



# TIDINGS

SOUTHERN ASIA

DECEMBER 1987

PUBLISHING  
I Believe It!

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The counsel of the Apostle Paul to the church at Philippi has spurred Christians on to greater heights of achievement. As we come to the close of another year, it would be well for us to assess our accomplishments. Many literature evangelists will rejoice over their increase in sales this year, and others will be gratified for the opportunity they have had of witnessing to God's saving power and the soon return of Jesus through the contacts they have made while presenting our books and magazines to prospective customers.

It is said that in every progressive society there is one person in every 200 who has the capacity to become a genius, and one person in every 100,000 possesses an intellect which equals that of the world's greatest leaders. Man was made with a mind that has tremendous potential. In spite of this tremendous potential towards performance in man, there is a shortage of outstanding leaders. This shortage of outstanding manpower is a result of individuals being satisfied with mediocre achievements. The majority of people are content to slide along with yesterday's achievements.

The literature evangelist who has set his sights on excellence both in sales and in evangelistic activity must continually "press on" as advised by the Apostle Paul. There is, however, no magic formula toward increased efficiency without effort. While the Christian has the assistance of the Holy Spirit in his attempts toward improving his faculties, he must be aware that there is a part which he has to perform. "What human power can do divine power is not supposed to do. God does not dispense with man's aid. He strengthens him, cooperates with him as he uses his powers and capabilities." *Desire of Ages*, p. 535.

It is imperative that literature evangelists keep up with the latest news and developments in the world, particularly events that signify the soon coming of Jesus Christ. Together



with keeping up with events in the world and in knowledge regarding the sciences and health practices of today, the literature evangelist must also seek to increase his knowledge of God's plan for his life. "They are to increase in the knowledge of the divine will, and constantly improve in intellect and morals, until they shall attain this

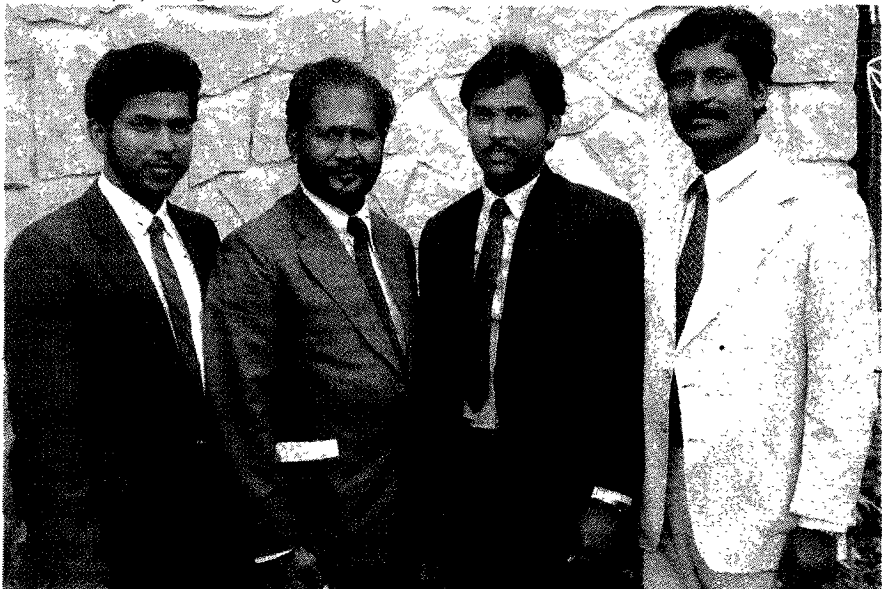
perfection of character but little lower than that of the angels." *Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 563.

As you look forward to 1988 and to the unique task that you have been called to do, you should remember that you have been commended by God for a special work. You are His ambassador. You are to represent Him in word and action. For many of those whom you visit, you will perhaps be the only opportunity that they will have of becoming acquainted with Jesus Christ. You have been reminded many times that "the work of the diligent God-fearing canvasser has been represented as equal to that of the minister." *Colporteur Ministry*, p. 97.

A new year with its adventure awaits you. It will afford you opportunities to live up to your name "literature evangelist." You need not be just another peddler of goods, but by God's grace you can become His messenger in the highest sense.

—G. J. Christo, President  
Southern Asia Division

Mr. Samson Mysore has been a literature evangelist for many years. All his three sons Wilkinson, Raviraj and Raghuraj have also taken up their father's profession. Mr. Mysore (second from left) would also prefer to get his two daughters married to LEs.



# LITERATURE MINISTRY

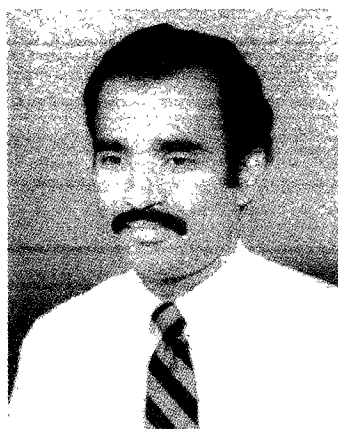
## THE SPEARHEAD OF THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE

As is true in other parts of the world, the Third Angel's Message came to India also through the literature ministry. In this issue of *Southern Asia Tidings*, others are writing about the history of the literature ministry in Southern Asia Division, hence I will not deal with it.

Any division, union or section which has a strong publishing programme will have a strong church and evangelism. The phenomenal growth of the Adventist Church in Philippines, Korea, Brazil and Africa was mainly due to the publishing ministry. Literature evangelists sowed the seeds through the printed pages and aroused interest in the hearts of people. Evangelists followed up the work that resulted in an evangelism explosion.

Elder C. L. Williams, Publishing Department Director of the Far Eastern Division said, "Where there is a strong publishing programme, there will be a strong church programme. The success of our ministry is that we have a strong publishing programme with 10 publishing Houses, 4,000 literature evangelists and 258 publishing directors." Can we in Southern Asia learn from our neighbouring Division?

Elder C. D. Bradford in his address to the World Publishing Council held in Washington in February 1987 said, "The day publishing ceaseth, death sets in . . . . When the SDA Church



ignores publishing it will start smelling death." We don't smell death in the Adventist Church in Southern Asia. We smell life. But are we giving the Publishing Ministry the priority it deserves? is a serious question worth considering.

With a population of 700 million in India, how are we going to "reach the unreached" during this HARVEST 90 period with only 200 literature evangelists? We do not have any publications to appeal to the Hindus and Muslims in India. We hardly have any new titles. The church has to invest its money, manpower, and time in the

publishing ministry. It will bring rich dividends in sales and souls.

### SOME STATISTICS

A true Seventh-day Adventist cannot be happy and content with these figures. 1987 shows a steady growth in the sales. With the available reports from January to August, the sale is Rs.46,34,000 compared to Rs.40,49,000 for the same period in 1986. Thus far, 131 people have been won during the first eight months.

Elder Neal C. Wilson in his keynote address to the GC session in 1985 at New Orleans said, "My appeal is that the whole church—every member, every young person, every denominational employee and every leader—will become a literature evangelist. We must believe in the power of the print ministry—magazine, tracts, books. If a leader does not believe in literature as a mighty evangelizing agency, he or she should either be converted or removed. This is the day of opportunity. Let us break the bonds that seem to bind and tie us to traditional approaches. Pray for our full-time and part-time literature evangelists and pray that more will join these front-line troops who are armed only with faith and gospel literature. I appeal also that we all dedicate a pocket or purse to carry literature with us everywhere we go."

The Seventh-day Adventist church is privileged to have leaders in Southern Asia who believe in "publishing". I take this opportunity to thank our leaders in the division, unions and sections, and my fellow PDDs and literature evangelists for their dedicated service. Eternity alone will reveal the fruits of the printed pages scattered by our LEs. Brighter days are ahead for the publishing ministry in Southern Asia Division.

—Thomas K. Joseph, Advisor  
Publishing Department

### SOME STATISTICS

	No. of LEs	Sales	Souls won by LE contacts
1984	201	51,99,500	126
1985	172	65,47,000	142
1986	194	65,95,000	232

Cover photo: Sister L. Rinmawii, the wife of late V. L. Hruaia (a literature evangelist who died recently), has pledged to take up the work where her husband left off. Strengthened and comforted by the Holy Spirit, she will be an example to many in the Mizo section.

# A NOBLE WORK FOR STUDENTS

From the very inception of the literature ministry in our Church, the student colporteur work has been a very prominent part of that ministry. It has been a blessing to our young people; it has contributed substantially to the realization of the mission of the Church; and it has taken the present truth to millions around the world. In the emotional, intellectual and spiritual maturing process, it plays a major role in the lives of young people who are engaged in it. The Adventist student community has realized in this ministry an economic blessing.

Participation in the literature ministry of the Church has been an integral and indispensable part of the educational programme of Spicer College. It adds qualitative dimension to the educational philosophy and practice of Adventist higher education. The value and benefits derived from this are indeed many and substantial.

It is an opportunity to do the gospel work of the highest order "bringing precious light to the notice of the people of the World" (9T, p. 78). It is "one great means of finding out those who are in peril and bringing them to Christ" (CM, p. 36).

It is of great and essential value to those who plan to enter the ministry. Ellen White makes a pointed reference to this, "It is an excellent school for those who are qualifying themselves to enter the ministry. Those who have taken up this work as they should place themselves where they learn of Christ and follow His example" (CM, p. 32).

It provides essential practical lessons and training to our youth. The theoretical learning obtained in the classroom becomes meaningful and relevant by the practical lessons we learn. Thus our youth become both learned and wise. It is in the colporteur work they "learn practical lessons needful to success in after life," (CM, p. 30) and for "fitting them for the hard, earnest, self-sacrificing labour that has to be done" (9T, p. 78).

It provides our young people with financial resources with which to continue their education. In recent years, annually close to Rs. Two hundred thousand have been brought in by students of Spicer as scholarship for their



education. Young people who would have found it impossible to go through college have thus been able to obtain an education without being a financial liability to anyone else. So Ellen White reminds us that our young people "would be earning money to enable them to attend school, where they could continue their preparation for wider usefulness in the Lord's cause" (9T, p. 78).

Student colporteur work teaches young people lessons of thrift, economy and financial management. This is inevitable as they earn by hard work and save by careful management their earnings to build up a scholarship. This "will be of great advantage to them" in their education and in after life (9T, p. 77).

Colporteur ministry enhances the spiritual knowledge and power of our youth. Young people engaged in this work learn to depend upon God for guidance and blessings, and realise the value of prayer and Bible study. In facing the challenges of this ministry they soon realize the need for a closer walk with God and for dependence upon His Word. It provides them with a living, vibrant Christian experience.

In becoming familiar with truth-filled literature to present to others, the lives of the youth themselves are influenced and changed.

The colporteur work greatly enhances the personality of the youth and provides them valuable lessons and training in everyday life and in leadership. It provides "the best methods for fitting consecrated young men and young women to bear

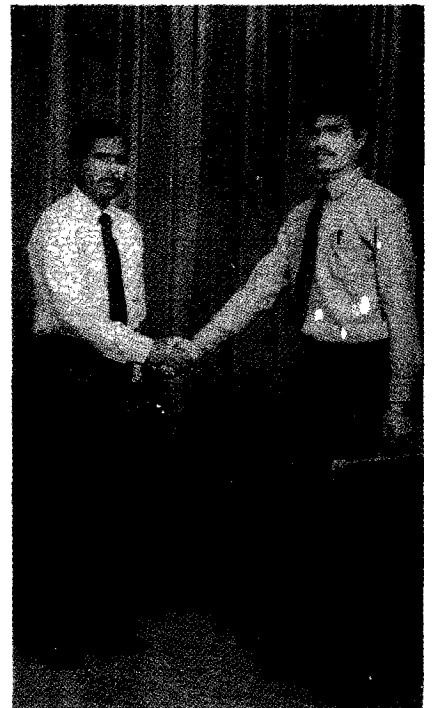
responsibility—how to meet the people and how to present the third angel's message in an attractive manner" (9T, p. 76). In this work they "learn how to approach people courteously and how to exercise tact in conversing with them on different points of present truth" (9T, p. 77).

Colporteur work builds up the self-confidence of the youth. It gives them a sense of self-work and self-dignity. They learn to work hard and diligently. It develops in them poise and the capacity to meet varying situations and problems in a calm and collected manner. It sharpens their capacity to size up a situation, to make meaningful decisions, to communicate effectively and pleasantly. In short, the student colporteur work can be termed a "great school" where the youth may learn in three summer months more practical and valuable lessons of life than in nine months in classrooms.

Therefore, Ellen White tells us that the "best education young men can obtain is by entering the canvassing field and working from house to house" (CM, p. 32).

—M. E. Cherian, President  
Spicer Memorial College

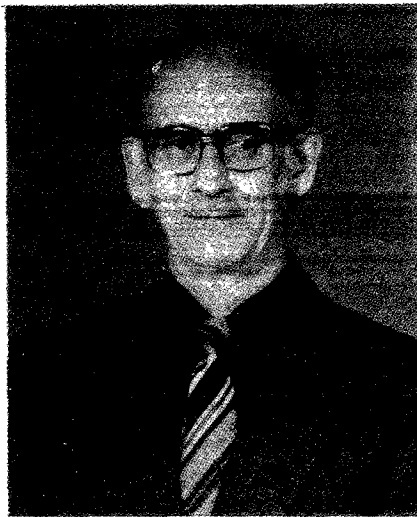
*A Spicer College student, Prem Prakash Lall, is the best student LE for the past two years. He is seen with his section PDD.*



# HARVEST 90 AND LITERATURE MINISTRY

Someone has said, "Books are man's best friends." Dr. Clarence Edward McCartney many years ago said, "Make friends of good books. They will never leave or forsake you." In writing to Timothy, the Apostle Paul made this request, "When you come, be sure to bring the coat I left at Troas, and also the books, but especially the parchments." These were no doubt the septuagint and the early copies of the sayings of Jesus. Even in his old age the Apostle Paul was anxious to renew his thoughts from the books he studied. Wouldn't it be interesting to know what books they were? How empty is the life of a Christian who does not read good literature! Daniel Webster once made this very pertinent statement: "If religious books are not widely circulated among the masses in this country, I do not know what is to become of us as a nation. And the thought is one to cause solemn reflection on the part of every patriot and Christian. IF TRUTH IS NOT DIFFUSED, ERROR WILL BE: IF GOD AND HIS WORD ARE NOT KNOWN AND RECEIVED, THE DEVIL AND HIS WORKERS WILL GAIN THE ASCENDANCY: if the evangelical volume does not reach every hamlet, the pages of corrupt and licentious literature will: if the power of the Gospel is not felt throughout the length and breadth of the land, anarchy and misrule, degeneration and misery, corruption and darkness will reign without mitigation and end."

On every newsstand today we witness an avalanche which is designed of the Devil to bury truth. Bookstalls today are displayed with paperbacks and magazines that should give a true child of God nausea at first sight. They contain nothing but lewd and licentious stories of immorality and crime. What most people read could be labelled as trash. Is it possible that some of the momentous problems facing us today can be attributed to what we allow ourselves to read? The breakdown of a nation today depends on its moral and spiritual stand and can be traced to what we have or have not read. Conditions in every country of the world today are but an expression of man's thoughts. Reading makes a person



think. Our thoughts are guided by what we read—good or bad.

Medical science today has discovered with interest the effect that our thoughts have on the human body and the health of man. The body is but the servant of the mind. It obeys the operations of the mind whether they be deliberately chosen or automatically expressed. When we entertain unlawful thoughts, the body sinks rapidly into disease and decay. When our minds entertain happy and beautiful thoughts, the body becomes clothed with youthfulness, beauty and peace. Disease and health, like circumstances, are all rooted in our thoughts. Thoughts of fear and hatred can kill a man as quick as a bullet. Thousands are suffering today all because of unlawful thoughts, hidden within the mind of man. There is nothing like fear, hatred, impurity, and anxiety to demoralize the whole body. The Bible says: "AS A MAN THINKETH IN HIS HEART SO IS HE." "OUT OF THE ABUNDANCE OF THE HEART THE MOUTH SPEAKETH." Thought, therefore, is the font of action. Many imagine that thought can be kept secret, but it cannot. Thought rapidly crystalizes into action and habit. Habit becomes the flywheel of society and solidifies into circumstances, which in turn plagues society. Man is what he is because of what he reads. Pure thinking comes from reading what is pure. Evil thinking comes from absorbing that which is corrupt.

How long is it since we have read a good book? How long is it since we have read the Bible. The Bible should be our greatest treasure. Could it be that we have little of God's word in our hearts, that we have little to share with others? We cannot give what we do not have. How often is a person asked to take a devotion, and the reply is, "O, I have nothing to say." Remember, good books are friends that will leave or forsake you. A well-worn modern precept admonishes: "Do not read good books—life is too short for that—read only the best." "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." What a glorious opportunity we have through the printed page. May God help us to use it wisely to swell the loud cry, and HARVEST 90."

—R. N. Baird, Secretary  
Ministerial Association

## LEAVES OF AUTUMN

Gentle fall the leaves of autumn,  
O'er the hills and meadow bare,  
Weaving Nature's gorgeous carpet  
With her wondrous colours rare.

Everywhere are people waiting,  
Longing, wishing, sick at heart.  
Leaves of life are full of healing.  
Precious pages—do your part.

Wondrous pages, all life-giving,  
Full of promises so rare,  
Full of love and full of blessing.  
Are you ready for your share?

Take the leaves of life and scatter  
Faithfully from door to door;  
Many sheaves you thus will gather,  
Sheaves to live for evermore.

Like the leaves of autumn falling,  
Slowly, surely, one by one  
So the leaves of life we'll scatter,  
Till the Master's work is done.



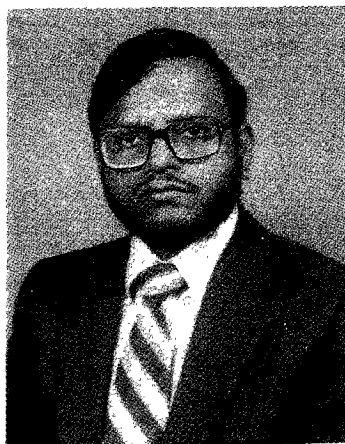
# LITERATURE EVANGELISM AND THE ADVENTIST SCHOOL

The Adventist school and literature evangelism have been partners from the very beginning of the Seventh-day Adventist Church—partners in the making of character, in the building of personality, in the development of the whole person. When the prophetic vision urged the establishment of the Adventist school, and when the same vision outlined the agenda for literature evangelism, Ellen White and the pioneers of our church had no doubt that Christian education and the printed page can make a definite impact on the development of a person.

Christian education began with the premise that every Seventh-day Adventist youth should have the privilege of a holistic education—the training of the mind, the body, and the soul, and the utilization of all that for the proclamation of the Kingdom. Excellence within and involvement without, reaching-in and reaching-out, working untiringly and waiting patiently, planning as though the world would last forever and living as though tonight is the last night of the planet—these were the urges of Adventist philosophy that moulded Christian education.

But the same urges are also to be seen in literature evangelism. The salesman of Christian literature is in fact a soulsman—out on the march for God's kingdom. Ellen White insisted that it is in this march that every youth—particularly from the Adventist school—can get his inspiration, find his adventure, and discover a means to serve. "The very best education young men can obtain is by entering the canvassing field and working from house to house. In this work they will find opportunity to speak the words of life . . . The only way for them to prove that they can stand firm in God, having on the whole armour, is by doing faithfully the work God has given them to do" (*Colporteur Ministry*, p. 32).

If we believe that the Adventist school is responsible for the training of leadership for the Adventist Church, to a large extent such leadership obtains the qualities of perseverance, compassion, adventure, fiscal prudence on the rugged fields of literature evangelism.



Look around! Do you see a church leader that excels? Talk to him, and you will find that in his early years he car-

ried the books door to door. Literature evangelism helps towards reaching excellence!

Some of our youth may take up literature evangelism to obtain financial assistance. The motive is quite appropriate and has helped hundreds of students, including the present writer, to complete a college education. But I consider the financial part only the icing on the cake. The real benefits are: I am on my own and yet not on my own—the meaning of God and I becomes real in literature evangelism; I am alone, yet not alone—the meeting with people makes me a man; I learn, grow, suffer, stand tall.

In the development of such a character one discovers the purpose of life. In making that discovery possible, the **Adventist School and Literature Evangelism are true partners.** Blessed is the young person who has the benefit of both!

—John M. Fowler, Advisor  
Education Department

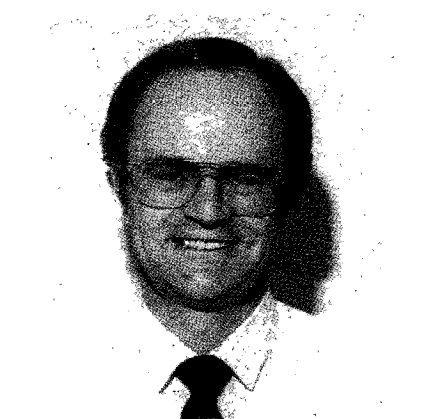
## PEOPLE, PAPER AND INK

The paper you hold in your hands is processed from wood pulp. The words you see on the page are combinations of ink dots. The thoughts you think as you read these words are only electrical or chemical processes in your brain. Simple, isn't it. Just electricity, wood pulp, ink. Yet how amazing the things that can happen when minds, paper and words begin to interact.

A father writes to his son away at college. He scratches a few lines on the page. The lines look something like this: "Son, I love you." Far away and days later the son holds the same paper in his hands. Upon looking at the dots and lines on the page a warm glow swells up inside of him. A new power takes possession of his body. Energy surges within as he strides the examination room with courage.

Or think of another possibility. A telegram comes with ink spots arranged this way: "Mother died. Come immediately." Your day is shattered. Your heart flooded with grief—just because of paper and ink conveying ideas to your mind.

These simple things, paper and ink, are everywhere today. There is so much of them around that we often



take them for ordinary things. Yet our very lives have become dependent on them. From learning math to taking medication we need printed materials.

It is not just the technical details of our lives that have developed with the aid of literature. Our values, ideals, and traditions have been passed on from generation to generation, from community and nation to other communities and nations by means of the 'spiritual page. The "Word of Life" has come to us in this way also. Think for a

# LITERATURE MINISTRY AND YOUTH



A student at Spicer College, Miss Amy Ngo Huai, is the best student lady LE.

moment of how much Bible study and devotional readings have altered your own life. Then you have an indication of what literature can do in the lives of others—your relatives, your neighbours and friends.

The first publication with the invention of mass printing techniques was the Bible. From then to this day gospel literature has been so for Seventh-day Adventists. In fact, with their worldwide witnessing vision, Seventh-day Adventists must use literature in their work. Literature goes where we cannot. Literature speaks when the human voice is rejected and disregarded. Literature remains when the visit is ended.

Every church member, each agent of the kingdom, can start a chain of events that changes lives by using church publications wisely. Members of a local church should make sure that there is a stock of literature on hand for free distribution. Besides free literature there is opportunity to subscribe to magazines or other publications and have these sent to friends and acquaintances.

There truly is such a thing as LITERATURE MINISTRY. We can all be part of it. Many in the church could earn their living by it. Small books with very big messages can be sold anywhere, any time, by any church member. See your pastor or the Section Publishing Department director for these details.

—L. C. Cooper, Director  
Church Ministries Department

Our church growth index shows that we have more youth in our church today than ever before. It varies from sixty to seventy percent of the total church membership.

Though in our land there are difficulties in finding a proper work, to an enterprising youth, it is no more a worry. There are many useful employment opportunities open to them. To add to this, the introduction of five-day week when fully implemented will definitely be a boon. Because of these opportunities today, there are many young people who have found good employment outside the church with their tithes and offerings. For the future financial stability of the church is very important.

Although this is a good trend, a question may be asked, "Can one be independent, self-supporting and still find a lifework where he can find direct involvement in the gospel ministry?" The answer is YES. And the work is Literature Ministry. Because of this more and more youth after their graduation are entering as fulltime workers. It is catching up in our land too.

The success of student literature ministry suggests that to any dedicated enterprising youth this is a satisfying vocation for life. It is not just another work but it is a ministry.

Knowing the importance of this work in fulfilling the gospel commission the Publishing Department now offers two types of work. First, one can choose to become a fulltime literature evangelist. "Let young men of ability connect with experienced labourers in the great harvest field. Very many will succeed best by beginning with the canvassing work and improving the opportunities afforded them for gospel ministry" (*Testimonies* Vol. 6, page 415).

"As God blesses the minister and the evangelist in their efforts to place the truth before the people so He will bless the faithful canvasser" (*Ibid* Vol. 6, page 340).

"He (a literature evangelist) occupies a position equal to that of the gospel minister" (*Ibid*, page 21).

The second type is to be a part-time literature evangelist. The church in



Southern Asia seeing the potency in this ministry has come with the proposal whereby any church member of good and regular standing while working outside or inside the denomination may also join as a part-time literature evangelist.

When our believers see the opportunities in this for witnessing and join this ministry, the growth of the church will be immense. The pen of inspiration states that this is what we ought to do.

"We must carry our publications to the people and urge them to accept showing them that they will receive much more than their monies worth. Exalt the values of books you offer" (*Ibid*, Vol. 4, page 392).

"There are books to be prepared and distributed . . . there are self-sacrificing duties to be performed. Who will come to the rescue: Who will for Christ's sake deny self and extend the light to those who sit in darkness" (*Ibid*, Vol. 4, page 156).

"The canvassing work is God's means of reaching many that would not otherwise be impressed with the truth" (*Ibid*, Vol. 5, page 405).

Are you like the youth who has written the following letter: "I am just twenty years old and I realize that I am standing on the threshold of life. What a privilege it is to travel life's highway in a modern age. I cannot see far, yet I realize that only a short way ahead the road divides. Which way shall I go? I must decide soon for time does not permit me to stand long at the parting of ways."

In this bewildering world we will find ourselves in many pathways, some of which may lead us into depths of despair while others may lead us to success and happiness.

The literature ministry is one of the answers for success and happiness. But then remember too that in the last days

when all other doors slowly close for the gospel ministry, this door will still be open. Join in, youth, and receive full satisfaction.

—C. C. Nathaniel  
Division Youth Director

prentices and trainee workers. Some of our apprentice/workers are doing a part-time course in a printing institute. We have a vigorous sponsorship programme for all facets of the work: editorial and printing. At present the Oriental Watchman Publishing House prints eight magazines (7 health and 1 religious family magazine). Forty-six different titles of subscription books for the literature evangelists in 18 languages are printed. In fact, we are capable of printing in many more languages.

The Oriental Watchman Publishing House this year, as of July, is now totally staffed by nationals who are putting in every effort to turn out material, books and magazines for literature evangelists. In spite of the high cost of printing materials, paper, ink and workers' wages, we are striving hard to keep our expenses as low as possible so as not to price ourselves out of the market.

The OWPB is also committed to provide the necessary literature tools for the Adventist teacher, minister, and believer. We have made it possible for the rich treasures of Spirit of Prophecy and the Bibles to reach every member.

Today, thousands are being reached by the word of truth because of the Oriental Watchman Publishing House. The Master himself said to publish the gospel among nations. All other means of spreading the gospel might cease but not the printed page. The Church will fulfill the commission of our Lord and triumph through the publishing work.

—P. H. Lall, Manager  
OWPB

## CONTRIBUTION OF THE OWPB TO PUBLISHING WORK



Ellen White said in her book, *Life Sketches*, "Let it be small at first . . . it will be a success from the first."

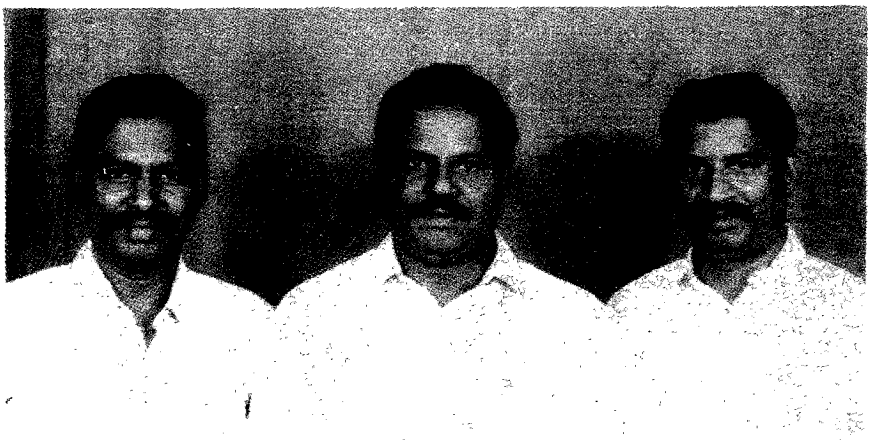
Oriental Watchman Publishing House can surely claim this promise! From a small beginning in the city of Calcutta, the Publishing work in Southern Asia has grown from strength to strength. Beginning with two tracts, today we turn out Rs.28 lakhs worth of books, Rs.17 lakhs of periodicals and Rs.16 lakhs of other jobs such as Sabbath School quarterlies.

The tiny press that was established in Calcutta in June 1903 looked lost in a dark and small room. There were only a few composing cases and just one standing press. There was no automatic press, no offset colour press, no intertype, no binding, sewing or automatic cutters. The manager was the printer and the printer was the manager. He might have had one or two

assistants. The whole month was spent in a struggle to print one periodical of 16 pages, which had a circulation of 5,000 copies. Occasionally the press had the privilege of printing a few tracts also. No colour was used. All the printing was done in black and white.

Today in 1987, the Oriental Watchman Publishing House is considered to be among the best printing presses in Maharashtra. Old and new machines stand side by side to remind us of the past and to challenge us for the future: an old Intertype machine and a new computerized phototypesetting machine; an old letterpress machine and a new two-colour offset printer; an old guillotine (still in use) compared to a modern three-knife cutter and a programmed electronic cutter. Where there were just one or two helpers and the manager-printer, today we have a staff of 106, including a number of ap-

*These three brothers, Pakiyaraj, Samselvaraj and Gomer Gnanaseelan are not only star LEs but enjoying their work immensely.*





# PUBLISHING IN INDIA



The first tracts, "Can All be Saved", and "The Coming of Christ" by Ellen G. White printed in Bengali in Calcutta, were the forerunners of our publishing work in Southern Asia Division: Ninety-six different titles (including eighteen sets) are listed in the current catalogue showing publications in fourteen languages. A contrast to a small beginning! Since 1903, many publications have left our presses. Elder W. A. Spicer edited the *Oriental Watchman* at Calcutta. After our small Watchman Press was established, the *Oriental Watchman* regularly appeared each month. In 1903 the *Eastern Tidings*, a monthly official paper of the Seventh-day Adventists in the Indian Empire was added. After moving to Lucknow, the *Herald of Health* was begun and continued regularly till 1917 when it was discontinued due to the depression of World War I.

The *Signs of the Times* appeared in January 1916 instead of the *Oriental Watchman*. Later it came to be called *Signs of the Times and Oriental Watchman*.

The Church paper also changed its name to *India Union Tidings*. The press, at the end of 1916, was printing in English, Urdu, Hindi, Marathi and Bengali. The Union Committee had voted to print in Gujarati as well. The Publishing House was reorganised under W. A. Scott during 1920-27—a Publishing House Board formed and a constitution adopted. The first health book—*Health and Longevity*—appeared during this time.

Other books began to appear in English and Urdu, the first of which was *Future of the World*. Sabbath School quarterlies were printed in Urdu, Hindi, Marathi and Bengali, while Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam came from Bangalore.

A pertinent extract of the Union Committee minutes for March 3-8, 1921 reads:

To recommend to the Publishing House that it print and publish the book *Desire of All Nations* by Pastor G. F. Enoch, on antique paper with line illustrations, to retail at one rupee per copy, and in the following languages in the order named: English, Burmese, Marathi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Bengali, Urdu and Hindi.

To authorize the publication of an edition of 500 copies of an abridged *Manual for Canvassers* in the following languages: Tamil, Urdu and Bengali.

Pastor C. B. Hammond, Editor-in-Chief at OWPH (centre), with all the editors in the House.



After moving to Poona the monthly journal became *The Oriental Watchman and Herald of Health*. The first full-time canvassers for the magazine were two sisters, Miss Anna Orr and Mrs. Frieda Haegert, who did very well. The Tamil Health magazine took its present name *Nalwazhi* (Good Way) in January 1936. It was recommended to all schools by the Education Department of the Madras state.

Our medical book *Health and Longevity* was first published in Hindi and Kanarese in 1937.

Currently we print, in addition to the regular publications of *Arogyadeep*, *Arogyavani*, *Herald of Health*, *Margadarshi*, *Swasthya Aur Jeevan*, *Our Times* and the *Southern Asia Tidings*, all the English Sabbath School Quarterlies and supplies, language Sabbath School Quarterly covers, Voice of Prophecy Lessons, IMEWS brochures and books as ordered and required by the field.

We invite your interest, prayers and good wishes for the Oriental Watchman Publishing House.

—C. B. Hammond  
Editor-in-chief, OWPH

## A MAN'S PRAYER

"Teach me that sixty minutes make one hour, 1000 grams makes a kilogramme, 100 paise make a rupee. Help me so to live that I can lie down at night with a clear conscience, without a gun under my pillow and unhaunted by the faces of those to whom I have brought pain. Grant that I earning it I may do unto others as I would have them do unto me. Blind me to the faults of the other fellow, but reveal to me my own. Deafen me to the jingle of tainted money.

Guide me so that whenever I look into the faces of my friends I shall have nothing to conceal. Keep me young enough to laugh with little children, and be sympathetic to the aged. And when the day comes to darkened shadows and the smell of flowers, the tread of soft footsteps, make the ceremony short and the epitaph smile: "Here lies a man."

—The British Bookman  
(Adapted)

# NHHS AND THE PUBLISHING MINISTRY



Many years ago Ellen White wrote: "If here is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the scriptures." The printing and circulation of the books and paper that contain truth for this time are to be our work" (CM, p. 5).

The National Home and Health Service was established in March 1976 only for this very purpose—to get "our publications before the public" and for

the "circulation of books and paper". While the four book depots were closed 20 small depositories were established at sections and regional headquarters for wider and greater distribution of our literature. Our main objectives are:

1. To offer to the public a speedier and more efficient service with regards to magazine subscriptions. The magazine is now being dispatched to the customer within two days of the receipt of coupons unless we have some difficulty in processing the coupon.
2. To offer to literature evangelists a quicker and more reliable channel for books and magazines.
3. To maintain and control the accounts of LEs by keeping them debt free.

The present NHHS working force consists of 20 men and 8 ladies. Their untiring, unselfish efforts and complete commitment has been the reason of our success and growth.

We have been on the onward move. It is good to report that the NHHS staff is doing its best to achieve perfection in all areas of literature ministry. This does not mean that there are no problems or complaints. We are aware that magazines still do not reach some people and there are many who have complained about this. On checking



*Mrs. Amini Davis (left) is the first lady LE on a regular basis. She has 25 years of service and her friend Mrs. Chinnama Thomas has twenty.*

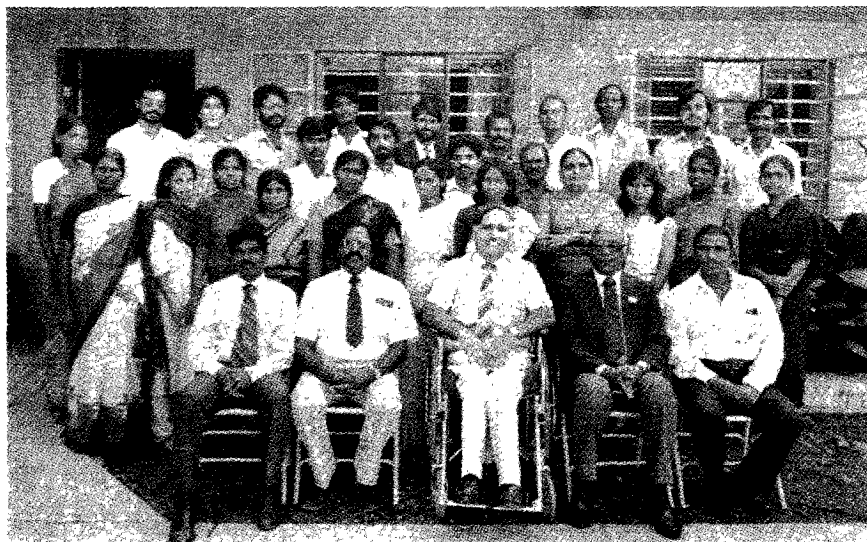
these complaints we find that reasons for such complaints are many and NHHS is not directly responsible for all. We've done and are doing the best we can, sometimes at our own loss, to see that the customer is always satisfied.

Our sales have gone up from 1976. In 1976 (March to December) our total sales were Rs.16,58,146.00. At the end of 1986 it was Rs.61,48,835.00. There has been an increase of 287.11% in ten years. While there has been a periodic increase in price of our publications, this growth in sales is mainly because of the hard work of our dedicated PDDs, LEs and workers. If it was not for their labour, our sales would not have been so high. The magazines circulation have shown a progressive trend. Except for two, all have grown in circulation. This is also a result of the hard work by all workers who join hands with PDDs and LEs during the campaign month.

We believe that God will do great things for us and through us in days to come.

—E. B. Mathew, Manager  
National Home & Health Service

*The NHHS group of workers in front of their office.*



# PIONEERS — STILL LEADING



A. M. Stroup and William Lenker landed at Madras over 80 years ago. Thus South India Union pioneered the literature ministry in Southern Asia from the very beginning. Suvishesha Muthu, a national pioneer LE, also came from a humble village called Nazaréth in Tamil Nadu. Today South India is still leading the literature ministry work in Southern Asia.

Publishing department directors and literature evangelists of South India Union have fully realized and understood the need of the literature ministry and the need for its extension throughout South India Union. In the *Colporteur Ministry*, Sister White said:

Many who are hungry for the bread of life have not the privilege of hearing the word from God's delegated preachers. For this reason it is essential that our publications be widely circulated (CM p. 6).

Southern India Union is composed of five Sections and one region, and our health magazines and books are available in all three languages of this Union, in addition to English. This ministry has proved to be a great success right from its beginning. In the twelve-year period from 1974 to 1986 the LE strength of only 30 grew to 90, and the annual sales of about Rs.6,00,000 to over Rs.26,00,000. This shows an increase of 200% in LE strength and 333% in sales increase. At present we have 100 full-time LEs.

1. South India Union has one Union PDD and an Assistant PDD with six Section PDDs. We need another Union Assistant PDD to promote small message books.

2. We have 10 ALCs (Adventist Literature Centres) in our Union High Schools, and 20 teachers and laymen are engaged in small book sales. The rest of the high schools have promised to start ALCs shortly.

3. The Union-wide whole-year sales contest for books and magazines is in full swing. This contest is to encourage LEs to show an increase in their own sales compared to the previous year's performance.

4. Section-wide New Recruits Institutes were conducted in all the Sections. As a result, 30 new workers were recruited, and 12 of them have become licensed LEs.

5. The South India Union has many LEs who sell an average of Rs.10,000/- per month.

6. LE Missionary Activities are highly encouraging. More LEs are found to be actively engaged in soul-winning. As a result of their witnessing people were added to various churches.

7. An average of 50 students are coming to South India each year to earn scholarships. In 1986 students' sale amounted to Rs.2,58,000, and 35 students returned to college with credit balances. 1987 students' sale to date is Rs.1,58,000. The final report is yet to come from the Sections.

8. "Double the sales and double the souls" is our GOAL!

—G. Isaiah, Director  
Publishing Department  
South India Union

## NORTHEAST INDIA LITERATURE EVANGELISTS' WITNESS

(Excerpts from LEs' symposium conducted at Adventist Training School, Meghalaya, on May 16, 1987.)

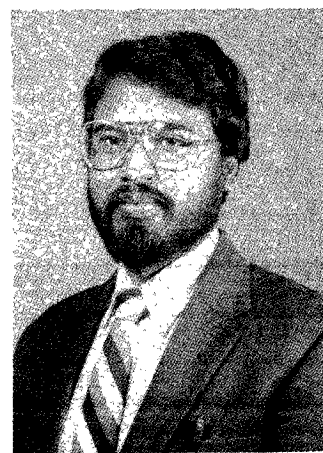
### Mrs. Buangi

I am an uneducated lady permitted to sell books costing below Rs.15 per copy. "Our Times" in Mizo language, "Nunna Chang" was the first magazine I sold. Many have failed to sell this single magazine, but I am very successful: praise the Lord. I feel happy to be selling small literature. Whether I sell small or big books, we are all literature evangelists.

From the time I accepted my call, I decided to work in the Publishing Department all my life. I have not fully understood everything that was said in this institute; but whatever I have gained, I shall practice till Jesus comes.

### L. B. Mawia

I was a tailor. One day Mr. R. K. Sangliana, the Mizo section PDD, and Mr. Calvin Joshua, Union PDD, came



to my shop. I believe that they had been sent by God. They invited me to join the ministry of literature evangelists. My wife and I discussed about the call prayerfully and accepted it.

I was sent as a missionary to the state of Tripura. I knew God my friend will not fail me. We went to Agartala. The Section PDD and the Union PDD worked with me on the first day. Selling books in Agartala was very hard. I had to spend more money to stay and

continue the work. Though the sales were poor, the spiritual condition was very rich. I continued to work under the constant threat for my life. I carry books tied to one end of a bamboo and at the other end my bedding. I believe that the Lord is working through humble literature evangelists like me.

#### S. K. Sangma

I am happy that I am in the army of literature evangelists. I recently sold a couple of sets of Bible stories. People say it is very expensive but none refuse to buy them. They say 10 volumes of Bible Stories are more valuable than televisions and VCRs.

I walk 30 kms a day. There are no rickshaws in our Garo Hills. I was appointed as the church elder. As a responsible member of the church I plan the church programmes and missionary activities. We conducted crusades and cottage meetings. Sixty-nine people were baptized. From one village six people accepted the truth and following them the whole village of about 100 are getting ready to accept the Lord.

#### B. Nongbri

I carry huge loads of books to villages in the Khasi Hills which are situated at a distance of 1 to 3 miles apart. Along with the Union PDD, Mr. Calvin Joshua, I once walked 10 kms to get transportation to come back to Shillong.

I speak the word of God and visit the homes again and again to give Bible studies.

#### N. Pheirim

I have been a literature evangelist for the past 10 years. I work in Kohima, the capital city of Nagaland.

Once an officer of the Lotha tribe told me, "I like your books. Because of that all my children are educated." He gave me an envelope and said, "It is a small gift for you. Don't open it here." At last when I opened it, there was a gift of Rs.50.

I am also the leader of the church in Kohima where we do not have a full-time pastor.

#### K. Matthew

Before I joined the publishing work I longed to amass wealth for my family through this work. Now as I am continuing in the work, I have the conviction that I am doing God's work and money automatically comes.

I was an agent for Life Insurance company. I used to tell people how they are safe with the LIC plan. I used to enroll people for 20-30 years policies.

Then I became a literature evangelist. Now I tell people these books will insure your life for eternity. The Lord is watching over me. God's work will flourish. I will work as a literature evangelist till Jesus comes.

—Calvin Joshua, PDD  
Northeast India Union

## AN EXPERIENCE

I met one of my good customers. He always appreciates our work and also our books. I sold him one set of *Family Medical Care* and also showed him two small religious books, *New Slavery* and the *Great Alternative*. He was attracted to them. I gave him these two books along with a set of *Family Medical Care*. He liked these two small books so much that he placed an order for 100 copies of each. I delivered him these books after a week. He presented these books to his relatives and friends.

He has helped many people to stop smoking. He promised me that he will get these books translated into Hindi and will distribute it to the people who are addicted and slaves to smoking. I am sorry to say that he is no more. He died without fulfilling his promise.

—Davis Massey, LE  
Upper Ganges Section

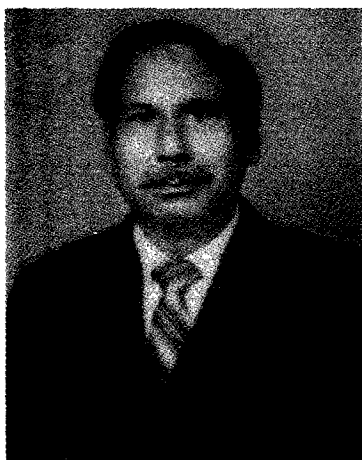
work. There are many areas in Northern Union where literature evangelists fear to work. In Northern Union there are 44 literature evangelists and 5 PDDs.

Northern Union accepted 57 students in 1986 and 41 in 1987. Our summer students programme was a success. Forty people were brought to Christ by the direct contact of our LEs in 1986. On August 8, 1987, three people were baptized at Kanpur as a result of the personal contact of the Union PDD, Pastor T. R. Gill.

Our goal is to double our LE force and our sales before the close of 1990. Though there are many trials, God has blessed us.

—T. R. Gill, Director  
Publishing Department  
Northern Union of SDA

## TRIUMPH THROUGH TRIALS



Northern Union is often faced with political upheavals and situations which are not peaceful. All that happens in the nation affects the Church and, in particular, the publishing

The following is the sales of the five Sections

	1985	1986	Gain or (Loss)
East India Section	1,53,353	1,09,554	(43,799)
Madhya Bharat Section	2,51,447	3,44,202	92,755
North India Section	4,40,164	4,00,476	(39,688)
Upper Ganges Section	5,03,660	6,18,152	1,14,492
Union Territory	56,253	64,730	8,477
UNION TOTAL:	14,04,877	15,37,144	1,32,267

## DIVISION PUBLISHING LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Division-wide Publishing Leadership Council was conducted from August 26 to 29, 1987 in Poona. It was held after a lapse of six years. All the Section and Union PDDs, OWPH officers and Division officers were present. Pastor Noel E. Bolst from Australia was the chief guest and instructor.

Our Division officers, Pastor G. J. Christo, Pastor R. D. Riches and Pastor Johnson Koilpillai presented very inspiring devotional messages every morning. Pastor Bolst, apart from his lectures, presented the following comprehensive papers:

1. Planning and Responsibilities of Publishing Leaders.
2. Leadership Level - Job Description - The Correct Image.
3. Coordinating Committees, Suggestions for Cooperation Between Branches of Publishing Departments in Southern Asia.
4. Discussion Paper - Should we change the Status of Literature Evangelists?

All the delegates were divided

into two groups to form two sub-committees on:

1. Job Description of Publishing Directors
2. Should we change the status of LEs.

The sub-committee gave their report on Friday afternoon. There was a very profitable discussion on the reports.

Dr. J. M. Fowler presented a thought provoking message entitled, "Issues in Publishing Department". Pastor Thomas K. Joseph presented an in-depth study paper, "So You Are A Leader". It was based on the leadership qualities of Bible heroes and gave instructions on policy matters.

During the closing session on Friday Pastor Christo presented "Faithful Service Pins" and Pastor Joseph gave each delegate one Cassette Seminar each containing 6 cassette tapes on literature ministry. The meetings came to a close with a challenging message from Pastor Christo.

—Mrs. Leah Samuel, Office Secretary  
Publishing Department

*After many years a Publishing Department Council was held in Southern Asia. All the Section and Union PDDs were present.*



## NORTHERN UNION LITERATURE EVANGELISTS INSTITUTE

A Literature Evangelists Institute was conducted in New Delhi for the Northern Union from September 9-12, 1987. Twenty-one LEs from four sections along with their presidents and treasurers attended this institute.

Pastor C. B. Hammond, Editor-in-Chief; Mr. John Howard, Editor, *Swasthya Aur Jivan*; and Mr. Michael Prasada Rao, Treasurer, NHHS were also in attendance.

In the opening meeting Pastor S. Chand, Union President, addressed the delegates and emphasized the importance of literature evangelism. Pastor Noel Bolst (from Australia) and Pastor T. K. Joseph were the main instructors. They presented valuable instructions on Christian salesmanship.

New policies were introduced by Pastor T. K. Joseph, the Division PDD. Pastor Hammond informed the LEs of the improvements taking place in OWPH. Mr. Michael Prasada Rao explained the working procedures of NHHS. Pastor Noel Bolst inspired all the delegates with his message on Sabbath during the divine service. He reminded all of how the Lord has commanded us to feed His sheep with truth-filled literature.

On Sabbath afternoon thrilling experiences by LEs were narrated that inspired and encouraged all present. Mr. S. J. Edward, Union Treasurer, distributed the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes of Rs.500, Rs.400 and Rs.300 to A. M. Shingara, Davis Massey and A. P. Lall respectively, the winners of cash prizes for the sales contest month of November 1986.

All enjoyed the fellowship and association together. The Lord's spirit prevailed during the meetings and enriched us with many blessings.

At the closing meeting Pastor S. Chand challenged all and gave them a priority by which to live: "Grow spiritually in order to win more souls and to make more sales."

—T. R. Gill, Acting PDD  
Northern Union



# A LETTER FROM A LITERATURE EVANGELIST TO HIS PUBLISHING DIRECTOR

Dear Bro. Calvin:

I am so happy to introduce Mr. H. Thisan, U.D.C., District Education office, Ukhurul, Manipur. I have found in his personal library almost all our books. They are:

1. Your Bible and You
2. You and Your Health — 3 vols.
3. Your Health and You — 2 vols.
4. Modern Medical Guide
5. Patriarchs and Prophets
6. Bible story - 10 vols.
7. Bible story Hour - 3 vols.
8. Family Medical Care - 4 vols.
9. God Speaks to Modern Man
10. Man of Destiny
11. Best Story
12. Final War
13. Great Controversy
14. Steps to Christ
15. Radiant living
16. Your Guide to Health
17. Health and Longevity

He is interested to purchase more books if we have any new ones. Kindly send him a letter of appreciation. May God bless you.

Yours sincerely,

P. S. Liberty  
Literature Evangelist  
Manipur-Nagaland Section

NOTE: Bro. Calvin Joshua wrote to me that he has visited this gentleman and sold some more books.

—T. K. Joseph

## PUBLISHING WORK IN THE ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

I visited the Andaman & Nicobar Islands from 13-17 November, 1986. Northern Union had sent Brother Simon Amirtharaj to work there. Together we sold books worth Rs.10,200 in ten days. It was the first time that our religious books reached so many schools,

On November 15 the church in Andaman was very happy because five members were brought into the church through baptism by Pastor Balvinder P. Massey, Northern Union PDD. Bibles were given to them by Brother D. K. Baroya, the Union auditor.

Brother Simon Amirtharaj and his family were very happy when his mother, who is 80 years old, accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour. Publishing work helps the church grow everywhere.

—Balvinder P. Massey, Former  
Director, Publishing Department  
Northern Union

## BLESSEDNESS OF BOOKS

Books should be found in every home,  
To form and feed the mind;  
They are the best of luxuries  
'Tis possible to find.

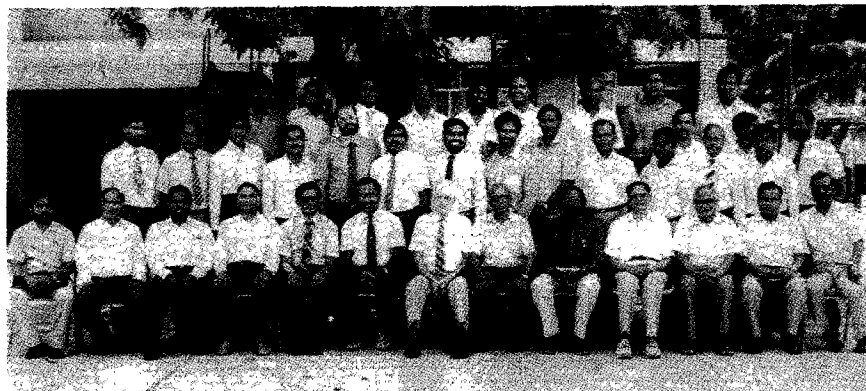
The true, good books in all the world  
Are man's most precious treasure;  
They make him wise, and bring to him  
His best his choicest pleasure.

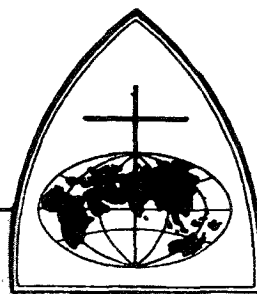
Books tell us all that men have done,  
Have thought, have sung, have said;  
Books show the deeds and wisdom  
Of the living and the dead.

Books, therefore, are of all man buys,  
The choicest things on earth;  
Books have, of all his worldly goods,  
The most intrinsic worth.

Books are the greatest blessings,  
The grandest things we sell;  
Books bring more joy, books do more good  
Than mortal tongue can tell.

The Northern Union Annual LE institute was conducted at New Delhi from September 9-12, 1987. Pastor and Mrs. Bolst were the special guests.





## LE BAPTISMS

World literature evangelist baptisms increased by 16.29 percent. The Southern Asia Division is showing the largest percentage of gain in sales.

## AUDIO-VISUAL PROGRAMMES

A New series of ten audio-visual sales training programme is being developed by the General Conference Publishing Department. They will be available late in 1988.

## WORLD SALES

World sales show a gain of 16.25 percent.

## WEST INDIES LE INSTITUTE

The West Indies Union Literature Evangelist Institute convened at West Indies College in Jamaica recently. In attendance were Elder George Brown, division president; Doctor Reid, the union president, and his fellow officers; all union department leaders; and conference presidents. With administrative support like this, no wonder the publishing ministry in Inter-America is flourishing!

## SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION SALES

Congratulations to Elder Wolff, Elder Viegas, and the South American Division Publishing Team for leading the world divisions in cumulative literature evangelist sales for 1987. This has been achieved in spite of devaluation and economic problems in South America.

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

A plaque commending Edouard Naenny for 27 years of distinguished service as publishing director of the Euro-Africa Division was presented by the General Conference Publishing Department to

Pastor Naenny recently. He is now retired, living in France.

## NEW PROGRAMMES

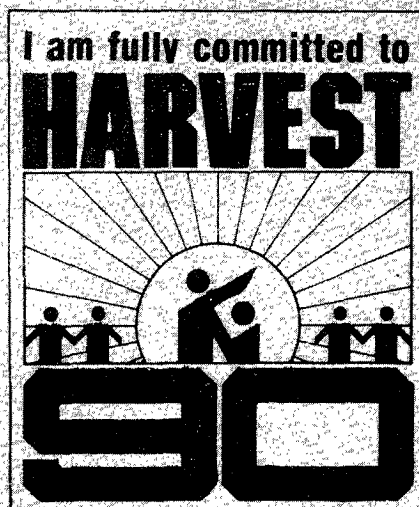
Two recruiting programmes are in the making for the World field along audio-visual training for publishing department leaders.

## NEW LE SEMINARY

Another Literature Ministry Seminary is being built in the South Philippine Union.

## EDITORS' WORLD MEETING

The International Association of SDA Editors met in San Antonio, Texas. This is the first meeting since its organization in February 1986. Overseas delegates came from Korea and the Philippines. Membership includes over 100 denominational editors from around the world.



## NEWSFLASH

The year-end budget meeting of the Southern Asia Division began this year with a Ministerial pre-session. This was attended by all the Division Advisory members, union presidents and the section

presidents. They spent four days in prayerful discussions and plans for furthering the work in this Division. The goals for Harvest 90 were reviewed and plans for strengthening certain areas of work were finalized.

For the first time the section presidents were asked to attend the year-end budget meetings. The General Conference was represented by Elder Ralph Thompson, the secretary, and Elder R.E. Osborn, Associate Treasurer of the General Conference.

The following recommendations were made by the nominating committee.

SUD Associate secretary  
- J. M. Fowler

SUD Assistant Treasurer  
- J. Stanley

SUD Education Director  
- K. Bhaskara Rao

SUD Assoc. Minist. Director  
- M. M. Ponniah

SUD Audit Ser. Staff Auditor  
- K. Pappachan

AIRD/SUD Director  
- G. R. Bazziel

President, Northeast Union  
- J.I. Khonghat

Treasurer, Northeast Union  
- B. Rimsu

# WE NEED ELIJAH'S MANTLE

## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MOVEMENT

Calvin B. Rock

Consider the scene: Elijah, the aged prophet, ascends toward the fiery chariot. Elisha, his protege, watches as the veteran warrior is swept from the earth. Just before he disappears from sight, Elijah lets his cape fall.

Elisha quickly retrieves the prized cloak, then standing upon the banks of the Jordan, cries out, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" With that he smites the waters and a dry path opens before him, just as it had for Elijah. (See 2 Kings 2:11-14)

When Elijah had solicited Elisha's fondest desire, the intern requested a double portion of Elijah's spirit. Now, with a second-hand mantle but first-hand power, Elisha was fully equipped to occupy the office that Elijah had left.

Elisha inherited formidable problems. Ahab and Jezebel had perverted God's truth until the great majority of people stood in open rebellion against Heaven. Judgements fell upon the Israelites as God used Hazael, king of the Syrians, to punish them.

For his difficult and dangerous role, Elisha needed Elijah's mantle and so do we! Our Elijahs are gone. The pioneers have long since passed from the scene. We find instructions and inspiration in their example, but Jezebel's influence remains. Ahabs allow apostasy to fester in our churches and institutions. We suffer from Laodicean malaise and loss of primitive fervour, from lack of power for adequate witness.

Leaders are called upon in this crisis hour to reverse the tide, to swing the momentum back over to God's side. But if they are to do so, they will need Elijah's mantle.

Elijah's mantle embodies that which distinguishes us in Christendom: the principle of reformation—Sabbath reform, tithe reform, health reform, dress reform, educational reform, and family reform. Ironically, organizations such as the American Medical Association, the office of the US sur-

geon general, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and the Moral Majority receive more press as reformers than we do.

We need Elijah's mantle because the quality of leadership and membership in our churches is related to the quality of our educational programme. Today that system in India and many other parts of the world, has been threatened by financial exigency, parental apathy, and leadership frustration.

What our church needs most in this time is not more equations on how to increase baptisms in our churches, but formulas on how to reverse declining enrollments in our schools, how to finance our campuses more adequately, and how to impress upon ourselves the fact that the proper training of our youth holds the key to our future, that the education of our children is therefore more important than expansion of our health system, our publishing work, our food services, or our public evangelism.

What has happened to the assumption that every Adventist child should be educated in our school system? That

where finances cannot provide both, the school building should be constructed before the church auditorium? That where we have as many as six children church-sponsored education should be made available? That when parents cannot pay for school expenses, the church should; and when the church cannot, the conference should? We must repent of giving lesser priority to Christian education or preside over the continued demise of the most effective purveyor of doctrine and culture that we have. Elisha's example under similar circumstances tells us that we need Elijah's mantle.

We need Elijah's mantle because it reminds us that God has done it before and can surely do it again. Elijah's mantle reminded Elisha of past demonstrations of God's power and encouraged him regarding His future performance. And it was so: Elijah divided the waters, and so did he; Elijah raised a widow's son, and so did he.

### He Dreamed and Acted

If Elisha had cried, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" and attempted



nothing, nothing would have happened. But he dreamed and he acted! The double portion for which he had asked did not mean he wanted twice the power that Elijah had. That would have been presumptuous. Rather, he requested the blessing of the firstborn, the privilege of priestly succession. And Elisha used that privilege with confidence.



future. A movement does not advance on cat feet, testing the winds; turtle-like, retracting at every sound of danger. Churches may, denominations may, but not a movement. A movement presses, it strides, it boldly proclaims its mission.

Those who wear Elijah's mantle act as he did. They trust God's commands because they love and trust their Commander. Timid, cautious, fearful people do not wear the cape that made dry paths in the Jordan. Only the committed, the believing, the risking, the daring, can wear Elijah's mantle. While we do not all resemble Elijah in personality, our work demands that we be like him in spirit. Elisha himself did not have the same disposition and temperament as Elijah. Elijah was intrepid, confrontational, impatient. Elisha had a more tender spirit, a more kindly disposition. Yet when he had to make hard decisions, proclaim judgements, withstand enemies under the threat of death, and address for authority, he rose to the occasion.

Elijah's mantle does not impose upon us uniformity of personality and mind-set, but it does impose a common zeal for the cause. It makes us watchmen on the walls, protectors of the cause, apologists for the church, defenders of the faith. We may do this in different ways, with different accents and varying approaches, but the result will be the same. We will care for the flock and defend God's name (not ours), His message, His principles, and His people.

Elisha's times demanded a difference in method. A new generation had sprung up; the atmosphere was not the same at the height of Elisha's ministry

as when Elijah had draped that same mantle about his shoulders. The dramatic style of the blunt, more ascetic Elijah was not the need of the hour. God needed the more urbane, peace-loving Elisha.

Elijah's robe symbolized not so much Elijah's style as his inspirational quality, his stern, uncompromising hatred of evil, his unflinching fidelity to truth.

And so it is with us today. We do not stand where our fathers stood. New times demand fresh ideas, new approaches. But for this we need Elijah's mantle.

We need Elijah's mantle because it directs us to the emphasis that most distinguished his ministry. Elijah—and remember we are the Elijah people—as no other leader, gave priority to church-sponsored education. More fundamental to the welfare of God's people than slaying the false prophets on Carmel was Elijah's career-long education emphasis. If Samuel became the founder and first president of the schools of the prophets, Elijah served as their most distinguished chancellor. He found means for their construction, recruited students, and solicited scholarship money for the sons of the prophets. He lifted Israel's educational system from a secondary consideration to a place of top priority. And Elisha continued Elijah's education emphasis.

We can stem the tide of dwindling finances and increasing apostasies, of decreasing enrollments and increasing liabilities. But for all that, we need more than human capacity—we need Elijah's mantle.

If we would repeat Elijah's performance, must duplicate Elisha's methods. And what were those methods? They

The years of this quinquennium will go by very rapidly. Success by 1990 demands that we move expeditiously; that we do not just analyze, but that we execute.

God has chosen us to wear this mantle of service, and we must use it to smite the "Jordans" that separate us from success. We must smite our apathy regarding personal witness. We must smite the growing tendency away from the cause of missions. We must smite the creeping irreverence in our churches. We must smite the growing cynicism and disrespect for church leadership. We must smite the barriers to Christian education.

The record states that when he had smitten the waters and divided them asunder, Elisha crossed over. And so can we. But not if we remain intimidated by our problem or if our private agendas and personal egos impede the Spirit's flow.

Our real danger lies not so much in public rejection but in loss of continuity, leakage of zeal, fading of the movement mentality. We need Elijah's mantle to remind us of our status as a peculiar people; to remind us that we constitute an irritant, not a soluble, in society; to remind us of the pilgrim nature of our calling.

#### **A Movement Moves**

A movement doesn't stand still; neither does it move gingerly into the

included (1) a stubborn desire to share in service; (2) the faithful performance of lesser duties; (3) an earnest request for divine infilling; and (4) a steady gaze upon the prophet. What worked for Elisha will work for us: desire, fidelity, earnest entreaty, and a determined focus upon our leader provide unfailing guides to effectiveness.

In evaluating the completed work of Elisha, inspiration records: "He upon whom had fallen in full measure the spirit resting upon Elijah had proved faithful to the end. Never had he wavered. Never had he lost his trust in the power of Omnipotence. Always, when the way before him seemed utterly closed, he had still advanced by faith, and God had honoured his confidence and opened the way before him" (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 263).

Elisha's fame does not equal that of Elijah's. He stands in history as a melody heard more for its cantus firmus than for its cascading crescendos. He left the world after a lingering illness, not in a burst of glory as did Elijah. But while Elijah remains the dominant figure, more space is granted Elisha in the sacred narrative than Elijah.

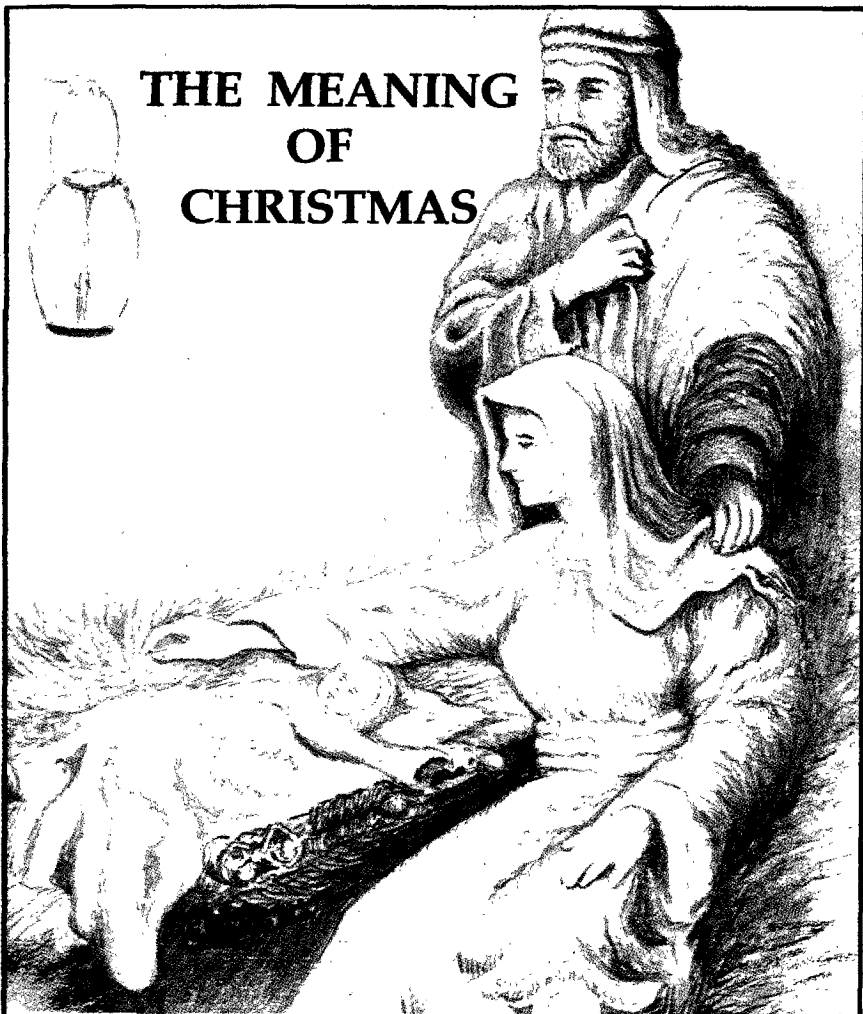
You and I may not equal in charisma the valiant ones who have preceded us. But on the other hand, our apocalyptic position provides the opportunity to accomplish even more in the scheme of salvation. Therefore, today as we assume new goals and face new challenges, let us take courage from Elisha's experience. "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you" (Acts 1:8).

Since God's promises are sure and all His commands enablings, the question is not "Where is Elijah's God?" but "Where are God's Elishas?" Elijah's God is here, and so are the conditions for a mighty demonstration of His power. The obstacles are imposing, but our cause is righteous, our orders are clear. If God can find enough Elishas among us on whom to cast Elijah's mantle, we will make this quinquennium a glorious chapter not only in our personal ministries but in the progress of the work of God.

"And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters . . . And when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither; and Elisha went over" (2 Kings 2:14).

From *The Adventist Review*

## THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS



"I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to  
men."

—Longfellow

A family once did a most unusual thing for Christmas. The mother wondered out loud how their family could put Christ into their Christmas. Here's what they did.

They got out their manger scene and carefully arranged all the figures, but they left the manger crib empty. Next to the crib they placed a bowl filled with pieces of straw. The parents then explained to the children that the crib needed to be made soft and comfortable for the baby Jesus. They went on to explain that giving gifts at Christmas is a message of love, and this year their gifts to Jesus would be doing kind and loving things for others. Every time we do kind and loving things for someone else, we will put a piece

of straw in the crib. By Christmas we'll have a "soft place for Jesus." The children were enthusiastic!

What happened in that home is beautiful. Dirty dishes were mysteriously washed; a little boy was cheerfully helped by his sister. Even Grandpa and Grandma were recipients of love notes. Kindness and love were expressed as the crib started filling with straw. Christmas morning the crib was full and the figure of Baby Jesus was carefully placed in His crib. Christ's reason for coming was to bring joy, love and peace to all mankind. One family found a way to let Christ's love flow through them.

What about your family? Is Christmas only a tree and presents and food at your house? What about people's feelings? Do something about it. Have a family council and decide how you can make this Christmas filled with Christ's love.

—W. L. Sharalaya



# BOLSTS VISIT SOUTHERN ASIA



*Pastor and Mrs. Bolst's visit to Southern Asia was of immense benefit to the publishing work.*

Elder and Mrs. Noel E. Bolst from Australia spent almost three months, June 16 to September 13, 1987 in Southern Asia.

Pastor Bolst helped in the evaluation of OWPH and NHHS and gave very good recommendations. He also was the chief instructor at the Division-wide Publishing Leadership Council. Pastor and Mrs. Bolst travelled in South India, Central India and Northern Union in connection with the surveys. Pastor Bolst led in the annual LE Institute for Northern Union which was conducted in Delhi from September 9-12, 1987. They left for Australia on September 13.

Born in Rangoon, Burma, Pastor Bolst was till age 30 in Southern Asia Division.

His early life with his parents were spent in Cuttack, Calcutta and Bangalore. He attended school in Darjeeling, Calcutta, Ootacamund, and Bangalore where the Advent Message came to them, and he was baptised with his parents by the late Pastor A. E. Rawson.

His parents at that time were operating a cottage industry known as Bolsts Indian Condiments, manufacturing pickles, chutneys and curry powders—an industry which was later sold, and has since become world famous.

Even before completing his secondary schooling in Bangalore, young Noel began canvassing to help pay for his college education in Vincent Hill College, Mussoorie. He worked in Bangalore and Kolar Goldfields. The following summer he worked in Colombo. During his college days he worked 24 to 28 hours per week in addition to a full academic load, and he graduated from the Ministerial course in 1941.

In January 1944 they were called to Karachi and then to take charge of the church in Rawalpindi from the late Pastor Harold Baird, father of Pastor Ronald Baird.

In 1947 Pastor Bolst was ordained to the gospel ministry during a Union session in Roorkee. He was appointed to the English church in Lahore where he served as pastor/evangelist for five difficult years before he moved to Chuharkhana where he taught and pastored.

When the Bolst family went to Australia in August 1952, he began canvassing in Melbourne, Victoria, and aside from one year of teaching, canvassed for 8 years till called into leadership in Western Australia in 1962, the Victorian Conference for eight years, and in 1981 he was called to Sydney to serve as Publishing Director of the Trans-Tasman Union Conference where he served till his retirement in 1985.

Pastor Noel Bolst is a very loving and lovable Christian and his instructions in the meetings and institutes were very practical. We wish them both God's rich blessings.

—Thomas K. Joseph, Director  
Publishing Department

VOLUME 82. NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 1987

## SOUTHERN ASIA TIDINGS

Editor.....Edwin Charles

### FIELD DIRECTORY

Central India—Post Box 4565, Bombay 400 008

President.....K. J. Moses  
Secretary.....S. G. Mahapure,  
Treasurer.....K. G. George

Northern—11 Hailey Road, New Delhi 110 001

President.....S. Chand  
Secretary.....G. R. Bazliel  
Treasurer.....S. J. Edward

Northeast India—Pyrbot Villa, Laitumkhrah, Shillong

President.....L. Hmungliana  
Secretary.....C. Pheirun  
Treasurer.....J. I. Khonghat

South India—Post Box 120, Bangalore 560 052

President.....J. Willmott  
Secretary.....P. Devamony  
Treasurer.....B. C. Kurien

### DIVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chairman.....G. J. Christo  
Secretary.....R. D. Riches  
Treasurer.....J. Koilpillai  
Assoc.....Sunder Singh  
Communication.....D. S. Poddar  
Education.....J. M. Fowler  
Assoc.....K. Jesuratnam  
Health & Temperance.....R. N. Baird  
Church Ministries.....L. C. Cooper  
Assoc.....P. D. Kujur  
Assoc.....C. C. Nathaniel  
Ass't.....Mrs. Margaret Nathaniel  
Ministerial.....  
Ass't.....M. M. Ponniah  
Religious Liberty.....M. E. Cherian  
Publishing.....T. K. Joseph

### ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY

Director.....K. Bhaskara Rao

### DIVISION AUDITING SERVICE

Director.....I. Nagabhushana Rao  
Assoc.....V. Christian

SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF SDA  
F-3B Second Avenue, Anna Nagar East,  
Madras 600 102, India

Chairman.....G. S. Peterson  
Secretary-Treasurer.....Sunder Singh  
Ass't Treasurers.....Shamgar Prasad  
D. Jagadeson  
Melvin C. Prasad

Printed and Published at the Oriental Watchman  
Publishing House, Salisbury Park, Pune.  
Manager: P. H. Lall

Seasons Greetings

Peace on  
Earth

