now provided permanent and adequate buildings for the Voice of Prophecy, not only in Cape Town but in Blantyre, Nyasaland; Elizabethville, Belgian Congo; and Nairobi, East Africa. This is bringing stability to this fast-growing work.

New Institutions

As a mother rejoices over her new child, so the Southern African Division rejoices over the advent of a new institution. This quadrennial period has produced some outstanding additions to our family in the way of hospitals and schools. We would mention Maluti Hospital, built on the slopes of the Maluti Mountains in scenic Basutoland—the Switzerland of South Africa. The name of Yuka has now become familiar to our people around the world as a result of the 1953 third quarter's offering overflow. Situated in the dry, hot sandy country of Barotseland, it can make no boast of beautiful surroundings or modern facilities. But its boast is in the fact that it is situated where there is a great humanitarian need, where it can serve the primitive, disease-ridden peoples of Barotseland and bring the light of truth to their darkened souls.

Another beacon light is shining on the *kopjes* (hills) of the Transvaal in the Union of South Africa. Here, thirty-five miles from Johannesburg, nestling among the hills is our Sedaven High School. Sedaven opened its doors at the beginning of 1951 for the first time to approximately one hundred boys and girls. At the end of 1953 this new academy was dedicated free from debt with an investment in land, buildings, and equipment of about \$150,000! Hillcrest Secondary School, our junior academy in the Cape Conference, also opened its fine modern school building during this period.

Besides these, seven new dispensaries and 176 new village schools have been added to our list of institutions. The rapid advancement of our work in Kenya Colony has made it necessary to divide this territory into three missions. Also, two new missions have been organized in the Congo Union Mission. Many new churches and companies, European, African, and colored, have been established.

We rejoice greatly over these new acquisitions and praise the heavenly Father for the opening providences He has made possible for us.

Conclusion

We believe the most glorious years in Africa are just ahead. Remarkable as has been the expansion in past years, thrilling as has been the way men and women have embraced the message, and inspiring as has been the fidelity and courage of our workers, we believe a still more glorious history has yet to be written of God's work in Africa. The vast stretches of unentered territory in the Congo, Tanganyika, South West Africa, and in the Rhodesias will demand the utmost of our resourcefulness and executive ability. Every worker, yea, every member will be severely tested in the fiery crucible, but heaven's faithful record, we believe, will reveal glorious victories won and thousands more souls saved from sin and degradation.

Time is running short in Africa. Doors once wide open are slowly beginning to close, and might in a moment be slammed shut forever. We must work with rapidity and thoroughness. Unrest, with its convoy of strife, is spreading like fire in the stubble, unsettling the weaker of the flock and bringing perplexity to the leaders. The anti-white man, anti-missionary, anti-Christian spirit among the Mau Mau in East Africa is typical of the spirit that is fomenting underneath among the Africans. And we may find ourselves obliged to finish the work under the most forbidding circumstances.

But none of these ominous signs daunt us, for we still believe that God's thousand ways of finishing the work will bring ultimate triumph to His cause in the midst of apparent chaos, and glorious indeed will be the victories, not only of souls won for the kingdom, but of the perfecting of Christian character.

Self-supporting Institutions

(Continued from page 274)

events of the last days. The call to get out of the large cities is not new. God never intended that His people should live in congested areas. A home on the land has been His ideal for every Christian family. The Word of God opens with a garden and closes with a garden.

For the past thirty years the trend has been away from the land, especially toward the large industrial centers. Nevertheless, the fourteen million rural homes that remain produce nearly 65 per cent of the children born in the United States.

Counsel to Leave Cities

Fifty years ago the Lord sent messages to this people counseling them to get out of the large cities. The call to work the cities from rural outposts was first sent to our educational, medical, and publishing institutions. This counsel was broadened to include Seventh-day Adventist families in general. Not that all Seventh-day Adventists should necessarily become farmers, but that they should, as the Lord opened the way, move into rural areas.

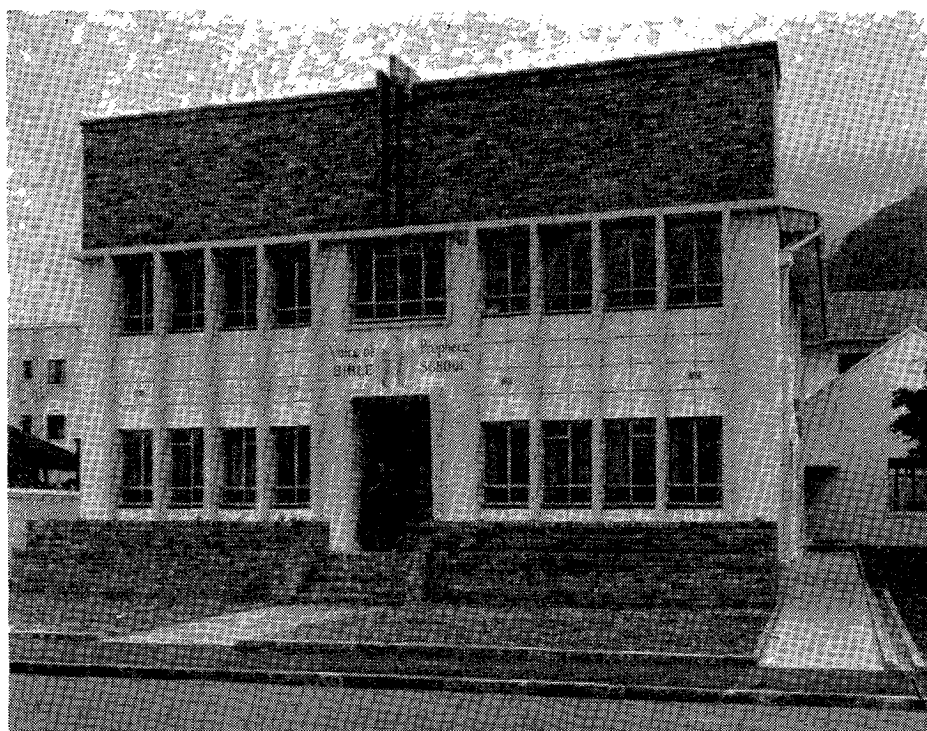
The first Agricultural and Rural Living Workshop in this denomination was conducted at Emmanuel Missionary College in December, 1953. The purpose of this workshop was to study ways and means whereby the out-of-the-cities plan could be made more workable through the process of education. City people must be educated to know how to make the transition from city to rural life. This workshop was sponsored and developed by the Lake Union Conference.

More recently the Southern Union Conference conducted a joint meeting of home missionary and rural life work. The purpose of this meeting was to encourage people living in congested areas to move out into towns, villages, and rural areas where there are very few, if any, Seventh-day Adventists, to establish various types of industries and agricultural pursuits. Some have followed this counsel.

This is but another chapter in the rapidly unfolding chain of activities carried on by this denomination. There is still much to be done. Opportunities are unlimited for Christian physicians, nurses, medical technicians, and others trained in medical missionary lines, to establish medical missionary centers for God. There are vast unentered areas in North America. Missionary families must be trained and encouraged to enter these neglected places.

We are reminded of the following counsel that God has sent to His church regarding the finishing of the work: "The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising the membership of our churches rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 352.

The hour is late. The time is now. We must crowd the closing hours of probation with greater efforts to harness every potential lay worker in the church. May the Lord give wisdom and power for this work.



New Voice of Prophecy building in Cape Town, South Africa.

The North American Division

By W. B. OCHS, Vice-President

"The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build." Neh. 2:20. These words have been an encouragement and inspiration to the workers and believers in the North American Division since we last met in General Conference session. The prospering hand of God has been over His work. His people have gone forward in faith, building up the various branches of denominational endeavor. We recognize that God's command to His church and His people has ever been, "Arise and build." His work is to be built up not only in the homeland but in all parts of the world field, and this is to be done by giving our sons and daughters for foreign service and our means to support the worldwide program.

The North American Division is but a link in the great chain of the Advent Movement that encircles the globe. We feel that the message in Isaiah 54:2 is applicable to the North American Division in a special sense. To us God says: "Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes." The prophet challenges the church to grow, to expand, to go beyond her own borders, to conquer new fields. The commission given her is, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

A Mighty Work to Be Done

In commenting upon the words of the prophet the messenger of the Lord wrote: "God's people have a mighty work before them, a work that must continually rise to greater prominence. Our efforts in missionary lines must become far more extensive. A more decided work than has been done must be done prior to the second appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. God's people are not to cease their labors until they shall encircle the world."—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, pp. 23, 24.

The members in the North American Division believe that the needs at home must not dim their vision of the greatness of the unfinished task beyond their own borders. We recognize that we must have a worldwide vision, for "where there is no vision, the people perish." It was in a vision that Paul saw a man from Macedonia beseeching him, saying, "Come over into Macedonia, and help us." Through the years our people in the homeland have learned that the more they do at home, the more they will want to do in foreign lands.

The surest way for the church to wither and die spiritually and financially is for her to cease to support foreign missions. Although the North American Division has for its territory the United States, the Dominion of Canada, the territory of Alaska, the Hawaiian group, and the island of Bermuda, we are ever conscious that our mission field is the world. We look beyond our borders and see the millions who still are without a knowl-

edge of the truth of God, who do not know the One who gave His life for them. We are most grateful that God has given us in this division a missionary-minded people, who demonstrate their loyalty by giving their full support to the worldwide program of the church.

You will rejoice with us to know that during the last quadrennial period, which covers the years 1950 to 1953 inclusive, our people in the North American Division gave \$99,848,934.23 in tithe and gave and raised \$69,221,817.71 for home and foreign missions, or a grand total of \$169,070,751.94. This is a gain in tithe



W. B. Ochs

and offerings over the previous period of \$46,890,289.23. It represents more than 75 per cent of the money given and raised in the world field. In Ingathering alone we raised \$13,187,962.38 during the quadrennial period, an increase of \$3,365,327.31 over the previous period.

Besides giving and raising these millions of dollars to support the cause of God in all lands, our conferences and churches in this division, from 1950 to 1953 inclusive, built or purchased 509 churches at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars. In addition to the cost of building or purchasing these new churches, it was necessary to construct additional buildings to accommodate the growing needs of our medical and educational institutions. Surely the Lord has been good to His people in this division. We pledge ourselves to continue to support the cause of God in all the world, that the coming of the Lord might be hastened.

We also are glad to report that during the quadrennial period 495 missionaries

were sent from the North American Division to the various countries of earth. Thus the stakes were strengthened and the cords lengthened.

We know that the success of an organization is not measured merely by the amount of money that is given or raised but also by the number who are won to the Lord. The purpose of our existence as a denomination is to save those who are living in sin. We recognize that we have fallen far short of the goal set at the time of the 1950 General Conference session; namely, to double our membership. The Bermuda Mission, within the Atlantic Union territory, is the only one that has doubled its membership in these four years. The gain for the entire division was 13.4 per cent. However, this slogan or goal to double our membership was kept before our workers and church members, and it proved to be a real inspiration to do greater things for God in the winning of souls.

In the various departments within the organization the need of doing personal work has been emphasized, and the results have been most gratifying. Our workers and laity have labored hard, and through their united and untiring efforts they have won 68,416 souls to Christ during this period. The membership at the close of 1949 in the division was 243,193. At the close of 1953 it was 275,733, or an increase of 32,540.

It will be of interest to note that during this last quadrennial period we have made progress in our work among the Jews. On Sabbath, March 6, 1954, we dedicated the first and only Seventh-day Adventist Jewish church in the division, which has a membership of more than fifty. We believe that this is but the beginning of a greater work that is to be done among "the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Public Evangelism

Time or space does not permit me to mention all the soul-winning agencies or avenues that have made this report possible. The following are but a few of the many that might be mentioned.

Nothing is more effective in soul winning than the preaching of the gospel, or evangelism. The time in which we live demands a new emphasis on soul-winning evangelism. Today we need men whose whole lives are devoted to this work. The eighteenth century is known as the evangelistic century. The political upheavals, the social degradation, became the evangelistic opportunity. The challenge for a greater, a better, and a more successful soul-winning evangelism comes to us today. Our conferences in the North American Division have accepted this mighty challenge. The actions on evangelism passed at the time of the Fall Councils have been taken very seriously. We dare not fail the thousands of honest souls who are reaching out to God for help. We must not be so busy with the routine work of the church that we shall neglect that which is most essential—the salvation of souls. These must be won through evangelistic efforts—yes, through every avenue God has given us to win them.

One of our evangelists held three efforts

REVIEW AND HERALD

in one year and baptized more than two hundred. The offerings received took care of most of the expenses, including the radio broadcasts. Another evangelist held two efforts. In one, sixty were baptized and in the other the church membership was doubled. Among the converts in one of the efforts a minister of another denomination was baptized. At the present time this man serves as elder of the church.

Not only have our evangelists and pastors carried on this evangelistic work, but some of our conference presidents have so planned their work that they could hold evangelistic efforts. One of these, after serving only a short time as president, felt the need of holding revival services in the churches. These meetings were held not only to spearhead future evangelism but also to garner in and to secure decisions from those who formerly had been interested in the truth. The office of this president is in a city where the members needed a new church building. They were unsuccessful in securing an evangelistic company, so the president began a radio program some three months prior to the opening of an evangelistic campaign. This was a fifteen-minute, five-day-a-week program. It was followed by an evangelistic effort that continued for five months. Meetings were held three nights a week. Five hundred came to the first meeting, and the interest continued through to the end of the campaign. When the effort closed, forty-eight were added to the church through baptism.

Another avenue of soul-winning evangelism is the wonderful work that is being done through the Voice of Prophecy radio program. At the close of 1953 the Voice of Prophecy was on 562 stations in the North American Division. Today hundreds are rejoicing in the truth of God who can trace their first contact with the message to the radio work. The Voice of Prophecy has grown tremendously. The order and mailing department each month mails 18,000 letters, 20,000 books-for-the-month, 15,500 Voice of Prophecy radio lectures, 115,000 copies of the Voice of Prophecy News, 150,000 Voice of Prophecy radio logs, 95,000 Bible correspondence school lessons, and 2,000 Bible school diplomas. Two and a half tons of books and Bible lessons are shipped overseas monthly.

The newest evangelistic endeavor has been developed during the past quadrennial period—the Faith for Today tele-

cast. It began on a single New York City outlet in May, 1950. Later it became the world's first denominationally sponsored network telecast when it went on an eleven-station network of the American Broadcasting Company. Our Adventist TV program is the oldest religious telecast, not only on ABC, but on any network. Its format has been studied and used as a model by other denominations.

Although we pay for time on only twelve stations, the network has grown to eighty-five, with the greatest period of expansion in 1953. So acceptable was the telecast that in that one year alone sixty stations asked for the privilege of presenting this program as a public service. 83 per cent of existing TV sets are covered by our present network.

This television ministry is unique in two respects: first, it is announced each week as a presentation of the Seventh-day Adventist churches in North America; and second, it focuses attention on our lay members as they and the TV pastor discuss everyday problems. The solution leads to the unfolding of Bible truths for these last days. For thousands of viewers this is their first chance to see a real live Seventh-day Adventist. Some seek out the church and ask admittance to membership immediately. Generally, however, they enroll in the Bible correspondence school, which was opened in 1952.

Typical of this group is the New York City couple who studied their Bible lessons separately, for the husband was an officer on a tanker on the Great Lakes. When they reached the Sabbath truth both accepted it and decided to find the Adventist church. Their first day was communion Sabbath, but so tenderly were they welcomed by the members and so carefully was the service explained that they left the church under deep conviction. The husband soon gave up his work, buying a farm in the country, so he could keep the Sabbath. Here they looked up the nearest Adventist church, and reported that they were from Faith for Today!

Faith for Today mail response has seen a phenomenal growth. Sixty-six requests for Adventist literature came in after the first telecast. Now the weekly mail is between four and five thousand. Viewers also share in the expense of the telecast. They donated \$12,000 the first year, raising that amount to \$60,000 the second. Last year more than \$90,000 came in, and over \$120,000 is expected in 1954.

We must not forget our faithful Bible instructors and the part they play in this soul-saving evangelism. They are the ones who go from home to home and get acquainted with those who hear the sermons. They are the ones who study the truths with these people and prepare them for baptism. The Bible instructors not only seek them out individually but gather them in groups and study the Word of God with them. Only the records in heaven will reveal their true part in the salvation of the thousands who are joining the people of God and who will be saved. Our evangelists, pastors, and Bible instructors have had most thrilling experiences. These help us to appreciate how the Lord is leading the workers in finding those who are seeking for truth.

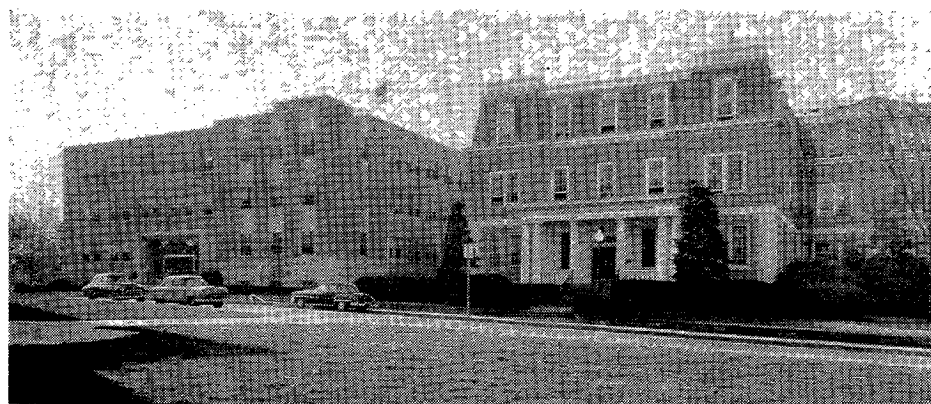
Interested Couples Won to Truth

From an effort held in a city in the Middle West comes the following report: "An elderly couple attended our meetings last fall and heard many of the truths presented. They first heard of this message in a little book they purchased from a secondhand bookstore for four cents. The name of the book was *The Bible Made Plain*. They believed the truths they found in this book and quickly recognized when they came to the meetings that the sermons were the same Bible doctrines as were taught in this little book. They accepted the truth, and today are members of our church."

One of our workers gives us this thrilling experience: "A man and his wife were devout Catholics. In their desire to find out who the Antichrist was they wrote to our church. They had previously been given some literature by another denomination, teaching that the Antichrist would appear in 1954. Shortly after this they noticed an ad in the newspaper stating that an evangelist was going to discuss the subject of the Antichrist in one of the hotels of the city, so they attended the meeting. When the invitation was given for all who wished literature on the subject to sign cards, they were among those who signed. A Bible instructor took the requested literature to their home, and on finding such good interest, decided to try to persuade them to take Bible studies. After forty-five minutes of persuasion, they agreed, thinking that they might convert the Bible instructor to the Catholic faith. They were pleasantly surprised to find that the instructor did not tear down the Catholics as a people but was endeavoring to show them the true light through the Bible. These people were baptized at the close of the series of studies, and their four children will soon be ready for baptism."

During an effort held in another city a man was baptized because he found one of our handbills on the bus. It so happened that one of our members was a driver for the city tramway. When he took the bus over for his shift he put a handbill in each seat. The man was on his way home from downtown when he picked up the handbill. He was so interested in the subject that he never went home, but got off the bus and took another bus back to the church. This man is now a member of our church also.

During the past four years God has



The General Conference and Review and Herald buildings.

signally blessed the soul-winning efforts of our strong laymen in North America who engage in the public presentation of truth in our churches, halls, schoolhouses, and cottage meetings.

The North American Laymen's Congress held in the late summer of 1951 gave great impetus to lay evangelistic activities. At that congress it was decided that on Sunday, November 11, lay evangelistic efforts should be launched simultaneously throughout North America. The total number of these lay evangelistic projects that started on that day was 4,237. This plan has become known as the United Laymen's Advance.

Work of Lay Preachers

More than 5,000 consecrated lay preachers are enrolled in this special lay evangelism work. They have been organized into 427 Lay Preaching Service Companies. With the cooperation of faithful church members, they have held 2,204,965 Bible studies and cottage meetings during the past four years. The following is but an example of the many experiences that have come to our laymen:

A Catholic family who took Bible studies from a layman decided to keep the Sabbath. Friday evening as they were preparing for their first Sabbath, the Catholic man was visited by his three brothers and his mother. They told him that they had come to change his mind. This they hoped to accomplish through force. Two of the brothers held his arms out straight while the third brother proceeded to beat him unmercifully. His wife, children, and mother looked on until one of them fainted. This experience at first discouraged the Catholic family. Our members, however, prayed earnestly that God would overrule in this matter. Providentially further studies were arranged, and within a few months the family were baptized. Because of their faithfulness the Lord prospered them in spite of the fact that they were told by their Catholic relatives that they would starve to death or would be begging for food.

This is but one of the scores of experiences that could be given to show God's saving power in the lives of those who have been won by our lay members.

Soul-winning Bible Schools

Our Bible schools are soul-winning agencies. The Voice of Prophecy alone had 651,067 requests for the Bible correspondence school lessons during the quadrennial period in the North American Division. Among other Bible schools we have the School of Bible Prophecy, conducted by the Southern Union Conference. This school was organized in 1951. By the end of 1953 they had enrolled 264,000 students for the first course and some 20,000 in the advanced course. At the time this report was written seventeen were working in the office and six ordained ministers were in the field doing nothing but follow-up work.

A little more than a year ago a correspondence Sabbath school was started as a means of keeping in touch with the thousands who are not yet in contact with our churches. Over five thousand are enrolled in the Sabbath school course.

The names of the people are secured almost solely from the efforts of the church members who go out and visit the homes of the people and secure these enrollments, or who write or telephone to their neighbors and friends. Thousands and thousands of our laity enter into this work wholeheartedly. This surely is a fulfillment of that which has been written in the Spirit of prophecy regarding the necessity of our laity uniting their efforts with the ministry in helping to finish the work.

As a result of the good work done by this school, over fourteen hundred have been baptized during the three years of the school's existence. The school has set sixteen hundred baptisms for its goal in 1954. This goal should be raised readily, because at the close of 1953 the Sabbath-keeping list of those not yet baptized was more than six thousand. What has already been witnessed convinces us that this is one of the most economical soul-winning programs ever instituted among this people and apparently the most effective in winning souls. Each week thrilling experiences come to the office from those who are studying the Bible lessons. We give but one.

Prayer for Healing

"One of our lay members interested their neighbor in the Bible school last September. This man and his wife showed only a passing interest as they began their studies, but late in September their little boy, Bobby, about eleven years old, was stricken with polio. On the first of October the mother wrote a very appealing letter asking us to pray for this boy, that the Lord might heal him. They had not come to the Sabbath question, and I am not sure that they knew what we were. On December 12 the mother wrote us as follows:

Within the Veil

By EDITH SMITH CASEBEER

Think it not strange, beloved,
Though fiery trial come,
Think it not strange;
Within the veil
Thy soul doth have its home.

In secret place abiding,
In faith and trust serene,
Lean on thy God;
Within the veil
Thy hope has ever been.

So seek that place, beloved,
And find God's stronger hand;
Heed not the dark;
Within the veil
God's light and truth still stand.

Christ is thy light, beloved,
And He thy shield and strength;
This trial must pass,
And thou shalt see
'Twas someway best, at length.

'Twas someway best, beloved,
Though time may not reveal
The reason why;
Within the veil,
There is thy balm,
The only balm to heal.

"'Bobby, for whom you prayed for polio, has made a miraculous recovery. Although he had bulbar paralytic polio, and pneumonia, was in an iron lung with continuous oxygen, his throat paralyzed, and not able to eat or talk, he is well on the way to recovery and has no paralysis or other residual effects, other than those resulting from any serious illness. Thank you for your prayers. We are attending a baptismal class and will be baptized on December 19.'"

Colporteur Work

God is using our literature in a most wonderful way to bring souls into the church. In the North American Division during 1953 we had an average of 1,566 colporteurs. Their lives are dedicated to God and to His service, and they have a definite part in finishing the work. During the four-year period in this division \$14,665,683.64 worth of literature was sold by our colporteurs. This is an increase of \$54,348.71 over the previous four-year period. We know that our truth-filled literature was instrumental during the quadrennial period in helping many souls to accept the Lord and His truth. Marvelous experiences come to our faithful colporteurs as they go from door to door and place our books in the homes of the people. A colporteur sends in this experience:

"I have been a colporteur evangelist as long as I have been a Seventh-day Adventist. It was a successful young woman colporteur who encouraged me to leave the farm and give book selling a try. Later this young woman became my wife. I began as a full-time colporteur in Minneapolis. Near my home I sold a number of full-message books to a family. They became interested, and four of them were baptized into church membership. One night while attending a prayer service with a sincere group who were seeking light, I was asked to make a contribution, and responded by reading two pages from *Steps to Christ*. When the leader inquired, "What are you?" I was impressed to respond that I was the least of the brethren and the chief of sinners. As they knelt in prayer one woman asked the Lord to bless me in my work. That prayer was surely answered, for several in attendance purchased books and twenty of this group accepted the message through this one effort."

This brother has continued in the literature ministry and now has 125 souls baptized into the truth directly as a result of his work.

I am sorry that space does not permit my telling about the wonderful work accomplished through other soul-winning agencies such as the Sabbath school, the Share Your Faith work, our educational and medical institutions, and all other departments within the organization. We are most grateful for what has been done, but we are not satisfied with past records or accomplishments. As we place our all upon the altar, we acknowledge that our greatest need is the indwelling of the Spirit of God in our lives. Sensing this need, we shall ever keep in mind that His work will be accomplished, "not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zech. 4:6).

An Evening With the Northern European Division

June 1, 1954, 8:00 P.M.

A. F. TARR: We welcome you all most sincerely to this meeting, during which we shall render the report of the Northern European Division. Five union conferences in Northern Europe, the mission unions of West Africa and Ethiopia, and the detached conference of Iceland constitute what some of us consider to be the most interesting and inspiring of all the world divisions—the Northern European Division. In order that you may have some idea of the entity of each union, the delegates in national costumes representing their respective fields will come separately to the platform.

[Delegates from the different union fields of the division march onto the rostrum.]

The spirit of the Vikings is not dead yet. Blazing the trail of the Advent message far beyond the Arctic Circle, and of missionaries at present actively engaged in the Faroe Islands and Greenland, West Africa and Ethiopia, we have the West Nordic Union, whose home territory is in Norway and Denmark. Alf Lohne, the union president, accompanies his delegation.

That gallant little country of Finland and its stronger neighbor Sweden constitute the East Nordic Union. In common with the West Nordic Union, it stretches far into the Arctic Circle; it incorporates portions of Lapland with its quaint, sturdy people, and it has as its eastern neighbor the Soviet Union. Pastor C. Gidlund, the union president, accompanies his delegation. We also have with that delegation tonight some of those

who because of international changes are now in countries not represented at this meeting. We accord some of these Estonians an honored place in our group.

Guarding through the centuries its beloved shores against the never-ceasing onslaught of tides and waves, and with ancestors who boldly sailed uncharted seas, we have this undaunted country of the Netherlands. F. J. Voorthuis, the union president, leads his delegation.

England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales constitute the old ancestral home of so many in the audience tonight. Associated with these countries are revered names like Wycliffe, Latimer, Ridley, John Knox, William Carey, the Judsons, the Moffats, the Wesleys, David Livingstone, and women like Florence Nightingale. The spirit that actuated these courageous men and women still lives in the British Isles.

The delegates of that union are led by its president, W. W. Armstrong. The most distant of all our fields is the Ethiopian Union, with its ancient traditions and heritage and religion. Its territory is comprised of Ethiopia, Eritrea, the Somalilands, and southern Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Their delegation tonight is led by S. A. Broberg, the union president.

The West African Union incorporates the countries of Gambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, the Gold Coast, Nigeria, Dahomey, Togoland, the Ivory Coast, and part of the Cameroons. It is in this union that the message is winning the largest number of converts. Awakening from an age-long sleep, these countries today are

reaching out after education and Christianity, and are taking their place among the self-governing nations of the world. J. O. Gibson, the president, leads this delegation.

On the raised portion of this great platform we have a group of the division's former workers—workers of whom we are very proud, and on whose enduring foundations we now gratefully build. In the front row we have some of our division headquarter's staff.

[Division staff and their wives introduced to delegates.]

[Song and Prayer.]

A. F. TARR: The hearts and hands and voices of our 36,365 baptized believers and many thousands of other Sabbathkeepers in the Northern European Division are united with yours in the glorious task of meeting the opportunities prepared by the Lord. We wish that all of these faithful believers might be with us tonight so that you could see what a happy, united family our division really is.

The president's report will appear in the General Conference Bulletin, and you may read it there.

[See page 207, June 3 Bulletin for Elder Tarr's report.]

Tonight, we want you to hear from the union leaders, and some of their associate workers. Before they speak I am going to ask our secretary, E. B. Rudge, to give you in four minutes some of the high lights statistically of our division.

E. B. RUDGE: On the screen you will see some of the high lights of our statistical information. In our division there are thirty countries. Work is being done in thirty-five languages. Our population is around 160,000,000. Our membership exceeds 46,000. During the four-year period, 14,365 members were baptized. Like all the rest of the world, we accepted the double-the-membership goal. We haven't attained that. Throughout the division the membership gain is 26 per cent. However, Ethiopia has attained the goal and exceeded it. Their attainment was 115 per cent over the previous period. We rejoice in this, for this is probably the most ancient of the world kingdoms, and it is today receiving with new interest the message of God.

West Africa, our largest field, had a gain of 82 per cent, very remarkable in their circumstances.

We are happy to report that after many years of waiting, Greenland is beginning to receive the message. Last year Brother Nielsen of Denmark went up, spent a few weeks, worked very hard, met bitter opposition, but succeeded in winning some for the kingdom. And this June he goes again, fortified by an assistant minister.

I want to call your attention to the sixty-one new church buildings. While the number sixty-one is not large by comparison with attainments elsewhere, when you remember that most of these sixty-one new buildings were provided in the countries of Europe that suffered so severely from the ravages of war and the restrictions that followed, you will realize that the hand of God has blessed this feature of endeavor.

For five years our Bible correspondence schools have been working. The enroll-



An over-all picture of the rostrum filled with the delegates representing all parts of the Northern European Division, with the exception of Poland.

ments are close to 112,000. We rejoice that of those enrollees, 2,770 men and women and young people have been baptized.

The literature ministry has received constant and careful consideration in all our fields. We had an average of 360 colporteurs throughout this period. The gains in deliveries over the previous year are in excess of \$105,000.

We have carried on an extensive medical service. In the year 1953 alone, our medical workers cared for more than 290,000 patients. Of this number, 135,000 were cared for in Ethiopia and West Africa.

The last fact I want you to note concerns the immensity of the task that still faces us. I call to your attention the relationship of our worker force in each of our fields to the population. In Iceland we have one worker to every 22,000 people. In the West Nordic Union, where the work has gone on since around 1870, we have one worker to every 62,000 people. This does not mean one ordained minister. The workers are spread over the various worker groups, from the early beginner to the more experienced and mature worker. West Africa has one worker to 72,000 people. The East Nordic Union, one to 86,000 people. Ethiopia, one to 104,000 of its people. The Netherlands Union, one worker for 245,000 of its people. In the British Union we have one worker to 315,000 people.

In the mission lands a great deal has been done, but there remains much yet to be attained. We are profoundly grateful to the General Conference for having given to us the evangelistic center in the city of London. Within a circuit of fifteen miles of that new gallery center there are ten million people.

A. F. TARR: Now, Elder Lohne, president of the West Nordic Union, will report.

ALF LOHNE: From Greenland, which was opened for the first Adventist missionaries just a few months ago, we have just received a special greeting. It comes from the first two Sabbathkeepers among the Greenlanders. They write: "Bring our hearty greetings to all our big brothers. We meet you each day before the throne of God."

Similar warm greetings come from all the other 8,500 members in the West Nordic Union. Since the last General Conference, 1,600 new members have been taken into church fellowship.

All our conference presidents join the evangelists in their soul-winning work. In the last quadrennium the conference presidents have brought into the church 10 per cent of all souls won in the union. We sometimes find it difficult to win people who already have fixed religious habits. But we have now started a work which is very promising. In Denmark more than one thousand children are crowding into our churches to study the Sabbath school lessons. Already some of these children have been baptized. Others are joining the junior societies and are attending the Danish junior college.

The literature work has reached great heights. During the last four years ap-

proximately 140,000,000 pages of Adventist literature were sold, an average of twenty pages for every citizen in the West Nordic Union.

In the arctic part of Norway we have a mission boat visiting the otherwise inaccessible islands and fjords. In one place the colporteur aboard the boat found sixteen Sabbathkeepers we had not known about before. They belong to the tribe of the Lapps, and had kept the Sabbath for several years as a result of studying the Bible by themselves.

Together with an Adventist doctor I visited one of these Lapps, who was sick in his tent. After the doctor had treated him, he said to me, "Are you papa? Can you help me?" *Papa* means "priest," or "minister," in the Lappish language. I said, "Yes. What can I do for you?"

He said, "I want to be good. But there is so much evil in my heart. How can I become good?" I sat on the floor of his tent. He was lying on reindeer skins, and he opened his soul to me. He told me of his wife, who had died a few years before. He told of the long winter nights when, on his skis, he had watched the reindeer, to keep them from the wolves. He had been thinking about eternity, wondering whether he would ever see his wife again. I was glad to tell him, this old sick Lapp, of Jesus, who came to heal those having a sick and unclean heart. I was glad to tell him of the soon-coming Saviour, who will wake up the dead, and of the day when there would be no more sickness and death.

When we left he grasped my hand and said, "You are young. I am old. I may never meet you again. But when the great day comes, of which you have told me today, I hope to see you again." I hope to meet that old Lapp again, and I hope you will meet him, together with thousands of believers from the West Nordic Union.

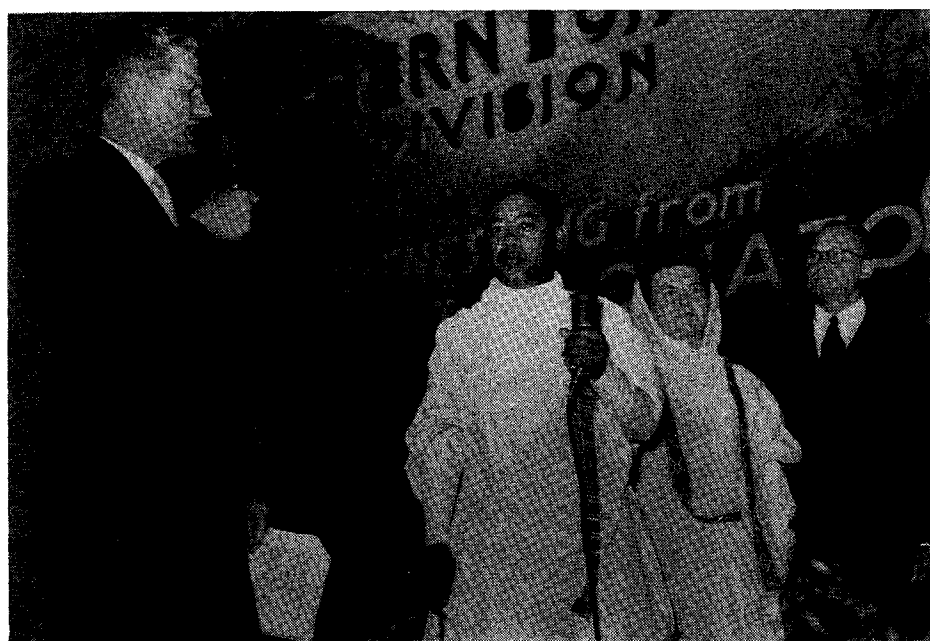
A. F. TARR: Now we shall hear from Pastor Gidlund, president of the East

Nordic Union. In one conference of his field lives Brother Zeigland, who has been a colporteur for sixty-one continuous years. Last year, at the age of seventy-six, his working hours numbered 1,629. Only one other colporteur in Finland exceeded this.

C. GIDLUND: In the East Nordic Union we have been happy to present the soul-winning Advent message, centered around Jesus Christ and Him crucified. In Finland we have several women evangelists, one of whom has met with outstanding success in cooperation with her Bible instructor.

Last winter, while conducting an effort in a certain town, she held meetings practically every night in surrounding villages, driving there in spite of snow. Fifty souls were won. There are a number of successful men evangelists. One baptized sixty as a result of one effort, in which the interest had been so great that for a period of four to five months he had to give the same sermon three times a week, because the four hundred seats in the hall were quite inadequate for the large number who came.

In Sweden is an evangelist who has held out to the bitter end in order to win souls for Christ. For an entire year he was unable to conduct any effort because of a grave skin disease. But last autumn he began a public effort in one of the larger cities of Sweden. I warned him not to, but he couldn't withhold himself. For several months he faithfully proclaimed the message, in spite of the very great physical pain he suffered, until it came to the point, one night, that after delivering the sermon he had to be carried down from the pulpit into an ambulance and taken directly to the hospital. Calling his wife, the doctors gave no hope for his life, but although two months have passed since then, his condition is no worse. That very same evening, however, fourteen souls decided to yield themselves to Jesus Christ, and a letter received after



E. L. Minchin conducted a spirited interview with several members of the Northern European Division mission territory workers. Pastor Dessie Kassahun, with "mike" in hand, is about to report. Near him is Miss Irene Eide and, extreme right, S. A. Broberg, superintendent of the Ethiopian Mission.

my arrival here reports that all of them have been baptized, and many more are coming. This is the kind of spirit many of our workers reveal.

Through our Bible correspondence schools this message reaches even inside prison walls, bringing out men whom God has made over.

From this little land comprising the territory of the East Nordic Union, more than 8,500 church members send you greetings. We are thankful to God for the 1,900 new members baptized into this message during the last four-year period.

[Vocal duet by Mrs. A. F. Tarr and T. J. Bradley.]

A. F. TARR: Pastor Voorthuis, president of the Netherlands Union, will bring us his report.

F. J. VOORTHUIS: I bring the greetings of the 2,243 members in the Netherlands Union. First I want to thank all the brethren and sisters who helped Holland last year when the North Atlantic storm destroyed part of our country. Seventh-day Adventists in several countries sent food, clothes, and money, so we could help the victims. Just before I left the Netherlands we wrote the government that our denomination would be willing to take care of the library for a youth center in a destroyed section of Zeeland. We thought that we could give them the best books.

[Elder Voorthuis presented the two local conference presidents of the Netherlands Union dressed in native garb.]

F. J. VOORTHUIS: It is not easy to work in our country, where the state churches are very strong and where the Calvinistic doctrines have influenced the people for many hundreds of years, but the work of God grows steadily. We have our own college and a Bible correspondence school. I believe it is one of the greatest soul-winning agencies ever employed by our church. During the last four years we enrolled about 18,000 people, and have baptized 204 who followed the Bible course. Every week our Dutch radio program is broadcast over Radio Luxembourg. Since January, 1950, 2,500 listeners have enrolled in the Bible school. Many of our listeners have written that they have received great blessings and strength and that they feel that the Spirit of God is in it.

Our publishing house at The Hague was completely destroyed in 1945, but we now publish seven periodicals and several books and pamphlets. In the last four years we sold 837,000 evangelistic magazines. So the people in Holland know that there is an Advent Movement, and we hope and pray that our work may bear rich fruit.

In our children's home there are sixty to eighty orphans who need special care. Some of them stay for years and accept the truth.

In a beautiful section of the Netherlands we started an old people's home, and in a few weeks will have about fifty brethren and sisters there.

Pray for our work in Holland, that we may give a strong, clear witness to the people and that we may be true servants of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A. F. TARR: Next we are going to hear from Elder Armstrong, president of the

British Union. This union has been greatly blessed in having from the General Conference the services of Elders George Vandeman and Ben Glanzer, and Dr. Wayne McFarland, for the great campaign in London.

W. W. ARMSTRONG: I bring you warm greetings from the 7,200 members in Great Britain. As I look at this vast audience, I think of the impressive moment in the last General Conference when Elder Branson asked us all to stand in consecration to the finishing of the task. I know that the British delegation returned with the determination to make evangelism the chief thing in its work.

We appreciate the wonderful gift that came from the General Conference, which enabled us to purchase the New Gallery, that splendid building right in the heart of London on Regent Street, one of London's best streets. And we are deeply grateful to Elder and Mrs. Vandeman and their associates.

We have endeavored in Great Britain to gear all of our departmental activities to evangelism, and I want to show you what I mean. I would like Brother Craven and Brother Warland to come to the microphone for a moment. Brother Craven is the manager of the Stanborough Press. Brother Craven, will you tell us what has happened to the book work in Great Britain?

J. H. CRAVEN: If you compare the sales of the past two quadrenniums, you will see that our sales have increased by \$280,000. We have sold 84,000 subscription books, an increase of 15 per cent.

W. W. ARMSTRONG: What about the periodicals, Brother Craven?

J. H. CRAVEN: We had a grand gain there too. We sold 1,211,486 more periodicals, an increase of 26 per cent over the previous quadrennium.

W. W. ARMSTRONG: This institution lives for evangelism, and God blesses it. Thank you very much, Brother Craven. Brother Warland is leading our home missionary department and the Sabbath school department. Tell us how the home missionary department is coordinating with the Voice of Prophecy, Brother Warland.

E. R. WARLAND: In a period of five weeks prior to the opening of the New Gallery, for example, our members distributed no less than one half million Voice of Prophecy enrollment cards. For the opening meeting, at least five thousand seats were reserved for students who had been studying over a period of perhaps four months prior to the meeting.

W. W. ARMSTRONG: Has this plan been extended all over Great Britain?

E. R. WARLAND: Yes. In a number of cities, now, our campaigns are being preceded by a campaign by the laymen in distributing Voice of Prophecy cards, and the people who are studying are being brought forward by special arrangement, so that all are together on the same study at the time of the opening of the evangelistic campaign.

W. W. ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Now tell us about the Ingathering work.

E. R. WARLAND: We are pleased to tell you that in 1950 our members collected £34,000. In 1951 we jumped it to £36,000, in 1952 to £39,000, and last year to £42,

000, an average of over £6 for every church member, over £10 for every actual collector. Today I received a cablegram which gives this good news: "We've done it again. £42,000 already reached." We are four thousand pounds above last year at this same date, so I think we could end up with £45,000 or £46,000.

W. W. ARMSTRONG: That is wonderful, isn't it?

E. R. WARLAND: That would be \$130,000.

W. W. ARMSTRONG: Now in the years 1950 to 1953, our baptisms and those who came into the church by vote made a total of 2,344. That may seem a very small figure compared with the very large reports from the mission field, but, brethren and sisters, our people are conservative, and they are very much wedded to their churches. When we think that this figure of 2,344 additions is a 70 per cent increase over last quadrennium, and a 69 per cent increase over two quadrenniums ago, we certainly thank the Lord. And of that 70 per cent increase, 11 per cent came from the great London work, and 59 per cent in the rest of the British Union.

Now we will ask Brethren McMillan and Bayliss to come to the microphone and tell us a bit about the work in the big cities. Brother McMillan is the president of the South England Conference. Tell us, Brother McMillan, a little bit about what is happening in Ipswich.

J. A. McMILLAN: Of the twelve efforts in progress throughout the South England Conference outside London, the one conducted by George Hyde in Ipswich is outstanding. Elder Hyde is now in his third year in the same auditorium, and plans a fourth campaign this coming fall in the same hall. The attendance today is as good as four years ago. Sixty souls were baptized from the first two campaigns, and the prospects for the present campaign are very bright indeed. For the eighty members in that little town, the greatest necessity is a church building.

W. W. ARMSTRONG: Now Brother Bayliss, president of the North England Conference, tell us what is happening in the big steel city of Sheffield.

J. H. BAYLISS: I bring greetings from the North England Conference. The year 1954 promises to be our record soul-winning year. We started four evangelistic campaigns last autumn; and the campaign in Birmingham, under the direction of T. J. Bradley, has been described by a conservative daily newspaper as the greatest revival of religion since the time of Dwight L. Moody, seventy years ago.

Hearts have been tempered by the fires of the gospel. In these two campaigns alone, 120 souls have been baptized. We thank the General Conference for their good gifts to promote evangelism, and we trust that we shall be able to record our maximum soul-winning gain during 1954.

W. W. ARMSTRONG: There are thirty-six campaigns going on in Great Britain every year. We have the great task of reaching 52,000,000 people. We solicit an interest in your prayers, brethren and sisters, that the task may be finished on time, and we go home together.

A. F. TARR: Here we come to the empty chair in our midst, draped with the flag



A pathetic note was sounded during the Northern European Division program. Because of the absence of delegates from Poland, Mrs. A. F. Tarr sang a beautiful song of appeal to the great heavenly Father, in whose tender care the believers in Poland are safe. During the song Mrs. Peterson knelt in the attitude of prayer beside a draped flag of Poland. Virginia Shankel Rittenhouse played a violin obbligato.

of Poland. We deeply regret that no representative can come from Poland to report on our work there. And as we think of the problems of the brethren and sisters in that country, we are reminded of the words of the song which we are going to have sung in place of the report.

[Mrs. A. F. Tarr sang, "In Shady Green Pastures."]

It would be appropriate to offer a special prayer at this moment for our believers in Poland and other occupied countries who cannot meet with us at this time. I am going to ask Elder Rudy to pray for them. Shall we stand together.

H. L. RUDY: Our gracious Father in heaven, as we are gathered here under such favorable circumstances, we think of our dear people over in Poland and the Baltic States, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. They are cut off from us. Many of them have lost their homes. Many have lost their lives. The enemy is doing everything to hinder and to discourage them. Oh, Lord, remember them in a special manner this evening. Wherever the enemy has sought to bring about persecutions and trials of faith, stand by Thy children at this time. Give them faith and courage. And as they go forward to witness for Thee, make their witness mighty, that Thy work may be carried forward even under such conditions, and the message of God be finished in those lands. In Jesus' name, Amen.

A. F. TARR: We have no report from Iceland, but I do have a cable from Elder Murdock, the evangelist who has been sent over there to lay the foundation for a great public campaign. He cables:

GREETINGS FROM ICELAND TO COMMITTEE GENERAL CONFERENCE PROSPECTS BRIGHT FOR LARGE CAMPAIGN WORKERS AND CHURCH MEMBERS ONE HUNDRED PERCENT BEHIND PLANS.

And now good tidings will be brought to us from Ethiopia. Elder Broberg is the

president. Brother Minchin will be associated with him in this report.

E. L. MINCHIN: Friends, did you know that Ethiopia is one of the most ancient and most fascinating mission fields in the world? Did you know that the Sabbath was kept by many in that land a thousand years before our Lord? Did you know that many of the Ethiopians and the members of the royal family in Ethiopia claim to be direct descendants of the Queen of Sheba and Solomon? Did you know that Ethiopia consists of vast tablelands and mountains, from six to eight thousand feet above sea level, and that it has a delightful climate, and is frequently called the Switzerland of Egypt? Did you know that the Ethiopians are among the finest-looking people in Africa? Pastor Broberg, we read in the Scripture a wonderful prophecy which says that one day Ethiopia will stretch out her hands toward God. Do we see any fulfillment of that prophecy today?

S. A. BROBERG: Yes.

E. L. MINCHIN: How many church members are there in Ethiopia?

S. A. BROBERG: Four years ago we had 580. Today we have 1,200.

E. L. MINCHIN: What are the religions of the people?

S. A. BROBERG: Coptic, Mohammedan, and heathen.

E. L. MINCHIN: It is wonderful to think that in that difficult country we have more than doubled our membership during the last four years.

Dr. Artress, how many hospitals do we have in Ethiopia?

DR. F. L. ARTRESS: Four hospitals and seven out clinics.

E. L. MINCHIN: Four hospitals and only 1,200 members to keep them going. Doctor, when I was at your hospital I saw the emperor there. Do you have very much to do with royalty over there?

DR. F. L. ARTRESS: The emperor has been a very frequent visitor at our hos-

pital. We have had much really good contact with him and his family.

E. L. MINCHIN: I heard the other day, doctor, that no prince or princess is born in Ethiopia without your attending them. Is that so?

DR. F. L. ARTRESS: We have been in attendance at the birth of seven of the grandchildren of the emperor, including the heir to the throne.

E. L. MINCHIN: You are an intimate friend of the royal family then?

DR. F. L. ARTRESS: Yes.

E. L. MINCHIN: Wonderful! We are in distinguished company tonight. We also have with us on the platform Sister Hoag, dressed in her uniform. Sister Hoag, I was out there last year and saw you at work. What were you doing?

LOIS HOAG: Together with Miss Alma Binder I had the privilege of making nursing history in Ethiopia, for in 1950 our school of nursing was begun, the first in Ethiopia. At graduation our students marched out to get their diplomas from the crown prince. Now, as we could not do before, when the royal family wishes to have one of our nurses come and take care of the heir to the throne, we can send one of their Ethiopian graduate nurses.

E. L. MINCHIN: And I understand that those young people who graduated are regarded as some of the most intelligent young people in Addis Ababa. Is that so?

LOIS HOAG: That is true. The Nursing Association was begun while we were there, and all of our students passed the state examination, one of them with honor.

E. L. MINCHIN: Sister Magnusson, I see you are here tonight. Where did I meet you when I was out there last year?

MARY MAGNUSSON: At Gimbe.

E. L. MINCHIN: Ah, yes, I remember. Gimbe is at the end of that famous road. How many days' journey is it from Addis Ababa to Gimbe?

MARY MAGNUSSON: It depends on how many mudholes you get stuck in. Maybe two days, maybe two weeks.

E. L. MINCHIN: At least two days on the most shocking roads you have ever been on in your life. These missionaries have to travel over those roads, through streams and over mountains, and sometimes it takes two or three weeks. I see Sister Eide here. Sister Eide, they tell us it is horribly lonely for single girls to go to mission fields. How do you feel about it?

IRENE EIDE: I don't have time to think about being lonely. Would you be lonely if you had two hundred students living next to you?

E. L. MINCHIN: A wonderful testimony! You should see Sister Eide with those hundreds of young people. Her work is not only in the classrooms but also with the Junior Missionary Volunteers and the Master Guides. Sister Magnusson and Sister Hoag, I heard the other day that you know how to ride mules.

SISTERS MAGNUSSON and HOAG [together:] Oh, we do!

E. L. MINCHIN: There may be some people here who will be going to Ethiopia someday. Do you think they should learn to ride mules before they go out there?

MARY MAGNUSSON: It would be very good experience.

E. L. MINCHIN: I heard that you went for a long journey on muleback a while ago.

MARY MAGNUSON: That's right.

E. L. MINCHIN: How long was the journey?

MARY MAGNUSON: Eight days.

E. L. MINCHIN: Where did you go?

MARY MAGNUSON: In the northwestern part of Ethiopia.

E. L. MINCHIN: Sister Hoag, what would you say was your impression of the work out there?

LOIS HOAG: It will never leave me. As we were departing, the people gathered around our caravan and begged us to come back. "Send someone else," they begged. "We have no one to teach us; we have no one to take care of us when we are sick."

MARY MAGNUSON: I don't think we can be deaf to their pleadings.

E. L. MINCHIN: Sister Shollenburg, I heard that you were the first missionary dietitian to go to Ethiopia.

BERTHA SHOLLENBURG: That's true.

E. L. MINCHIN: Whatever could a dietitian do in Ethiopia?

BERTHA SHOLLENBURG: A great deal! I'd like to have a dozen dietitians go back with me.

E. L. MINCHIN: Sister Martin, you're with the training school, aren't you? Are you a returned missionary?

GLADYS MARTIN: I'm a missionary on furlough. There's a difference.

E. L. MINCHIN: Do you think it's a sacrifice to go to the mission field?

GLADYS MARTIN: Not at all. It's a privilege. I would count it a sacrifice to have to stay here.

E. L. MINCHIN: You girls, who live in the waybacks of Ethiopia, How often do you get to town?

[Girls together in loud voice:] About once a year!

E. L. MINCHIN: Yet they want to go back! Isn't that wonderful!

We have a son of Ethiopia, Brother Kassahun. Brother Kassahun, I heard the other day of a wonderful experience out there. A saintly Mohammedan, called Sheik Zecharias, some years ago had visions from God. He was seeking for light and truth up in a certain mountain area in Ethiopia. Is that true?

DESSIE KASSAHUN: That's right.

E. L. MINCHIN: And he saw in those dreams that a people would come who would teach the second coming of Jesus, and who would believe and teach the seventh-day Sabbath. Is that so?

DESSIE KASSAHUN: Yes.

E. L. MINCHIN: And this man was looking for a people to come who would teach that message. Did he see the fulfillment in his day?

DESSIE KASSAHUN: He died without seeing it. But he taught the people what he had seen in his dreams. He told them they should look for those people.

E. L. MINCHIN: Then after he died, did the people come?

DESSIE KASSAHUN: Yes.

E. L. MINCHIN: And they taught the Sabbath and believed in the second coming of Jesus?

DESSIE KASSAHUN: Yes, sir.

E. L. MINCHIN: We have a church school today in that mountain village, haven't we?

DESSIE KASSAHUN: We have over four hundred believers and baptized members.

E. L. MINCHIN: Isn't that wonderful. All those believers as a direct result of the dreams God gave that man years ago! Where are you working now, brother?

DESSIE KASSAHUN: Northeast of Addis Ababa.

E. L. MINCHIN: How many years?

DESSIE KASSAHUN: One and a half.

E. L. MINCHIN: How many souls have you baptized?

DESSIE KASSAHUN: Fifteen.

E. L. MINCHIN: Now we will present two veteran missionaries to Ethiopia, Brother and Sister Toppenberg. Brother Toppenberg, how long have you been in Africa?

V. E. TOPPENBERG: Forty-two happy years.

E. L. MINCHIN: Did you open up the work there?

V. E. TOPPENBERG: Yes, sir. I did. [Applause.]

E. L. MINCHIN: What year did you go to Ethiopia?

V. E. TOPPENBERG: I succeeded in getting in with my family in 1921, after having spent several years in another country, waiting.

E. L. MINCHIN: Would you give a message to all those hundreds of young people who stood the other night for foreign mission service?

V. E. TOPPENBERG: After having spent a lifetime in Africa as a missionary, I can truthfully say it is the most joyous, the happiest, the most satisfying, the most blessed work that a person can engage in. If the good Lord should see fit to lengthen my days another forty years, I would be glad to give them all to Africa.

E. L. MINCHIN: Amen. Thank God for our missionaries and for the opening doors in ancient Ethiopia. Surely they are wide open.

A. F. TARR: A rich harvest of souls is being won in West Africa. Brother Gibson, with others of his workers, will bring the report from that field.

G. D. KING: I think we ought to consider this evening what we can do to reach the 42,000,000 people in West Africa. Tell us a little about your evangelistic program, Brother Gibson.

J. O. GIBSON: Well, we have made some advancement, but the thing that burns our heart is the great task yet to be done.

G. D. KING: Pastor Welch, tell us something about the work at Bekwai.

H. J. WELCH: The evangelistic spirit that I found at Bekwai is the most wonderful thing I have seen. If you were to come there on the Sabbath, you probably would say, Where are your students? They would be scattered out to all the community and surrounding villages. When we first arrived, there were about eighteen churches in the district. Within a period of two years they had grown to thirty-six. I will ask Brother Essiaba, one of our students in Nigeria, to tell about the program there.

BROTHER ESSIABA: The Lord is using the Nigerian Training College in a wonderful way to gather souls into this marvelous light. The government department of education has said many times to various school communities that our school is a model to be copied. We have twenty churches in this area. The students go out on the weekends to operate Sabbath schools and MV programs and to conduct baptismal classes. In one year alone the students gathered in three hundred souls through baptism.

G. D. KING: That is real, practical evangelism. Pastor Mensah, you are up from



This group in costume representing various nationalities in Northern Europe sang a beautiful song during the program given by the Northern European Division.

the Gold Coast. I understand you have had a great laymen's movement there.

C. B. MENSAH: Yes, I am the home missionary secretary. The laymen are doing a splendid work. In the last few years they have won more than two thousand souls. Five hundred have been baptized. One uneducated layman, after learning the truth, went back home, and within the period of three months won more than two hundred souls.

G. D. KING: That is soul-winning evangelism! You must be getting very near, Brother Gibson, to doubling your membership.

J. O. GIBSON: Well, our secretary is here. He can tell you how near we have come.

G. L. ANNISS: The last General Conference we reported a membership of eight thousand. Today we report fifteen thousand, an increase of seven thousand.

G. D. KING: That is fine, but are there others?

G. L. ANNISS: We have nine thousand in the hearers' and baptismal classes.

J. O. GIBSON: There are 42,000,000 people yet to hear the message.

G. L. ANNISS: Offerings to missions have grown from \$22,000 to \$35,000 in the last four years. Missions do pay, Brother King.

G. D. KING: That's good, very good. Your offerings are up along with your membership. Now I have been interested in the wonderful institutions you have in West Africa.

J. O. GIBSON: We opened our new press early this year. It was a grand occasion. The prime minister in his speech mentioned the good work Seventh-day Adventists were doing. Several months later the minister of education came out to the opening of our new secondary school in the Gold Coast.

R. SIMONS: Liberia is a challenge to those of us who labor in Liberia. In an area a little larger than the State of Ohio, with two million people, we have twenty-six different languages. To meet this challenge we have established training schools for our youth. These schools are the means of training our workers to go to twenty-six different tribes with our message. Last year we had an enrollment of seventy boarding students. This year we have an enrollment of just double that number. Among these are five who are sent by the president of the republic. He is very sympathetic, and recently he has rendered excellent service for our mission in Liberia.

G. D. KING: Brother Mensah, give us a little bit of your experience.

C. B. MENSAH: I stand before you today as a monument of grace, first to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and then to the great Advent Movement, which sent the light of the gospel truth to far-off Africa. I was a heathen, and the son of heathen parents, who brought me up to pray to the gods they had in the house. Each morning and each evening I prayed to these gods. I took delight in dancing the fetish dance. But thanks be to God for the work of the mission. I had the privilege of coming to the mission school, and there learned the truth, and today I stand before you as a Christian and a minister of the Advent Movement.

J. O. GIBSON: You can see that West Africa is a land of unlimited opportunities, where there are many precious souls waiting to hear the truth, and to be gathered in.

[Solo by Mrs. Colson.]

A. F. TARR: We thank God profoundly

for the blessings of health and peace, and for His guidance in the work we are undertaking in the Northern European Division.

[Northern European Division group sang Finlandia.]
Benediction.

"Let Us Draw Together"

Sermon, June 4, 1954, 8 P.M. (Cow Palace)

By G. E. VANDEMAN

We have come to the closing Friday night of our General Conference session. In these few precious moments let us gather up the remnants that nothing be lost. Naturally we feel the call to consecration, and a consecration commensurate with the need that faces the church of God. I have felt led to share these penetrating words of Revelation 12, verses 10 to 12, as my text:

"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

Packed into these three verses are promises that we shall find ourselves clinging to more and more in the immediate future. These are tragic, yet thrilling days in which to live. The great controversy between Christ and Satan is entering its final intensive stage. God is about to ring down the curtain on the affairs of this world. Human probation will close at an hour when we least expect it. The last movements will be speedy. It was Berchelt, a French scientist, as far back as 1860, ninety-four years ago, who said:

"I believe that within a hundred years of physical and chemical science, man will know what the atom is. It is my considered belief that when science has reached that stage, God will come down to earth with His big ring of keys and will say to humanity, 'Gentlemen, it is closing time.'"

"We dwell in the darkness of atomic night." We are not alone in thinking so. An awful depression is eating into the lives of men and women. Despite the cynicism concerning closing events so long expressed by the world and a large cross section of the church, today all respectable thinking is taking place against this somber background. It overshadows the thoughts and activities of men and nations. Oh, what a time to be alive! What an hour to witness! The day of truth has come. Eager eyes and willing hearts are ready to hear the good news of deliverance. It is a message of hope

and not gloom. It is a message of deliverance and not despair that we bring. Like strange, almost unbelievably sweet music, we repeat the story of our expectancy. Jesus is coming again!

"In the crimson of the morning, in the whiteness of the noon,
In the amber glory of the day's retreat,
In the midnight, robed in darkness, or the gleaming of the moon,
I listen for the coming of His feet.

"Down the minster-aisles of splendor,
from betwixt the cherubim,
Through the wondering throng, with motion strong and fleet,
Sounds His victor tread, approaching with a music far and dim—
The music of the coming of His feet.

"He is coming, O my friend! with His everlasting peace,
With His blessedness immortal and complete;
He is coming, O my friend! and His coming brings release.
I listen for the coming of His feet."

And what is more, the delay in our Saviour's return—if we consider it so—has served to strengthen our faith. The writings of both Scripture and latter-day revelation have been thrown into bold relief by deepening darkness and trouble. The great controversy between Christ and Satan has reached a decisive stage. Who of us can doubt the hand of God in so clear a statement as is found in *The Great Controversy*, by Mrs. E. G. White. These pages will electrify the church and gird her for her closing work. Read them. Share them. And act.

It is declared of the enemy, "He knoweth that he hath but a short time." In recent years we have been impressed with the increasing fury of the foe. The subtle and deceptive devices which only a hand-to-hand conflict with souls can teach us, lead one to the conviction that Satan has begun his final assault. Every soul winner knows from experience that this is true. Never before has the clear warning of Ephesians 6:12 been more meaningful. Let me read it again:

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

For many years this people has taught that there would be a threefold develop-

ment of the powers of darkness. And under this threefold union the last movements would pass in rapid succession. One of the most fearful of these three has been the strides made in Spiritualism. In *Early Writings*, page 262, we are warned that a "face to face" conflict with the forces of evil will be a grim reality.

The manifestations of modern Spiritualism have been radically changing to meet the culture of our time. They have ceased to be the crude amusement of a few ignorant devotees. Respectable and devoted Christian peoples, unaware of the truths regarding conditional immortality, are embracing its claims by the multiplied thousands. The baptism of sorrow occasioned by the first and second world wars has given Spiritualism an opportunity of which it has taken full advantage.

I have been working in the city of London, where the growth of Spiritualism is almost beyond comprehension. I have been informed that one great section of that metropolis, south of the river Thames, is so well organized that every death is registered with the Spiritualists and the home visited within twenty-four hours, with an appeal to the relatives to make immediate contact with the deceased. Earnest Christian people, long hungry for an expression of deeper personal experience, have been led to believe that Spiritualism was the answer. They are deeply hurt when their new-found revelation is referred to as "spiritism," for to them it is but the expression of "spiritual" living.

Spiritualism is invading other areas of thought and life as well. The extent to which staid and respectable scientific circles are investigating the phenomena gives sweeping prestige to this movement. Alarming as it may seem, it is reaching the pulpits of churches in many lands through apparently innocent channels. In recent years it has entered the universities, where it is called variously "Para-psychology" and "Super-sensory Perception." Two weeks ago during the Ministerial Council preceding this great session I uttered a warning concerning a trend in psychological circles which endeavors to "explain" away the power of God in conversion. I repeat that warning tonight. And please do not misunderstand me. No one is more deeply grateful than I for the valuable assistance the science of true psychology has given to the gospel minister. We can now better understand the complexities of human behavior and give wiser counsel. It is most encouraging to see the insight Mrs. E. G. White revealed in her writings concerning the valuable help the science of the mind would bring to God's people, but with most careful caution as to the dangers involved. As might be expected, the subtle devices of the enemy have invaded the sacred precincts of body-mind-soul relationships, and dangers lurk here which must be avoided.

As Seventh-day Adventists we shudder and withdraw from the overt manifestations of Spiritualism. Our doctrinal experience safeguards invasion from this quarter. But is it not possible for the enemy to attack us from other more unsuspecting quarters? For example, one outstanding authority in pastoral coun-

seling—a noted minister whose name is foremost in many ministers' reading—has recently made this claim:

"It is probable that the psychologist of the future will know how to develop an extra-sensory faculty enabling him, without going into a trance-state, to perceive, possibly by some form of telepathy, the mental condition of the patient. The psychologist of the future may even develop an ability to read the unconscious, so that diagnosis will be easy and treatment direct. Some of the Eastern systems, like Yoga, may well play a part here. I believe them to be of immense importance in any elucidation of the soul-mind-body relationship. I hope and, indeed, prophesy, that religion will more and more be one of the assets of the psychotherapist of the future."—*Psychology, Religion and Health*, p. 484.

Such a statement will startle the unsuspecting soul into realizing how insidiously a "good thing" can lead to the soul-destroying and mind-confusing metaphysical and theosophical approach. "Religion" an asset! Yes, my friend, but *what kind of religion?* Unfortunately, here we are referred to the powers of darkness as they have been brooding in the Orient for centuries—a form of *Spiritualism*. Do you not now see why we have been given the clear warning on page 557 of *The Great Controversy*? "It is true that Spiritualism is now changing its form, and, veiling some of its more objectionable features, is assuming a Christian guise." Then again on pages 603, 604:

"As the teachings of Spiritualism are accepted by the churches, the restraint imposed upon the carnal heart is removed, and the profession of religion will become a cloak to conceal the basest iniquity."

The enemy doesn't mind how he accomplishes his end. It is his goal to destroy the saving, sanctifying, redeeming element in human salvation—the power of Christ within the wicked human heart. If he cannot numb the senses by worldliness and pleasure or the cares of this life, he will do it through the fascinating paths of modern philosophy. Again I thank God for the intelligent safeguards He has thrown about His people. If you are searching for proof of inspiration in the "writings," it is found in the almost uncanny skill with which this subject is handled. While the Spirit of God has surrounded the world with an atmosphere of grace, the enemy of souls has surrounded the world with an atmosphere of satanic influence. He is succeeding alarmingly well. Please note that the churches are to accept his devices. We can see the wisdom of the archenemy here. The lie told in Eden has been perpetuated. The ground work has been laid. The doctrinal defenses of Christian peoples are down. May I illustrate. I am thinking of Adolph Hitler as he overran the lowlands in 1939. When he subdued these hearty little countries he distributed "invasion money." But would you believe it, each piece of money was dated 1934. As early as 1934 the details of that march were planned. And even the invasion money was printed. Just so, the way is prepared for Christians by the millions to turn to the worship of Satan as the saving light

of their lives. Listen to this: About eight weeks ago I read in the *London Daily Mail* the following announcement printed boldly under the prominent headlines (April 3, 1954):

"Members of the Church of England and the Non-conformist churches are to study evidence of the Spirit world. Christian mediums are being enlisted to help. . . . In this modern age of science it has become imperative to bring to the people some demonstrable evidence of personal survival to strengthen the foundation of the Christian belief."

"The general public should be more enlightened on the subject of communion with the unseen world."

"We are not concerned with 'ghosts' but spirits. We don't like the word 'medium.' We shall call these gifted people 'sensitives'."

"The fellowship has the backing of such religious leaders as Dr. W. R. Matthews, Dean of St. Paul's, and Dr. Leslie Weatherhead, of the City Temple."

As startling as the rise of Spiritualism is in our own country, we have seen little as yet in comparison with the bold manifestations in areas torn by actual war. Who can say that war will never come to these shores, when death and destruction will give Spiritualism further advantage? Prophecy indicates that it will. Fearful times lie ahead. The experience of three fifths of this world stands as a solemn warning to the complacent life we enjoy in America. Do you see the reason behind the repeated appeals to study the closing chapters of *The Great Controversy*? Could I be clear before God and not bring before you tonight these words?

"We should now seek a deep and living

THE ADVENT REVIEW AND HERALD

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experience in the things of God. We have not a moment to lose. Events of vital importance are taking place around us; *we are on Satan's enchanted ground.* Sleep not, sentinels of God; the foe is lurking near, ready at any moment, should you become lax and drowsy, to spring upon you and make you his prey." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 601. "*Sleep not, sentinels of God.*" Awake! Put on the whole armor of God. Seek a deep and living experience with Christ.

Now tell me, what kind of consecration do you think will be necessary to face a world enslaved by the dangerous powers of spiritual darkness? Do we tonight possess the clear insight, the spiritual reserve, and consecration necessary to warn, safeguard, and lead men and women into a saving relationship with the victorious Christ? Our answer is found within our text: "Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ . . . and they overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony" (Rev. 12:10, 11).

The simplicity and power of these words appeal to me. I have wrestled with those bound by the confusions of Theosophy, Spiritualism, and plain modern secularism. I have seen the quiet power of God prevail. The power of the cross and a man's word of testimony are a match for the satanic grip and the foul brooding influence which is gripping the minds of men today.

I cannot seem to shake off the impression that Gideon's experience as recorded in Judges 7 is both a warning and an encouragement to us tonight. You will remember that this man was given a victory band chosen by three successive tests. Ever so many of God's people were willing, but less than a third of these had the required courage. However, when the final test came, Gideon was stripped of all human support, except an insignificant little band of three hundred. The story of that victory, however, to this day never fails to inspire our hearts. They simply *broke the vessels and blew the trumpets and shouted in perfect unison, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon";* and a humanly impossible situation was quickly transformed into a signal victory for God's people. That same God who sifted the three hundred is sifting His faithful today.

Have you noticed these words tucked away on page 151 in the book *Education*?

"The weightier the trust and the higher the service, the closer is the test and the more severe the discipline." Has any movement since the beginning of time been charged with a weightier trust than has ours? But with this responsibility and trust—as privileged as we are to be thus honored by God—are we willing to meet the qualifications? That "closer test," that "more severe discipline," can be administered and received savingly only under the blessing and Spirit of God. It is here that our deepest loyalty is revealed. Hard work, long hours, faithful years of service, might well be given to the cause and the "closer test" and "more severe discipline" avoided. Could our failure in this respect

be cause for the sifting so sure to come?

In Japan suitable land for farming is so scarce when compared with the population that the people are forced by the demands of survival to cultivate it intensively. The results are amazing—huge "rock strawberries" two and three inches in diameter, apples and vegetables as if from the Land of Promise. What is the reason? Fertilizing and pruning—but especially pruning. *Every useless branch is cut away.*

The words "disciple" and "discipline" have the same origin. It is in this setting that discipline becomes a delight, and "letting go" takes on flower and fruit in abundance. As we set our eyes on the immediate future and the staggering challenge that faces this body of people, many useless branches in our lives may need to be cut away. Whatever the problem, in His pure presence we shall see it. We shall loathe it. We shall surrender it; willingly and joyfully.

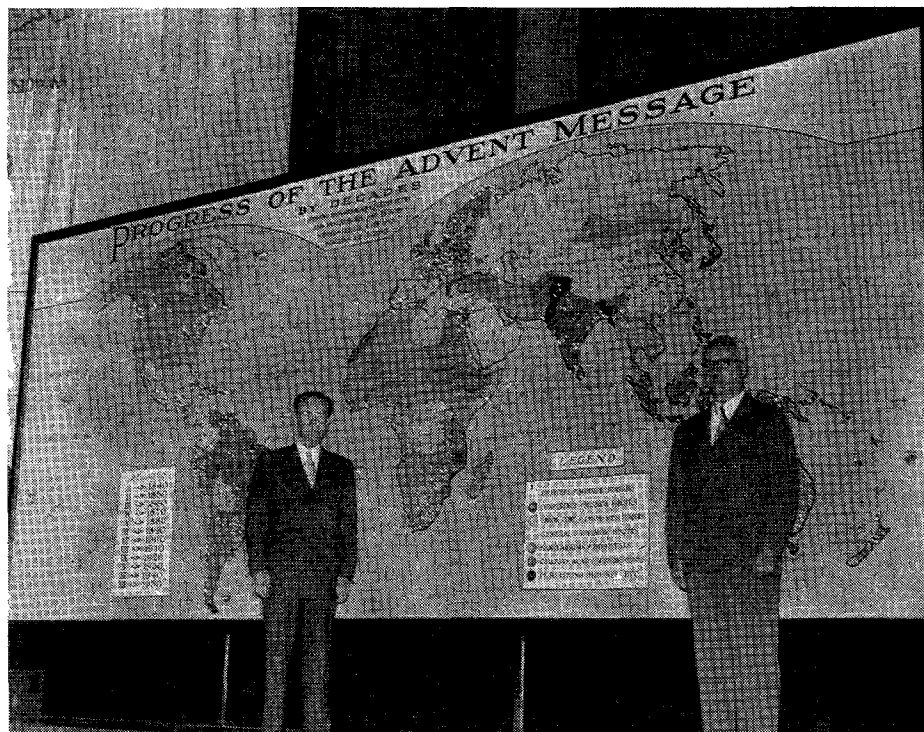
The ringing note of deliverance from every bond of sin—whatever its degree or nature—is remember *He is able.* Christ "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Eph. 3:20). He is able to deliver from the bondage of doubt, from the curse of habit, from the sloth of indolence, from the evil of jealousy, and the paralysis of pride.

With such inner peace and power, who of us would fear to face the darkening storm? Salvation to us, then, will be more than a doctrine—more than a theological discussion—more than a theory. We shall speak with the certainty of an apostle, for we "know whom we have believed." And that "he is able."

It is under this banner that I urge, "Let us draw together." We dare not stand alone now. We must not slip off into the

side lines. If we do, we may be lost. Let us draw together. Throughout this great conference there has been a drawing together. There has been a confidence among the brethren. I call upon every minister tonight, upon every medical worker, upon every branch of service. I call upon our dear lay members. Let us all draw together. Suspicions, fears, divisions, must not be named among us. We must lay our differences aside. We must find a growing bigness in our hearts to understand and forgive the immaturity or mistakes of others. To have critical eyes for the success or the failure of others, to nurse wounded feelings, is to neutralize the power of God in our own lives and tragically to miss the mark. We cannot face the world and the gathering storm—alone. We must meet it with God. Confidence in our brethren and in the cause will lead to a humility that God can bless. It is selfishness that we need to lay aside—that needs to be pruned. This is the root of practically every limitation we might mention.

Surprising as it may seem to an unconsecrated heart, we have surely discovered that the most lasting and far-reaching results come to a man in his service for God when he senses most deeply and sincerely his own unworthiness and his need of divine power. No man needs to be mediocre. The strongest persons are those most surrendered to God. The weakest persons are those most surrendered to themselves. This truth works with mathematical precision. There are no exceptions. If we are centered in ourselves, we are a problem. If we are centered in Jesus, we are a blessing. "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."



This great world map, progressively illuminated by colored lights to show the growth of the Advent Movement over a period of twelve decades, was painted by Robert M. Eldridge (right), art director Southern Publishing Association. The intricate electrical work controlling this vast light system was done by Harry M. Lodge (left) of the Nevada-Utah Conference.