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A Starving World

By J. L. McELHANY, President of the General Conference

The human race today faces what is undoubtedly the most appalling catastrophe in its recorded history. In this year of our Lord, 1946, one-fourth of the world's population is caught in the inexorable grip of famine. Like a mighty tidal wave of death it rolls from country to country, from continent to continent. No race, creed, or colour is exempt from its toll. Unlike sudden death caused by floods, earthquake, tornadoes, and disasters of like nature, it lays hold upon its victims and brings death in its most hideous and ghastly form.

While these words are being penned — yes! even while they are being read — thousands of men, women, and children are dying for the lack of food. Unparalleled destruction caused by war, droughts in various parts of the world, floods, and the lack of the ordinary means of transportation have all contributed to the present situation.

Some of this has been foreseen, and efforts have been made to meet the need. But only now are we beginning to see and realize the world-wide extent of this dreadful calamity. Even in the midst of prevailing international trouble and unrest, many governments are stirring into action in a belated effort to rush food supplies to the starving. Our own Government has joined in this effort. Every loyal citizen will gladly respond to the Government's appeal to save food, and especially reduce consumption of wheat products, in order that we may share with others.

Former President Hoover has declared that it is probably too late to save millions. But it is not too

late for us to redouble our efforts and, by sacrificing to the utmost, do all we can to help save as many as possible.

The various churches are raising huge sums for the relief of human suffering. Seventh-day Adventists are always willing to do their full part. But what we have done in the past in no way measures up to the need of the present hour. This overwhelming need cannot be

overemphasized. Our efforts to meet this need cannot be postponed. We must act, and act now.

Among these starving millions are many of our own fellow believers. They, too, will die unless we can get food or money to them. Are we willing to make any sacrifice needed in order to accomplish this?

Sabbath, July 6, has been dedicated as a day for taking an offering for famine relief in all our churches in the British West Indies Union. This money will be used to buy and ship food to hungry people or to send funds where food can be purchased locally. We believe that this is our immediate and urgent duty. Behind this call upon the liberality and self-sacrificing effort of all our believers we place all the appeal and urgency that we can muster. Human suffering makes us akin to the whole world. We must not allow our brethren and sisters to perish. To fail them is to leave them to die while we enjoy an abundance. Our consciences would condemn us every time we sat down to a full meal. In the name of our blessed Lord who fed the hungry, we summon all our believers to take a liberal part in the famine relief offering on July 6.

Meet Our Workers



We take pleasure in presenting Elder M. E. Lowry to our VISITOR readers this month. Our enthusiastic Union Publishing Department Secretary subscribes whole-heartedly to the doctrine that "there is no higher work than evangelistic canvassing." He and Mrs. Lowry have spent twenty years in the Inter-American Division, labouring in the Caribbean Union, the Colombia-Venezuela Union, and in various other parts of the field. Two children, Marion and Elena, reside with them at Mandeville while another daughter, Lois Leone, pursues her College Studies in the United States.

REMEMBER THE FAMINE RELIEF OFFERING — JULY 6!

GENERAL CONFERENCE REPORTS

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Just as this issue of the VISITOR went to the press we received the first special numbers of the REVIEW & HERALD containing reports of the General Conference Session held in Washington, D. C., June 5 to 15. While it is impossible to include much of the excellent material from these papers, we are happy to print below a few excerpts from the reports given by Elder J. L. McElhany, President of the General Conference, Elder E. D. Dick, Secretary of the General Conference, and Elder W. E. Nelson, General Conference Treasurer.)

EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

"Through this body of delegates assembled for this session I extend to all the advent churches and believers our fervent greetings and Christian affection. It would indeed be a joy to extend greetings to every believer in all the world in a personal way if that were possible.

"This gathering tonight marks the opening of the forty-fifth session of the General Conference. The circumstances under which we meet on this occasion are, to say the least, extraordinary. We had hoped to hold a large gathering which might have been attended by many of our workers and members. Arrangements for such a meeting had been made, a large and beautiful auditorium was reserved for our use, and we had been assured of 2,500 hotel rooms to accommodate those who would attend. But for reasons you all know so well, this plan could not be carried out. Consequently, we meet here with the attendance limited practically to the delegates.

"Despite all the perils and perplexities through which this world has passed, I am fully conscious of the great and comforting fact that the God of heaven still rules in the affairs of men. Tonight, as I experience the joy and satisfaction of greeting these delegates, representing so many countries, nationalities, and languages of earth, I feel from a full heart to thank God for the marvellous protection and care He has had over His cause during these dark and sad years. He truly is 'a very present help in trouble.' We rejoice indeed that the Lord has opened a safe path through sea and air, and that so many of the delegates are here to engage in the serious work of this session. Again I greet you, and in the name of our divine Lord and Master I bid you welcome. I lay upon your hearts a charge that you carry back to all your fellow workers and believers in the fields whence you come, my love and affection in the Lord. Also assure them that all these sentiments are shared by the General Conference staff, as well as by the workers and believers in the North American field.

"We are not here merely to listen to reports, elect officers, and adopt resolutions. Five years have elapsed since we last met. During this time we have been cut off from one another. We have missed the association of brethren from the different fields. Again we meet and renew these contacts. Our hearts must be refreshed as we mingle, plan, and pray together. Our zeal and courage must be deepened and inspired anew as we hear recounted the evidences of God's providential care for His cause. With new vision and insight of the world's need we must learn even while here to consecrate ourselves to our supreme responsibility.

"May the blessing of God in abundant measure rest upon this body of delegates as you now take over the responsibility of planning for the future of this cause. 'Even so, come Lord Jesus!'"

FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

"Full evidence that God's Truth is marching on will be brought to us by our division leaders and our departmental secretaries' reports. May I be pardoned for sampling from these? They will tell you—

"That the Sabbath school offerings for the past five years are 72 per cent greater than for the previous five years;

"That our colporteur staff in our Australasian Division increased from 80 before the war, to 251 during the peak years of the war;

"That we have a net gain in membership in our China Division in the five years of war of 4,737;

"Of miraculous deliverances of our members who stood before firing squads, condemned to death;

"Of our conference of a thousand members within the Arctic Circle;

"Of the partial restoration of our publishing house in Hamburg; that they are now permitted to publish books, and have 106 employees engaged in this work;

"That Finland had its all-time high in literature sales during the war. In this time they sold 95,000 copies of OUR WONDERFUL BIBLE, one colporteur having sold 333 copies in one week;

"Of a local district in Africa, in which 415 were baptized;

"Of the reopening of our food factory in Hamburg, now employing 57 workers, with present production equaling the 1943 output;

"That since the beginning in 1942 of the Voice of Prophecy Correspondence School 408,550 have been enrolled in Bible study courses;

"That last year the Voice of Prophecy received 555,514 letters;

"That the 53rd million dollars raised through the Sabbath Schools was raised in two months, three weeks, and three days;

"Of four colporteurs in the United States whose sales amounted to \$46,715 in 1945; and of another in Australia whose sales were \$3,500;

"Of 6,000 being baptized in one division (the Inter-American) in 1945."

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

"The advent message that we all love and support is ever extending its influence in all parts of the earth, and is gathering out a people prepared for the coming of the Lord. God in His providence uses many means of extending His work. He uses the whole man. Every talent we have can be used to His glory. Money and material things have always had an important part in extending the kingdom of God on earth. Giving and gathering money is a part of the gospel work and, where rightfully done, is a spiritual work of the highest order. Faith, honesty, love, and generosity, mingled with the spirit of sacrifice, are noble virtues that make the progress of the advent message possible. All can have a part in supporting the cause of God.

"The greatest single offering for missions comes through the avenue of the Sabbath school. During the five-year period which is represented by this report \$12,056,774.72 has been contributed in North America and \$2,942.90 in overseas divisions, making a total of \$14,455,717.62. Our mission Ingathering work, in which we go to our friends and neighbours for funds, is the second largest source of income, and during the last five years has amounted to a total throughout the world of \$11,288,175.30. Of this amount \$12,056,774.72 has been contributed in North America and \$2,398,942.90 in overseas America. The third largest source of mission gifts comes from our per cent of tithe from our local conferences in the North American Division, and during the last five years has amounted to \$10,752,071.02.

"Since we last met in General Conference session, in 1941, the world has been engaged in the most destructive of all wars. Property and other resources measured by hundreds of billions of dollars have been destroyed. Many of our institutions have also suffered a like fate. Those that have not been wholly destroyed in the war area have been largely damaged.

"At this time it is quite impossible to give an accurate total of our losses, but we do know that these losses will mount up into many millions of dollars. The replacement of these resources or the repair of buildings will cost much in excess of the original cost of erecting the buildings years ago. To make it possible to re-establish our work in the war-devastated areas, the Autumn Council of 1942 voted to create the Rehabilitation Fund, and provided \$125,000 in the budget. Again in 1943 the Autumn Council voted \$1,050,000. In 1944, \$2,000,000 more was voted for rehabilitation, and plans were laid which called for a \$1,000,000 offering from the members in the Western Hemisphere and South Africa. This offering was received on February 3, 1945. We are pleased to

(Continued on page four)

EAST JAMAICA MISSION

D. V. POND, Superintendent
E. W. PARCHMENT, Secy.-Treas.
176, Orange St., Kingston, Jamaica.

Something New in St. Catherine

Something unique was started in the St. Catherine District under the enthusiastic leadership of the District Pastor, A. D. Laing, conducted at Spanish Town church, Sunday, April 21, and Monday morning, April 22. A Young People's Federation of St. Catherine was held with over 300 young people in attendance from 16 churches in that District.

With the church filled to capacity at 10:00 o'clock Sunday morning, Pastor R. H. Pierson, our Union Superintendent, conducted a strengthening devotional service. The youth were called to consecration and to earnest preparation for the Lord and His work. Following the devotional service, Pastor H. S. Walters, the Missionary Volunteer Secretary of the Mission, led out in the actual formation of the Young People's Federation of St. Catherine at which time the constitution, with a goal—"for the promotion of the spiritual, intellectual, moral and social welfare of its members; for the encouragement of its members; and for the fostering of fellowship of its members"—was adopted. Officers were nominated and elected for the coming year, being selected from the various sections of St. Catherine, so that the churches might have District representation on the Executive Committee.

Next to the last item of the day, but by far the most important, was a youth baptism when 18 joined hands and hearts with their Master Missionary Volunteer in baptism. This climaxed the plans for the day and the church was packed to capacity both inside and outside. Many of the young people of St. Catherine were inspired by what their eyes beheld. The baptismal sermon was given by Pastor D. V. Pond, Superintendent of East Jamaica.

The day was closed by something that many of the youth had never had the privilege of attending before—a series of motion pictures shown by the courtesy and goodwill of Pastor Robert E. Gibson from the Andrews Memorial Hospital. Pictures were shown that will be long remembered by the Missionary Volunteers of St. Catherine.

Monday morning, though dampened by showers of rain, games were conducted on the spacious grounds of the Phillpott's home. A good lunch was enjoyed by all at noon time, and the youth of St. Catherine who are now members of the Young People's Federation of St. Catherine District, wended their way toward their homes. They now better understand that to be a follower of Jesus includes all phases of the human make-up: the spiritual, the intellectual, the moral, as well as the social.

D. V. POND.

East Jamaica News

On Tuesday, May 28, three of our East Jamaica ordained ministers left by Pan American plane to the United States—Pastors D. B. Reid, J. N. Williams, and H. S. Walters.

Pastor Reid has accepted a call to labour in the State of Tennessee, in and around Knoxville. He will be taking up his duties there at once. Pastor Stanley Bull has been asked to carry the pastorate of the North Street church during the summer months. A call has been placed for a new pastor for North Street, and we are hoping for his arrival sometime in July or August.

Pastor J. N. Williams will be away from the island until the first of September. During his absence the East Jamaica Committee has appointed Pastor Hilbert Nembhard to care for the churches in Portland and St. Thomas. Within a month or two Pastor M. G. Nembhard will be coming to East Jamaica to labour and will help to lead out in our work in Portland and St. Thomas.

Pastor H. S. Walters is to take further studies at Emmanuel Missionary College for the next two years, after which time he hopes to return to East Jamaica. Pastor W. A. Holgate has been called from the West Indian Training College to carry the departments in the Mission formerly held by Pastor Walters. He expects to join our staff in the middle of July.

Baptisms are being held almost weekly in many of our country districts, thus carrying out our motto, "A Baptism in Every Church Every Quarter." Large Baptisms were held during April and May at Guy's Hill, by Pastor Stockhausen; St. Margaret's Bay, by Pastor Williams; Port Morant, by Pastor Nembhard; and Spanish Town, by Pastor Laing. Other baptisms have been conducted at Florence Hill, Bagbie, Hagley Gap, Ythanside, Hope Bay, Mt. James, Highgate, Dignum Mt., Old Harbour, Watermount, Standberry Grove, Williamsfield, Bellas Gate, Riversdale, and Somerset. More were baptized during the months of May and June than during the entire second quarter of 1945.

One of the most spiritual and successful Ingathering Campaigns ever conducted in Jamaica was carried out this year in our Mission. When all promises are gathered in by both ministers and members, we should have reached the £2000. 0. 0. mark. The fifth bulletin showed a total of £1930. 0. 0. We thank our ministers, workers, and diligent members most sincerely for their good work in the Ingathering this year. Those who failed to take part have missed a great blessing. Bulletin No. 6, our final one, will give the actual cash received from all churches and companies. We trust it will give the glorious news of £2000. 0. 0. raised in East Jamaica.

WEST JAMAICA MISSION

W. S. NATION, Acting Superintendent
MERTIE SHAKES, Secy.-Treas.
15, Market St., Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Victory in the West Jamaica Mission

Surely the manifestation of God's mighty power has been witnessed as never before in our Ingathering Campaign this year. At first there was doubt in some minds as to whether we would be able to reach what seemed to us then a mammoth super goal of £1225. But what has God wrought? Through the devoted consecrated services of His loyal soldiers, £1315 have been raised. Many may be wondering how is it that so much has been raised in such a short time this year. The answer is easy. As it was in the days of Nehemiah, God's people had a mind to work.

At the beginning of the campaign, I met a young lady returning to her home church after a visit with friends from another district. On seeing me she said, "Brother Parchment, I didn't know that the campaign had started. I was visiting a friend at a certain place and I saw her with the Ingathering booklets. I borrowed two from her, and started to work immediately, and after working a few hours I raised £6." The church of which that young lady is a member, has now reached its 100% overflow goal.

Not all our members, however, were as fortunate in securing large amounts, as the above-mentioned sister, but they all did their best. I received a letter from one of our faithful sisters, who along with the other members of her little company, did a great work for God. One Sunday morning twenty of them, fourteen children included, left their homes for a district seven miles away. They had to pass over some rough and dangerous paths, but they trusted in the Lord for safety and guidance. Wherever they met a group of people they would stop and have a little service for them at the close of which funds were solicited. On one occasion, a man challenged our sister, who seemed to have been the leader of the group, telling her that the Bible teaches that Sunday must now be kept as a day of worship by Christian people. The sister offered him £1 if he could find a text that would substantiate the keeping of Sunday, but on remembering that she did not have that much money, she offered to the man instead of the pound, her only goat if he would find the text. Our sister scored, and one more man was left to study and ponder the Sabbath truth. At the close of that day, even though the faithful brethren had not solicited more than a few pennies, the seeds of truth were sown in many hearts. At the present time that little company has raised an amount equal to more than five times its goal.

And so the churches of the West Mission have fought, and have conquered! Today we feel satisfied and happy that once more we could have achieved great things for God. Congratulations, illustrious churches of the West!

E. J. PARCHMENT.

Greetings from the General Conference

In this, the first meeting of the forty-fifth session of the General Conference, we send our dear brethren and sisters in all lands our cordial and heart-felt greetings. Our prayers ascend in your behalf as we know you are remembering in your daily devotions this important meeting, that Heaven will guide in the discussion of every question and in the making of every decision.

We want you to know how greatly we appreciate your faithfulness and loyalty during the trying period, through which we have been passing. Many of you have suffered for life's necessities. Some have endured persecution and imprisonment. Some have been called to mourn the death of sons, fathers, husbands, and other loved ones. In spite of these and other untoward and naturally disheartening experiences, God has given you grace and fortitude to prove true to Him. For this we are exceedingly thankful, and we commend you for your love and loyalty to our blessed Lord.

We have reached a solemn and significant hour in the affairs of this world. A great devastating global war has barely come to an end. Famine and pestilence followed in the wake of war, and the agonizing cry for bread is rising from starving millions in Europe and the Orient.

These events in heaven above and the earth beneath indicate the nearness of Christ's coming. The multiplied signs of the Lord's return confirm our faith and brighten our hope. Soon He who shall come, will come and will not tarry. We are standing on the very threshold of the final movements.

This eventful and auspicious time makes this session of the General Conference one of supreme and unusual importance. From the four corners of the earth delegates have assembled to recount the blessings of God which have attended His work during the eventful years since the session of 1941, and to lay broad and world-encompassing plans for the speedy carrying of the advent message to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, in fulfillment of the gospel commission.

With man this would be an impossible task. But with God all things are possible. His purposes will be carried out, and the gospel commission be accomplished, not by might, nor by power, but by the Spirit of the Lord. (Zech. 4:6.)

This is the promise of Christ: "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28:20. In this blessed ministry and fellowship we may have a part.

We, who are here in conference, dedicate ourselves anew to the finishing of the work. And we appeal to our believers in every land to unite with us in a deeper consecration to Christ and to His service. In this crucial hour, the hour of God's judgment, we need to heed anew Christ's admonition:

"Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matt. 24:44. More than ever we should be diligent students of the Word. Received in faith, its gracious promises will impart to us the divine nature. (2 Peter 1:4.) We should earnestly pray for the reviving power of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and lives.

Heaven has great and abundant blessings in store for us. The Holy Spirit awaits our demands and reception. God is more willing to give than we are anxious to receive. Let us earnestly seek for a deeper experience, a more ardent zeal, a greater love for Christ and for those whom He died to save.

May the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the enabling power of the Holy Spirit keep you, our dear brethren and sisters, faithful until Jesus comes.

GENERAL CONFERENCE IN SESSION
 J. L. McELHANY, *Chairman*,
 E. D. DICK, *Secretary*.

A Retired Pastor's Experience

Forty-seven years ago I grappled with the argumentation and conviction of Seventh-day Adventism which is now embracing the whole world with a specific message to be preached to "every nation, kindred, tongue and people."

On entering the audience chamber of Omnipotence seeking for truth, Seventh-day Adventism gripped my heart with such a compelling force as to enable me to answer the call to the Gospel Ministry in 1906 when the West Caribbean Conference was organized in Bocas del Toro, one of the provinces of the Republic of Panama.

It was my high privilege to pioneer the work in Chnaguinola, Miskito Coast, Costa Rica, Panama, Barbados, Dominica, Montserrat and the other Virgin Islands. From these islands many have responded to the calls of mercy. Even now, when the shades of evening in my pilgrimage have crept in, from this Island (Jamaica) many have found release from the slavish chains of Satan.

The modest monuments and worshippers in these above mentioned places stand out as beacon lights with a mighty challenge, beckoning to those whose feet must be guided in the paths of verity, whispering, "This is the way, walk ye in it." Yonder wicket gate still "stands ajar," and the hand that is stretched out still, holds the key and opens the inexhaustible resources of heaven, enabling me to continue to "Fight the good fight" with the longing for consummation and victory.

"For I know whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day."

The goal, "Eternal Life"!
 J. A. REID.

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GENERAL CONFERENCE REPORTS

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report that nearly the full goal was received on that date. By the combined efforts of all the divisions mentioned above we received before the close of the year over \$1,035,000. This is undoubtedly the largest single mission offering ever received in one day by any Christian body. At the Autumn Council in 1944, gifts were received from our union and local conferences and institutions in North America in the amount of \$636,000, and at the Autumn Council in 1945 a sum of \$376,750 was subscribed.

"We read in TESTIMONIES, volume 7, page 296: "The small and the larger streams of beneficence should ever be kept flowing. God's providence is far ahead of us, moving onward much faster than our liberalities." "Let none indulge the thought that we have attempted too much" — "Historical Sketches," p. 294.

"In closing this report we want to express our appreciation for every sacrifice made by our brethren to advance the work of God in the world."

PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT

M. E. LOWRY, Secretary.

**Publishing Department Honour Roll
 April, 1946**

	Av. Hours Per Week	Deliveries
Bahamas:		
L. R. Rahming ..	48	£48 0 0
British Honduras:		
S. Vasciannie ..	43	71 11 9
East Jamaica:		
Peter Duncombe ..	49	27 19 0
West Jamaica:		
A. Dinham ..	46	30 14 6
L. Kerr ..	46	12 4 0
W. Llewellyn ..	63	16 6 0
L. Powell ..	40	41 7 6
A. Spence ..	46	12 2 3