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WORSHIP and STUDY at the Union Constituency Meetings

By Pastor H. J. Welch

The Keynote of the Union Mission Constituency Meetings held at Bekwai, "Prepare to Meet Thy God" was reflected in the deeply spiritual morning prayer services and in the Bible studies given at 8.30 a.m. each day. Pastor Gibson with great earnestness gave the Keynote sermon. Pastors Henri, Newman, Hyde and the writer conducted the early morning prayer services. Some passages of scripture that deeply impressed our minds during these morning prayer sessions were: "God hath not given us the spirit of fear;

but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Tim. 1:7.

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Isaiah 41:10.

It was interesting to note that one morning the message was about "Satan's most valuable tool, discouragement." The very next morning the next speaker talked on the subject of "encouragement." The prayer bands



The full group of delegates who assembled at Bekwai, Gold Coast, for the second Constituency Meeting of the West African Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists.

that met every morning truly brought us close to our Lord as we prayed for one another and for the progress of the work.

The meetings for Bible study at 8:30 each morning were conducted by Pastors A. Lohne, of the West Nordic Union; R. Erdmann from Dakar, and A. F. Tarr, President of the Northern European Division.

Pastor Lohne spoke of the power of the Holy Spirit and illustrated how it worked at Pentecost. He urged us to open our hearts and give up our sins that the Spirit of God might work through us. For his second morning study he spoke on the text John 1:40-42. "Andrew first findeth his brother Philip." Andrew he said, was the first one to follow Jesus, yet Peter his big brother seemed to get the honours nevertheless, Andrew remained true even though he was not promoted. One striking statement made by Pastor Lohne was that "Our only competitor is yesterday." He urged us to compete with ourselves but be willing to take second place to our brothers.

On the final morning of our session, Pastor Tarr read 1 John 3:3. "Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." The power in our message, he said, is due to our faith in the hope of the coming of Jesus. He counselled us to hold fast to that faith and hope.

Pastor G. A. Lindsay's message on the Sabbath afternoon was much appreciated. He referred to the experience of the disciples who came to Jesus to report that even the devils were subject to them, and to Jesus' statement that they should rather rejoice that their names were written in the Lamb's Book of Life. It was good for us who had come to report how God had blessed us in our work to be asked to face the question "Is my name written there?" I am sure that if anyone left the constituency meeting without a deeper consecration he had only himself to blame for every message was one to turn our hearts to the Lord.



A group of delegates at prayer.

Resolutions made at the Union Constituency Meeting

December 30, 1955 to January 4, 1956

Evangelism

WHEREAS: We recognise that soul-winning evangelism is the very life-blood of the Church — as given by our Lord in His great commission — "Go ye into all the world and make disciples out of all nations," and that it should permeate every branch and department of our denominational activities,

Voted: 1. That every mission worker be encouraged to regard soul-winning as his chief objective.

2. That every mission committee endeavour to set aside at least 10% of its operating budget each year for evangelistic efforts.

3. That evangelistic workers who continue year after year without winning souls be advised after due consideration by the employing body to seek employment in some other line of work.

4. That our publishing house exercise care to maintain a high proportion of truth-filled books for the colporture force, and that our editors maintain a strong evangelistic note in the periodicals and tracts that are printed.

5. That our mission committees encourage lay-

evangelistic campaigns, including lay-men's efforts, compound meetings and Bible studies wherever the presence of trained laymen make this programme practicable.

6. That we renew our efforts to bring the message to the millions in our cities.

Tithing

WHEREAS: the tithing system has been ordained of God for the preaching of the gospel and the finishing of the work,

Voted: that our union, and local mission leaders continue a systematic tithing programme for the purpose of helping all our members to enjoy the everflowing blessings that follow faithful tithing, and that further funds may be made available for the speedy finishing of the work, and that our work in West Africa be speedily established upon a self-supporting basis and to implement this,

Further Voted: 1. That workers continue to promote throughout the year the need for faithful tithing, and emphasise the blessings received.

2. In harmony with the admonition given in the church manual, that we re-affirm our policy of with-holding church office from members who are not faithful in tithe paying.

3. That our church leaders and workers be urged to visit members who are not faithful in tithe paying and encourage them to faithfulness in their stewardship.

4. That our evangelists present the subject of tithing just as faithfully as they do the subject of the Sabbath truth, making the presentation Christ-centred, and placing special emphasis on the blessings that come to the believer in practice.

5. That we encourage the editor of the West African Union Messenger to print tithe quotations and experiences frequently in our own paper.

Publishing Department Resolutions

WHEREAS: We are told and believe that "the canvassing work properly conducted is missionary work of the highest order, and it is as good and successful a method as can be employed for placing before the people the important truths of this time",—"Testimonies," Vol. 6, page 133, and

WHEREAS: Our faithful literature evangelists throughout this Union are toiling faithfully from day to day in the fulfilment of their Heaven-appointed work, and are instrumental in placing many thousands of books in the homes of the people, and increasing interests are springing up as a result of their missionary labours,

Voted: That from this Union Constituency Meetings we pass on our sincere greetings to our literature evangelists throughout the Union territory, expressing to them our appreciation of their faithful service and assuring them of our prayerful support for their missionary labours.

Home Missionary Secretaries and Leaders

WHEREAS: We have been told in the Spirit of Prophecy that "The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers",—"Gospel Workers," page 352.

Voted: 1. That each local mission appoint a Home Missionary Secretary who will be able to train the church members and direct their efforts into larger soul winning activity.

2. That wherever possible in our churches "at the time of the annual election of church officers a missionary leader should be chosen", and a missionary secretary.

Ministerial Leadership In Church Home Missionary Activities

Realizing that the missionary work of the church needs the efficient guidance and help of the ministry.

Voted: That each mission during its workers' meetings, give time for the study of Home Missionary methods, which will fit these workers to lead the church members into larger lay evangelism activities.

2. That when district conventions are held for our laymen, arrangements be made for the ministry of the district to attend.

Institutes of Lay Evangelism

WHEREAS: The time has come for a larger number of our church members to be actively engaged in soul-winning work, and

WHEREAS: We recognise that this work can be done more effectively by a better trained laity,

Voted: That each mission plan to hold lay evangelism institutes where definite instruction shall be given to the lay members in the art of giving Bible studies and holding compound meetings and larger lay efforts.

World Temperance Sabbath

WHEREAS: The Spirit of Prophecy teaches "Of all who claim to be numbered among the friends of temperance, Seventh-day Adventists should stand in the front ranks,"—

Voted: That in each of our missions, on the 27th October, the Annual World Temperance Sabbath programme and offering be vigorously promoted in all of our churches.

Temperance Education in our Schools

WHEREAS: The Northern European Division has taken the following action "That special efforts be made to interest our young people in temperance activities, that we may enlist their enthusiastic co-operation in our endeavour to give the temperance cause its right place in the proclamation of the third angel's message."

Voted: 1. That as far as possible some time be given to Temperance education in each of our teachers' institutes,

2. That material be provided for the teachers which they can incorporate into their teaching of religion and hygiene classes which will educate the children in regards to the moral and physical effects of alcohol and tobacco.

3. That each school be encouraged to prepare at least one temperance programme each year which may be given to audiences in the community. Material which can be used in such programmes to be made available through the temperance department.

Special Days 1956 — 1957

Voted: that we approve the following schedule of Special Days for the West African Union.

1956:	Jan.	6	Family Altar Day
	Feb.	4	Sabbath School Rally Day
	Mar.	3-10	MV Week of Prayer
	April	7	Spirit of Prophecy Day
	April	14	Tithe Sabbath
	June	2	Christian Education
	July	21-28	Missions Extension
	Aug.	4	Colporteur Day
	Sept.	1	Ingathering Rally Day
	Sept.	22	Dorcas Welfare Day
	Oct.	6	Voice of Prophecy Day
	Oct.	20	West African Tidings Campaign
	Oct.	27	Temperance Day
	Nov.	3	Tithe Sabbath
	Nov.	17-24	Week of Prayer and Sacrifice
	Dec.	1	Healthful Living Day
1957:	Jan.	5	Family Altar Day
	Feb.	3	Sabbath School Rally Day
	Mar.	2-9	MV Week of Prayer
	April	6	Spirit of Prophecy Day
	April	13	Tithe Sabbath
	July	20-27	Missions Extension

West African Tidings

WHEREAS: it is felt that the quarterly publication of the "West African Tidings" does not bring the magazine to the attention of the public suffi-

ciently frequent to create the maximum of interest in the paper.

Voted: That the Union Committee and Board of the Advent Press give study to the publication of this paper as a monthly magazine.

WHEREAS: we have the specific instructions from the Holy Word to spread the Gospel message to every nation kindred, tongue and people and,

WHEREAS: one of the best ways by which we can fulfil this commission is through the spreading of the printed page.

Voted: That we urge the field leaders, church pastors and elders to do all in their power to encourage the church membership to undertake the sale of "West African Tidings" as a means of fulfilling this great commission.

Training of Church Officers

WHEREAS: there is a definite need of stronger leadership in the churches by our laymen.

Voted: 1 That we urge the completion of the abridged church Manual, at present in the hands of the West African Union, in order that this material might be available at an early date.

2. That we use this material for instruction in Church Officers Institutes to be held in local fields within 1956.

3. Further, that this abridged edition be translated into the vernacular of each local field wherever possible and practicable.

Missionary Volunteer Resolution

WHEREAS: we realise that the time in which we are living is charged with worldly attractions and temptations destructive to our youth, and

WHEREAS: we believe that some of the strongest antidotes to these are prayer and missionary activities.

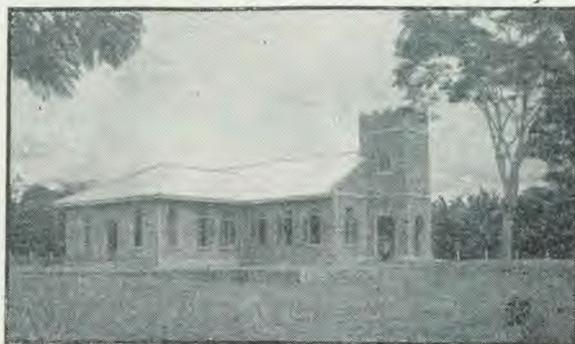
Voted: 1. That we encourage our youth to strengthen their prayer life and counsel them on how their unbounded energies may be channeled into practical soul-saving service, and that the Missionary Volunteer Department in counsel with the Union Committee lay definite plans with this objective in mind.

2. That Mission officers and Missionary Volunteer Secretaries in each mission take immediate steps to promote and organize genuine Missionary Volunteer Societies in as many churches as possible and that guidance be given these societies in helping the young people themselves to conduct interesting and character building meetings and to promote other youth activities designed to hold our young people and guide them into soul winning service. That we suggest such activities as youth camps, youth socials, pathfinder clubs, temperance teams, oratorical contests, music festivals, youth evangelistic teams, christian help bands, etc, to our youth.

Gratitude To Workers

WHEREAS: It is recognised that to a great degree the progress of the work of God in West Africa has been made possible through the consecrated endeavours of the pastors, evangelists, medical workers, teachers, and lay workers in our Union,

Voted: That we express our gratitude to these consecrated workers throughout the West African Union Mission, and that we express our gratitude through the medium of the "West African Advent Messenger."



Dedication of Ile-Ife Hospital Chapel

By Sherman A. Nagel, Jr., M.D.

In less than ten years the Seventh-day Adventist Hospital Church, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, has grown from a company of thirty to an organized church with membership nearing two hundred.

September 3, 1955, will stand out as a very bright day in the history of this church. It was on this day that a beautiful stone chapel built on the hospital campus was dedicated. Ten years ago the church company met in a small thatched roofed, mud-floored and walled structure that scarcely could accommodate the company, the structure being located on a back out-of-the-way street in the suburb of Ife town.

Today this stone chapel, situated conspicuously on the main thoroughfare of Ife, and built at a cost of £7000 will stand as a living testimony to the growth of God's church in West Nigeria. The chapel comfortably seats a congregation of 600 though on the day of the dedication service over 750 were crowded into its solid mahogany pews.

The dedicatory sermon was preached by Pastor J. O. Gibson, President of the West African Union Mission, Sherman A. Nagel, Jr., M.D., pastor of the Hospital Church officiated at the Act of Dedication, and senior pastor-evangelist of the West Nigerian Mission of S. D. A., J. M. Adeoye offered the dedicatory prayer. Special music was rendered by Sisters B. Turtill and Violet Welke.

A Thank Offering totalling £64. 8s. 11d. was given by those in attendance that day and depicted well the spirit of thanksgiving by the members and the many friends who had come in to join in the joy of the dedicatory service. Letters of congratulations and dona-

tions were sent to the church at Ife on this day by a number of sister churches in the West Nigerian area.

A word of sincere appreciation and thanks to God must here be expressed for having impressed the hearts of numerous friends in America, Great Britain and West Africa who generously donated towards the construction of this chapel. Appreciation must also be expressed to the West African Union Mission who contributed £1,650 towards the expense of this building. The largest donations came from A. C. Hanson of Glendale, California, from a number of Dr. S. A. Nagel's classmates of the College of Medical Evangelists, and from Brother C. T. Simmons of London, England.

Among those present for the service were His Highness, Sir Adesoji Aderemi I, K.B.E., C.M.G., Oni of Ife; Chiefs Obalaye, Obaloran, Ejiro, Lowa, Jagunosin; Councillors E. J. Ajayi, O.B.E., E. T. Ladipo; Hon. S. O. Olagbaju; M. A. Fabunmi, Executive Secretary of the Ife Native Administration; Cannon E. O. Ajibola, Pastors R. A. Fajemisin, G. A. Bakare, all of the Anglican Communion, Ife District; Mr. and Mrs. S. Gustavsson of S.D.A. Mission, Ibadan; Mr. J. Willoughby, Supt. of Police, Ife; and many other prominent people of the Ife community.

May each reader join in praying that September 3, 1955 will but mark the beginning of even greater achievements for God in the Ife District and that this House of Prayer will greatly strengthen the spiritual growth and influence of the Seventh-day Adventist Hospital Church, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.



A view of the interior of the fine stone church, recently completed at Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

Once Again God Has Answered a Prayer

By G. A. K. D'Alphoncio

It was during the month of May last year that the information reached me of one Mr. A. G. Fianko a taxcollector in the Nsawam District who was charged with murder and detained in the James Fort Prison here in Accra pending court trial.

I knew he did not realize the sort of entanglement in which he was at that time. Guided by experience, I did not lose time and courage to write to him and pointing him to God whose only protection cannot fail him, and advising him to seek him early and earnestly by praying and reading the Bible constantly.

It worked well.

The time for the trial came. Before the Assizes held in the Supreme Court building of Accra in July, he was found guilty and sentenced to death. It is not an easy thing for an inexperienced person to imagine his feelings during that period. Now, alone in the condemned cell in the Usher Fort Prison, Fianko could not find nor feel any friend near him except Christ. He prayed continually and read the Bible, religious tracts and magazines without ceasing. Upon his request, Pastor J. O. Gibson, Brother C. G. Meredith and I visited him in the Usher Fort Prison on two occasions while his death sentence was suspended pending his appeal to the West African Court of Appeal. We prayed for him; "Should it be Thy will O Lord, save and spare this precious life so that he too can witness for Thee."

On September 13th, I received a letter from him telling me that he was to appear before the West African Court of Appeal on the 12th September and to pray for him. I was puzzled for he wrote the letter on the 10th September but it was delayed somewhere. A voice in my heart told me to pray for him for God knows best. I bowed down my head on my desk and prayed to God to save him, for His own beloved Son also once stood before human imperfect justice and judges, and asked that he may direct the three judges to do His will.

I discovered later that while I was praying at my desk, he too was standing before the West African Court of Appeal and his lawyer was pleading his case. When Fianko

was asked by the Presiding Judge what he had to say before judgement was passed, Mr. Fianko's only reply was: "I know that my Redeemer liveth." At this stage the case was adjourned indefinitely.

During the first week of October, he was called, before the West African Court of Appeal once again. Mr. Fianko was found not guilty on the charge of murder, but guilty for manslaughter and sentenced to twelve years imprisonment with hard labour. He is serving his sentence in the James Fort Prison.

On Sabbath, December 3rd, I visited the Sabbath-School of James Fort Prison and found him a member of the school studying. He said: "I promised God that I should be His servant for the rest of my life if I were to be saved from death sentence. God has fulfilled His promise, it is now my turn to be His. Please help me to study the Bible more to fit me for His service."

Once again God has answered a prayer. Not in the days of the Apostles, but in these days of ours, these days of destiny when you and I sometimes find ourselves at the cross roads of decision either to take the road of "Doubting God" or the road of "Believing God." Christ promised us: "All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matt. 21:22. May this experience help us to take the road of believing God.

Enlarge Your Circles

By A. N. Daitey

Casting my eyes on the past few years when the colporteur ministry began in the Gold Coast with nine enthusiasts, hardly would I think of the growing number at the present. However, with the increase of education within these years it seems that the number of the faithful colporteur evangelists is small. Surely the Gold Coast has been blessed in a marked way due to the work done by them. Many who are now members of the remnant church, as a result of reading our truth-filled literature should cast in their lot among these twentieth century crusaders to win souls for Christ. This is the time that the Gold Coast and the sister countries of West Africa should awake to *enlarge the circle of*

our membership. All societies and different parties are on the march, but ours is "the message" the world needs today, and it behoves us to be on the uppermost.

Dear reader, consider the suffering of Christ for humanity, and how much you would have missed if you had not known this blessed message, which perhaps came to you through a colporteur. Shall we not share our faith?

God's injunction in the time of old to the Israelites through the prophet Isaiah should set us out of inactivity. "Sing O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord. Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes." Isaiah 54:1, 2. Owing to spiritual stupor or lack of zeal for God, many were in desolation. The command was to cry aloud and enlarge their tents, stretch forth the curtains of heavenly mansions to invite those enshrouded under the earthly mansions of sin. Lengthen the cords of faith and form a dynamic noble band of colporteurs and strengthen the stake of protection around those whom Satan is seeking to devour. "Fear not, for thou shalt not be ashamed, neither be thou confounded" for mighty forces are ready to aid you.

The living water is flowing unnoticed by many and who shall tell to others who are athirst to come to the living waters and quench their thirst. Paul realised the urgent need of his generation when he said "woe to me if I preach not the gospel." 1 Cor. 9:16. He knew that to be a successful worker, nothing was to occupy his mind when he became a follower of Christ. He knew that love for souls would satisfy him more than any work which might not give him direct contact with men. He had the vision that every follower of Christ is a pilgrim and a sojourner here and that his main objective is to prepare a people for the life to come. Thus he was not content to keep the truth to himself. Such men like the early heralds of good tidings are needed at this time of the world's last history. What is your response to the sacred call? Do you say others have enlisted already in the cause and therefore there is no place for you, or you are contemplating that your initiative for the cause is on the low plane? *

I am full of confidence that there are

literate men and women in our churches who will be willing to share their faith through the gospel colportage. Which of our churches in the Gold Coast would in the first place lead in this matter. Shall I say on behalf of the Accra church, "we are setting that example?" Dear fellow believers, we are yearning and longing for the rapid finishing of the work of God on this earth and at last to be welcomed home. Jesus is counting on us. Let nothing prevent you from serving humanity, and not to lessen your love for souls.

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly; and the Spirit and the Bride say Come, and let him that heareth say Come and let him that is athirst Come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." John 10:11; Rev. 22:17. Jesus has accepted you and me through the silent preacher (truth-filled literature), the living preacher, a relative, a friend, or direct working of the Holy Spirit. Won't you say to others "come" and enjoy the blessings in knowing God here on earth and be ready to meet thy God? Oh may every reader decide now to be on the side of the Lord in finishing this work of soul-saving. So may the Lord bless you all as you make this decision for Him and may each one be encouraged to say "Lord Jesus come quickly" in doing his part NOW.

Blessings of Tithe Paying

By Myrtle G. Murphy

The church is a united band of Christian believers of which you are one, and Christ is depending upon every one to share in its support. Are you one of those who accepts the blessings of church fellowship and still feels little or no concern about supporting it?

Every member of the church has a God-given duty to perform. To every man has been given his work. When we give to the church, we not only help the church to carry on its work, but we gain abundantly in the transaction ourselves.

Christ admonishes us, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Matthew 6:19, 20). The only treasure any man or woman will save for eternity is that which is in the treasury of heaven. All else will perish in the final judgment. God's treasury on earth is His church. What we invest in it will never be lost and will be credited to our account. Christ mentioned those who "shall be accounted worthy" of the eternal world. (Luke 20:35)

Forty new souls who joined the hearer's class at the Winneba District Camp meeting as a result of the spiritual meetings and the compound visitation on the Sabbath afternoon.



The tithing system is God's plan for the support of the church. It is the most suitable and just plan that could be devised. Each gives according to his income.

Of the system of tithes and offerings in Israel we read: "By this system of benevolence the Lord sought to teach Israel that in everything He must be first. Thus they were reminded that God was the proprietor of their fields, their flocks, and their herds, that it was He who sent them the sunshine and the rain that developed and ripened the harvest. Everything that they possessed was His; they were but the stewards of His goods."—"Acts of the Apostles," page 337.

"The Lord created every tree in Eden pleasant to the eyes and good for food, and He bade Adam and Eve freely enjoy His bounties. But He made one exception. Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil they were not to eat. This tree God served as a constant reminder of His ownership of all. Thus he gave them opportunity to demonstrate their faith and trust in Him by their perfect obedience to His requirements.

"So it is with God's claim upon us. He places His treasures in the hands of men, but requires that one-tenth shall be faithfully laid aside for His work. He requires this portion to be placed in His treasury. It is to be rendered to Him as His own; it is sacred and is to be used for sacred purposes, for the support of those who carry the message of salvation to all parts of the world."—"Testimonies for the Church," Vol. VI, page 386.

"God's requirements come first. We are not doing His will if we consecrate to Him what is left of our income after all our imaginary wants have been supplied. Before any part of our earning is consumed, we should take out and present to Him that portion which He claims."—*Ibid.*, Vol. IV, page 477.

We cannot use the tithe or any other offering to the church to pay our way to the kingdom of God. Giving as an expression of love for God springs only from a converted heart in which the fruits of the Spirit are manifested.

Do you desire prosperity, good health, and spiritual blessings? According to God's promise, we shall be recipients of more blessings than we have room to receive if we are faithful in returning to God His own—tithes and offerings.

God invites us to prove Him.

"Columbia Union Visitor."—August 4, 1955.

Tithe-Paying is Really Worthwhile

By L. H. Davidson

"I am interested in your book and I would like to have a copy, but for several months I have been getting a number of jobs, and I have spent all my little capital to buy materials to have them completed, and now my customers will not turn up to take them." These words were spoken to colporteur Appiah Enim as he went into a tailor's shop at Kumasi and canvassed the proprietor, "I don't know what to do; can you offer any solution?" he continued "Yes," Enim told him, "You just start to give the Lord one-tenth of your income and you will soon see the result." The tailor thought for a while, then he finally agreed to try the suggestion. He immediately gave Enim one pound (£1) as an advance tithe to take to his church. When Enim went back after two weeks the man said, "Where have you been for such a long time? Your suggestion is working like magic. A number of my customers have come for their jobs and here I have some more tithe for you to take to your church. Come often that I may not be tempted to use the tithe when it accumulates." It is about three months since this tailor started to pay tithe and he has now paid nearly ten pounds (£10). Although he does not come to our church as yet, he is on the verge of accepting the truth, and he continues to pay his tithe regularly.

"We are fast approaching the close of our probation. Let every soul inquire, How do I stand before God? We know not how soon our names may be taken into the lips of Christ, and our cases be finally decided. What, oh, what will these decisions be? Shall we be counted with the righteous, or shall we be numbered with the wicked?"—"Christ Our Righteousness," page 151.

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