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"Now when He had left speaking, He said unto Simon, **LAUNCH OUT** into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught." Luke 5:4.

The people pressed around Jesus who, having noticed that there were two ships near the shore of the lake, requested Simon to permit Him to use one of the boats so he could preach to the people. From this vantage spot Jesus taught the multitude.

Following the discourse we read the following interesting story. Jesus asked Simon to go fishing, but Simon was not very eager. He and his fellow fishermen had worked all night and caught absolutely nothing. Now here was a man called Jesus telling them to "launch out" into the deep for a draught. What did He know about fishing? Fortunately Peter added



Launch Out

GEORGE W. MAYWALD

those wonderful words, "Nevertheless at Thy word I will let down the net." Notice even here Peter's lack of faith, Jesus had said "Let down your nets," but Peter only let down one net. What was the result?

"And when they had this done," that is, let down the net as Jesus had asked, "they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net broke." This is not the end of this

interesting experience. There were so many fishes that they were forced to call their partners. They too came, and the record says, "and they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink." Luke 5:7.

Now what may be the reason for relating this interesting story? Simply this, Jesus today is calling us, just as He did those fishermen, to "LAUNCH OUT INTO THE



OUR TIMES

LAUNCH OUT WITH "OUR TIMES"

DEEP." The "deep" for us is the world around us. The people are the "fish." God is calling each one of us to go out amongst our neighbours and friends and to bring them to an understanding of His great love. How can this be done? The answer is a simple one: "Launch Out." This is just what the fishermen did. So we must *launch out*. The question comes, "Launch out with what?" The fishermen launched out with the tools of their trade. We as followers of Jesus also have our tools.

We are to launch out at this time with the tools of our profession, the truth-filled magazine, OUR TIMES. If we obey like Peter and half-heartedly let down one net—even then there is a greater harvest than we may expect. Let us put out all of our nets, and God has promised that "My word will not return unto Me void."

If we faithfully enter this programme, great will be the results. The instruction is, "Let every believer scatter broadcast tracts and leaflets and books containing the Message for this time."—*Christian Service*, p. 145. Remember the fishermen. When they cast down just one net they filled two ships with fish. Let us go forward heeding the command of the Master and then we will be surprised with the results the Lord will give us.

LAUNCH OUT IN 1966 with *Our Times* and make this campaign the most wonderful one in our experience. The hour is growing late and we are standing on the threshold of eternity. Always keep in mind that "He who called the fishermen of Galilee is still calling men to His service, and He is just as willing to manifest His power through us as through the first disciples."—*Christian Service*, p. 259. Yes, *Our Times* under the guidance of the Holy Spirit will bring in even a greater harvest than the fishermen had that day on the Sea of Galilee.

William Matthews says: "It is not enough to do the right thing, it must be done at the right time and place. Talent knows what to do; tact knows when and how to do it." —*Sunshine Magazine*.

Readers

Appreciate "Our Times"

L. D. PAUL



For a number of years our believers and workers felt that the religious supplement we were sending in our *Health* magazine was not enough to meet the spiritual needs of the people.

Hence, more than seven years ago, a new religious magazine, *Our Times*, came into existence, and ever since, it has been fulfilling the need.

Sister White has given us very definite instructions that we must promote the circulation of our religious magazines: "We have been asleep, as it were, regarding the work that may be accomplished by the circulation of well-prepared literature. Let us now, by the wise use of periodicals and books, preach the word with determined energy, that the world may understand the message that Christ gave to John on the Isle of Patmos. Let every human intelligence who professes the name of Christ testify, the end of things is at hand, prepare to meet thy God."—*Review and Herald*, July 30, 1908.

We are living in the very last days of this world's history and we have to spread the gospel message to the length and breadth of this world so that Christ's coming may be hastened. We have found that *Our Times* is one of the most important avenues with which to send the message to where the living preacher cannot go. This magazine has been appreciated by people of all religions: Hindus and Sikhs, as well as Christians of other denominations. Good reports often come from readers.

Mrs. S. M. Dass, a lady literature-evangelist, writes that one

day she went to one of the mills in the city of Amritsar to renew the *Health* and *Our Times* magazine subscriptions. She met two young men. They were the sons of the proprietor of the mill and as she canvassed the young businessmen, they refused to subscribe to the magazines. Meanwhile, the proprietor came and when he realized that the sons were refusing to renew the subscriptions, he told them that even if they refused to subscribe to the *Health* magazine they should subscribe to the *Our Times* as he liked it very much. He said that it helped him to understand many things he was not able to understand before and that he kept all the previous issues carefully. This 55-year-old mill-owner also bought a copy of *The Life of Christ* from Mrs. Dass.

Recently I met Miss G. M. Gomes, one of our very active members of the Allahabad Church. She told me that she was giving *Our Times* to one gentleman who comes to collect his magazine regularly from her. Recently he asked her if he could get another copy regularly because another friend was also keenly interested in the magazine. Miss Gomes is arranging for a copy for this man also.

Here is another interesting experience that comes to us from Lucknow. Pastor A. C. L. Popkiss has written to me as follows:

"I had just taken charge of the Lucknow Church from Brother G. S. Wilson and was in my office one morning when the office bell rang. I opened the door to be greeted by a smiling, friendly gentleman. 'I am the catechist of the

In and Around Ludhiana

P. G. MATHEWS

Roman Catholic Church in Lucknow and have come to collect my copy of *Our Times*," he said.

"Do you like this magazine?" I enquired.

"If I didn't I would not cycle four miles to get it every month. It is a wonderful paper. The Bible studies are excellent and the articles are very interesting. I am now convinced that "the dead know not anything" as taught in the Bible."

And here is another experience, also from Pastor Popkiss.

"Sister Dass, how many *Our Times* subscriptions can you secure for our 1966 campaign?" I asked.

"I want a club of twelve subscriptions and here are Rs. 24 for it," she replied.

"Are you paying this money from your own pocket?" I pursued.

"Oh, no, Pastor Popkiss, this was collected. You see, I collect 25 paise from each reader each month, and sometimes when the papers are late in reaching us, the readers come to me and say, "Here is my money, I want my magazine immediately after it comes." This is how I have this ready cash."

"Don't you use this money for yourself?" I asked her.

"No, no. I believe Jesus is coming soon, and since I can't preach sermons to the people, I give them this literature in order to do my little bit."

Mr. Davis Massey, our literature evangelist in Delhi, tells me that he has a number of *Our Times* customers and they appreciate the magazine very much. He told me about a Sikh gentleman who is keenly interested in the paper. Whenever this gentleman meets Brother Massey, he expresses how wonderful the magazine is.

Our Times is really filling the need of spreading the gospel message to many homes where the preacher cannot go. Therefore, dear co-workers and believers, let us all work harder and try our very best to get more *Our Times* subscriptions that more people may read of Jesus and be led to accept Him as their personal Saviour.

Last year when Mr. Prem Masih, a layman of the Ludhiana Church, was visiting me in connection with *Our Times* we met a pastor of the C. M. S. church who requested me to take his order for the magazine. He said he loved the magazine much, because it contained a message for all people. He introduces it to many of his friends.

I met a young Sikh lady, an M. A. student, who was taking the V.O.P. course. She told me, "Pastor, I believe that Jesus Christ is my personal Saviour." She loves this magazine very much. Early in the morning she reads portions from *Our Times* and from the *New Testament*. She often reads the magazine articles to her mother.

Ludhiana church takes forty issues of *Our Times* each month. Our laymen are using these issues very carefully and are giving them to only those who read English. Brother Y. Masih, our Sabbath School member, takes five copies every month, and one of his readers has said, "I love this magazine very much, because I find peace of mind and heart by reading its excellent articles." Brother Masih told me that this man is now very kind to every labourer in the factory, because he has learnt of the humble teachings of Jesus Christ through this silent messenger.

"Those in the darkness of error are the purchase of the blood of Christ. They are the fruits of His suffering, and they are to be laboured for."—C. P. P., p. 108.

Let us all labour for the perishing souls. We may not be able to know the results of our labour in this perishing world, but we may know it in the world to come. Let us work, as never before, with more zeal and courage and scatter the seeds of truth through *Our Times* in the homes of the people around us.

In Khanna District, Ludhiana, I met one V.O.P. student who said, "Mr. Mathews, there are many magazines and daily papers, but none of them offer so much as *Our Times*. This magazine has something nice for the youth of the last days. Your magazine helps young people to walk on the right path."

Dear reader, I know and believe that when Jesus Christ comes, many who have read this magazine will see our Saviour and meet Him with joy.

"I WAS THERE"

A woman on a trans-Atlantic steamer saw a sailor studying a chart on the wall beside the captain's door. Entering into conversation with him, she learned that the chart was a diagram of the ship with X's marking the spots where the crew members were to go in case of emergency or storm. At the woman's request he pointed to the post he occupied, a very essential one.

"But, suppose you were not there?" she queried.

"I'll be there."

"But, just suppose that . . ."

"I'll be there."

"But, if something should happen to prevent your going?"

"Lady, I'll be there!"

Later in the voyage a terrific storm raged, and all passengers were confined to their staterooms for three days, while the ship tossed and plunged at the mercy of an angry sea.

When calm returned, the woman, walking on the deck, met her sailor acquaintance, tired, haggard, weak and bruised.

"Why, what has happened to you?" she asked.

"Lady, I was there," he smiled.

—Raindrops, July 1955

Fellow believers, will you be able to say, "I was there", when the roll is called up yonder?

A layman's ministry with the religious magazine

RONALD M. NEISH

Some years ago, while canvassing as a student colporteur, I found myself working in a quiet, isolated section of my territory where villages and people were few. Towards evening I called upon a middle-aged lady drawing water from a well some distance from the house. Of course she knew I was there to sell something, so she politely asked me to leave, but I insisted on helping her carry the water home.

As I expected she invited me in and soon we were talking about the love of God and our wonderful books. In a few minutes she exclaimed, "I have seen these. Just the other day I saw them!" I was somewhat shocked at this, and suddenly coming to my senses I answered, "But that is not possible. These books are new and have never been shown in this area before." It was her turn to insist, then abruptly she left the room only to return a moment later with our missionary magazine. On the back was an advertisement for the books. When she realized that the books were put out by the same people who published the magazine, she purchased every one of the books.

Although my story does not end here, yet I cannot help but feel that our magazines which go into countless homes are a paying investment. Commenting on this same thought, Mrs. White states: "I have been shown that the press is powerful for good . . . and can reach and influence the public mind as no other means can."—*Life Sketches*, p. 214.

The wonderful thing about it is the fact that these heralds of truth can find their way into places and homes that laymen and ministers may never reach. They are read and appreciated by the highest to the lowest of peoples. Our magazines have influenced government

circles and have often opened doors for our work. It was by magazines that Pitcairn Island, once the home of murderous mutineers, became, in time, a hundred per cent Seventh-day Adventist.

But let's come back to my story. The family I met was receiving the magazine from someone in the church. The lady confessed that she did not know where it came from, but she hoped it would never stop coming. She went on to say that she had read EVERY magazine of the last three years, and then solemnly said that she was sorry that she had not read every article in the current issue.

Imagine apologizing to me for not reading our magazine! I thought of the number of laymen in our churches who, each time a campaign for our God-given journals was launched, faithfully invested in those monthly messengers of truth for their neighbours and friends. I thought, too, of the many instances in my literature ministry when I had included subscriptions to our missionary journal in my customer's orders and many had responded favourably. I wondered how many were just like this lady and we did not know about them. Here is a wonderful promise: "Our publications are now sowing the gospel seed, and are instrumental in bringing as many souls to Christ as the preached word. Whole churches have been raised up as the result of their circulation."—*Review and Herald*, June 10, 1880.

In Matthew 13 is found the parable of the sower and the seed. The seed represents the Word of God, and the ground, the hearts of

Why You Should Read "Our Times"

N. Y. CHELLIAH

Costly magazines like *Time* or *Newsweek* give you the latest and the most important news of the world. But there is another magazine which is considerably cheaper, and yet gives the most vital news for our struggling world. It is the *Our Times*.

This magazine, an examiner of international trends and spiritual conflicts, not only conveys to you the true character of this world, but also enables you to obtain a glimpse of the glorious world to come.

Perhaps the average man may never understand the happenings of this "terrible twentieth century," as Mr. Winston Churchill put it. If one is interested in comprehending the events of our times and in clearly understanding the significance of these events, he should read *Our Times*.

Churches have been raised up as the result of the circulation of our truth-filled magazines. Robert

E. Speer has said, "Any man who has a religion is bound up to do one of two things with it: change it or spread it. If it is not true, he must give it up. If it is true, he must give it away."

While an estate worker was passing through a town, a copy of our magazine was handed to him. He took it home and read it from cover to cover and requested for more. He received more. He and his family members are now studying the truth. He is paying tithe and keeping the Sabbath. We do hope that before very long the whole family will step out and identify themselves with the people of God.

Our Times enlightens people mentally and spiritually. It helps the reader to find the way of salvation and be saved in the kingdom of God. That is why we should do all we can to increase the circulation of our religious magazine.

people. Some people refused the Word, while others accepted it in part. Still others accepted it with a deep conviction and were willing to allow the Word to grow in their lives.

So it is with the work of our magazines. Some refuse to accept their messages, while others read them but their lives are little affected. Then there are those who, like the family in our story, accept the messages with an honest and good heart, and let them bring fruits in their lives. Thus it was that I left this home with an invitation to "please come back and visit," and I did return to introduce the local pastor who followed up the interest.

The following Sabbath I was asked to relate this experience in church. As I neared the end of my story, one of the members in the congregation stood up and spoke. He told us of how he had by chance begun to send the magazine to this family, and as there had been no apparent results from it, he had, just a couple of weeks back, dropped this name from his list. What a hush filled the church! Then with a tear running down his cheek, he vowed that no name would ever be dropped from his list again.

Soon you, too, will be called upon to send out the missionary magazine to your neighbours and friends for another year. Perhaps you have had no result from the years of earnest, faithful subscribing. To all of us comes the assurance: "More than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications."—*Review and Herald* Nov. 10, 1885.

Our Times issues, like the unseen angels, go forth to mould their influence upon the minds of the multitudes around us. Let us be faithful to do our part and God will be faithful to do His part.

Remember the parable of Jesus. In concluding His story of the sower, Jesus assured us: "These are they, which, in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience." Luke 8:15.

a neighbourly deed *that has* **MAGNETIC APPEAL**



every name a prospect for heaven

The radiant joy expressed by those who first catch a glimpse of that blessed hope by reading *Our Times* is awe-inspiring. Throughout its eight years of publication, *Our Times* (our great silent evangelist) has been a mighty soul winner.

Do you have neighbours near-by or afar? If you do, they need the life-giving messages presented by *Our Times* month by month. The need is great. Everywhere souls are longing for truth.

An act of neighbourly friendship denotes your interest in their spiritual welfare and helps provide security of heart and mind. Yes, visiting your neighbours each month with *Our Times* will not only stir your heart, but will give lustre to the truth borne by this divinely appointed messenger.

During 1966 let every member take at least one copy a month to his neighbour. Who knows but by performing "a neighbourly deed" with *Our Times*, a harvest of souls may be garnered into the kingdom?

MORE "OUR TIMES" IN 1966

The Mailing Band in Assam Training School

RONALD M. NEISH

Students of Assam Training School at Jowai have been actively engaged in literature-mailing bands. Under the direction of Home Missionary Leader Don Bankhead, *Our Times* magazine along with other literature has been winging its way into the remote hill areas of Assam.

Asked if they had any response to their project, Brother Bankhead produced a large file of letters received from the recipients of the magazines.

One man from Manipur writes, "There is discussion about the Bible among our friends who are not Christians. I need your magazine to assist me in my conversations. Please send every month, if possible."

From the trouble-ridden Mizo district comes this grateful reply;

"I can continue to reach souls for the Lord through this gospel ministry of *Our Times*."

The writer continues further, "I believe that the Sabbath is true and Christians should follow it. Please give more detailed explanations of the Sabbath. Please give an explanation of fulfilment of prophecy."

Many others have written to the A.T.S. mailing band indicating similar desires.

A teacher tells of how he reads from the magazines before class each day. Another asks for a second copy of a magazine that was loaned to him by a friend.

Every member of the church has friends who need this journal. May we all determine to let our light shine through this wonderful medium.

A single piece of Gospel literature

J. B. TRIM

A copy of *Our Times* handed to an overseas man visiting the Bombay English church for the first time last Christmas day so impressed and interested him that he later returned to the Union Office to become a regular subscriber.

This gentleman has Seventh-day Adventist relatives at home overseas and through them he is very familiar with our work and publications. He is associated with the Indian Atomic Energy Commission plant in Bombay, and passed his copy of *Our Times* around among the scientists and others working there, who also appreciated it.

At the Union Office, in addition to subscribing to *Our Times*, he subscribed also to the *Herald of Health* magazine, and purchased

a number of our books including the *Conflict of the Ages* series of the Spirit of prophecy books. He promised to order more books for distribution to his friends at work.

Who can tell what the small gift of a single piece of gospel literature will do? Here are scientists and men with educated and trained minds being exposed to the Christian faith.

Let us continually pray God to bless His word as it goes forth in our magazines and literature to people in all walks of life.

And let us personally help to answer these prayers by sending the word forth with added strength and power. We can do this by financing *Our Times* subscriptions during the soon-coming special campaign.

"Our Times" Is God's Agency

D. R. WATTS

Spokesmen for the largest Christian denomination have repeatedly said that if all their churches and institutions were taken away from them leaving only the press, they would be successful in winning the world to Christ.

These men recognize the tremendous power the press holds over the human mind. Why should not Seventh-day Adventists, who have the most important message in the world today, make full use of the press in giving this message? We must do all in our power to get our message before the multitudes of Asia in printed form. *Our Times* is designed to do this in one of the major languages of the sub-continent: English.

The daily newspapers give current events but do not interpret them. *Our Times* interprets the news in the light of God's word. It lets inquiring minds know the significance of events rapidly transpiring around them. Only in the light of the Scripture can the true significance of today's events be known. *Our Times* endeavours to fulfil this purpose.

Should we not then do all in our power to increase its circulation by sending it to thousands and ten-thousands of thought-leaders in India today?

One group of men who must be first on your list for *Our Times* is the Christian clergymen in your community. You should gather their names and addresses and encourage your church to send *Our Times* to everyone of them. Many of them are sincere and greatly appreciate this magazine. The seed sown will bear fruit not only in their lives but in the lives of the congregations they serve. Other community thought-leaders such as mayors, members of Parliament, advocates, and physicians should receive this magazine from your church.



The VBS students and teachers.

Trivandrum VBS Launches JMV Society

Mrs. C. C. NATHANIEL

We have just ended a very successful Vacation Bible School in Kaudiar, Trivandrum, which was attended by 103 children whose ages ranged from four to fourteen. Our young people took a very active part in this programme in that out of 16 teachers that we had, 13 were below 30 years of age.

We had special divisions for kindergarten, primary and Junior children and around 80% of our VBS attendance came from our Sabbath School membership.

Immediately after the conclusion of the VBS, we organized a JMV society. The JMV meetings are now being conducted from four to five p.m. each Sabbath followed by an hour of MV programme. Last Saturday we had 56 primary and junior children attending the newly-begun JMV. Our aim is to hold JMV meetings one week and progressive classes the following week so that these children who have recently begun the habit of studying the Bible and nature can be helped to maintain their interest.

We have also started a Pathfinders Club.

How the VBS Started

On May 6, I heard a conversation just outside my window. Since VBS was being mentioned, my curiosity was aroused and so I watched and listened. Surrounded by six to eight children stood a 11-year old Hindu boy who had attended our VBS last year delivering a most thrilling canvass to those children asking them to attend the VBS this year.

On the opening day, he with two of our Adventist boys, rounded up most of the children from this vicinity and turned in over 70 names for enrolment.

Thus started our VBS, every moment of which was interesting to both students and teachers. The lessons were on "God's Wonderful World" and after an intense study of the marvels of creation, the final lesson on the "Earth Made New" was taught.

On the 10th day of the VBS a tired but happy group of teachers laid plans for the Sabbath school. The next Sabbath morning we had all three children's divisions well organized and busy. Previously

owing to lack of children we just had one division. After the success of our endeavour and the good interest shown, the decision to organize a JMV society naturally followed.

The Witnessing of the Juniors

One of the girls attending the Pathfinder Club comes from a Pentecostal home. Her parents were not favourable toward Adventists and did not grant her permission to attend our VBS last year. But this year her mother agreed to let her come. She has continued to come for JMV and Pathfinders.

Another boy is from a Salvation Army family. They too were not very enthusiastic at first. In fact, five children from their family were allowed to attend only the VBS. However, this boy, being a Junior, continues to come to Sabbath school, JMV and Pathfinders. Hence we feel that VBS has been instrumental in breaking down prejudices and in influencing the parents.

There are five Hindu students in junior section. One of them attended last year's VBS and later he and his older brother enrolled for the VOP. Now they have completed up to the 16th lesson.

A Catholic girl of five first began attending our branch Sabbath school. When her mother was approached to send her to our church for VBS, she refused. But the little girl prevailed on the mother until she finally got the permission. She attended regularly, walking almost a mile back and forth, and on the graduation day she brought her mother to our church. We were thrilled to see this Catholic lady come. She met me and expressed her appreciation for our interest in her daughter. She mentioned how each night her daughter would go very early to bed just to wake up early enough to attend the VBS and how she would fuss if permission was not granted.

An eight-year-old boy of a Hindu family when prevented from going to Sabbath school remarked to his father, "Daddy, Jesus Himself has said 'Suffer the little children to

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Students and teachers on graduation day

Hindu Children Attend VBS in Hyderabad

N. S. BHASKER RAO

A Vacation Bible School was conducted in Secunderabad from May 2 to 12. Though this was the first time we conducted this type of a programme, our efforts were successful. We had an average attendance of 35 children. Of these 10% were Adventists, 20% non-Adventists and 70% Hindus. We found every one of them were absorbed in the programme.

On the graduation day 27 certificates were awarded. Fifteen special gifts were given to those who had a perfect attendance record. The Bible Society of India pre-

sented a Bible to the best Bible student in the VBS.

The success of this programme, undoubtedly, has been due to the able and consecrated teachers in the Hyderabad and Secunderabad churches who lent their valuable time in serving the children. We are looking forward to conducting a better VBS in 1967.

MV CAMP AT KHUNTI

MRS. W. G. LOWRY

At Khunti, Bihar, from June 9 to 15, 48 young people from fifteen towns and villages camped in celebration of the 40th anniversary of M.V. camping. Many of these young people had not before enjoyed the privilege of associating with other youth of like persuasion. As they mingled in camp activities, they developed new concepts of one's responsibility to society and God, new ideals of competent service to others, new understanding of some fundamental principles of faith. They hope to attend a similar gathering next year.

Two Fruitful Efforts In Kerala

D. R. WATTS

There is good news from Kerala Section. Their baptisms to date this year are more than double of what they were to this date last year.

On Sunday, June 26, I baptized 44 people in Trivandrum. Twenty-two of these were from a series of evangelistic meetings being conducted by M. A. James. These meetings have an excellent interest and a large attendance. Pastor James hopes to have another 20 or 30 baptisms from this effort. We already have a good church building in this place and with the newly baptized members it will be completely full.

The way the Lord has led us in our work here has been miraculous. A few weeks ago, Pastor James sent me an urgent letter requesting me to come and help in the effort for a few days. Over 500 people were attending the meetings, he said.

The Union officers thought it best that I go and spend about five days there. The monsoons had already broken in Kerala. I was scheduled to arrive in Trivandrum on Wednesday evening, only a few hours before that evening's meeting. It began to rain heavily on Tuesday. Rains meant that the people would not come. Hence Pastor James had called the effort workers and the church members together and had a prayer meeting asking that God would not make the rain to spoil our meetings.

The rain stopped the day I arrived and for the next five days that I was there not a drop fell in Trivandrum, whereas it was raining heavily in all surrounding areas. Sunday night after we came home from the meetings—at about one o'clock in the morning—it be-

come unto me', then why do you forbid me to go and learn about Jesus?"

True are the words: "A little child shall lead them." Some parents are even willing to pay fees to enable the children attend the VBS. We are confident that through this new means we would be able to reach many more people in this locality. With us, it is not too early to lay plans for even next year's VBS.

Former Falakata Student Raises Church

PETER MUNDU

gan to rain heavily and rained all day Monday. We all felt that the Lord had held back the rains those five days in answer to our prayers.

Of the 44 baptized on June 26, 21 were the results of Pastor Gabriel's effort at Kachini, Kerala. We had opened up the work in this place with an effort in November and December of 1965. I had spent a few days with Pastor Gabriel then. He and his workers had built up an excellent interest and there were 34 baptized at that time and a new Sabbath school was organized. We had had no believers in that area before.

This year it was decided that another effort must be held there to strengthen the new believers. Hence Pastor Gabriel and some lay preachers started an effort just recently about two miles from Kachini so that those same people could attend.

The Lord has greatly blessed our work in Kachini. Almost a complete Catholic congregation has accepted the Truth. Ninety-six families, forming about 160 members, are attending the Sabbath school. Seventy-two of these have been baptized in the last few weeks, and have joined the 34 baptized last December in this place.

Hence a new church of over a hundred members has sprung up here in less than eight months. Pastor Gabriel and his workers anticipate that they will have over a hundred or at least a hundred baptisms from the current effort. Over thirty are preparing for baptism. This number, joining the 72 already baptized, would mean that this probably would be the first time over a hundred souls would have been baptized in one effort in this Division.

The new members are well instructed. Pastor Gabriel, I believe, is one of our workers who is very, very careful in considering who is ready for baptism. There were quite a number of others who wanted to be baptized at the last baptismal service, whom the pastor would not allow as he did not feel they were ready yet.

It looks like we will have at least two centurian evangelists in Kerala Section this year.

Obed Kandulna was attending a government school at Golaghat, Assam. He was not pleased with the type of education he was receiving there. He wanted something better than a mere pursuit of worldly knowledge. He enquired from his friends where he could get Christian Education.

One of his Assamese Hindu friends informed him that there was a Christian school at Falakata, near Coochbehar. He was told that the Christians here do not worship on Sunday as others do, but on Saturday. This was strange news for Brother Kandulna, because, as a Baptist church member he had never heard of such a group of Christians. Nevertheless, he made up his mind to study in this Christian institution, and to find out for himself why these Christians worship on Saturday. Thus Obed Kandulna enrolled himself at Raymond Memorial Training School, Falakata, in the year 1958.

He could not stay in Falakata for more than one year because of the language problem, and the courses offered here were beyond his comprehension. So after staying one year at the school he returned home, taking along with him a few tracts and VOP enrolment cards. He started telling his own people what he had seen and learnt at the school. He enrolled himself and two friends in the VOP. When the lessons came these three started studying the lessons faithfully. They formed a Bible study class and discussed among themselves the new things they read in the VOP lessons. Others took part in the discussions. This continued for five years.

As they studied they became convinced of the Seventh-day Sabbath message. They shared this new-found message with the rest of the Baptist church members. Some saw the light clearly and some did not, hence there was a division in the church.

The people who believed in the Sabbath message could no longer

attend the Sunday services. Thus on January 8, this year, Brother Kandulna's group met to observe the first Sabbath according to the command of the Lord.

The Baptist church catechist of Nagabat village was greatly perturbed and wanted to know whether such a church ever existed under the sun. With Obed Kandulna and two others, he too came to Falakata. They met Pastors B. J. Williams and W. G. Lowry and received several Bible studies from these brethren.

I went to visit them at Nagabat on Monday April 18. Tuesday morning at 10:30, 22 adults with their children turned up for Bible study. They had decided to have two Bible classes a day—one in the morning and one in the evening. I had a busy programme for one week teaching them the cardinal doctrines of the church and answering their questions. These twenty-four adults and their children have decided to join the remnant church. They have already started constructing their own house of worship and are planning to build a church school, too. They have asked the church organization to send a teacher or a preacher to their village.

In the Brahmaputra Valley, there is another group of people who studied the VOP lessons and have become convinced of the Sabbath truth. They are keeping the Sabbath by themselves as a result. They too are requesting for someone who could teach them the truth more fully.

While returning to Falakata I found that there were twenty-two adults at Fatemabad Tea Estate near Borpeta Road who are also convinced of the Sabbath message and have decided to join the remnant church.

The harvest in these areas is truly plenteous, but the labourers are really few. It is high time for us to wake up and do something about providing workers in these needy areas.

Branch-Out Evangelism In Moratuwa

R. S. FERNANDO

For three consecutive years, public meetings were conducted in Moratuwa in an effort to reach a population of 75,000 living in the 19 villages that comprise the town. The first two efforts were held in the centrally-located church in Moratuwa. The last effort was held in the town-hall. Twenty-five were added to the church as the result of these meetings.

During the summer of 1966, we decided to spread out our efforts in an attempt to reach more people. Three villages were chosen for branch-out evangelism programmes.

Lacpathiya village, which was the base of our work 35 years ago, was chosen as the venue for reaching three villages. A collectorate during Portuguese rule, Lacapathiya was long administered by a Metropolitan and still retains a Portuguese influence. Our tabernacle was erected at the junction of De Mel Road and Bishop Terrace—a rather easy-to-locate spot.

To prepare the area for our evangelistic campaign, several chapters of *Steps to Christ* were printed in tract form in Sinhalese and were distributed months before the beginning date. A team of colporteurs prepared lists of probable interests. E. C. Beck conducted a series of open-air temperance film shows and enrolled hundreds of people in the V.O.P. courses. While the tin tabernacle was being erected 1,500 homes were visited with a mimeographed letter which invited them to the meetings. This was followed by a second visit with handbills announcing the opening lecture, "Minutes to Midnight."

The newspapers carried advertisements announcing one great, identical meeting being conducted in six different places on the same day and at the same time. Six efforts began on May 18 with the same subject as the opening lecture.

At Lacapathiya, the Adventist meetings became the talk of the town. Separate meetings were held for children in the morning and only those over 15 were admitted by ticket to the evening meetings. It being Easter vacation, children from 7 to 14 were invited to enrol in the Vacation Bible School that began two days after the opening night of the effort.

In the previous years a public effort in Ceylon usually opened on Sunday nights but this year the pre-poya-day was chosen for the opening meeting and it fell on Monday, May 16. The pre-poya-day, like Saturday in India, is a half-holiday and schools are usually closed all that day. At our meetings, the lectures were given in Sinhalese for three weeks on every day of the week except Sunday. Since Sunday is a working day in Ceylon, Christians meet for worship either early in the morning prior to going out for work or late in the evening after returning from work. More than half of the population of Moratuwa are Christians and there are over forty church buildings of various denominations here. We did not want to take up the jeal-

ously-guarded Christians' hour of worship on the Sunday evenings, and hence the Sunday meetings were cancelled.

In harmony with the Division recommendation on branch-out evangelism, Ranjit Aransze, a ministerial student of Spicer Memorial College, led out in presenting the message. The Sinhalese translation of *The Bible Made Plain* was given out to those who answered the questions on the Bible. Appeals to the heart were made by the use of the latest twentieth century films. Often during this part of the service the song, "Behold the Lamb of God" was sung in Sinhalese.

After the presentation of the Sabbath question in our meetings the audience was invited to ask questions. Forty gave their consent to keep the Sabbath and half the audience came to the altar on the closing night when the subject, "The Unpardonable Sin," was presented.

Sixty qualified for the attendance award. 144 work books were issued to the V.B.S. children. Prejudice is broken down in Moratuwa and doors hitherto closed are open now for further Bible study. Three have already been baptized and twenty-three are preparing for this step. Thirty young people of the town are now in our schools receiving an education that will further establish them in the truth. We believe that He who sees the end from the beginning will continue to make the seeds sown wholly fruitful.

FAILING HOMES

Question: Why are so many homes failing today?

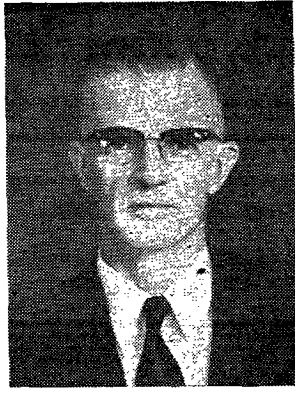
Answer: There is no one there. They are everywhere except at home. Many people today are searching for happiness away from its source, but they seek in vain. The gadabout mother is flirting with sorrow, and the too-busy-to-stay-at-home dad is courting trouble. Do not let Satan break up your home. Live there. The One who gave us the home "to dress it

and to keep it" intended that our sweetest moments and our happiest hours should be spent there.

Pull up the ugly weeds of discontent, nagging, scolding, and quarrelling and cultivate the lovely flowers of praise, cheerfulness, and contentment. Study to make your home the place where God meets with your family, and teach your children to love and enjoy it. Be determined to make your home a success.



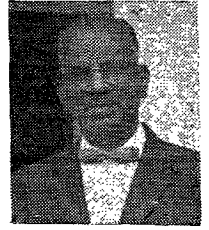
R. S. Lowry
(re-elected)



C. B. Guild
(was treasurer)



B. H. Stickle
(was auditor)



I. K. Moses
(was South India secretary)

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED FOR SOUTHERN ASIA

The General Conference held in Detroit last month voted the following officers for the Southern Asia Division:

President: R. S. Lowry
Secretary: C. B. Guild
Treasurer: B. H. Stickle
Field Secretary: I. K. Moses
Auditor: H. Osmond

Departmental Secretaries:

Education: C. H. Tidwell
Lay Activities: G. W. Maywald
Ministerial and "Radio-TV" (Voice of Prophecy): W. H. Mattison
Missionary Volunteer: Emerson Hillock
Publishing: J. A. Soule
Sabbath School: W. F. Storz
Temperance and Public Relations: S. James

A later meeting of the Division officers at Detroit elected the following Union presidents (others not mentioned will continue):

Northeast: G. J. Christo
Northwest: R. E. Rice
Western: V. P. Muthiah



C. H. Tidwell
(was S.M.C. dean)



G. W. Maywald
(re-elected)



W. H. Mattison
(re-elected)

E. Hillock
(was Lasalgaon principal)



V. P. Muthiah
(was Div. S. S. secretary)



G. J. Christo
(was Div. MV secretary)



R. E. Rice
(was Div. Ed. secretary)



H. Osmond
(was assistant treasurer)



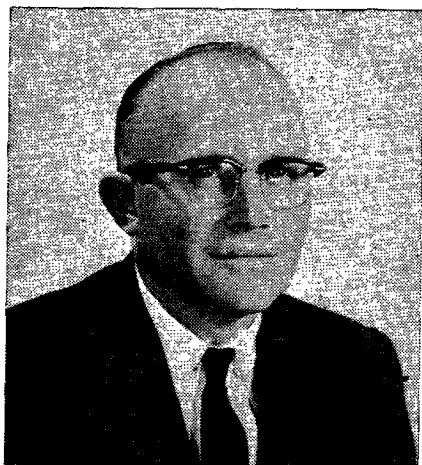
J. A. Soule
(re-elected)



W. F. Storz
(was Northwest dept. secy.)

S. James
(re-elected)





Pierson, One-time Southern Asia President, Is World Leader

On Friday, June 17, the fiftieth world conference of Seventh-day Adventists meeting in Detroit, U.S.A., elected Robert H. Pierson, president of the Trans-African Division and a former president of the Southern Asia Division (1950-54) as the world leader for the Adventist Church. He occupies the place left vacant by retiring president, Reuben R. Figuhr, who has been in this position for the last twelve years.

Elder Pierson is known and loved by many workers here in Southern Asia as he has spent most of his life-time of ministry in this field, as Tamil Mission Superintendent, South India Union Superintendent, and in many other capacities.

The General Conference also re-elected W. R. Beach as the secretary and elected K. H. Emmerson, a one-time missionary to South America, as the treasurer. (Details of the election appear on page 20 of this issue.)

A Personal Sketch of the President

By J. F. Ashlock

It was while attending a camp meeting at Collegedale, Tennessee, in 1934, that I first met Robert H. Pierson. He had raised up a church in that area while still a student in college and was then, at 23 years of age, the home missionary secretary of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

A few months later he joined our working force in India, where he served with distinction as pastor, evangelist, and administrator. During his first term of foreign mission service he was elected president of the South India Union. Since then his service to the church has included administrative responsibility in North America and in three overseas divisions.

During the time Elder Pierson was president of the Southern Asia Division, it was my privilege to work with him as division secretary. I never ceased to marvel at his apparently unlimited capacity for work, his energy, and his dauntless courage even under the most trying circumstances.

I observed with admiration his ability to remain calm and serene when sorely tested. Often as he experienced the loneliness of true leadership, I noted with what patience, kindness, and tolerance he dealt with those who failed to see as he saw. The secret, I believe, is his close connection with the Lord and his dependence upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Those who have worked with him are familiar with his oft-repeated words, "Let us pray about it." Some of the most cherished memories of our years together in Southern Asia are centred in his office, where so

many times we knelt together in prayer.

The workers and laity in the fields where Elder Pierson has laboured have particularly appreciated his warm-hearted, friendly approachable manner. They testify that though one of the busiest of men he yet makes himself readily accessible to all who need his counsel.

Elder Pierson's father was a bank president, who was well known for his honesty and integrity. Elder Pierson's Adventist mother faithfully conducted family worship and taught her children to pray and love the Word of God.

It was at the time of his mother's death, when he was 20 years of age, that Elder Pierson made his total commitment to God. Leaving her bedside, he went alone to another room, fell upon his knees, and in sincere penitence cried out, "Now, Lord, I am where You want me to be. What do You want me to do?" Immediately there flashed into his mind the words he had once hidden there, "My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways" (Prov. 23:26). From that moment he became a dedicated servant of God.

The delegates, I believe, have chosen a man of God, who will provide courageous, dedicated leadership. With workers and members around the world I pledge him my prayer and my support.

Southern Asia Report at the General Conference

By R. S. LOWRY, *President*

(Complete text)

The Southern Asia Division includes India, Pakistan, Burma, Afghanistan, Nepal, Ceylon, Tibet, and certain independent coastal islands bordering India. In this area live more than 660 million people—21.5 per cent of the world's population!

Figures such as these are staggering, almost incomprehensible. In human terms they seem to limit the carrying out of the gospel commission, for even if the message should be given to one new person every minute, it would take well over a millennium to reach this number.

But God has promised that the gospel will be reached in all the world for a witness. Thus, during the past quadrennium our 140 missionaries and 1,700 national workers have united their efforts to finish the task, and we can report to this assembly success in the outreach of the Advent message.

During the period under review 10,057 were baptized in Southern Asia. This number represents an increase of 23 per cent over the number added during the previous quadrennium. But more than this, baptisms during the last year of the current period indicate an increasing crescendo, for the number exceeded that of the corresponding period of the past term by 30 per cent. One local mission, the Andhra Section, presents the outstanding record of an increase of 27 per cent in membership within the past two years—an addition of one for every 3.7 members!

During the past four years the work of God has gone forward in every phase of denominational

endeavour. Despite the fact that our territory during this time has suffered the ravages of flood, drought, and famine, economic disturbance, riots, political upheavals, and the rise and fall of governments, progress has been steady.

Four years ago, following the last General Conference Session, delegates from all parts of Southern Asia were called to meet in quadrennial council. At that time the membership was challenged to a greater consecration and a commitment to the concept of total evangelism in which every agency and every member of the church would participate.

The home missionary department, under the leadership of G. W. Maywald, and with assistance from the General Conference, has strengthened the work by conducting numerous conventions, congresses, and institutes for the training and encouragement of our people. More than 1,000 laymen received their "120" pin during the visit of A. A. Esteb to our field.

Numerous are the stories of persons who previously felt they could do little but who have contributed much in soul-saving endeavour. There is the outstanding example of the membership in the city of Galle, Ceylon. Their missionary-pastor, soon to be away on a six-month furlough, proposed the goal of doubling their number while he was away. Taking this charge seriously, the group rallied to the task under the leadership of their elder, a man who only a year before had been steeped in drunkenness and worldly pleasure. Can you imagine the missionary's amazement when he returned to

find his church company actually doubled? But the story does not end there. E. C. Beck, president of the Ceylon Union, informs me that this group within the year of its organization increased to three times its original size—from 22 to 65.

The awakening among the laymen of the church has not eclipsed the activity of the evangelist, however. In 1962, at the beginning of this term, many of our evangelistic workers were privileged to attend a large school of evangelism organised and directed by E. E. Cleveland in the city of Bombay. This valuable contribution to the work has resulted in more and better-run evangelistic campaigns. We now find national evangelists baptizing 25, 35, and even 50 believers at the conclusion of their campaigns. As Weldon Mattison, ministerial association secretary, points out, this is something new in Southern Asia.

The efforts of one of our evangelists were so blessed of God last year that his meetings in Tiruvilla in Kerala resulted in a baptism of 84 persons. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that today in Southern Asia the major burden of evangelism is carried by national ministers. In the South India Union, for instance, where 50 per cent of the division membership resides, all evangelistic work is in the hands of our indigenous brethren, whose activities are coordinated by D. R. Watts, an overseas missionary.

The radio-TV department, although limited to broadcasting the programme Your Radio Doctor featuring Dr. Clifford Anderson, has been greatly blessed in the

(To page 16)

ANNUAL STATISTICAL RE

NAME OF UNION AND LOCAL SECTIONS	Number of Churches	Church Membership at Beginning of Year	Members Added During the Period			Members Dropped During the Period				Total Church Membership at Close of Year	Tithe		World Missions		Total Contributions
			4a	4b	4c	5a	5b	5c	5d		Total Tithe Receipts	Tithe Per Capita	Total Offerings for World Missions, Including Sabbath School Offerings	Mission Offerings Per Capita	
BURMA UNION:															
Central and Upper Burma Section	21	913	145	1	17	6	4	18	5	1,043	—	—	—	—	41
Irrawaddy Delta Section	18	1,169	68	—	1	16	1	3	1	1,217	—	—	—	—	—
Rangoon Area and Union Institutions	3	492	14	3	17	34	7	26	2	457	—	—	—	—	1,44
Tenasserim Section	11	684	78	—	17	16	3	2	22	736	—	—	—	—	4,57
Totals	53	3,258	305	4	52	72	15	49	30	3,453	169,821.65	49.18	144,746.16	41.92	6,43
CEYLON UNION:															
	13	787	99	1	22	42	10	56	26	775	99,774.91	126.77	74,708.91	96.40	41
NORTHEAST UNION:															
Assam Section	34	1,851	169	—	—	—	4	25	4	1,987	53,841.33	27.09	44,014.63	22.15	14
East India Section	36	1,888	65	9	12	65	5	5	32	1,867	58,668.18	31.43	47,508.79	25.44	25
Union & Union Institutions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	49,818.13	—	—
Totals	70	3,739	234	9	12	65	9	30	36	3,854	112,509.51	29.19	141,341.55	36.67	39
NORTHWESTERN INDIA UNION:															
Central India Section	1	53	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	56	5,062.86	90.40	15,716.07	280.64	—
North India Section	9	921	75	—	—	—	2	4	—	990	29,464.15	29.76	51,197.16	51.71	10
Upper Ganges Section	15	1,030	61	11	34	45	4	8	1	1,078	55,827.06	51.79	70,470.29	65.37	75
Union Special	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	857.81	—	1,225.87	—	—
Totals	25	2,004	136	11	37	45	6	12	1	2,124	91,211.88	42.94	138,609.39	65.26	86
PAKISTAN UNION:															
East Pakistan Section	19	774	157	179*	—	—	13	4	189	904	16,647.07	18.27	37,881.21	41.58	—
Punjab Section	22	1,948	70	—	5	2	8	—	15	1,998	20,717.15	10.23	25,052.00	12.37	—
Union Administration	4	278	6	—	2	—	—	12	—	274	42,528.63	174.29	171,195.64	701.62	—
* Refers to movement of members in border areas.															
Totals	45	3,000	233	179*	7	2	21	16	204	3,176	79,892.85	24.89	234,128.85	72.05	—
SOUTH INDIA UNION:															
Andhra Section	65	5,522	731	—	1	—	25	—	—	6,229	109,005.14	17.50	64,130.22	10.29	25
Kannada Section	8	949	116	5	34	21	5	4	5	1,069	62,834.52	58.78	45,376.13	42.44	20
Kerala Section	65	4,770	540	—	2	16	12	11	—	5,273	55,850.87	10.59	36,519.13	6.92	7
Tamil Section	52	4,179	400	5	12	23	19	9	8	4,537	106,899.62	23.56	64,871.40	14.30	21
Union & Union Institutions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,403.75	—	—
Totals	190	15,420	1,787	10	49	60	61	24	13	17,108	334,590.15	19.56	224,300.63	13.11	74
WESTERN INDIA UNION:															
North Maharashtra Section	10	590	39	—	16	2	1	2	20	620	11,741.66	18.93	15,148.69	24.43	6
Unorganized Section	17	1,306	88	10	39	31	3	4	—	1,405	117,698.78	83.77	113,318.35	80.65	87
Totals	27	1,896	127	10	55	33	4	6	20	2,025	129,440.44	63.92	128,467.04	63.44	94
Division & Div. Institutions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	363,496.09	—	—	—	—
GRAND TOTALS	423	30,104	2,921	224	234	319	126	193	330	32,515	1,380,737.48	42.46	1,086,302.53	33.41	9,794

RT OF THE SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1965

Home and Local Work			Sabbath Schools			Not otherwise Credentialed										Credentialed or Licensed		Total Number of Workers	No. of Elementary Schools	Elementary School Enrolment	Estimated Value of Elementary School Buildings and Equipment
Total Contributions for Local Church Work	Total Home and Local Contributions	Home and Local Contributions Per Capita	No. of Sabbath Schools	Sabbath School Membership	Total Sabbath School Offerings for World Missions	No. of Church Buildings	Ordained Ministers	Credentialed Missionaries	Credentialed Bible Instructors	Licensed Ministers	Licensed Missionaries	Licensed Bible Instructors	Elementary School Teachers	Literature Evangelists	All Other Regular Workers						
1,575.00	1,990.00	1.91	32	1,314	—	—	5	—	—	5	16	—	6	—	3	35	6	398	51,500.00		
—	—	—	31	1,416	—	—	3	—	—	3	9	—	20	—	1	36	14	703	25,000.00		
10,826.23	12,268.52	26.85	6	556	—	—	10	3	—	—	9	1	5	—	12	40	—	—	—		
10,821.75	15,395.15	20.92	19	1,123	—	—	6	2	—	5	18	—	8	—	5	44	8	467	131,400.00		
23,222.98	29,653.67	8.59	88	4,436	70,414.26	52	24	5	—	13	52	1	39	—	21	155	28	1,568	207,900.00		
15,673.97	16,087.78	20.75	16	1,260	30,386.39	6	12	6	—	4	38	—	1	6	3	70	5	110	30,000.00		
2,233.35	2,378.04	2.35	66	—	15,243.12	15	6	3	—	6	30	—	—	1	10	56	29	696	50,000.00		
6,556.88	6,808.04	3.65	51	—	20,752.77	20	15	1	—	22	11	—	27	9	4	89	25	558	62,000.00		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7	—	—	56	—	—	—	24	94	—	—	—		
8,790.23	9,186.08	2.38	117	6,386	35,995.89	35	28	11	—	28	97	—	27	10	38	239	54	1,254	112,000.00		
132.55	141.55	2.53	2	87	1,283.79	—	1	—	—	3	1	—	2	2	2	11	1	22	—		
621.00	724.33	0.73	41	1,631	8,122.98	13	4	1	—	6	5	—	16	5	11	48	8	431	80,000.00		
8,705.30	9,460.83	8.77	22	1,240	31,754.01	9	18	4	1	3	28	—	17	5	10	86	8	495	48,000.00		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
9,458.85	10,326.71	4.86	65	2,958	41,160.78	22	23	5	1	12	34	—	35	12	23	145	17	958	128,000.00		
—	—	—	20	860	8,862.36	14	7	3	—	5	8	—	10	—	7	40	12	200	—		
—	—	—	73	7,216	16,275.70	18	7	—	—	6	18	1	7	—	12	51	3	66	15,000.00		
—	—	—	9	997	24,083.34	2	7	5	—	1	29	—	4	3	234	283	2	128	20,000.00		
—	—	—	102	9,073	49,221.40	34	21	8	—	12	55	1	21	3	253	374	17	394	35,000.00		
3,091.93	3,350.77	0.54	92	6,682	25,798.58	38	18	2	—	11	36	—	—	6	33	106	3	280	100,000.00		
3,984.34	4,188.10	3.92	8	1,473	13,090.76	3	6	2	—	5	14	—	4	3	6	40	4	185	755.00		
1,805.96	1,876.65	0.35	116	7,093	13,536.82	54	17	—	—	8	22	—	7	17	7	78	5	450	100,000.00		
15,202.62	15,414.90	3.40	83	3,695	25,469.64	50	22	2	—	12	31	—	—	22	9	98	22	1,302	38,080.00		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	22	—	3	115	—	—	—	31	186	—	—	—		
24,084.85	24,830.42	1.45	299	18,943	77,895.80	145	78	28	—	39	218	—	11	48	86	508	34	2,217	238,835.00		
320.62	384.14	0.62	25	1,198	4,562.13	6	3	—	—	1	22	—	—	1	8	35	4	50	30,000.00		
8,722.77	9,600.25	6.83	30	2,426	44,645.55	16	10	2	—	4	57	—	—	6	6	85	9	530	162,283.00		
9,043.39	9,984.39	4.92	55	3,624	49,207.68	22	13	2	—	5	79	—	—	7	14	120	13	580	192,283.00		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	19	—	7	107	—	—	—	102	265	—	—	—		
90,274.27	100,069.05	3.08	742	46,680	354,282.20	316	229	84	1	120	680	2	134	86	540	1,876	165	7,081	944,018.00		

success that has attended its subsidiary, the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence School. Twice during the period under review the million mark in applications has been passed. A new health course has recently been introduced and its popularity has surpassed all expectations.

Numerous and thrilling are the letters of appreciation received at the Voice of Prophecy headquarters office in Poona. The account of ten convicts, all serving life sentences for murder, illustrates the value placed upon our Bible lessons. These men, in order to pay the postal charges for returning their lessons, sacrificed a number of meals each month and gave up their entire quota of cigarettes. Today we rejoice that all ten are reported to have accepted Christ as their personal Saviour.

The Sabbath school department also serves as an agency of evangelism and is today reaching out beyond its traditional precincts. With the encouragement of W. J. Harris from the General Conference, V. P. Muthiah, national leader of this department of our work, has placed increased emphasis upon branch Sabbath schools and child evangelism. To this end, more than 128 training institutes have been conducted in the past four years. Results accruing from these activities are such as we have never witnessed before in our area. There has been an increase of 50 per cent in the number of branch Sabbath schools. Vacation Bible Schools, something almost unknown in this part of the world until a couple of years ago, have now exceeded 32 in number. That this is just a beginning is indicated by the goal the department has set of conducting 200 such schools during 1966.

Our literature evangelists serve in the forefront of the battle for souls. As I. M. Chand, leader of our work in unorganized Central India, says, "Literature evangelists have entered every town and city in this territory. Sales have been rising rapidly until during 1964 the one-million-rupee mark was exceeded."

The experience of literature evangelists D. Verghese illustrates the guiding hand of God in this ministry. With a desire to do some special missionary work, our brother set out one day with his Bible to find someone with whom to study. However, having failed to find such a one, he sat by the roadside at the end of the day in utter discouragement. A passerby noticed his obvious dejection and inquired as to the reason. Upon being informed, he replied, "Brother, I'm your man." The sequel to this meeting was that in 1964, after a few months of instruction, 47 persons were baptized and a new church was organized.

Our youth have also joined in the spirit of evangelism. Challenged at a youth congress in 1964, 994 delegates from all parts of the division accepted as an MV



Target 1,000 souls. Reports indicate 958 were won during the period set apart. The consecration of our youth is exemplified by blind Missionary Volunteer Abraham, who faithfully supported the local Voice of Youth effort by his regular attendance, while many wondered what his contribution might be. One night, when two Hindu schoolteachers remained after the meeting and were heard to inquire of an usher what they should do to learn more of the truth, blind Abraham rose to the occasion and volunteered to show the way. With the assistance of a friend he studied with these two inquirers until he had the joy of witnessing their decision to follow their new-found Saviour. Under the direction of G. J. Christo, our youth in Southern Asia have been led through 400 special Weeks of Prayer into a closer walk with their Master and into a greater participation in the work of the church.

The youth of the church constitute its future hope. Realizing this, Southern Asia has invested heavily in its educational programme. Under the leadership of

R. E. Rice, the education department has sought to consolidate and expand its training facilities. It is now possible to report that all our secondary school units have obtained accreditation. Spicer Memorial College, which recently celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, is the chief training centre for our working force. Since 1962, under the leadership of M. E. Cherian, the staff of this institution has doubled in number. Of the 68 on the teaching faculty, five hold doctorate degrees and 35 masters degrees. Degree programmes are offered in 16 areas of study.

Accreditation of Spicer Memorial College under a system of government control of higher education has for years seemed unlikely. But due largely to its unique Christian character, Spicer Memorial College has received wide recognition during the past four years. Many have been the dignitaries and university officials who have visited our campus and been favourably impressed. Furthermore, the University of Poona, in whose territorial jurisdiction the college is situated, recently appointed a commission which, subsequent to its inspection, has recommended that the graduates of our college be permitted to seek regular admission for postgraduate studies, beginning with the coming academic year.

God has led marvellously in giving us favour in the eyes of the public. For example, our Roorkee Secondary School had long been without officialization of its academic programme. Naturally, there were apprehensions when a few months ago application was again made for its recognition by the India School Certificate Board. But one day, unannounced and earlier than expected, an inspector of schools arrived on the campus. Upon completing his inspection, and in reply to Principal Streeter's inquiry as to whether recognition might be forthcoming, the man confided, "It can't be otherwise. I am under orders. You must be recognized. You certainly have some very influential friends." Today our school has its accreditation, but we cannot explain why we

were so favourably treated, except to say it was the result of the hand of God in the matter.

Under the direction of S. James, public relations and temperance department secretary, the Institute of Scientific Studies for the Prevention of Alcoholism and the Five-Day Plan to Stop Smoking have been combined, with the presentation of favourable press releases that have resulted in much advantage to the cause. Our temperance work has opened doors for our evangelists as these activities have been more and more tied in with the name of Seventh-day Adventists. For instance, it was because of the film "One in 20,000" that our evangelist in the city of Kolar, Mysore, was permitted by the local authorities to utilize a favourable property earlier denied him. Similarly, it was the influence of *Alert* magazine that caused the registrar of the Ranchi University to arrange the public examination schedule so that our young people would not have to take examinations on Saturdays.

To present Seventh-day Adventists in a favourable light before government and the public is not always a simple matter, but we are pleased to report that God has prospered our brethren who carry the responsibility of negotiating with government in matters of conscientious objection. J. F. Ashlock, veteran missionary and general field secretary for our division, has also cared for the religious liberty interests of our field. Although many factors militated against favourable consideration, he was successful in negotiating an arrangement with the government of India whereby orders were issued to the various states in the union to exempt Seventh-day Adventists from military service and to use them as needed in civil defence work. Similarly, with the introduction in 1962 of compulsory military training throughout India, successful representation was made to the Prime Minister on behalf of our students studying in 35 public colleges and universities, which resulted in special orders being issued to all government colleges

to grant Seventh-day Adventists the right of conscientious objection.

The spiritual prosperity of the church is revealed at least partially by the liberality and support of its members. An increased sense of financial responsibility is being exhibited by members and institutions alike as each contributes toward the goal of self-support. Laymen's tithe has increased 86 per cent in the South India Union during the past four years. In the North India mission there is reported an increase of 100 per cent. Many are receiving outstanding blessings for their faithfulness.

For example, T. K. Murthi accepted the truth under very trying circumstances, which resulted in his being ostracized by his non-Christian neighbours and the community in which he lived. He furthermore lost the proprietorship of the family



plastics business. However, when it became apparent that the business could not flourish without him, the relatives bargained for his return. At this point Brother Murthi established his intentions of going all the way in his newfound faith. He said, "If I am to manage the business, it must close from Friday afternoon to sunset Saturday. Furthermore, I must pay to the church one-tenth of all the increase."

The family considered these demands for some time and finally accepted the proposal. In consequence of the blessing of God and as a result of the faithfulness of this brother, the business improved until everyone in the family was better off than before. Today Brother Murthi is here in attendance at this General Conference session, having met his own expenses all the way from far-off India.

Our institutions, both medical and educational, are working in the direction of increased self-support. In this connection we are proud to be able to state that the

Lakpahana Training Institute, our secondary boarding school in the island of Ceylon, with an enrolment of more than 200 students, is the first of its kind to become self-supporting. In its 1966 budget Principal A. W. Robinson presented no request for an appropriation. This outstanding achievement has set a goal toward which other institutions are now striving.

For many years Southern Asia has had a programme of building churches as fast as possible. Sixty-one houses of worship were constructed during the past four years. Toward the cost of these constructions, one-third has come from local contributions. Some of these churches have had an unusual beginning, as in the case of the one at Gandiganamula. The story begins with a ten-year-old gypsy boy by the name of Sriramalu who was afflicted with tuberculosis in the last stages. As he sought help from doctor to doctor, he met an Adventist, Dr. Samuel. While undergoing treatment he heard the story of Jesus from Mrs. Samuel. As a result upon leaving the hospital he said, "My people at Gandiganamula must know of this story too." In the course of time, by the witness of this lad who had now regained his health, and with the assistance of Mrs. Samuel, an interest developed that ultimately resulted in a goodly number accepting the message. Today Sriramalu has finished high school and is a medical student preparing for a place in the work. On October 30, 1965, Gandiganamula became the proud possessor of a dedicated house of worship.

We pause to pay tribute to Dr. Philip Nelson for his leadership in our medical work, and to his lovely wife who died tragically at the hands of murderers in 1964. We thank God for our devoted medical workers whose faithful service makes possible a report of progress despite apparent loss and setback. In Nepal our hospital has gained favour with the people, and we are now requested to expand our facilities. Plans are afoot to add another doctor family and increase the number of beds. The influence

of the Giffard Memorial Hospital in Nuzvid, South India, is widespread. In consequence of its witness seven church companies have been established within a radius of ten miles.

Dr. I. R. Bazziel, working out of our Simla Sanitarium and Hospital situated in the northern Himalaya Mountains, runs a mobile clinic for the benefit of Tibetan refugees who have been given asylum in these hills. His contacts have led to meetings with the Dalai Lama himself, who has expressed his appreciation of our work for his people. While agitators burned down the American Information Centre in Karachi a few months ago, the mob that attempted to enter our hospital grounds just across the street was stayed, we believe, by none other than the hand of the Lord. By the blessing of God this institution has erected a 60-bed addition within the past four years.

Unfortunately, we have to report the loss of our fine hospital in Rangoon since the Burma Government chose to nationalize most institutions. However, severe as this blow was, we are cheered to note that the presence of the Lord has been with our people in Burma. We can report that not one of our schools has been taken over, that our evangelistic programme continues apace, and that there has been an increase in membership of 50 per cent during this quadrennium. Our people in this union have been somewhat isolated, yet, as they have been separated from us they have drawn closer to the Lord, who is their strength.

As we look to the future in Southern Asia we are not daunted by such statements as K. M. Munshi, a secular Indian scholar, has made indicating that "since freedom there has been a resurgence of Hinduism, which will make it impossible for Christianity to make any headway in India." On the contrary, our believers hold to the promise of Jesus, "And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me." With God's help, we expect to witness such achievements as will surpass our wildest imagination. Our plans for the work, in keeping with our faith, are

toward greater exploits for the Master. At present, construction has either started or will soon be under way which will establish three additional hospitals, a new boarding school, a health food factory, and many a house of worship. Remodelling and expansion of existing institutions, the addition of new departments, takes place here and there throughout our division field.

As time draws to its end and as opposition becomes greater, the evangelistic zeal of the membership of the church is intensified. Our workers and believers throughout Southern Asia are full of courage in the Lord. Thousands of interested people are attending our meetings and studying our Bible lessons. Daily there appear evidences of a great break-through in the offing. Ordained ministers of other denominations, Buddhist priests, Brahmans, and others who previously were unapproachable are now accepting the message in increasing numbers. Even a Moslem mosque has recently been converted into a Seventh-day Adventist church.

When persons who normally are beyond our reach and not usually concerned with religious matters miraculously are drawn from their former ways to join the remnant church, we may know that God is

with us and that His work will end in triumph as predicted. How else could it be when an educated Brahman, a sub-editor of the notable *Times of India* newspaper, is casually drawn into conversation with an Adventist worker who sits across the aisle of the train and is ultimately led to renounce Hinduism and accept the message? How else could it be when a junior engineering student in the University of Ceylon is moved by several dreams concerning the second coming of Christ, which lead to a search that results in his joining the remnant church that teaches this doctrine? How else could it be when a rough and ill-reputed man is hired to kill one of our members conducting Bible studies in a certain home, but who, upon encountering his victim is captivated by his good spirit, and later joins the Advent people?

Yes, God is with His people, and through them we expect He will perform wonders for the finishing of His work. Like Job, the workers and believers in Southern Asia "would seek unto God . . . which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number" (Job 5:8, 9). They look forward with keen expectation to the soon finishing of the task and to entering into the joy of their Lord.

The Power of the Gospel in Vietnam

J. A. SOULE

"To the Jew first, and also to the Greek," is the gospel message, according Romans 1:16. We tend to think that the saving power of the gospel is only to the "Greek," and forget that the power of the gospel will work also with the "Jew." The apostle Paul himself was a Jew and personally experienced this power in his own life and ministry. Today, our literature-evangelists are experiencing this same power over in Viet Nam and in other places of the world.

In 1960 there were only 16 literature-evangelists in Viet Nam. Today, in spite of the long war and the many hardships, there are 80 active literature-evangelists. Sixteen of these faithful workers were captured by the Viet Cong. No word has been received from ten of them, and it is assumed that they have made the supreme sacrifice for the gospel.

The other six literature-evangelists were released by the Viet

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DETROIT~

JUNE 15~25

A day by day report of the General Conference session

June 16, Thursday

Representatives of the 1,578,000 Seventh-day Adventists scattered throughout the 14,650 churches of the world met tonight at Detroit's Cobo Hall to begin the 10-day long fiftieth session.

The church had decided to hold the world session in this fifth largest city of the U.S. noted for its automobile industry because it has one of the finest convention facility in the world.

The Arena where the large meetings will be held seats about 11,000 people. In the shape of an elongated horseshoe, it contains three banks of balconies, reaching from the arena floor literally to the ceiling, furnished with 9,561 permanent seats. The arena floor has about 1,800 movable chairs. These and some of the lowest side bal-

conies—with chairs 2,700 in all—are reserved for delegates, the staff of the General Conference, and veteran workers.

Cobo Hall, name of the convention complex, is a rectangular structure of three levels connected by ramps, elevators and escalators, with a 1,200-car parking lot on the roof of the building and an interstate highway running through the ground floor. So extensive is the building—2,220,490 square feet of usable floor space—that the session manager, Brother Clayton Forshee, has to use a Cushman scooter for getting around. In fact scooters and power trucks are seen everywhere inside the building.

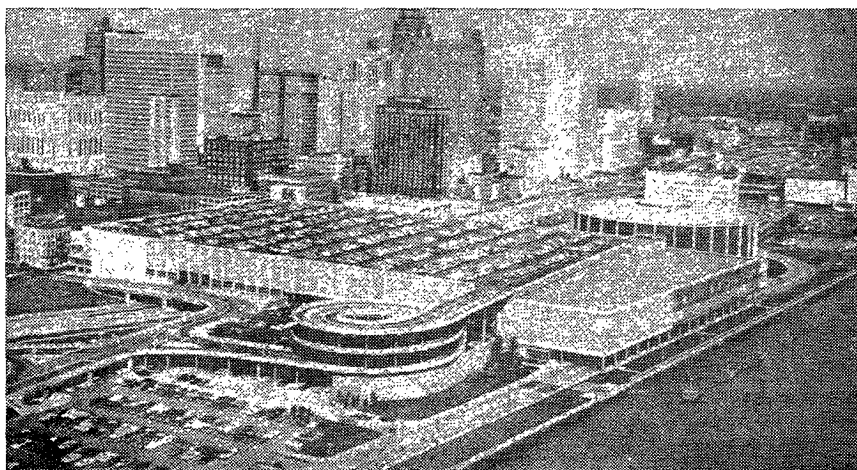
The first floor has an exhibit area of approximately 104,000 square feet of floor space. By now this space is partitioned into graspable units of steel and wooden

framework and large panels of plywood.

Curtains and pictures are everywhere and the busy Adventist workers setting up exhibits that charm and instruct, entertain and inspire. All this is overwhelming.

Above the first floor exhibit is a large ballroom seating 3,700 where the pre-conference Ministerial meetings are being held. Every department has been allotted a large room in which promotional meetings are going on. On other floors there are three more exhibit halls and 41 other meeting rooms ranging in seating capacity from 25 to 2500. A cafeteria, with four lines of service and a seating capacity of 1,500 overlooks the Detroit River. Adventist patrons will find familiar foods being served and welcome signs of every table.

At eight this evening, the conference opened in great surges of praise to God with swarming thousands of believers mingling with delegates from every State in the U.S. and from 189 countries around the globe representing more than 700 languages of earth. It was inspiring to hear them sing under the leadership of Sunny Liu, singing



This air view shows the Arena (circular building at the right), Cobo Hall (in foreground with ramp leading to parking lot on top), and a part of Detroit's skyline. The Arena seats about 11,500.

evangelist for the North Pacific Union, with Dr. Warren Becker of Andrews University at the console of the great Rodgers pipe organ and organist Van Knause of Faith for Today at the piano.

The gathering sang the same songs that have kept bright the Advent hope through 12 decades of watchful waiting for our Lord to come. At the first General Conference in 1863, twenty delegates from a half dozen States of the U.S. sang from the first Advent Hymnal:

"Soon He comes! With clouds descending;
All His saints entombed arise.
The redeemed in anthems blending
Shouts of victory through the skies."

This Thursday evening 100 years farther on 8,000 voices sang the same theme: "The Golden Morning Is Fast Approaching," and "We Are Nearing Home."

At 8 o'clock the upper balconies of Cobo Hall were beginning to fill as the General Conference officers and invited guest speakers took their places on the platform. Seated in chairs in front of the delegates on the main floor were dozens of veteran workers, present by special invitation of the General Conference officers.

The appropriate opening song, "Lead On, O King Eternal," began the session. The theme song of the 1962 General Conference, "We Have This Hope," was so popular that it was adopted again for this one.

The actual business of the conference got underway with the seating of 1,415 delegates. Standing committees were appointed. Elder Figuhr gave his quadrennial report (published on another page) which highlighted the accession of nearly a half million members in the last four years. This gave pause for rejoicing over so great an advance. It also forecasted the day when thousands would be converted in a day.

At this time, Elder Figuhr also announced his retirement and asked the conference to elect a new leader. He said, "The time has come when the burden of leader-

ship of the denomination should be laid upon other shoulders. When one stands in the shadow of threescore years and ten he begins to feel the weight of the years, and these times demand a man of activity as well as of strength and courage. I am glad to say that we have a fine group of experienced and dedicated men of demonstrated loyalty, anyone of whom could capably lead our denomination as President of the General Conference."

June 17, Friday

The afternoon session today was kaleidoscopic with interest. The point of the greatest moment was the first partial report of the nominating committee. The choosing of a leader to the highest position of responsibility in the church always requires careful and prayerful review of the potential choices of men of wide and long experience in leadership. It was no surprise, therefore, when R. H. Pierson, president of the Trans-Africa Division, was nominated to the presidency of the General Conference for the ensuing quadrennium. When W. E. Murray called for the vote, the response of approval was unanimous. The entire audience stood as Elder Pierson came forward.

Responding to the election, Elder Pierson said, "The very thought of accepting this solemn responsibility makes me tremble. Never has a man stood where I stand just now, who has needed your prayers and your support more than I do. With God's help and with the co-operation of the very fine leaders scattered around the world, I'll do my best. My faith and confidence in this message and its ultimate and early triumph, was never stronger than it is today."

Elder Figuhr, the retiring president, assured his successor of the prayers and support of all his associates.

Later the nominating committee brought the name of W. R. Beach as secretary of the General Conference and he was re-elected.

June 18, Sabbath

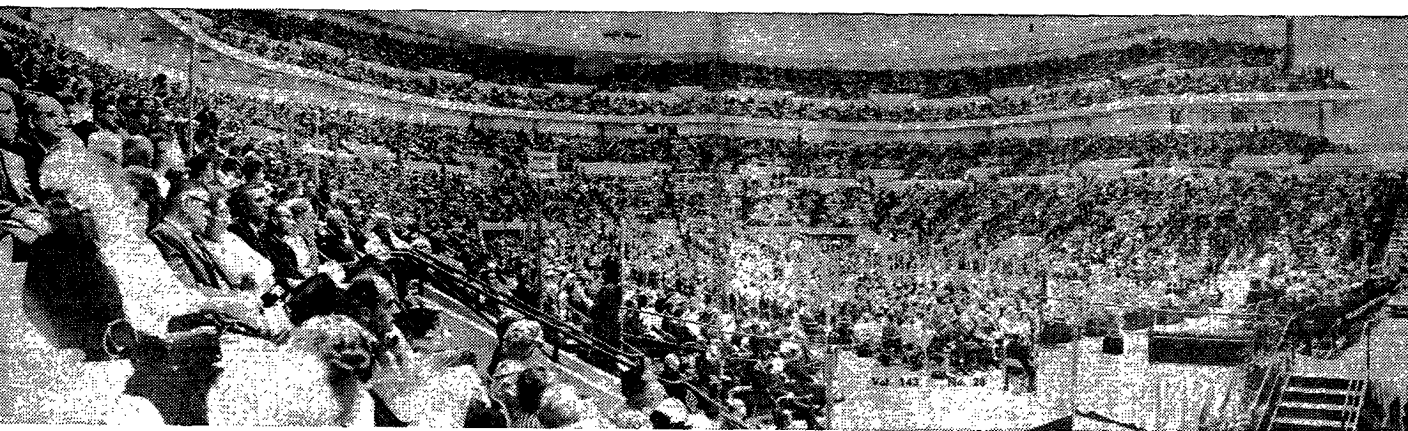
The broad sun sank down in its tranquillity over the world's motor capital, ushering in the hours of the first Sabbath of this historic session of the General Conference. The auditorium of the arena at Cobo Hall was filled to capacity with delegates and friends. On the platform was a 105-piece General Conference Symphonic Band. After a sacred concert which featured the Faith for Today male quartet, the 20-voice Oakwood College ensemble, the 52-voice Southern California Men's Chorus, the General Conference male chorus under the direction of Wayne Hooper, and other denominationally renowned soloists, George Burnside, Ministerial Association Secretary of the Australasian Division, spoke on "From Gloom to Glory" basing his sermon on Romans 8.

The arena on Friday night was filled to capacity. The overflow audience was accommodated in Hall C, from where they saw the service by means of a closed-circuit television. There were nearly 7,000 chairs in the hall with two large screens.

Sabbath morning dawned bright and clear. A steady stream began pouring into Cobo Hall beginning 7 a.m. for the 9:30 Sabbath school service. About 24,000 assembled for the first Sabbath of the session. Sabbath School Secretary G. R. Nash was in charge of the Sabbath school and B. E. Seton, Sabbath School secretary of the Southern European Division, taught the lesson for the class, which had about 20,000 members.

A million dollar offering raised by different divisions, unions and institutions were put together this time. The grand total was \$1,191,006.54 (Rs. 89,32,545.00). This did not include the SS offering at the General Conference.

One of the highlights of each General Conference session is the missions pageant, which is usually presented in the afternoon of the first Sabbath of the session. The pageant portrays the advance of the Advent message around the



A panoramic view of the audience inside the Arena

world, and in almost every country of earth.

This year's pageant was entitled "Behold His Messengers."

Many had remained in the arena after the morning services, not wishing to lose their places. The pageant began with the flashing of the sphere of the earth on a screen on the platform. In rapid survey the beginning of the Seventh-day Adventist missions in various lands were portrayed with colour slides: Europe 1874, Australia 1885, South America 1885, South Africa 1887, and Asia 1888.

To the announcing cry of E. W. Dunbar, "Behold His Messengers," and to the swelling of the organ, they came from the back of the arena, down the centre aisle, led by the North American flags, followed by each country identified by a pennant carrying its own flag.

The North American Division was followed by the Australasian Division. A New Guinean worker, Paul Piari, appeared with his native arrows and plumes.

The Far Eastern Division delegates were introduced by conch shell and oriental gong sounds. More followed that space would not permit a detailed description of the colourful costumes of the representatives from each country: the flax skirts of the New Zealand Maoris, the black hat of woven horse-hair worn by the white gowned Koreans, the silken saris of India, the flowered sarongs of Indonesia, the coconut hats of Taiwan, the black lace bonnets of

Senegal, the delicately embroidered ruffled lace collars of Czechoslovakia, the muleras of Colombia, etc.

The pageant included testimonies of some delegates from Congo who were beaten and thrown into prison by Congolese soldiers, and of Paul Piari, a pastor from New Guinea, who told of a Bible that did not burn in a ravaging fire.

At the end of the pageant another group made its way to the platform. There were 40 families and single women who comprised the new appointees of this year to the mission fields. They knelt in a dedicating prayer.

Thus ended the missions pageant of 1966, but the march of missions goes on.

Saturday night Northern European and Inter-American divisions gave their reports.

Inter American division introduced to the conference the layman of the year: Justiniano Lopez. Brother Lopez, who was delivered from death by the direct intervention of an angel, had held eight lay efforts last year, gave 1,500 Bible studies, and prepared 65 persons for baptism.

Pastor A. Lie of Norway told of a dying church there which had nine elderly members. Public evangelism had failed, so the pastor tried a soul-winners' club and sent the nine out with sound tapes and filmstrips. The nine have now become 68 with 25 children besides!

June 19, Sunday

An unexpected item was brought at a business meeting this morning. H. S. Low was introduced to the audience. Brother Low lives only 25 miles from the Chinese border. He had news about our brethren in China. He explained that Adventists in China are allowed to hold Sabbath school and worship services every week. They often have to share the same building with other Christian bodies, but this has caused no conflict. They are allowed to collect tithes. The principal restriction is that there must be no inter-church organization.

When there was a severe food shortage in China, certain rather well-to-do members in Bangkok and Shanghai joined with the South China Island Mission in providing many two-pound food packages. Bibles printed in Japan have found ready access into the country. The brethren manage to get letters out from time to time telling of their continued faithfulness and praying that the brethren outside will not forget them.

In the afternoon, the name of Kenneth H. Emmerson was brought in by the nominating committee for the General Conference treasurer. He was elected.

Trans-Africa and Central European divisions gave their reports on Sunday night.

One of the interesting experiences narrated was about the favourite wife of the king of Swaziland.

Polygamy is practised in Swaziland, and King Sabuza is no exception. He has 70 wives and more than 200 children. When one of our preachers spoke against polygamy, the royal court fined him two head of cattle and forbade him ever again to preach against plurality of wives.

When King Sabuza gave an audience at Easter time two years after this decree, various Christian denominations explained him the Christian way. At the close of the interview the king remarked, "Now, I can see that the Adventists have the truth."

Last fall, Pastor Mabena held a series of evangelistic meetings in Swaziland. Among those who attended were the king and his favourite wife. At the close of the meetings the king's wife accepted the message and was baptized last March.

Pastor Mabena explained to the king that when a man of Swaziland is converted and seeks admission into the Adventist church, he must give up all of his wives except one. However, when a wife of a polygamous marriage is converted and desires membership she need not give up her husband if he is willing to live with her. Though King Sabuza has not yet become a Seventh-day Adventist, he is favourably impressed, and it is hoped that before long he will surrender his heart completely to God. At the present time Pastor Mabena has free access to the king, and 27 children of the king are being taught the tenets of our faith.

For some time there has been unrest between the Bakonjo and the Batore peoples of Uganda. Many have lost their lives and hundreds of homes have been burned to the ground by marauding bands.

On one occasion an Adventist family was surrounded by a hostile group who threatened them with death. The father protested their innocence and pleaded for the lives of his family, but in vain. When it became apparent that there was no hope, the parents said, "We are ready to die, but please do not

kill us in front of our children." The man in command agreed to let the children go, and then ordered his men to make ready to spear the parents who were by now praying for deliverance. Suddenly the leader changed his mind, ordered his men to leave, and advised the family to leave the area.

The Adventist family decided to stay on. One night a group of men from the enemy tribe attacked their home and tried with spears to break down the windows which were covered with thin boards. Unable to do this, they used hammers, but in vain. Finally they tried to burn down the house by igniting the thatching of the roof, but the wind put the fire out each time they tried. Enraged, they set fire to the thatch on the chicken coop and left. The chicken coop burned to the ground, but the Adventist family was saved.

In another incident a group of the enemy surrounded an Adventist family and threatened to kill them. The father of the family tried to reason with the men, but to no avail. Finally one of the men raised his spear to thrust it at our brother's heart, but it shattered in pieces and fell to the ground. After seeing this, the leader left with his band of men saying, "We can't kill this man."

When one group of church members in Uganda completely disappeared for two years, and when contact was re-established in December 1964, it was learned that a layman who could neither read nor write, had held the group together by preaching to them from texts he had previously memorized. They brought in the tithe accumulated during the hiding.

June 20, Monday

W. E. Phillips, president of the "Seventh-day Adventist Welfare Service, Inc.," (SAWS), reported on the work Adventists have done in disaster areas. He told two stories in which members of SAWS had lost their lives in the line of duty.

At 2 p.m. the film *Wings Over Central Europe*, depicting our work

in Europe, was screened. The professional photographer who was hired got converted to the message while filming the story.

On Monday night, the Middle East and South American divisions gave their reports.

Bathed in a rich kaleidoscope of costumes they talked of the pains and progress of our work in the Bible lands. Four outstanding results of the last two Thirteenth Sabbath Offering overflows were mentioned: (1) A new Cairo mercy home (2) facilities for the Middle East College's popular food industry, (3) a modern Jerusalem Centre, and (4) the new church Evangelistic Centre in Damascus.

R. A. Wilcox, president of the division, declared that during the past quadrennium, the strong triple emphasis of the division had been on the building of functional church centres, the planning of up-to-date educational facilities, and the training of qualified national workers.

The Five-Day Plan in this division has literally run wild with success. Government leaders have been reached with our message.

Many interesting facts emerged from the report of the South American Division. Among the division's eight countries, Peru stands second in the number of Seventh-day Adventists, but its soil has absorbed the blood of many Adventist martyrs. In Bolivia we are baptizing nearly 2,000 people each year. Today we have 15 launches endeavouring to meet the needs of the Amazon river people. During the last eight years, a grand total of 338 churches have been built.

Since the last General Conference session 67,000 new members have been baptized in this division. 20,000 were baptized in 1965 alone. One of the division leaders promised that by next General Conference session, South American Division membership will have passed the quarter-million mark.

J. J. Aitken, president of the division, told about Pastor Campalongo, who won more than 1,000 souls in the last two and a half years. He narrated the story of a Brazilian lady who stopped smoking at the impressive age of 145



Pastor Paul Piari standing in front of Cobo Hall.

after having smoked for 125 years. Pedro Linhares acquainted hundreds of souls with our message by throwing truth-filled bottles into the Amazon River. Since going on sustentation, he has won 350 souls to Christ.

A colporteur who was taken prisoner by soldiers during a local rebellion was declared to be the leader of the insurgents because the soldiers found a map of the locality in his pocket. When our brother protested that he was an Adventist colporteur, the Army captain decided to test him by asking him to give a talk on the evil effects of smoking. The colporteur came through the test with flying colours. The next morning, the captain released him and gave him a jeep and a driver to help him go around and sell his books.

June 21, Tuesday

Elder K. H. Emmerson, the newly elected treasurer, performed his first official duty as treasurer of the General Conference by handing to the Bible Society a check for \$29,000. Adventists have

always been "people of the Book," he said.

At the evening programme, the scores of delegates representing the Southern European Division filled the platform bearing the flags of 37 countries. Reports from countries like Czechoslovakia, Spain, North Cameroons and others were truly thrilling.

When the Southern European delegates left the platform, the audience was startled to see a New Guinean warrior, clothed in a grass skirt, a fearsome headgear, and other exotic adornment, dart up and across the platform brandishing a huge bow and arrow and shouting at imaginary foes. The frightening actor was none other than Pastor Paul Piari from the New Guinea Highlands, a powerful preacher and father of three children. With the Bible in one hand and a piece of volcanic stone in the other, he told the story of his deliverance from the life he once lived. The stone which he once revered as a god was a lethal weapon with which he killed "plenty men." But after having found Christ, he has become effective in

preparing hundreds of souls for baptism. He was beaten almost to death for his faith, but he staggered to his feet and shook hands with his persecutors. Stories of instant healing in the jungle and of a dead baby restored to life by the touch of a native pastor—these were truly modern acts of the apostles.

This was a report from the Australasian Division. Presented also was Dr. Joeli Taoui, a national medical director who has carried on a vital work at the New Hebrides Mission Hospital. He, a matron, and a few boys and girls trained in the hospital have cared for 820 in-patients and 6,500 out-patients in one year.

Dr. Joeli's is a story of how divine providence undergirds the work of the hospital. They have no sterilizer but must boil their dressings. The surgical table is a makeshift. The instruments are insufficient and outmoded. No ether can be used, for it is a hazard with only kerosene lamps for lighting, so spinal injections are routine. The water supply is gravity flow from tanks on the roof. Sometimes they must make their own intravenous fluid. And that is the background for phenomenal recoveries from serious ailments and injuries.

When 11 people sustained serious burns in a ship explosion, they were dissatisfied with the treatment they received at the government hospital and begged to be taken to Dr. Joeli. The third-degree burns yielded to the prayerful treatment of the consecrated doctor.

When five-year-old Lillie was in a coma, nigh unto death with cerebral malaria, when after all had been done at the government hospital and she was brought to Dr. Joeli, he prayed for the assistance of Jesus. The night wore on as he prayed. In the morning she was better, by the next Sabbath eve, a new life came into her and the miracle was complete.

Progress of the work in Australia was shown through visual aids.

June 22, Wednesday

The rapidly extending work of the Sabbath school was reported this morning by the secretary of

the Sabbath School Department, G. R. Nash. A quadrennial report of Andrews University was also presented.

The self-supporting institutions of the church presented their report in the afternoon.

When the lights dimmed and four great spotlights jabbed their long fingers through the darkness at the stage in Cobo Hall this evening, the organ began a haunting, ominous tune. As all eyes turned to the side doors, the delegates and their families, present and former workers of the Southern Asia Division, led by the flags of the nations they serve, marched down the aisles.

("It was an aristocratic procession! The women in flowing saris, many of the men in white coats and fur topees—it is no wonder that the Nominating Committee chose a former president of Southern Asia to be our new General Conference president!"—*Lawrence Maxwell*.)

R. S. Lowry gave the report which appears on page 13. The costumed group on the stage sang the national anthem of India while the audience stood in respect. Mrs. Justin Singh and Hmingliana, accompanied by E. L. Sorensen on the guitar, sang a lovely song. Former division presidents A. W. Cormack, N. C. Wilson, A. L. Ham, O. O. Mattison, R. H. Pierson (also E. L. Sorensen) were honoured with leis.

The report included the story of Mr. T. K. Murthy, businessman from Bangalore, who was there at the session wearing the white suit of a typical Indian businessman with a red rose in his buttonhole, taking part in the narration.

After Southern Asia came the Far Eastern Division. While Paul Eldridge, the new president of that division, gave the report, about 150 pictures were flashed on the screen giving a broad and impressing résumé of progress in the Far East.

The gain over the past four years equals the entire membership of that division in 1948. May 14 of this year was set aside as a day for all evangelists in the division to conduct a baptism. The number of

people baptized was a staggering 6,793.

June 23, Thursday

The Public Relations Department in its report this morning observed that never before in the history of our church have we received so much good publicity. This is the result—with God's blessing—they said of a tremendous amount of well-organized hard work.

The Radio-Television Department reported that the Voice of Prophecy is now on 692 stations and the Faith for Today is on 240 stations of the world. More than 22 million persons have enrolled in one or another of the Bible correspondence courses the denomination offers.

Quite a bit of time was devoted to Bible study. A heart-warming ceremony took place in the afternoon. Elder R. H. Pierson called to the platform 17 men and their wives. All were retiring after serving God's cause with distinction and success. Among those on the platform were: Elder and Mrs. R. R. Figuhr, Elder and Mrs. C. L. Torrey, Elder and Mrs. N. W. Dunn, Elder and Mrs. A. F. Tarr, Dr. and Mrs. T. R. Flaiz and Elder and Mrs. O. O. Mattison.

The evening song service featured the Japan Missionary College choir which is now on an extensive world tour. The Governor of the State of Michigan, George Romney, visited Cobo Hall. Flanked by retiring President Figuhr and the new President Pierson, he delivered a stirring speech, interrupted again and again by prolonged applause, emphasizing his concern about the evident decadence of the American society, and setting forth personal Christianity as necessary to reverse this trend and change the sinful nature of man.

Following the address, the North American Division presented a pageant of its work.

June 24, Friday

Reports from the General Conference departments filled the day. The last business meeting was concluded in the afternoon when

all unfinished business was referred to the General Conference Committee.

June 25, Sabbath

Swiftly the week has drawn to a close. Momentous decisions have been made that would affect the conduct of God's work during the next quadrennium. Earnest prayers have ascended that God would choose the men who should lead His church. New leaders have been installed. God has answered the prayers of all.

When Sabbath approached all those who attended this great gathering seemed to wait for one last blessing before they wended their various ways home.

E. E. Cleveland's vesper sermon reminded all that the day of Christ's coming was not far distant. At the close he asked those to stand who were not Seventh-day Adventists but who would like to join the church. A number stood. Then he asked for those to stand who had been Seventh-day Adventists but had backslidden. A number more stood. Finally he asked for a rededication of the delegates and guests. The entire congregation of 8,000 stood.

Sabbath morning found the arena filled to capacity. Sabbath school reports were about Iceland, Mexico, India, Norway, and the Middle East.

A lay activities service was conducted in which Elder Adlai Esteb interviewed several outstanding lay workers.

Sabbath morning speaker was W. R. Beach, secretary of the General Conference, who spoke on "Lessons in Triumph."

The afternoon programme entitled "Behold His Glory" featured outstanding Missionary Volunteers of the world. A young man who read in the Bible that the seventh day was the Sabbath convinced his girl friend and brought 45 other people into the church. Two African Missionary Volunteers converted an enemy tribe and brought a long-standing feud to an end. A Navaho American Indian boy who left jail became an interpreter for the Monument Valley Hospital.

Excerpts from the World President's Report

R. R. FIGUHR



We meet tonight in the fiftieth session of the General Conference. We welcome to this great gathering all delegates and visitors.

At this fiftieth session we estimate that the total number of delegates will be over 1,400. They will represent our church membership of approximately 1.6 million. That first General Conference Committee of three has grown into some 280 members, representing our world work carried on in some 200 countries and 928 languages, including the printed and oral work.

It is heartening to announce that the last four years have been the best soul-winning years in our history. Through baptism and profession of faith, 469,048 new members have been added to the church during the quadrennium. This puts our world membership at the close of 1965 at 1,575,158. These new members have been won through various evangelistic agencies, such as radio-TV, Bible schools, literature, our institutions, and dedicated laymen. Evangelists and pastors have demonstrated that the day of public evangelism is not past. Last but not least, the most effective agency has been as always, the godly example of loyal

church members, living out, by God's grace, the truth before neighbours and friends.

Financial

More than 100 years ago the servant of the Lord urged upon this people the plan of systematic giving for the support of God's work. "God is leading His people in the plan of systematic benevolence."—*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 191. She often urged the advantages and the effectiveness of this plan. It is this united and systematic way of giving, under the blessing of God, that has made it possible to extend our work literally unto the ends of the earth.

Not only have we been able to steadily press on into new territories but we have been able to build solidly as we have moved forward. Sporadic, scattered, and irregular giving would never have accomplished what we see today. Our financial strength as a church is unique.

Departments

Much of the work in our organization is carried on through departments. We have time to refer but briefly to a few of the activities of the various departments.

Educational. With few exceptions, the leaders of our work to-

day are the product of our own schools. As the demand for better-trained workers has grown, our educational facilities have been expanded to meet the demand.

17,153 Seventh-day Adventist teachers have enrolled under them 368,264 students. Approximately 48,000 students attending our schools have been baptized during the quadrennium, an eloquent testimonial to the effectiveness of these schools as direct evangelistic agencies.

Graduate Work. If we are to maintain a true Christian atmosphere in our schools we must have teachers prepared and trained in our own Seventh-day Adventist educational institutions. Masters work is now offered both at Loma Linda University and at Andrews. It is hoped that soon doctorate work can be offered in theology and in education. This seems urgent.

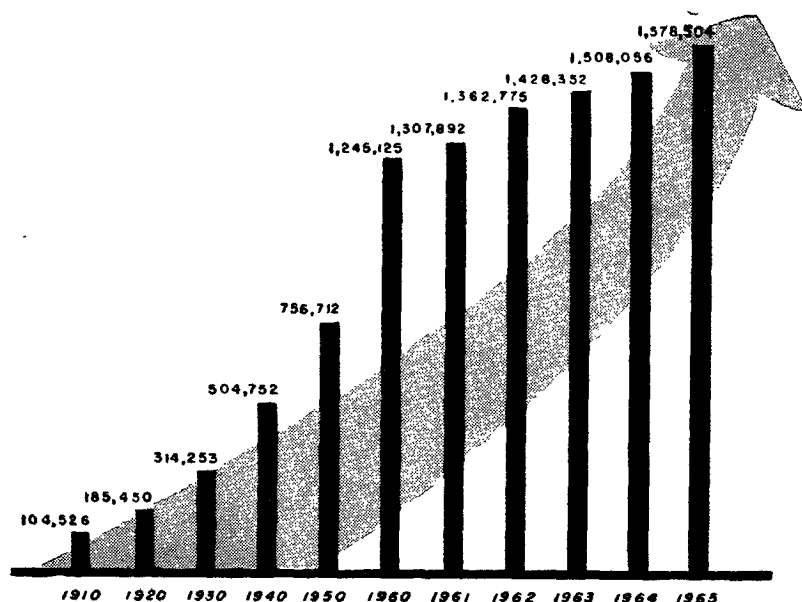
Integration. Seventh-day Adventists are a striking fulfilment of Revelation 12:6-12, where it is indicated that this message is to go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. We have long been on record believing that God "hath made of one blood all nations of men" (Acts 17:26). During the quadrennium under review remarkable progress has been made in removing age-old barriers of prejudice without shattering the unity of our church. Steady progress is better than sporadic moves that leave broken pieces in their wake. The human relations committees in North America on various levels, provided for some years back, have functioned and have been an important factor in clearing up problems, as well as encouraging a consistent, steady forward movement. There are no human relations problems that Christians meeting in a Christian spirit cannot solve.

The evening service had the last programme of the 1966 General Conference session. Elder Pierson introduced his associates in the General Conference with brief biographical sketches on each of them. Each officer pledged his loyalty, co-operation, and dedication to carry on the work of God in his respective section of the world field.

Elder Pierson closed the evening programme with an earnest appeal

to arise and finish the work. The formula for this he set forth as being divine power combined with human effort. What we need, he declared, is a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit. The choice, he said, is between Pentecost and failure. He expressed his own conviction that the church will not fail.

The closing song, "Lead On, O King Eternal," and the benediction by W. R. Beach brought the 1966 session to a close.



The increase in world membership during the last four years is shown in this graph presented at the General Conference.

While we still have a Regional Department in the General Conference and Regional conferences in the field, we look upon these as temporary expedients to be dissolved when our Regional brethren feel the time has come to do so.

Home Missionary. We see in this Department an impressive increase in membership involvement. One million tracts a week were distributed in the last quadrennium—an increase of 28 per cent; 11 Bible studies were given every minute around the clock, 32 million people were helped through our welfare service; \$32 million (Rs. 23,90,00,000) was raised through Ingathering.

Sabbath School. Our Sabbath school enrolment is 2.25 million. Branch Sabbath schools number 63,786, an increase over the preceding quadrennium of more than 100 per cent. The department conducted 9,976 Vacation Bible Schools in which one million children were enrolled. The total giving of the Sabbath school during the last four years amounted to the magnificent sum of \$38,917,000.92 (Rs. 29,18,77,507).

Publishing. From 44 publishing houses flows a steady stream of Adventist literature in more than 200 languages to the value, in 1965

alone, of \$33,567,248.15 (Rs. 25,17,54,360). During the four-year period, our world-wide literature sales amounted to \$121,046,812.23 (Rs. 90,78,51,090), a gain of \$29,769,800.76 (Rs. 22,32,73,500).

Religious Liberty. Through the years Seventh-day Adventists have been dedicated to the cause of religious liberty. We have consistently maintained that the best safeguard of freedom of conscience and worship is the separation of church and state.

The *Liberty* magazine, dedicated to the defence of religious liberty, enjoys a wide circulation today—more than 400,000 copies each issue. The purpose is to present the great truth of religious liberty so that all, irrespective of denominational affiliation or of no church affiliation, shall read it.

Radio-TV. Nearly 2,000 radio and television stations broadcast Adventist programmes in 33 languages in 70 countries. There are 129 Bible schools closely associated with these broadcasts, in which nearly 2 million new students were enrolled during the quadrennium.

Missionary Volunteer. The army of Seventh-day Adventist youth has grown to 540,000. The army is on the march.

Medical. The Medical depart-

ment has endeavoured to help keep before the 3,961 nurses and 18,651 employees the chief objective of our work. It has been upgrading the professional services and guiding in the selection of qualified staffs for our medical institutions. Thirty-five schools of nursing are offering Christian training and of these 23 are overseas.

Temperance. Seventh-day Adventists are today recognized as being in the forefront in the cause of temperance. Through institutes and clinics under the leadership of the Temperance Department, the evil effects of the use of alcohol and tobacco are exposed, and many are being helped to freedom from addiction.

Ministerial Association. During the quadrennium, a number of important evangelistic efforts were held under the leadership of men from the Ministerial Association. These were more than ordinary evangelistic efforts. They were schools in practical evangelism. Not only did those participating see public evangelism demonstrated, they also attended classes and participated in discussions during the efforts that resulted in receiving very practical help.

Bureau of Public Relations. We have suffered much from being misunderstood and inaccurately portrayed. This situation has been greatly bettered in recent years through the tireless efforts of our Public Relations Bureau. We have qualified, able, and alert individuals in this Bureau, which is a service organization of the denomination. It serves efficiently and well.

Conclusion

These are days not only of peril, they are also days of unprecedented opportunity for the church. We confidently believe that great days of advance and triumph are before us.

This will probably be the largest gathering of Seventh-day Adventists in our denominational history. May this great gathering prove to be a true symbol of that soon-to-come greater and larger gathering before the throne of God.

In Memoriam

FRANCIS DAVID NICHOL

(1897-1966)

Francis David Nichol was born February 14, 1897 at Thirlmere, Australia, to John and Mary Nichol. Walking along a wooded path one day, John Nichol espied a copy of the *Review and Herald*, which deeply impressed him and his wife as they read it, and ere long they both were baptized. Thus it came to pass that Francis was born into a Seventh-day Adventist home.

When he was eight the family moved to Loma Linda, California, and in 1920 Francis graduated from Pacific Union College with a Bachelor of Theology degree.

Upon his graduation from college, he served as a pastor in California and a year later he was called to be the associate editor of the *Signs of the Times*.

In 1927, F. M. Wilcox invited Francis D. Nichol to join the editorial staff of the *Review and Herald*, and soon after Elder Wilcox's retirement in 1945, he was appointed editor-in-chief. Thus, for 39 years, Elder Nichol edited the official organ of the Seventh-day Adventist church, a journal that brought the Nichol family in touch with the message of Christ's soon return.

During his long editorial career, Elder Nichol wrote innumerable editorials and articles, a dozen books—some of them involving extensive and painstaking research—and edited the 10-volume *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*.

Another area of special interest to him was the life and work of Ellen G. White. For 15 years he was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Ellen G. White Estate and for the last three of these years, chairman of the Board.

On Thursday noon, June 2, Elder Nichol left his office for the usual two-mile walk to his home

and was stricken on the way. Friday morning it seemed for a time that all would yet be well, but at 11:30 the end came, quietly and unexpectedly, at the age of 69. The autopsy revealed a traumatic tear in the aorta—thought to have been caused by a severe fall some months ago—which resulted in hæmorrhage and death. Those conducting the autopsy declare that there was no damage of any kind to the heart itself, and no evidence of arteriosclerosis (hardening of the arteries) or atherosclerosis (cholesterol deposits in the blood vessels); quite to the contrary, the vital organs and the tissues—except for the traumatic injury to the aorta—were in excellent condition, such as might be expected of a man in his early forties. Elder Nichol reached the end of life's race with no diminished ability or vigour, and when the time of his departure came he could well have said with the great apostle of old, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing." 2 Timothy 4:7, R.S.V.

Elder Nichol lived the kind of Adventism that seemed both reasonable and relevant in a twentieth-century context. He fought all forms of fanaticism, and even as he did so, performed a successful union between faith and reason in his own life.

He was an extremely complex man, with many facets to his character. He had a keen sense of humour, and always had an appropriate story for every occasion, yet he had a dominantly serious side. He had a brilliant intellect, yet he did not retreat into the world of the



mind; he was very much a part of the world about him.

And all that was great about him he dedicated to the Advent cause. A skilful editor and eloquent preacher, he applied the total capabilities of his tireless energy and brilliant mind to the task of articulating clearly the unique purpose of the great Second Advent Movement. With a single-mindedness that sometimes mystified and awed even his associates, he proclaimed both the truths held in common with all Christian bodies and those Biblical insights that are God's special gift to the world through the Advent people.

He not only proclaimed those truths, he defended them with all the sanctified vigour and wisdom at his command. He felt called upon to be one of God's lawyers in a world where higher criticism and scientific discoveries had placed historic fundamental Christianity on trial for its life. That he made a strong defence of truth, no one can deny.

The basic motivation and driving force in Elder Nichol's life was his complete and soul-consuming dedication to God, the profound conviction that the Advent message is verily God's message to the world, and that the coming of Jesus is near at hand. To this end he gave the unstinted powers of body and mind, knowing no other interest or desire. He has left an indelible mark on thousands of people individually and on the corporate life of the church.

—Condensed from the "Review".

NEWS

● Kalee Paw, chairman of the Burma Union of Seventh-day Adventists, in a letter to the *Tidings* office says that he wants to thank the brethren in other parts of Southern Asia for remembering the work in Burma in their prayers. "It is what we need most at this hour," he says. "We are happy to let you know that in spite of problems and hardships the work of God is moving forward. Our baptism record for this first and second quarter is 107, which we have never before received for the first and second quarters of the past years."

● Two of our student colporteurs canvassing in Diphu, Nagaland, had a miraculous escape. They had their tickets to return home, but one of them became so ill they had to cancel their tickets. The train they were to have travelled on exploded and they surely would have been injured or killed had not God been watching over them.

● Spicer Memorial College reopened on June 17, 1966. The total number of students registered so far is 350 though more are yet to come.

● Thirteen students from the Trans Africa Division are presently enrolled at Spicer Memorial College. They are:

Erasto Sayi
Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Bosire
Z. F. Ayonga
Stephen Omenga
Andrew Bbossa
Henry Zintambila
M. Mezemer
Wilson Mugerwa
(High School)
Salomi Mriti
(Special Student)

● Spicer High School reopened on Thursday May 26, 1966. The total number of students is 90.

● Pastor and Mrs. N. G. Mookerjee have retired from their work in Goa after a lifetime of denominational service. They will move to Bihar.

● Two new worker's quarters are in the process of construction at Surat Hospital. P. K. Peterson, hospital administrator, states that at present a number of hospital staff live at some distance from the hospital, and hence these new housing facilities have become necessary.

● The Vellore church is sponsoring 18 students for this school year at Lowry Memorial High School, and E. D. Thomas Memorial High School, Tanjore. "This was an act of faith as we are committed for almost Rs. 500 a month to pay their expenses," says Mrs. L. J. Small.

● A report from Johnson S. Christian, principal of Madras Day High School, states that as of 21st June, 352 children have been enrolled for the new school year.

This is probably the highest enrolment in any of our schools in the Southern Asia Division, with the exception of Spicer Memorial College. Elder Johanson writes that Brother Christian and his staff are to be congratulated on the hard work they have done to obtain funds for the enlargement of the school, and also the extensive public relations programme they have carried on in the name of Christian education.

● Six people were baptized recently from the contacts made by literature-evangelist Vernon Lournsz in Ceylon.

● F. E. Schlehuber, principal and manager of Upper Columbia Academy, Spangle, Washington State, U.S.A., is slated to come to Lakpahana Training Institute as principal.

● An agreement was signed on June 28 to purchase a plot of land near Maninagar Railway Station, Ahmedabad. This property contains 800 square yards. Plans are being made for the construction of a church and a pastor's home at this location. S. P. Engles is leading out in the work at Aurangabad under the direction of E. A. Hetke, district leader.

● Lasalgaon High School opened once again on June 13 with an enrolment of 120. V. D. Ohol is the acting principal.

From page 18

Cong after weeks of imprisonment, brain-washing, and torture. The Viet Cong tried every method to make them give up literature work.

Two were held captive for 53 days. Two others were imprisoned for 83 days with their feet and hands placed in stocks for the last two weeks of captivity. Their only food was rice and salt. The rains drenched them and the torrid sun blistered their skin.

When released, their swollen bodies were covered with large ulcers. Their clothes were tattered and torn. All their books and supplies had been destroyed by the jailors. In spite of all this, the literature-evangelists resumed their work and are now going from village to village with the printed page. Riots, bombings, kidnappings, torture, imprisonment, and even the threat of death did not discourage these faithful workers in Viet Nam. Not one literature-evangelist in Viet Nam has dropped out of the work in the past six years.

These brethren know what it is to receive the power of the gospel.

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