Organ of the British Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists Editorial Offices: The Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts. Vol. 44. No. 6. March 17, 1939

Abounding in Benevolence

BRITISH ADVENT

THIS is an age of plenty, but also of selfishness. It is easier to raise money for commercialized sport than for spiritual and charitable purposes. Gambling grows, charity wanes. Riches increase, yet people give away less. There is more for pleasure, sport, and self, but less for such things as voluntary hospitals and foreign missions. As selfishness grows the principle of voluntary sacrifice iails.

We must not allow the spirit of this age to enter our ranks. Not all of us appreciate that very much more might be done if our support of the cause could be voluntarily planned and sustained. Moreover, we need to remember that sacrifice is not only a matter of will. Its pases are deeper rooted than the determination of man.

Paul has a remarkable passage in 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 on Christian benevolence. We use Weymouth's rendering for the sake of emphasizing our points.

1. THE BASIS OF BENEVOLENCE

Although Paul upheld the Macedonians as an example of worthy benevolence, we must remember that "nearly all the Macedonian believers were poor in this world's goods."—"Acts of the Apostles," page 343. It is no more natural for the poor to be liberal than it is for the rich. It certainly is not easy for them to be liberal at all. Therefore Paul states in verse 1: "We desire to let you know of the

By H. W. LOWE

grace of God which has been bestowed on the churches in Macedonia." True benevolence, then, is a work of grace, that is, of God, in our hearts.

Do you find it hard to be liberal? Do you look at a shilling twice, and handle it six times, before you drop it in the offering plate? Remember, then, to seek God for His grace in this respect, and victory will come.

2. THE BEAUTY OF BENEVOLENCE

These Macedonians have become classic illustrations of Christian benevolence, yet Paul says that while contributing generously to the cause of their poor brethren they were (1) "passing through great trouble," (2) "amid deep poverty," (3) in "boundless joy." The three things seem to be incongruous. Yet there they were in the hearts of these believers, as a work of divine grace—beautifully retreshing to think of in this sordidly selfish generation.

3. FREE WILL AND SACRIFICIAL GIVING

In many countries to-day there is much sacrifice, but it is mainly enforced. What we are forced to give is not what God asks. But we must not neglect sacrifice on that account.

In Israel sacrifices involved cer-

tain legal requirements, but at the same time God expected the people to give willingly. Unblemished gifts from willing hearts was what the Lord required. "Ye shall offer at your own will a male without biemish." Lev. 22:19.

Of the Macedonians Paul said, "I-can testify that to the utmost of their power, and even beyond their power, they have of their own free will given help." 2 Cor. 8:3.

They went beyond this even, for the next verse states: "With earnest entreaty they begged from us *the favour of being allowed* to share in the service now being rendered to God's people."

If only we could all get that spirit in our hearts to-day, what mighty things would be accomplished for God.

4. THE GIFT AND THE GIVER

True Christian benevolence is different in many ways from charitable giving. The former is regular, the latter too often spasmodic. The former is born of love for God, the latter of pity for man. In the former the donor's heart has gone before the gift, in the latter his interest may, or may not, follow the gift. Thus we read of our Macedonian examples, "First of all in obedience to God's will they gave their own selves to the Lord and to us." Verse 5.

There is a great secret here. Our hearts must be given first. Our treasures always follow our hearts.

5. THE TEST OF OUR LOVE

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It is easy to talk of free will, liberty, and love in this matter of sustaining God's cause. But hard facts often reveal little more than talk. Talk will prove to be some, people's barrier to the kingdom. Performance of loving duty is the royal guide to divine favour.

"See to it," says Paul, "that this grace of liberal giving also flourishes in you. I am not saying this by way of command, but to test by the standard of other men's earnestness the genuineness of your love also." Verses 7, 8. Liberal giving, then, is a grace, and it is a test of our genuineness.

6. PRIVILEGE V. COMPULSION

In speaking of this now famous support of the needs of God's cause, Paul refers to the Macedonians' act as-a "gift of love," and not "something which I have extorted from you." Verse 5. He thereupon adds, "Let each contribute what he has decided upon in his own mind, and not to do it reluctantly or under compulsion." Verse 7.

So much was it a privilege to give that these Macedonians were ready with their offerings a whole year before Paul and the other leaders called for them. (1 Cor. 8:10.) Paul was not usually slow in getting things moving. Yet these believers were ahead of him in their readiness.

Is it too early to ask all our lay members, workers in institutions and conferences, and colporteurs to lay these thoughts well to heart as we think of the Week of Sacrifice this year? It comes July 1st to 8th. Could we not plan now to give a full week's salary in these times of challenging need? Arrangements could be made for this gift to be spread over a period of months where necessary.

Above all, we hope and pray that our entire membership may join in this expression of loyalty "because of God's surpassing grace which is resting upon you.

"Thanks be to God for His unspeakably precious gift!" 2 Cor. 9:14, 15.

No spiritual act is complete until it has been first prayed and then done.-Dean Inge.

"Testimonies" on Tithing

"IF all the tithes of our people flowed into the treasury of the Lord as they should, such blessings would be received that gifts and offerings for sacred purposes would be multiplied tenfold, and thus the channel between God and man would be kept open."-Vol. 4, page 474.

"If all, both rich and poor, would bring their tithes into the storehouse, there would be a sufficient supply of means to release the cause from financial embarrassment, and nobly to carry forward the missionary work in all its various departments. God calls upon those who receive the truth to render to Him the things that are His."-Vol. 4, pages 475, 476.

Means

for Sounding Last Message "If one and all would accept it, each would be made a vigilant and faithful treasurer for God; and there would be no want of means with which to carry forward the great work of sounding the last message of warning to the world." -Vol. 3, page 389.

"If all would pay a faithful tithe, and devote to the Lord the first-fruits of their increase, there would be a full supply of funds for His work. But the law of God is not-respected or' obeyed, and this has brought a pressure of want."-Vol. 6, page 385.

"If systematic benevolence were universally adopted according to God's plan, and the tithing system carried out as faithfully by the wealthy as it is by the poorer classes, there would be no need of repeated and urgent calls for means at our large religious gatherings. There has been a neglect in the churches of keeping up the plan of systematic benevolence, and the result has been an impoverished treasury and a backslidden church."-Vol. 3, pages 408, 409.

"Should means flow into the treasury exactly according to God's plan-a tenth of all the increasethere would be abundance to carry forward His work .- Vol. 5, page 150.

Included in the Plan of Salvation

"The tithing system was no burden to those who did not depart from the plan. The system enjoined upon the Hebrews has not been repealed or relaxed by the One who originated it. Instead of being of no force now, it was to be more fully carried out and more_ extended, as salvation through Christ alone should be more fully brought to light in the Christian age."-Vol. 3, page 392.

"God never designed that the law of the tithing system should be of no account among His people; but instead of this, He designed that the spirit of sacrifice should widen and deepen for the closing work."-Vol. 3, page 396.

God's Treasury Full

"Should all whom God has prospered with earth's riches carry out His plan by faithfully giving a tenth of all their increase, and should they not withhold their trespass-offerings and their thankofferings, the treasury would be constantly replenished."-Vol. 3. page 408.

"If all who profess the truth will come up to the claims of God in giving the tenth, which God says is His, the treasury will be abundantly supplied with means to carry forward the great work for the salvation of man."-Vol. 3. page 395.

"As God's work extends, calls for help will come more and more frequently. That these calls may be answered, Christians should heed the command, 'Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house.'

If professing Christians would faithfully bring to God their tithes and offerings, His treasury would be full. Then would there be no occasion to resort to fairs, lotteries, or parties of pleasure to secure funds for the support of the Gospel."—"Acts of the Apostles," page 338.

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Give

More and More

"The light of the Gospel shining from the cross of Christ rebukes selfishness, and encourages liberality and benevolence. It should not be a lamented fact that there are increasing calls to give. 'God in His providence is calling His people out from their limited sphere of action, to enter upon g r c at e r enterprises."—"Testimonies," Vol. 9, page 254.

"Let not our churchmembers complain because they are so often called upon to give. What is it that makes the frequent calls a necessity? Is it not the rapid increase of missionary enterprises? Shall we, by refusing to give, retard the growth of these enterprises? Shall we forget that we are labourers together with God? From every church, prayers should ascend to God for an increase of devotion and liberality. My brethren and sisters, do not plead for retrenchment in evangelical work. So long as there are souls to save, our interest in the work of soulsaving is to know no abating. The church cannot abridge her task without denying her Master. Not all can go as missionaries to foreign lands, but all can give of their means for the carrying forward of foreign missions."-Vol. 9, pages 55, 56.

New Catholic Catechism

THE 1937 Convert's Catechism of the Roman Catholic Church clearly states that Saturday is the Sabbath and has been changed by the Catholic church. I can obtain a copy for any worker or member for the sum of 1s. post paid.

E. E. CRAVEN. 16 Knockbreda Gardens, Ormeau Road, Belfast.

British Advent Messenger

M.V. Congress in Denmark

OWING to the illness of Brother F. W. Goodall and to Brother W. T. Bartlett's absence in Africa, it has not been possible to issue final details governing the M.V. Congress to be held in Denmark in August. However, we are sending these preliminary words to the field as general guidance, and further information will be supplied as soon as possible.

It should be understood that this is not a congress to which all and sundry will be invited. It is primarily intended as an attempt to develop the prospective future leaders in the young people's work. Only those who possess a Study and Service League Certificate, or a Companion badge of the Progressive Course, will be eligible to attend.

There will probably be a minimum and a maximum age limit. Adult members not possessing the qualifications and beyond a certain age are not included in the list of persons to attend this gathering. It seems that those taking advantage of the cheap steam and rail fares offered will need to go and return in a party. Passports will, of course, be necessary, and all details on these matters will follow a little later.

H. W. LOWE.

Scatter Our Literature

"OUR churchmembers are to arise and shine because their light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon them. Let them make every effort to reach the people where they are."— "Colborieur Evangelist." page 30.

"Colporteur Evangelist," page 30. God has placed this precious literature in our hands to go forth and warn the world at this time. What a privilege to be able to assist in carrying the last message of mercy to a dying world.

"The truth is to go forward as a lamp that burneth."-Ibid., page 32. Every churchmember can act his or her part in placing our periodicals in the homes of the people. Surely the time demands that everyone should scatter tracts, papers, and books everywhere they go. Leave them in the train, on the boat, in the buses, waitingrooms, libraries, hospitals, anywhere and everywhere. Use them in your correspondence, when visiting the sick or staying in the homes, at all times scatter the printed pages of truth. Loan books to your friends, neighbours, or any who will read them.

The very times demand an unceasing and untiring effort to scatter the truth-filled literature far and near. There are unlimited possibilities before us of reaching multitudes with our message-filled literature. Thousands can be reached in the most simple, humble way. Every member should show his loyalty to the message by proclaiming it to those in darkness. A chain of living witnesses is to carry the light of present truth to the world. Will you act your part in this great work?

After hearing how God blesses those who circulate the literature, one churchmember took a copy of Good Health with Present Truth the following Sunday morning. He felt impressed to carry with him this copy of Good Health. Whilst visiting the homes he met a lady who had leg trouble. All night she could not sleep without drugs, and she was having injections. She had tried all kinds of treatment and seemed to be getting worse. She almost gave up hope of getting well again. A copy of Good Health was presented, which she purchased eagerly. She is now in touch with our sanitarium, and who knows what the final outcome will be. All around us are those in need, and we can meet every issue with our literature.

Another member writes in and says that six members of her church were reached in the first place by our message-filled magazinc, *Present Truth*.

Forty years ago a baker built up a regular list of *Present Truth* and *Good Health* readers here in London. Six families were led to take their stand, and from these families we have colporteurs and

(Continued on page 6.)

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Statement of Tithes and Offerings for British Union SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

NAME OF CHURCH OR COMPANY	Mem- bership	Tithe	Tithe per Capita	Sabbath- School Offerings Inc. 13 h S.	Young People's Offering	Harvest Ingatheri'g	Annual Offerings	Miscel- laneous	Week of Sacrifice	Big Week	Total Offerings	Offer- ings per Capita
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* The big decrease is due to the plan to credit one-third of Young People's Offering to Congress Fund

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Conference for the Year ended December 31, 1938

WELSH	MISSION	

NAME OF CHURCH OR COMPANY	Tithe	Tithe Sabbath- School per Offerings Capita Inc. 13th S	Young People's Offering	Harvest Ingatheri'g	Annual Offerings	Miscel- laneous	Week of Sacrifice	Big Week	Total Offerings	Offer- ings per Capita
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NORTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

UNION TOTALS

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(Continued from page 3.) other earnest workers in God's cause to-day.

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Surely we have a great future before us in circulating our literature. "Our publications are now sowing the Gospel seed, and are instrumental in bringing as many souls to Christ as the preached Word. Whole churches have been raised up as the result of their circulation. In this work, every disciple of Christ can act a part." —"Review and Herald," June 10, 1880.

It must be for this time that the printed page has come. I have met and seen whole churches raised up as a result of the literature ministry. It seems to me that every churchmember should accept the challenge of the hour and go forward with our tracts, papers, and books. Through the work of the publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel in Revelation 18:1, which comes down from heaven with great power, and lightens the earth with His glory.

Literature campaigns should be conducted throughout our churches and companies. Everyone should be encouraged to do something before it is too late. We are told, "God has still greater things in store for us as we follow His guidance or use His method for finishing the work. God will do great things for us if we will be humble and believing at His feet. More than a thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their conviction to the reading of our publications." -"Review and Herald," November 10, 1885.

Shall we not during the months and days of this year do all we can to reach as many as possible with the printed page? As the seed is sown and scattered, so God will not only bless the seed-sower but cause many honest hearts to know the joy of salvation and freedom from sin. This is your opportunity! Sound the alarm! Scatter the seeds of truth, and everlasting joy and soul-satisfaction shall be your reward. A. W. Cook.

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THE greatest public benefactor is the man who sells good books. --Gladstone.

"Present Truth" in East Anglia

HERE is another experience which may interest our readers.

Some years ago I took up the work of selling Present Truth and Good Health in this town and neighbourhood (Lowestoft). My first start was in the Oulton Broad district. One of the first on whom I called was a young married lady who suffered with sore eyes very badly, and could scarcely read. However, she bought a copy of Present Truth and has done so ever since. During the early part of the time I frequently spoke to her of God's healing power, and have always prayed for her. About two and a half years ago I persuaded her to come to the church, and she came one Sabbath, before service time. I had previously arranged for Brother Skinner and Brother Dowell, with Pastor J. M. Howard and myself, to meet with her. Pastor Howard anointed her with oil, and after we had all offered prayer, Pastor Howard prayed for healing and cleansing.

At the July conference, 1938, I for her Providential secured Deliverances by W. A. Spicer, and she read it. Yesterday I called to deliver her Present Truth as usual, when she handed to me a brown paper bag full of money, saying that through reading Providential Deliverances she realized she should pay tithe. She said, "I don't know how much is in the bag." She had saved it week by week. I took it home and, in the presence of my wife, counted out £4. 17s. 6d.

This lady is perfectly healed and trusting in the Lord, and has also promised to come to the church and go through the waters of baptism as soon as she can arrange it.

She also told me that her husband and daughter and motherin-law are praying morning and evening. Praise God, the days of miracles have not passed.

W. FISHER.

Another "After Many Days" Story

THE story of how the young man in Beterverwagting in British Guiana came to accept God's message for this time through finding some old copies of *Present Truth* and other denominational literature in his father's home has led Brother John Bodell of Banbridge, Ireland, to send us a copy of *Present Truth* dated October 23, 1890, and to relate his experience to us.

We publish extracts from two letters which will be of great interest to our readers, revealing again the blessed work which *Present Truth* has accomplished in the past and is still able to perform as it is faithfully circulated by our churchmembers.

Brother Bodell writes:

"I have just one other 1890 issue. . . I have also quite a number of issues dated 1891, 1892, 1893, and 1894.

"The first pioneer preached here in Ireland, I think, about 1889. My grandfather attended the meetings and was greatly interested but never took his stand for the Sabbath. Once the pioneer was in a real strait-a quarter's rent for hall due on Friday evening, no bread in the house, and no money in his pocket, but he and his wife were praying. At the last moment my grandfather headed a deputation and unwittingly relieved the pioneer's distress by handing him more than enough cash. My grandfather's interest led him to subscribe to Present Truth years before I was born-and he got a copy of Bible Readings, too-but how sad that he never took his stand.

"Then I went to live at my grandfather's. Two or three years after his death, my Presbyterian aunt one day began to tell me that Sunday was the Pope's day and that the Protestant religion was the Bible and the Bible only, and that it declared the seventh day to be the Sabbath. I had no interest in religion at all but I challenged my aunt's statement. My aunt's answer was to put *Bible Readings* in my hands.

"Then she went up to an old box

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'in a corner of the housetop' in a little disused room and brought me down a big pile of copies of *Present Truth.* How I did revel in those papers! Included in my 'find' were two copies of the *Review and Herald*, dated 1889, and one copy of our Australian *Bible Echo*, also dated 1889, the latter containing an article with subheadings, 'Canright in the Light' and 'Canright in the Darkness.'

"I heard that one man in a neighbouring house had kept the Sabbath for one year about 1890. I went to his sister and asked if there were any Seventh-Day Adventist books there and she hunted up one for me, *Testimony for the Church*, No. 32, which was to exert an influence for good on me.

"That 'After Many Days' report in last issue of the MESSENGER has led me to reread my own old literature and it is stirring my soul as never before."

[Perhaps others of our readers have experiences to relate concerning the influence of our literature. If so, send your experience along without delay.—ED.]

Working with "Bible Certainties" in Sheffield

We have just had a most interesting time together taking orders for *Bible Certainties* in Sheffield. The experiences reveal the guiding hand of God in a marked way.

First, no doubt in answer to Brother Binks's prayer, the weather became favourable after rain in the early morning and the forecast of a stormy day. Then it appeared that Brother and Sister Binks had worked with the magazines a few days previously in the stretch of territory we chose, but two roads had been left, for no apparent reason. So we decided to work these door to door with the bound book, *Bible Certainties*.

At the third call, the lady said her husband, a Sunday-school superintendent, had just gone to bed, as he was a night-worker. After she had slipped upstairs and informed him of the object of our visit, he insisted on getting dressed and coming down to see us. In a few moments he ordered a copy in the leather binding and handed out a ten shilling note as a deposit, after which we knelt and prayed together with them.

The next person did not order, but mentioned a lady by name who lived in the first house in the next road. We found this person to be a very earnest Christian and she told us an interesting story. Her daughter, along with five other young people who attended the chapel, had started studying the Bible for themselves and were accepting doctrines that were somewhat different from the orthodox. All the parents, we understood, were earnest Christians and had been brought up from early days in this little chapel, and the attitude of these young people, while it could be commended for its earnestness, was causing some disturbance in the life of the church, the leaders having gone so far as to ask two or three of them to cease their work as Sunday-school teachers. The whole situation was causing quite a stir.

However, the parents were much perplexed. On the one hand, they recognized the spiritual coldness among the members of the chapel; and felt there was need of a revival; yet, on the other hand, were getting quite concerned because their young people seemed to be departing from the orthodox faith into new teachings. They appreciated their zeal, but hardly knew what attitude to take toward their earnest Bible study, as it seemed to be causing quite a cleavage, and there was no knowing where it would end.

We suggested a word of earnest prayer to which the lady agreed, and after canvassing through the book, she gladly ordered a copy and paid a deposit. She told us the names of the other people concerned, and at each home we followed a similar procedure. We sympathized with the person and commended the zeal of the son or daughter as the case may be, and had prayer, which was followed by an order and a deposit. Surely we were led to these homes at this opportune time with the message they so much need and which, if they are seeking with all honesty of purpose, they will accept as they study the books which are to be delivered next week.

The last call in the afternoon was upon a lady whose little boy had been very ill, but had been healed in answer to her prayer. This lady was just wanting further help regarding the Bible. In fact, she was on the point of going into town to search the book-shops for a good book on the Scriptures. not knowing exactly what kind, but feeling that she ought to purchase some such help to lead her to become better acquainted with God's Word "And now," she said, "here you are in answer to my longings." She readily ordered a copy at 11s. 6d. and paid for it on the spot. At this home also we had prayer before leaving. The whole experience in that little locality was most encouraging and we were conscious of the guiding hand of God through it. May all these dear people accept the message of B. Belton. Bible Certainties. P. BINKS.

Weston-super-Mare

MEETINGS are now held in the Y.M.C.A. (Class Room), 1 High Street. Sabbath-school, 3 p.m. Preaching Service, 3.45 p.m. G. H. BARTLETT.

Is your name in the Book (Dan. 12:1)? Study cards penny each, post free. Seven for fourpence. Get your card, Lister, Vineyard Road, Wellington, Salop.

REQUIRED.—Companion help. Young, refined, good appearance. Nursing experience appreciated. Continental girl considered when pure English would be taught. Reply with full particulars: "Adventist," 347 Holloway Road, London, N.7. DISPOSAL of window-cleaning round. Established, progressive. Offers. Opportunity. Write: Rundle, Clive Street, Caerphilly.

THE Editor acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following: The Lord's Tithe, ± 9 , 10s.; Thank-offering, 10s.; ± 1 . J.C. (Bootle).

 SUNSET CALENDAR

 Lon'n Not'm Car'ff Edin
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 March 24th
 6.18
 6.23
 6.32
 6.33
 6.43

 March 31st
 6.30
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BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

Published fortnightly on Friday for the British Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists by The Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts.

Copy for next issue.—March 23rd. EDITOR: . . W. L. EMMERSON

Bible Service Training Course

IS YOUR CLASS ORGANIZED?

CHURCHES AND COMPANIES

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