



Informant

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Sermon Delivered by J. L. McElhany

President, General Conference

At Autumn Council, Saint Louis, Missouri, November 11

THE first text that I shall use is from Isaiah 42:4. Speaking of that time to come when the Lord Jesus would be revealed in this earth, when He should undertake the establishment of His church, when He should enter upon the great work of actively propagating the gospel in all the world, we have this prophecy written of Him: "He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth; and the isles shall wait for his law." This brief prophetic statement covers the entire span, or history, of the work of the gospel in the earth. I am glad that the prophet, speaking by inspiration, declared that He should not fail. There can be no failure in connection with the work of God. We, as human beings, may fail; but, thank God, with the Lord Jesus there is no such thing as failure. We may become discouraged with conditions that prevail even in our own hearts or in the world, but not so with Him. There may be hindrances, just as there were hindrances in the days of the apostles. Paul expressed a desire to visit the brethren in Rome, but he left, hindered, in his purpose. To another group of believers, in writing to them, the Thessalonian believers, he speaks perhaps even more plainly as to the reasons why he was hindered. The second chapter of First Thessalonians, the eighteenth verse says, "Wherefore we would have come



J. L. McElhany

unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us." Yes, Satan hindered Paul, and defeated his purposes on more than one occasion. Satan's efforts along that line at times appeared to be successful. We all recognize that we live today in a world where sin and evil abound, where the results of sin are apparent on every side; every human heart seems to be a battleground for the working of Satan. He purposes to hinder and to defeat us; but, thank God, every heart may also be a battleground where the grace of God shall defeat all of Sa-

tan's purposes. And I am thankful that that is so. Yes, we see that struggle going on, not only in human hearts, but in the affairs of the world—in the international world the same struggle seems to be going on. Sometimes we feel inclined to be a bit discouraged with the outlook we see in this world; but, after all, my friends, I am comforted by the statement that Jesus will not fail, nor will He be discouraged until He has accomplished the thing that God sent Him into this world to do. You know sometimes that when adverse conditions fall upon us we are inclined to feel that we are defeated, but these are hindrances that God, by His grace and in His providence, intends should be stepping stones to victory. I am glad that Paul in all his experiences recognized them as victory, for he declared that he was victorious in the Lord Jesus Christ, and he never counted these experiences as hindrances. He never looked upon them as defeat, but he always felt that God was giving him victory.

I believe the remnant church today can remember with all confidence that God's plans and purposes were always carried out. Not in the way we perhaps anticipate, but in the way that God Himself shall direct. When we find our way blocked and our plans frustrated, we must remember that the Lord has a thousand ways to carry out His purposes

and to continue His work. I believe that that same spirit exemplified in that text written of the Lord Jesus should find expression in our experiences. We will "not fail nor be discouraged" until we have accomplished the thing that God has given us to do. What we may regard as only disaster and calamity and look upon as Satan's hindrances may be God's ways for accomplishing great things.

The dislocation, the upset, the disasters, and the calamities that have taken place in the world have had their effect upon the work of God. Are we to conclude that because of these things we are to cease our efforts and to haul down our flag? We need not say, "There is no use. The conditions are unfavorable. The circumstances are not propitious, and therefore we must withdraw." No, my friends, there is only one answer to that. Now, these things may not be according to our planning or according to our wish. In fact, they may not be answers even to our prayers. But I believe that despite all these things, the church of God must move triumphantly forward. That does not mean that we can always employ the methods and the plans that we are in the habit of using in order to carry on the Lord's work.

I believe that the ultimate triumph of this work and its success will rest in a large part upon the shoulders of native believers in all these lands. I thank God for what these people have done in times of emergency. And my belief, my conviction, is that more and more responsibility must be laid upon these national believers. I am thankful that, under God, as our missionaries have gone into these lands, they have raised up large numbers of these national believers. The young people of these groups have given themselves to the work of God, have been trained, and today are capable of bearing great responsibility. Let us look at the work in China. At the close of the war, when the invaders were driven out, our work was re-organized, our publishing work was re-established, and our medical in-

stitutions were reopened. Not long ago in the China Division they so organized all their forces that they could carry on a great evangelistic, soul-winning campaign; and the prospects never seemed better when again the tides of war rolled down upon them. The division headquarters were evacuated to Hong Kong. Some of the workers stayed in Shanghai, but I have received a cablegram that the last of the foreign workers are now leaving Shanghai, and why? because they are afraid to stay? No, not that. There comes a time in some of these lands when the presence of a foreigner becomes a great menace to the safety of our national believers and workers. Before these workers left China, many of the people with whom they were working asked them not to come to their homes. If a foreigner went to the home of a native family to hold a Bible reading or to invite them to the meeting, the police immediately visited them afterward, and put them through serious cross-questioning to find out why the foreigner was there. They were asked not to attend the meetings being conducted by the native evangelists. Their presence becomes a menace to the lives of those who must remain and carry on. But I must tell you the thing that cheers my heart—in China we have a fully organized division, the China Division, and it is officered and manned entirely by Chinese workers. I thank God for that. Is it an unmixed blessing, my friends, that in some of these countries it is impossible for a foreigner to enter today? Why, you say, those are great calamities that have fallen upon the work. Well, perhaps so from our point of view, but you know that we have the word today, "He shall not fail nor be discouraged" until He has accomplished His purposes in the world. And what we may look upon as defeat, as hindrance, may prove, after all, to be the avenues through which God may bestow His greatest blessing upon this cause.

I am impressed with one thing as I study the Scriptures, and that is that when trouble fell upon the

apostolic church there was always the call to prayer. That was what Paul did; and although his prayers were not always answered as he had hoped or expected, what seemed to be frustration and defeat turned into avenues for great victory and for the mighty working of the power of God in spreading the gospel. I think the best thing we can do at this time, facing a troubled world as we do, is to sound the call to prayer. God has not exhausted His resources. I say again, He has a thousand ways for meeting the situation and for carrying on His work. And I believe that the whole remnant church ought to be called to prayer. We ought to give ourselves to prayer as we have not done before here in the homeland of the message. Do you think such a call as that will receive a response? What about it, brethren and sisters? I believe that our churches and our members will respond to such a call; and I believe that in all our devotions, in private, in the family, and in the church, these great interests connected with the cause of God ought to be remembered in prayer. But you ask, Do you look to see conditions improve? No, my friends, I do not look to see conditions improve. Why? Because I read that the time will come when there will be distress of nations with perplexity. I read in the Word of God that a time is coming when the nations will be angry. Have we come to that time? Why, all through the Scriptures I get this view of the future—that having come to the last days of time, we will find conditions more and more perilous. Instead of seeing this world blossom out into a time of great

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Representing the colored work of the Seventh-day Adventist Denomination

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peace and of great and wonderful tranquillity, I believe we will see times and conditions grow worse and worse. But does that indicate, my friends, that we are to cease our efforts, to haul down our flag, as it were, and to retreat from the battle-
 ls? What do you think? Oh, no, God forbid. The divine picture, as gained from His Word, is that amid all the perils of the last days the work of God is going to be finished. He will not fail in accomplishing the thing He has set out to do. Let us remember with confidence that Jesus declared that "this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations."

Then what did He declare should happen? "And then shall the end come." We know that this will be done amid the perils and the perplexities of the last days. Difficulties will abound; hindrances will prevail. In the midst of the clash of war and confusion, troubles of every kind, the work of God must be carried on. Shall we attune our courage to that responsibility? Our Leader was not to fail or be discouraged until He had accomplished what God had set Him to do, and that work is committed to the remnant church today. The message must be preached; and, thank God, it will triumph!

We must not surrender to Satan's temptations or to his frustrations. If you feel that your prayers are not answered, remember that God may have better ways for you, and that He will lead you into His service in whatever way you can best serve and cause you to triumph at last in the kingdom of God.

THERE'S never a cloud as thick, so black

That it has not a priceless lining;
 But the lining is never found outside,
 'Tis inside the light is shining.

You must pass through the dark to
 reach the light;

It is there ever waiting your find-
 ing.

.. the cloud that's the darkest, the
 blackest outside,

God has set His most precious
 lining.—SUE M. VOORHEES.

Autumn Council Devotional Meeting, November 14

By E. W. DUNBAR

Secretary, Y.P.M.V. Department,
 General Conference

It is said that David Livingstone, when he returned to England for the first and last time after he had been in Africa, stood before a group of students at Oxford University. His face was pale from the ravages of fever; he was thin and emaciated; his right arm hung limp at his side, for it had been torn by lions; and he stood before those young men and said, "There is only one thing that causes me to determine in my heart to go back to Africa, and that is the words of Jesus Christ when He said, 'Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.'"



E. W. Dunbar

The Saviour has given us a marvelous task, and for accomplishing it has placed in our hands certain facilities, the use of which will guarantee success in the bringing of God's work to a triumphant end. For instance, we find in the church today evangelists proclaiming the word far and near that Christ is coming soon, and we have the radio. We are told that between fifteen and twenty million people listen to the Voice of Prophecy in this hemisphere. Our

Sabbath school, our home missions, our educational work, our colporteurs, our Missionary Volunteer department, and our medical work, both institutional and in the fields, influence thousands; and the activities of our lay men and women contribute much in the enlightenment of thousands of souls each year. Each and all of these agencies act with but one thought in mind and one major objective, and that is the ushering in of the kingdom of God.

Sister White wrote, "We have an army of youth to-day who can do much if they are properly directed and encouraged." I wonder what Sister White would say today about our army of youth, with nearly three hundred thousand organized in the Missionary Volunteer organization. I suppose we have another one hundred thousand who are not counted in our organized youth movement. Certainly it is a vast army today. She continues, "We want them to act a part in well organized plans for helping other youth." And through the years messages in increasing volume came to us, making it very clear to the leaders that in the finishing of God's work the young people are to have a very prominent place. We read, "In order that the work may go forward in all its branches, God calls for youthful vigor, zeal, and courage. He has chosen the youth to aid in the advancement of His cause. To plan with clear mind and execute with courageous hand demands fresh, uncrippled energies. Young men and women are invited to give God the strength of their youth."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 67.

My mind goes to six conferences where the work of God is absolutely forward and onward all the time, and every one of those conferences is giving attention to its youth. They have auditoriums where the young people can have recreation. They have developed their school system to a high standard. They have camps. They are holding their boys and girls.

I cannot forget those young men who stood up and testified in one of our congresses in Austria. All of them had been soldiers in the Ger-

man Army and sailors in the navy. One young man stood there who had been shell shocked. He shook all over; his throat had been hit with shrapnel. He was a fine young man, upstanding, clean. But he could not talk; he could not express himself well. He stuttered, and he stammered. But the interpreter told me that this is what he said, "I never will be able to speak plainly again, but I want my life to tell for Jesus." I thank the Lord for young people like that. I am glad that the Spirit of God tells that the Lord's people will be willing in the day of His power, and that the interest of the fathers of the church and the parents and the families will bring about a revival in our midst that will make our youth strong workers in the cause of God as it moves to its hour of triumph.

Now, in conclusion I want to tell you about an experience that was very precious to my heart. It was during a Week of Prayer series at one of our colleges this last spring. I tell it to you because it is indicative of our youth in America today, and what they are anxious to do for God, what they are anxious to be for God. On Wednesday of the Week of Prayer I gave opportunity for the students to speak for the Lord and to come up to the front and talk over the loud-speaker so everyone could understand them. And they lined up there, a hundred young men. We closed the meeting on time. Thursday we did the same thing for the young women, and we closed on time. There were 1,100 students. Friday we did the same thing for the last section. We began the meeting at about nine or nine-fifteen, and we did not close until two-thirty in the afternoon. I told no emotional stories; we sang no choruses; I made one invitation. Those young people came and confessed their sins quietly. They praised God earnestly for nearly five hours, and I stood on my feet right there beside them for five hours. I was tired, but I was more than that—I was happy. I was, oh, so warm inside!

The GI students went and got their wives, hoping the meeting

would still be on when they got back, and they came up there and made things right with their wives. Scores of students who had never spoken before spoke that day. I asked the president of the college whether we should close—when the time had come to close there was still a long line. He said, "Brother Dunbar"—and his eyes were full of tears—"we can't close. We wouldn't if we could." He said, "Every young person on my prayer list has given his heart to God today." That's how our young people are. Their spirits are hungry.

Autumn Council High Lights

A CALL for a sanctified ministry and the relentless preaching of the gospel in all parts of the world, despite changing political trends, highlighted the annual Seventh-day Adventist Autumn Council held last month in Saint Louis, Missouri.

In his opening address to delegates—350 or more, from all parts of North America and some foreign lands—Elder J. L. McElhany, president of the General Conference, appealed in behalf of extending our overseas work. He urged that expenditures for projects in the homeland be curtailed in order to furnish means needed in other lands. "God has chosen not one nation only to be His representative to the world but one people from among all nations," he said. "The history of the church today would be comparable to that of the Jewish church if we should fail to respond to His call to do the work God expects us to do at this time," he declared.

The meeting place for the council was the Seventh-day Adventist church on Lindell Boulevard at Spring Avenue. It is a large, impressive-looking church, built of stone, with a beautiful, large sanctuary for general assemblies and numerous smaller auditoriums and rooms well adapted for the holding of such a convention. Equipped with kitchen and dining-room facilities, it provided space for the women of the church to furnish meals for the delegates, thus adding to the comfort

and social enjoyment during the ten-day session.

Uniquely located is this Adventist church on one of the busiest corners in the city of Saint Louis. Diagonally across from it is the large Sheraton Hotel. In the same block is the Catholic University, with a series of huge buildings and a high-powered broadcasting station. Across Lindell Boulevard facing the church and the University is a group of buildings owned by the Masonic Order. Among them is the Scottish Rite Cathedral, where the Sabbath services were held. In every way the location of the Central Adventist church is very favorable, and the work of Seventh-day Adventists has gained in prestige since the purchase of this church property formerly owned by the Episcopalians.

The report of the growth of our world work brought to the delegates by Claude Conard, the denominational statistical secretary, was very cheering. A total of 63,014 baptisms, reported in 1948, marked the largest number of baptisms in any one year. Of these, 48,193 were in the overseas divisions, and 2,115 were baptized by our colored evangelists in the United States. The net membership growth of 44,064 was reported as a "record in church gains." Liberality and sacrifice marked the giving of our people during the year 1948. Total offerings given by the 672,658 Seventh-day Adventists throughout the world during the year amounted to \$42,302,308. Per capita giving for North American Adventists was \$135.70. This overall total of contributions was more than \$2,500,000 over that recorded in 1947. The amount of tithe paid totaled \$25,956,859; missions offerings, \$9,703,621; home and local offerings and relief, \$6,642,006. It was interesting and significant to learn that \$4,500,000 of the amount raised for foreign missions came through the Sabbath schools. Although much work of the council was done in committees, and it tremendous demands and needs for funds called for long hours of study by groups on finance and budget, there was a devotional hour fully

observed each morning which brought great spiritual uplift.

Elder A. V. Olson, General Conference vice-president, in his study featured the conditions amid which the church must complete its work, "brought the assurance that Jesus will work with His people. "He will pour a large measure of His Spirit upon them."

Elder L. K. Dickson, another vice-president, held up the early church and the apostles as examples for us today. They faced a world task, "yet they had not a single institution or a single church building. They had no headquarters except an upper room. They faced persecution and trouble on every side. Yet, in the midst of such problems, instead of spending most of their time in committee meetings, they gave themselves to prayer. The key to our situation is in permitting the spirit of the apostles to take hold of us, so that we may be led to give ourselves continually to prayer. We are facing a crisis, which demands that we connect ourselves with the Source of power."

Similar impressive messages were brought to the council by Elders H. M. Blunden, E. E. Cossentine, E. W. Dunbar, and G. E. Peters. Highlighting the Sabbath afternoon and evening services were reports from fields abroad brought by division presidents, W. R. Beach, Southern Europe; G. A. Lindsay, Northern Europe; and Earl F. Hackman, Inter-American. Elders A. W. Cormack of the General Conference, and Jere D. Smith, of the Northern Union, also brought encouraging reports to the council.

A sixteenth-century reformation is taking place in Southeastern European countries, Elder Beach reported. Baptisms have risen to as high as 4,700 in one year, he said. Eight evangelistic centers have been organized in Italy, in which country Adventist church membership has tripled during the recent years of war and since. Although the work of the church gathers strength in many areas, and congregations are enlarging, persecution and hardship are experienced by members in sev-

eral countries. As a result, Elder Beach said that these countries need the prayers of God's people everywhere.

Elder G. A. Lindsay told the audience that in Poland, Finland, and other countries of Northern Europe the church memberships have rapidly rebuilt since war. There are revivals and awakenings in Finland, as a result of activities of laymen, miraculous experiences that can only be explained in the light of God's working on the hearts of people. A young worker in one place brought the membership of a church from ten to eighty. In Iceland the Bible correspondence school is having a mighty influence for good. Patients at the Skodsborg Sanitarium, Denmark, the largest Adventist sanitarium in the world, are accepting the truth.

Elder Earl F. Hackman, Inter-American Division president, said that since 1922 church membership had grown from 9,000 in that far-flung island field to 70,000. There are 1,700 Sabbath schools in operation with 90,000 in attendance. Since 1918 the membership in Inter-America, which embraces the West Indies, Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean Sea Islands, and the northern part of South America, has doubled every ten years. There are 26 countries and 26 different currencies. About 800 people were baptized the first six months of this year, and 2,000 are now in baptismal classes. There are 11 medical units now in operation, besides a medical missionary boat on the Magdalena River in Colombia and a medically equipped railroad car that is operated as a clinic in Venezuela.

Resolutions adopted by delegates to the council included a series on larger and more intensive evangelism, with leaders and laymen devoted more directly to soul winning in all their work. Other resolutions touched the subject of training young men called to the ministry, plans for concerted house-to-house visitation campaigns, encouragement of the family altar in every home, temperance work, and the position of Adventists on religious liberty

questions and those affecting church and state. March 4, June 3, and September 2, 1950, will be the official home visitation days in which plans will be laid to visit 6,000,000 homes with Adventist literature.

The annual budget report voted called for appropriations for foreign work and special projects in North America amounting to nearly \$16,000,000. Of the amount \$9,000,000 are provided for overseas work. This includes \$300,000 made available from funds to place ten missionary families in Japan and build them homes and chapels. Church building development and radio Bible school extension are also in the overseas program.

Oakwood College, Riverside Sanitarium, the South Atlantic and South Central conferences, and the Southwestern Mission received their regular appropriations. To apply on a new library building, \$50,000 was voted as a special appropriation to Oakwood College. The Central States Mission will receive their appropriation from funds allocated to the Central Union Conference. The Northeastern Conference will receive financial assistance from funds appropriated by the General Conference for evangelism in the New York area.

Elder W. E. Nelson, General Conference treasurer, expressed great appreciation of the vision of our leaders, and the loyalty and sacrifice on the part of our people that will provide this overseas budget, which is \$2,400,000 larger than was ever voted in a previous year.

The colored leaders present as delegates to this convention were F. L. Bland, L. H. Bland, Dr. J. M. Cox, L. E. Ford, W. W. Fordham, T. M. Fountain, T. T. Frazier, H. R. Murphy, F. L. Peterson, L. B. Reynolds, H. D. Singleton, O. A. Troy, J. H. Wagner, A. Warren, and G. E. Peters. (See picture, page 9.)

Miss Geraldine S. Poole, of the Colored Department, was one of the stenographers selected to assist in stenographic work at the council.

By special invitation Elder L. J. Pryor, pastor of the Berean church, (Continued on page 8)



Old and New Membership

News Notes

CONGRATULATIONS are due Brother and Sister E. C. Ward on the birth of a baby girl in October. Brother Ward is leader of the Charlotte-Salisbury-Rock Hill district. Mrs Ward is the former Gwendolyn Burton, editorial secretary of the *Message*.

THE South Atlantic Conference is happy to welcome Miss Irene Miller, of Cleveland, Ohio, to its secretarial staff. She is secretary to Elder L. S. Follette, treasurer, replacing Mrs. Susie Wells who is now living in Cincinnati, Ohio.

RADIO programs are being conducted by E. E. Cleveland and E. C. Ward. Brother Ward's program is over station WTOB in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, at 10:45 A.M. Sundays. Elder Cleveland's program may be heard over station WGIV in Charlotte, North Carolina, at 10:45 A.M. Sabbaths.

AT the close of November 629 persons had been baptized in the South Atlantic Conference. This conference is now at the top of the list in membership of colored conferences.

H. D. SINGLETON, *President South Atlantic Conference.*

Evangelism in the South Atlantic

[The following letter has just been received from Evangelist E. E. Cleveland, of the South Atlantic Conference. God has blessed and is continually blessing His work in this conference.—G. E. P.]

GOD has been very good to us in our efforts to win souls for Him. We freely confess that of ourselves can do nothing, and what God has done for us has encouraged us greatly. This year the Lord has given us 195 souls in evangelism—114 in second effort in Winston-Salem and 81 in the Saint Petersburg meeting.

The picture (see page 10) shows the enlarged congregation of the Winston-Salem church which for-



St. Petersburg, Florida, Church

merly boasted a weekly attendance of between 18 to 25. In Winston-Salem alone God has given us 284 souls in seven months of labor. During the seven years of our ministry God has blessed us with 805 at a cost to our denomination of only \$1,900.

Associated with us in the Saint Petersburg effort were Mrs. Celia Cleveland, pianist; Mrs. Elizabeth Coleman, Bible instructor; Dorothy Bradley and Mattie Speights; and Mr. Walter Darby, associate evangelist.

Associated with us in the Winston-Salem effort were Mrs. Celia Cleveland; Mrs. O. M. Harris, Mrs.

Elizabeth Coleman, and Miss Vivian Perry as Bible instructors; and Mr. Samuel Thomas, associate evangelist.

In a financial way the Lord has also blessed. In Fayetteville, besides the regular church goals, \$2,000 was raised for the purchase of a lot for the new church building. In Raleigh more than \$800 in painting and repairs was spent. In Greensboro at least \$2,000 was spent on the enlargement of the church. In Winston-Salem more than \$4,000 has been raised and spent on the new building.

We feel that in this we were blessed of God, considering the fact

that, with one exception, we remained in these cities only nine months at a time before entering new fields of labor. In fact, the last movements have been such rapid ones that Mrs. Cleveland and I now live on wheels, having purchased a comfortable little trailer home.

As any evangelist knows, men who follow up the work are as vital to the cause as those who labor to win souls. In this connection W. S. Banfield, M. T. Battle, J. W. Jones, and F. S. Hill have rendered valuable service in holding the souls that the Lord has given us.

Our next stop will be Charleston, South Carolina.

Autumn Council High Lights

(Continued from page 5)

Saint Louis, attended the council sessions. Our colored leaders and workers attending the council were royally entertained by the Berean church and its most cordial pastor. Much credit is due Elder Pryor and his special committee who did everything possible to secure homes for the delegates.

Our membership in the Berean church, now numbering 250, is growing rapidly. This church is well organized and contains a representative group of our people. G. E. P.

Riverside Special

At the regular constituency meeting of Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital, held in Saint Louis, Missouri, at the time of the Autumn Council, Mr. Adell Warren, who for almost three years served as acting manager was elected manager of the institution. We appreciate Mr. Warren's efficiency and say to him, Congratulations! In shouldering this responsibility he will experience both joys and sorrows, but our prayers will follow him in his new role of full management of Riverside Sanitarium. G. E. P.

ALLEGHENY

J. H. Wagner, Pres. F. L. Bland, Sec.-Treas.
P.O. Box 720, Pottstown, Pennsylvania
Pottstown 3844

Evangelism in Baltimore

BEREA TEMPLE, the largest Adventist church in the Allegheny Conference, with a membership of seven hundred, reaped a great harvest in souls from its recent effort. Assisted by Brothers Johnny Farrow and Alonzo Wagner, both young interns, Elder W. L. Cheatham launched an eight-week evangelistic campaign in Baltimore. Neighbors expressed profound regrets at the close of the effort, for the good influence of the services had been noted in the conduct of the boys of the city.

Berea Temple has pushed continually forward in its campaign for

souls, and the Sunday night meetings are pursued primarily as an evangelistic project.



W. L. Cheatham, Pastor, Berean Temple,
Baltimore, Maryland

Three choirs support the pastor musically: a gospel choir led by Sister Pauline Hardy, the youth choir with Charles Lee Brooks, and the senior group ably directed by Brother Carlton Wilson.

Three baptisms have added seventy souls to the church. These are all rejoicing in the truth. Twelve, who have just recently embraced the faith, are in the baptismal class, and will be added before the last of the year.

Sister Julia Z. Cooper is the Bible teacher, Brother James E. Hawkins is the faithful treasurer, and Elder W. L. Cheatham is pastor and evangelist.

A. V. PINKNEY, Conference Reporter, Allegheny Conference.

"BEHIND every cloud there is a silver lining, and beyond every Red Sea there lies a promised land."

"EVERY man should keep a fair-sized cemetery in which to bury the faults of his friends."

CENTRAL STATES MISSION

F. L. Bland, Pres. J. H. Jones, Sec.-Treas.
2528 Benton Blvd.
Kansas City, Missouri

Activities in Lincoln, Nebraska

THE Lincoln Allon Chapel members, under the leadership of J. LeCount Butler, ministerial student at Union College, have put on an extensive program to raise funds for a much-needed church building. The membership is comprised mostly of our students attending Union College, and they are steadily going forward in the church program.

They have found a fine brick building which they wish to purchase, and plans are under way to raise money for it. Their first plan is to present Roland Hayes in a recital.

During one week Frank Hale, Jr., and LeCount Butler raised \$189.50 in a few afternoons. The Hub of Harmony, under the direction of Frank Hale, plans to give several concerts to help raise more funds. Another plan for raising funds is the sponsoring of the Southernaires in a concert in March, 1950.

At the present time the Lincoln Allon Chapel members are granted the privilege of worshiping in the church every Sabbath. May God bless the members of this church as they go forward in their work.

Baptisms

THREE souls were baptized by Elder W. E. Penick as results of a revival held in the Witchita, Kansas, church.

Two were added to the Sedalia, Missouri, church by baptism as results of the labors of Brother C. Adell Smith, local church elder. These and four from the Kansas City, Missouri, church were baptized by Elder H. J. Miller.

ELEVEN were baptized in the Berean church, Saint Louis, Missouri, by Elder L. J. Pryor.

IN Denver, Pastor G. Herfin Taylor reports six baptisms.

SUNDAY evening services conducted by Elder R. L. Woodfork in the Saint Joseph, Missouri, church effected twelve additions to the church by baptism.

THIRTEEN persons were baptized into the membership of the Omaha, Nebraska, church at the close of the revival conducted by B. R. Spears.

PASTOR XAVIER BUTLER reports several in a baptismal class awaiting baptism.

Other News Items

MRS. M. M. FITCH, our Bible instructor, has recently been called to the Southwestern Mission to assist in an evangelistic effort held in Dallas by Elder W. W. Fordham.

WEDDING bells rang recently for Miss Ethel Anderson and Mr. Esklu Hardy, both members of the Saint

Louis Berean church. Elder L. J. Pryor, pastor of the church, performed the ceremony. We wish God's richest blessings on this couple as they start out in their new life.

SOUTH ATLANTIC

H. D. Singleton, Pres. L. S. Follette, Sec.-Treas.
Box 4027, Atlanta, Ga.

South Atlantic Workers' Meeting

RECENTLY the workers of the South Atlantic Conference gathered in Atlanta, Georgia, for a workers' meeting which was held in the newly remodeled Berean church. The spirit of enthusiasm among the workers ran very high, and especially was this evident when reports on evangelism and building projects were made.

It will be interesting to the readers of the INFORMANT to know that from the latest figures available to

our office, more than 629 persons have been added by baptism and profession of faith in this field since the beginning of the year.

Outstanding among the efforts conducted during the last few months were those of Elder E. E. Cleveland in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where to date 111 have been baptized, and Brother E. C. Ward in Charlotte, North Carolina, where 109 have been baptized. Elder Cleveland is the South Atlantic Conference evangelist. All of the evangelistic efforts have resulted in excellent additions.

Concerning the church and school building projects, we learned that a large number are now in progress many of which will soon be completed.

From this workers' meeting each one went forth ready to enter into the Ingathering for 1950. We are all hoping for the biggest and best Ingathering campaign ever to be held in South Atlantic.



Leaders in Attendance at the Autumn Council

Front Row, Left to Right: H. E. Singleton, F. L. Bland, F. L. Peterson, G. E. Peters, L. H. Bland, V. G. Lindsay, H. R. Murphy
Back Row, Left to Right: W. W. Fordham, T. M. Fountain, T. T. Frazier, O. A. Troy, L. E. Ford, J. H. Wagner
Absent: Dr. J. M. Cox, A. Warren, L. B. Reynolds



Members of the Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Seventh-day Adventist Church, E. E. Cleveland, Evangelist

PACIFIC UNION

Owen A. Troy, Departmental Secretary
Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day
Adventists
P.O. Box 146, Glendale 5, California

Evangelism in Full Swing

Oakland District

WITH the opening of Elder Byron Spears' evangelistic effort in the Stockton Civic Auditorium, the total number of efforts being conducted by ministers in the department is 10.

Using a handful of believers as a nucleus and with the assistance of the Oakland church choir on the opening night, Elder Spears launched a three-night-a-week effort October 16. The attendance has been good, the interest excellent, and the prospects have been encouraging.

San Francisco

ELDER J. E. COX has just begun the sixth week of his sixth church effort, which he has been conducting six nights a week in the Philadelphia church in San Francisco. He reports a full attendance on Sunday

nights and a good audience on the week nights. Miss M. Warrington is the Bible instructor. Three baptisms have been conducted thus far this year, and to date he has baptized 36.

Fresno, California

ELDER R. E. BERRY started a fall evangelistic campaign in a hall located in the center of the city. Meetings are held on Sunday, Monday, and Friday evenings, with an excellent attendance. Mrs. L. M. Gordon has been employed to assist him as Bible instructor for the duration of the effort.

Plans for the new church building have been submitted to the General Conference for ratification. Ground-breaking ceremonies are to take place as soon as the O.K. is received.

Southern California

ON Sabbath, October 1, with Elder G. E. Peters, of the General Conference, preaching the baptismal sermon, Elder R. H. Robertson conducted a very impressive baptismal service in which 23 were baptized at the Wadsworth church. This makes a total of 62 this year; 39 having been baptized in January.

The Los Angeles Berean church

and the Santa Monica church joined in a baptismal service in Santa Monica on October 22. Pastor G. F. Millet and the departmental secretary conducted the service.

Richmond, California

PASTOR DAVID HUGHES reports that he and Miss Veva Knox, Bible instructor, have organized two Bible schools in Richmond, which are operating on a three-month schedule and from which they expect a good fruitage. The church membership has grown to 58. Five are in the baptismal class. The church meets in a hall at 50th and Jefferson streets. Plans are being laid for a tabernacle effort to be held in this city.

Phoenix, Arizona

EXCELLENTLY constructed pews have been installed in the church at Phoenix. They were made by church artisans and do not look "home made."

Perris, California

C. C. ARBURTHNOT, pastor of the Perris church, states concerning the effort he is conducting there that there are six in the baptismal class.

He personally is studying with 12 other interested ones. Sixty-three are taking the 20th Century Correspondence Course. Evangelistic meetings are held on Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

“Message Magazine” Evangelism

THE Monrovia church exceeded its *Message* goal when the members ordered 143 subscriptions. This was done notwithstanding the fact that they are completing their building and raising money for pews. A club of 100 is to be used by the church for its educational and tuition fund.

The board of the Pasadena church underwrote the goal of 264 subscriptions. These subscriptions will go to private individuals and will be used by clubs of the church to create a fund for educational and improvement purposes.

Brother Arburthnot reports that the Perris church is placing its order for 72 subscriptions to reach its goal.

Long Beach, California

CHARLES CARTER is conducting a lay effort on Tuesday evenings at the community hall, West 15th and Fashion streets. Sabbath services are also conducted there.

How to Kill a Church

FEW church members would ever connect work in God's remnant church with the violation of the sixth commandment. But it is just as possible to kill a church as it is to take the life of a human being.

According to the dictionary, *kill* means “to deprive of life or to destroy.” Your church may be deprived of life or destroyed according to your relationship to its program.

Here are some sure ways for you to take the life of your church:

First, if you want to kill the spirit of your church, don't attend the services; at least if you do attend, don't go to the Wednesday evening prayer meetings. If you insist on

attending Sabbath school, be sure and go late, arriving just in the middle of the missionary reading. Of course, don't wait until the person is through reading; walk right in and make a big disturbance, distracting the attention of all who might otherwise receive a real blessing from hearing the progress of God's work in the fields beyond.

When you are seated in service be sure to whisper to the ones next to you, and don't hesitate to cause as many as possible to pay attention to you instead of the person leading the Sabbath school.

If you join the Sabbath school, never take part, even though the consecrated superintendent may give you plenty of time to prepare. Excuse yourself by suggesting that she ask Sister Blank to do it instead.

If you stay for the morning worship service, be sure to look for plenty of mistakes and shortcomings in the preacher's presentation or appearance. If he is a humble, consecrated layman, whom God has been using for the salvation of souls, he probably has had little education, and you must be sure to criticize his grammar. Instead of praying for a blessing, gaze around and see what others are doing or wearing. That will convince the preacher that you aren't much interested in what he is talking about.

If you want to kill the church, never accept any office in any branch of its activities. Let someone else carry the responsibility while you sit by and criticize his efforts. Find as much fault as you can, and be sure to pass your criticism along to everyone in the church. Of course, some of the officers may become so discouraged under your ceaseless disparagement that they will resign or even drift out of the church, but, of course, if you are out to kill the church that won't make much difference.

If you want to kill the church, never take part in the Big Week or Ingathering campaigns. Let someone else do your share. Of course you can't do that work! When it comes to your church building program—of course you would rather have a

better place in which to worship, but why should you sacrifice and give of your time and funds in order to secure it? Why shouldn't the conference build it? Why should you be expected to help?

If there are some earnest workers in the church who are always willing to do their part financially and otherwise, here is a fine opportunity for you to raise a loud hue and cry about the church's being run by a little clique. Don't do anything yourself, but be sure to censure roundly anyone else who tries!

Then, of course, don't overlook the possibilities in raking the district pastor, the conference president, and other ministers over the coals quite frequently. They don't get around very often, and they don't take the personal interest in you that they should! It is true your pastor may have fifteen or twenty churches to shepherd, and your conference president may be burdened down with the care of a hundred churches and heavy administrative problems, but don't let that deter you—give them each a good tongue lashing. Of course, that won't make them want to help you any more, but it will be worth it just to get it “off your chest.”

Now, if your church is dead—with no surging of spiritual life coursing through the veins of its members, with no program and few members bothering to turn out for meeting—stop and take stock of the situation. Who is to blame? Just pause a moment, take a good look at yourself in a mirror, and then read the following little story I clipped out of an old *Reader's Digest*:

“Coming to a small Oklahoma town to be pastor of his first church, the enthusiastic Reverend W. B. Alexander was met with the flat statement that he was wasting his time, that the church was dead. Finally in desperation he placed a notice in the local paper that since the church was dead, the funeral would be held the next Sunday afternoon. The church was crowded by the curious who were rewarded by the sight of a huge coffin covered

with flowers. After reading the obituary, the Rev. Mr. Alexander invited the people to pay their last respects. As the long queue passed by, each looked into the coffin, then glanced guiltily away. In the bottom of the coffin lay a mirror, solemnly reflecting the last remains of the church in the startled faces of the congregation."

Yes, brethren and sisters, if our church is dead, it is because individual members have lost their vision, laid down their tools, and gone to sleep. Are you guilty of being a murderer of a church? If so, won't you pray God most earnestly to revive your soul, clarify your vision, and rekindle the fires of your first love? Time is short. We have no time to spare.

ROBERT H. PIERSON
in *Australasian Record*.

The Story of Jesus Can Never Grow Old

They tell me the story of Jesus is old,
And they ask that we preach some-
thing new;
They say that the Babe, and the
Man of the cross,
For the wise of this world will not
do.

Yet the story is old, as the sunlight is
old,
Tho' it's new every morn all the
same,
As it floods all the world with its
gladness and light,
Kindling faraway stars by its flame.

For what can we tell to the weary of
heart,
If we preach not salvation from sin?
And how can we comfort the souls
that depart,
If we tell not how Christ rose again?

So with sorrow we turn from the
wise of this world,
To the wanderers far from the fold,
With hearts for the message they'll
join in our song,
That the story can never grow old.

MAJ. D. W. WITTLE

Newspaper Lauds Dorcas Federation

ACCORDING to a very fine report in the *Pittsburgh Courier*, the Ohio Valley Dorcas Federation held a most profitable meeting in Dayton, Ohio. Two large group pictures accompany the story. One shows fifteen officers and leaders of the federation; the other shows the entire delegation of some two hundred or more. The report tells of the purposes and the work of the federation.

"Seventh-day Adventists," it says, "are a missionary minded people, and enjoy translating the principles of Christianity into the practical work of alleviating the ills of mankind."

Members present at the meeting, so fully pictured and described in this leading newspaper, came to Dayton from Columbus, Cincinnati, Springfield, and Delaware, Ohio;

from Charleston and Huntington, West Virginia.

How very splendid it was for someone to get the news of this meeting and the pictures of those attending into the newspaper! To McDonald Moore, who is probably responsible for this good work, are indebted for the clippings.

J. R. FERREN, *Secretary, Bureau of Press Relations, General Conference.*

SATAN carefully studies the constitutional sins of men, and then he begins his work of alluring and ensnaring them.—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 97.

COURAGE, hope, faith, sympathy, love promote health and prolong life. A contented mind, a cheerful spirit is health to the body and strength to the soul.—GOLDSMITH.

*To our readers and many
friends we wish a Joyous
Christmas and a Happy
New Year.*

*—The North American
Informant.*