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Growing Old With God

THE SECRET OF AGELESS YOUTH

By Paul K. Freiwirth



STATISTICIANS may disagree as to when people actually reach old age, but they agree that the average age of the population is rising rapidly. A few figures will bear this out: Today there are in the United States 26,000,000 people above fifty-five, an increase of thirty per cent over the last decade. Twelve million of these are past sixty-five, as compared with only 3,000,000 at the beginning of the century. While the population as a whole has steadily grown, the number of old people has increased far out of proportion. There is every indication, too, that present

Science has done marvels in adding years trends will continue.

to men's lives by discovering some of God's physiological laws hitherto unknown. But this has only added emphasis to such questions as what to do with all the old people and how to make their declining years enjoyable.

Numerous solutions have been submitted offering varying degrees of economic security. Yet in the final analysis it is not so much a pension for life as a purpose in life that the old crave most. The feeling of dependence, of being a non-productive burden on society, robs the old person of much peace of mind.

Anyone doubting this should visit a home for the aged whose programme is not built around faith in God. In a municipally operated institution familiar to the writer the patients have no worries about their material necessities, but they are anything but happy. They sit around mournfully all day, with little more to look forward to than their next meal. It is questionable whether they even enjoy that, for old age dulls the sense of taste, along with other senses.

Resting in their pathetically pitiful poses, they remind one of Jonathan Swift's portrayal of the Struldbrugs in *Gulliver's Travels*. According to the story, the Struldbrugs were a group of unhappy old men and women who were not able to die, yet were "incapable of friendship and dead to all natural affection." There are countless

old folks today whose lives are exactly like that. Yet it is only divine friendship and affection that can really brighten life's sunset and chase the shadows away.

It is in old age that the Christian has a great advantage over his unbelieving friend. Unlike the unconverted old person, he still possesses a purpose in life, no matter what his circumstances may be. Even though he should have to spend the rest of his days in an invalid's chair, or flat on his back, he can still say with the apostle, "For me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21); and that to live for Christ is the greatest and most consuming purpose anyone can have.

Knowing that death does not end all, and that the character one develops in this life will determine one's happiness in the life to come, the Christian can still have the deep and surpassing joy of growing in grace and becoming more like his Lord each day. When the last fount of earthly happiness has been snatched away, he can still have access to heavenly reservoirs, which yield rich and enduring satisfactions. When life has deprived him of the pleasures of youth and middle age, he can still find abiding joy, as day by day, he lays up treasures in heaven.

Every old person should realize that he cannot live on memories alone, no matter how beautiful they may be. In fact, the more lovely one's recollections, the more

tantalizingly painful is their contemplation and the more difficult the attempt to make the best of things as they are. There is much wisdom in Solomon's counsel, "Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this." Eccles. 7:10.

It has been said by some that as soon as a person stops looking forward and begins to look backward, he has become old, regardless of the number of his years. Actually this is not quite true. For sane and balanced living a certain amount of both is necessary; but it is more important to look ahead, and to do so with God is a mighty factor in facing old age triumphantly. Says the Lord, "I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; . . . your old men shall *dream dreams*, your young men shall *see visions*." Joel 2:28. When God's Spirit takes hold of men and women they will always live more for the future than in the past. Above all, they will contemplate what God would have them be.

This surely was what the Lord had in mind for Abraham: "And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before Me, and *be thou perfect*." Gen. 17:1. Abraham, in faith, accepted God's plan. Many times he stumbled, to be sure, yet "he staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief." Rom. 4:20. Because of that, Inspiration has given him that most coveted of titles, "Friend of God." James 2:23.

That striving after perfection is the most satisfying purpose in life, especially for those getting on in years, proved true in the life of this patriarch. Of him we read: "Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people." Gen. 25:8. The phrase "full of years" conveys the thought of rising from a banquet, satisfied. That was Abraham's experience. Had he lived after Solomon, he might have used the wise man's words in describing his experience: "He brought me to the banqueting house, and His banner over me was love." Song of Solomon 2:4. The same wonderful experience awaits every aged child of God who seeks to live as close to God as did Abraham.

As many spiritual truths find an illustration somewhere in God's great outdoors, so does Heaven's ideal for the aged. One need but consider the jack tree of south-east Asia. When it is young it produces fruit from its branches. In middle age the fruit comes directly from its

trunk, and in old age from its roots. This is how the Lord would have it with His people. As the years advance His people will still bear fruit from the roots of their spiritual resources.

It was Elbert Hubbard who said, "Whom the gods love, die young—no matter how long they live." He probably never realized how close he came to enunciating a great spiritual truth, because he whom the Lord loves, no matter how long he lives, can still end his earthly sojourn without having for one moment lost any of the real happiness and spiritual buoyancy that he knew in his youth.

Does this perhaps sound impossible, as if requiring a miracle? Even so, only Christ can fill the heart with that measure of faith that will keep one in "perfect peace." In fact, by the grace of God, the aged Christian can enjoy an experience that will help him to forget that he is old and make him merely aware that he has been young for a long time. This is the wonderful hope expressed in the German translation of Deuteronomy 33:25, "Thy old age be as thy youth," a hope translated into reality in the lives of countless radiant elderly Christians.—*Signs of the Times*, December 8, 1953.



The Danish
Old People's Home.

"AFTENHVILE" Danish Old People's Home

By H. Westerlund, *Manager, Skodsborg Sanitarium*

IT HAS never been easy for an Adventist who is both aged and alone. In Denmark, old people in general, when they are alone, go to one of the Old People's Homes operated by the state. As far as the buildings are concerned, they are veritable small palaces, furnished with the most modern equipment. These homes are warm and comfortable in cold weather. Usually they are built in quiet residential districts. From a social point of view, one could hardly wish for anything better.

But to an Adventist, these institutions are not true homes. An Adventist is made to feel very much a stranger and lonely in such a home. He cannot be truly happy there. And why? Yes, just because the atmosphere is so different here from that

to which he is accustomed. Here they smoke everywhere. The subjects of conversation are strange to him and do not harmonize with his way of thinking. The programmes and the entertainments which are frequently rendered to cheer and brighten the old folk, do not interest him. He is more serious minded.

Then there is the food, which is served in abundance, but of which he at times can eat very little. And when he does not join them around the coffee table they make fun of him. All this is very embarrassing and often harmful to the spiritual life of our aged churchmembers who have no other choice in life.

In Denmark we have solved the problem for these aged members of our church. We have our own home for our members

who are in such need. It is true that outwardly our home does not begin to measure up to the state-operated homes, but inside the four walls there is a real home, where the Spirit of God dwells, and where all the members are daily preparing for a far better place which God Himself is building for them. But here in this place we are always endeavouring to make a home for the aged, such as is embodied in its name, "Aftenhvile" (Evening Rest), and we believe that we are succeeding.

The old folks here enjoy their "Aftenhvile" and they enjoy a long "Evening Rest." We often say when speaking about "Aftenhvile," "Folk die so seldom out there. They all reach a very ripe old age." They do live and grow old there, and no doubt much of it is due to the good care that they receive and the true peace and rest that they enjoy in a truly Christian atmosphere.

However, death enters there too. A few weeks ago we had to lay to rest Sister Laura Jensen. She was ninety-eight years old. She was a dear old Adventist, and every time we went to see her she would ask, "Is not Jesus coming soon?" This sister had very few relatives. One of her nieces, not an Adventist, came to see her occasionally. Sister Jensen would always ask her niece to sing one of her favourite songs to her. This she did and our sister was in this way able to acquaint her niece with her faith.

"Aftenhvile" is operated by the Skodsborg Sanitarium. It was started in 1930. It was then that the Danish Training School moved from Naerum to Vejle-fjord. The old school property was then converted into a home for aged Adventists. There is room for about thirty persons. They come there with their own furniture and therefore they do feel very much at home.

Someone may ask, "How does the home operate from a financial point of view? Is it self-supporting or not? Do you only receive those who can pay for themselves?"

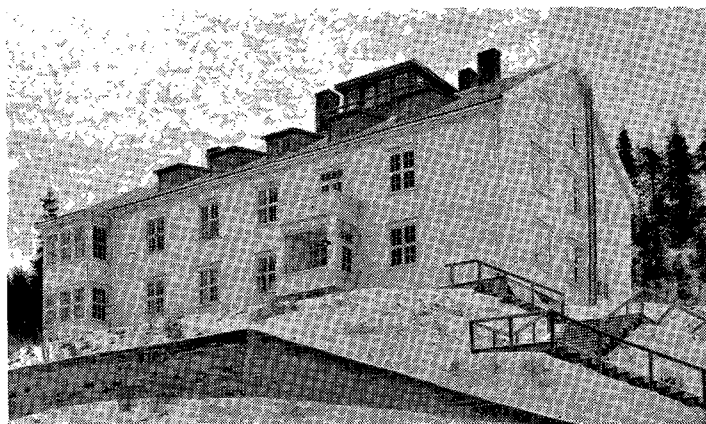
We are glad to say that any Adventist is accepted, to the extent of the accommodation available. All may not be able to pay the full price, and those who are not able may receive assistance from a special fund which is set up for that purpose. Much of this fund has been contributed by the people in the home who have willed whatever they had left when they passed away, to this fund. Last year ten old people received a monthly assistance of from Kr. 35 to 45, according to their need. For several years the Skodsborg

Sanitarium covered the operating loss. However, in recent years "Aftenhvile" has been able to manage without subsidies.

The staff at "Aftenhvile" consists of a matron, Miss Inger K. Lund, a cook, four housemaids, and a janitor who looks

after the central heating and does general maintenance work about the place.

We are glad to have our home in Naerum for our aged members who need its care. There ought to be many such homes throughout the Division.



*The Norwegian
Old People's
Home, near
Trondheim.*

"SAKSHUS" Norwegian Old People's Home

By A. A. Andreasen

A VERY self-sacrificing contribution indeed was made by many of our people in the summer of 1951, when the Sakshus Old People's Home, near Trondheim, Norway, was started. For quite some time, a committee appointed by the Trondheim church had endeavoured to find a home for the aged in the church, but it had not been possible to find a building which would be suitable for such an institution, and with the meagre funds that the church had in its Old People's Home Fund, it was not possible to think of erecting a new building.

But God had a way for us. During the war, at Vikhamar, near Trondheim, a building was erected especially for German military officers. Since the war this property changed hands several times and in the summer of 1951 it was again put up for sale. The building was really too large for the needs of Trondheim church alone, so the matter was brought to the attention of the conference committee. In consultation with this committee, negotiations were begun for the purchase of the property. Several business men had been interested in the property, but one outstanding obstacle stood in the way: What

should be done with the six families that occupied the building? and how could they get vacant possession? That was their problem.

When our brethren began to negotiate about purchasing the property, the Lord intervened on our behalf and solved our problem. The magistrates of the town were very favourable toward our plans immediately, and they were ready to grant building permits to three of the six families, with the understanding that they in turn would rent apartments to the other three. On July 1, 1951, the property was bought and taken over by us. The six families were then willing to move together temporarily to one part of the building, until their homes were ready, so we could at once prepare some rooms for the most needy of our old people.

One of our sisters, eighty-eight years of age, had been notified by her landlord that she would have to vacate her apartment, and she had nowhere to go. Hurdledly we fixed up a room for her. But she could not live alone. Therefore one of the home nursing sisters in the church was willing to move over to the newly started Old People's Home, together with

this aged sister. For several months she served as matron in the Home, and did a most noble and self-sacrificing work. She offered to work for half the wage usually given to those doing ordinary domestic work. Furthermore, she donated a very nice dining room suite to the Home.

During the autumn and winter, many willing hands worked to get the Home in order. Both men and women gave their labour without pay and in this way money was saved and set aside in a special fund to assist those old people who had no means. Churchmembers and friends donated furniture and other necessities to the Home. With help from the West Nordic Union Conference, the building was completely reconstructed and furnished.

Sakshus Old People's Home is located eight miles from Trondheim, right on the main highway, and just a short distance from a very beautiful lake. The view is grand. A business man who recently visited the place, said that if one were to search everywhere around the fjord of Trondheim, one could not find a more beautiful place and one better suited for an old people's home. The building is set on a prominence, and the view over the lake and toward the nearby town is unobstructed.

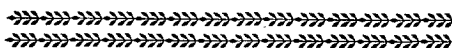
To make it pay economically during the first difficult period, some non-Adventists were also admitted in order to have as full a house as possible. At present there are nineteen guests, of which only ten are churchmembers. We can accept five more in the present building. We can also prepare rooms for the staff on the third floor if necessary, thus increasing the capacity of the building to thirty guests.

Our regular meetings and worship hours are very well attended, even by those not of our faith. On Friday evenings we have a most enjoyable time. We sing and have music and then a short talk. Then a special treat is served. On one of these occasions I sat and talked with one of the elderly guests. She is not a churchmember. During our conversation I asked her if she still enjoyed being with us. She answered quickly, "Oh, now I have really come to heaven." We have a Sabbath school at Sakshus too, followed by a preaching service. The non-Adventists are very happy to attend these meetings too.

An elderly lady in the neighbourhood had gangrene in one of her feet, and her leg had to be amputated. For a short while she stayed with us in the Old People's Home. She owns a pleasant little home not far from here. In the latter part

of the summer her relatives were going away and they asked us if the old lady could come back to us again for a little while. We were happy to have her, and she is so happy to be with us. One day she told me that she could not continue to live in her own home, and she could not think of moving over to the Community Old People's Home, because she was sure that nowhere could she find the spirit of friendliness and love as in this place with the Adventists. She wants now to remain at Sakshus.

We fully believe that God has helped us to get this Home, and we are sure that with the help of God it will prove to be a real blessing to the elderly folks and will be to the honour and glory of God.



Longing for Home

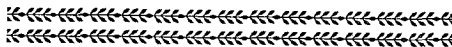
By Zona Noland Palmer

How my weary heart is yearning
 For the mansions of the blest,
 Where there's nought of pain or sorrow,
 Only peace and joy and rest;
 Where no tears or voice of weeping
 Mar the joys that will be known
 To God's faithful, chosen children
 When they gather round the throne!

How I long to see the river
 And the precious tree of life,
 Free to all in that fair country
 Where there'll be no war or strife!
 How I long, with saints and angels,
 There my Saviour to behold,
 And to view the Holy City
 With its streets of purest gold!

Blessed thought of life with Jesus
 In the lovely earth made new,
 Knowing nothing e'er can part us
 From this precious Friend so true.
 This world's trials will seem as nothing
 In that glad and happy day;
 Sorrow will be gone for ever—
 God shall wipe our tears away.

Saviour, give me grace and guidance,
 Hold, oh, hold my trembling hand
 As I walk the narrow pathway
 Leading to that glorious land
 Where I'll sing Thy praise for ever,
 Free from sin and grief and care,
 Home at last with my Redeemer,
 All the joys of heaven to share.



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BLAZING THE TRAIL ALONG THE NORWEGIAN COAST

By Harald M. Hansen

IT WAS on June 10, 1953, that my companion, Haakon Pettersen, and I started out on our voyage for the seventh summer to sell our good books to the scattered population living on the islands along the rugged coast of Norway. We now had a new motor boat called the *Rana*, which took the place of the *Kjell*, and we were anxious to find out just how good our new little boat was. We found that if some necessary repairs could be made, the boat would be well fitted for the task before it.

We struck out first to some roadless districts in the Sørkjord, Gilleskaal. From there we went to Rødøy and further on along the coast to Tonnes. We visited all the islands within the circle of Rødøy and seventeen other islands in the district of Herrøy.

In all we visited 109 islands, stopped at 143 places, and called on 839 homes. On the mainland we stopped at twenty-eight places and visited 271 families. During the season we visited 109 islands, stopped at 171 places, and called on 1,110 homes.

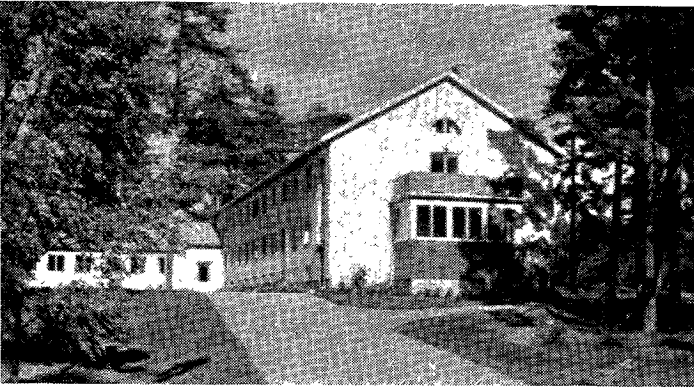
The population on the islands and along the coast is very scattered, so we were unable to give more than one or two canvasses at each stopping place. But seventy-three per cent of the prospects bought some literature from us. We travelled for 665 hours and sold literature during 490 hours, or 51 hours of work for each man per week.

The following books and magazines were sold:

The Coming Storm, 191; *Bedtime Stories*, 97; *The World of the Children*, 61; *Our Wonderful Bible*, 56; *Life in the Future*, 49; *After Death*, 47; *Without Fear*, 38; *Steps to Christ*, 12; *Light on the Children's Road*, 17; *Victorious Living*, 3.

In all 644 books and 148 copies of the *Signs of the Times* were sold and nine subscriptions for the health magazine were taken, a total sale of 801 pieces of literature to the value of Kr. 7,713.00 or 1,102 dollars. That is about Kr. 6.95 per canvass. Unfortunately our supplies of the *Signs of the Times* and the *Bedtime Stories* were delayed and came too late for us to use, otherwise our sales would have been higher.

The community of Træna consists of
 (Continued on page 6.)



*The Swedish
Old People's Home
at Ekebyholm.*

“EKEBYHOLM” Swedish Old People's Home

By Hildur Jonsson

WE CAN already look back on a period of seven years' activity in the Old People's Home at Ekebyholm, Sweden. They have been years of difficult, pioneering work with many mistakes and discouraging experiences, but there have also been reasons for joy and encouragement and much progress. The persevering work has borne fruit and we have in a rich and overflowing measure been rewarded with God's richest blessings and love.

I still remember only too well the day when I was called to engage in this work. The task seemed so impossible and I felt so incapable of filling the position that I began to wonder whether it really was the will of God. So I took my Bible and read the wonderful promise in Jeremiah 15: 20: "I am with thee." The promise is just as valid today as ever. Wisdom and patience are the qualities one seems to need most of all in this type of work.

Our Home can accommodate forty pensioners. Twenty-eight of them occupy single rooms and the rest live two in a room. The charge for a single room is five Swedish kroner per day and four for a double room. The double rooms often cause trouble. When the inmates are a married couple or two people who are in some way related, it is easy for them to share a room, but to put together two old people with different habits and ways of thinking and expect them to get on well together and feel happy, is not so easy. Maybe one gets ill or has to stay in bed, then the other one generally feels disturbed and loses the feeling of peacefulness and of being at home.

During the last couple of years the finances of the Old People's Home have been very satisfactory. One factor that has contributed toward this is that the old age sustentations from the State have been increased, so that those who have no other income or means than the State pension are now able to pay more to the institution than formerly. Our gardens and orchard have also begun to produce more abundantly, an important factor in keeping the household expenses low.

The Home fills a great need and it seems that even if we had double the number of rooms, there would still be a waiting list. As it is now, we often find it hard to decide whom we should accept into the Home when a room or a bed becomes available.

As the years pass the Home is becoming more and more appreciated by the old

folk. This is especially noticeable when one of them has been away for some time and returns to the Home again. One brother had been visiting his children for a month last summer. Afterward he stated with conviction: "It is good to be with the children, but here I feel at home. Here I can take care of myself and here is my home." Another, a faithful old sister, an ex-colporteur, often used to say that she never dreamed she would be so comfortable and free from worry in her old age.

But the best and most encouraging testimony reached me the other day. A brother who for many years lived alone in his own cottage came to us in the autumn of 1952 and was given a double room. He found it very hard to settle down. All through the winter he longed for his native place and his own little cottage. When spring came he was allowed to go back to his home for a couple of months. While there he was compelled to prepare his own meals, keep his place clean, and do his own shopping. He began to realize how well off he had been at the Old People's Home and he longed to go back. One of our neighbours some time ago asked him how he liked being back again. "Oh, yes," he said, "I'll tell you, I'm getting on fine here. I get my meals, I have a nice room which is kept clean and tidy, I get my clothes washed and mended and they give me a bath each week. And all this for 120 kroner a month. When I was in my own cottage I could not make ends meet, but here I can even save some money. Can anyone want anything better than that?"

We feel grateful to God for His help and guidance in days gone by. The future we can leave in the strong hands of Him who leads and guides everything according to His divine wisdom.

*Some of the old
folk who live at
"Ekebyholm."*





The country rest home for our old folk in Holland.

“VREDENOORD” Dutch Old People’s Home

By F. J. Voorthuis

FOR MANY long years we have looked forward to the time when we could own a quiet, restful place where our aged members could enjoy proper comfort and relaxation in their declining years. Many of our old members have been living in the Old People’s Homes controlled by the Government and it has been very difficult for them to keep Sabbath as they would like and to enjoy clean, wholesome food.

Last year we were very happy to have our wishes come true for we were able to purchase in the centre of the Netherlands a fine country house as a home for our old people. “Vredenoord” as our Home is called, is situated in the neighbourhood of our college, “Zandbergen.”

At present twenty-five guests are living in the Home. We are adding a new wing to the building which we expect to be ready for occupation by the first of July. About twenty-three more guests will be accommodated in this new section.

Without any advertizing we have up to March 5th received seventy-two urgent applications for accommodation in our Home. It will take a little of Solomon’s wisdom to allocate the various rooms to the satisfaction of all. We could easily start another Old People’s Home were the finances available.

Our prayer is that “Vredenoord” may indeed be a haven of rest and peace in a troubled world for our dear believers who have reached the twilight hour of their lives, and that God will richly bless the Home by His gracious presence.

Blazing the Trail Along the Norwegian Coast

(Continued from page 4.)

six groups of islands only fifteen of which are inhabited. They are located far out in the Atlantic Ocean. On these islands we called on 120 places and made 109 sales. Solvær and Husøy have the most houses on them, but Sanna is the most interesting of them all—not because of its situation far out in the ocean or because of its mighty mountain tops, interesting grottos and natural bridges, but because we met two young Adventists there. One of them, a young girl, had just been baptized, and she was at that time at her parents’ home on vacation. We met many people on these islands who were interested in the Advent message, and who wanted to know if an Adventist minister would not soon come

and conduct some meetings for them. I think it would be a good plan for two strong young men to come here and conduct an effort, for there are plenty of motor boats which could be used to travel between the islands.

Solvær consists of thirty-three inhabited islands. We visited 115 homes and made 102 sales. I sold the book *Without Fear* to a woman who lived alone on a little island. Some days later I met her at another place. She had to row for an hour and then walk half an hour to reach the nearest store and post-office. I asked her what she thought of the book I had sold her the previous day. She looked at me and whispered: “I read your book until two o’clock last night.” This short answer and her smiling face told more than many words of praise.

The distance we travelled while visiting was so great that a passenger liner would have taken two hours to cover the distance. And the distance from these islands to the city of Trondheim is so far that a steamer takes fifteen hours to make the voyage. This gives you a little idea of the tremendous distances along the Norwegian coast and of how many, many souls there are who are waiting for the Advent message in these places.

The old Norwegian poet and minister, Peter Dass, who lived on these islands during the seventeenth century said (the following is a loose translation):

“North Norway is situated like this:
The law of God must be preached among islands and holms—in spite of the danger and hardship.
Often it happens that the minister’s mouth is closed in a grave in the deep blue sea.
And he must shut his eyes among the fish.
But his work must be done with joy.
It is the comfort of our conscience that one is in the Lord’s work.
If God calls us on the ocean
We ought not like Jonah to change our course,
But travel until the Lord puts an end to our voyage and work.”

If this minister of old thought it necessary to preach the law of God on these islands along the coast of Norway, and was willing to risk his life in this task, Seventh-day Adventists can surely do no less.

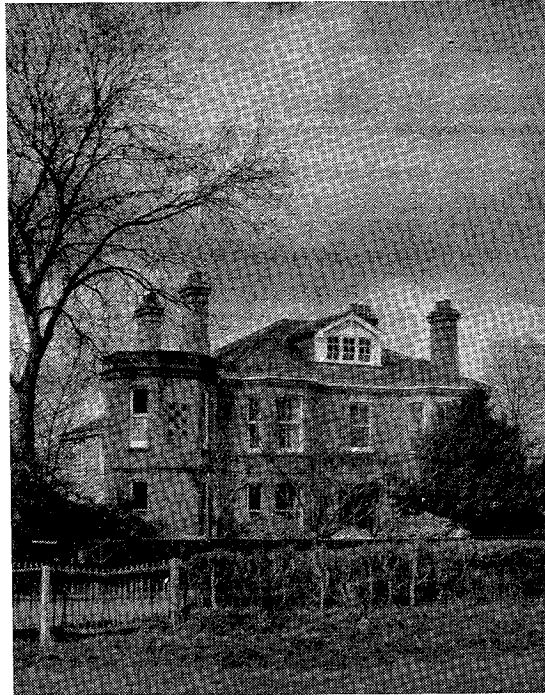
May God bless the seed which has been sown, and may many precious souls be found as a result of this work on the great day when our Lord comes.

"THE DELL"

British Old People's Home

By E. R. Warland

*"The Dell" is located quite near
the lovely Norfolk Broads.*



FOR MANY years there has been a growing need for and a desire to establish a Rest Home for some of our aged members. Such a project at last became possible through the generous offer of a lay brother and the provision of initial funds by the British Union Committee. "The Dell" Rest Home was formally opened on Sunday, September 6, 1953, with six guests, a good company of visitors from various churches being present on this happy occasion. The venture received the good support of a number of members and friends whose gifts until the end of the year totalled over £400.

Under the capable care of Miss W. O. Bradley, the matron, and in spite of certain handicaps consistent with the establishment of such an institution, the Home has enjoyed a steadily increasing patronage. The local authorities have been most co-operative in making generous allowances to assist in covering the expense of those unable to pay the full charge. The benefit of such help is only partially reflected in the financial statement for 1953, but will be more evident in the present year. For this welcome relief to the demands upon our own funds we are grateful to the Lord and accept it as a token of His approval upon the establishment of the Rest Home.

Twelve places in this small home are now filled, there being eight aged sisters and four brethren in residence. Three others have already made arrangements

to come so that the Home will then be full. That they are most happy at the Home is evidenced by the following few extracts from many appreciative letters they have written.

A sister says: "I thought you would like to know how happy I have been since I came to this Home and what a beautiful house it is; it far exceeds anything I had imagined it might be."

The eldest gentleman in residence says: "I cannot express in words my appreciation of the kindness shown and meted out to me and not only to me but to us all. The matron has affectionately considered my age and infirmity. My own daughter could not have paid me better attention. Since coming here I have wonderfully improved in health, am stronger and am feeling younger."

Another brother expresses his appreciation in these words: "Since I have been here I have richly enjoyed the good fellowship which exists. As I see things, we are having a touch of heaven here below."

Church Dedication at Horsens

(Continued from back page.)

who is the principal of our college at Vejlebjerg dedicated the church by prayer to the glory of our Lord and Saviour.

Pastor Muderspach, of Holbæk, who

thirty years ago organized the church in Horsens, recalled experiences from that time. He expressed the great pleasure it was to him that the church had increased so much that today it was able to dedicate its own church building. "But we know," he emphasized, "that it is living stones which create the church and bring happiness. However, under these improved conditions it will be easier to carry out church work."

Pastor Kristensen, of Aarhus, said that the Seventh-day Adventist message came to Denmark seventy-five years ago, and today we have seventy churches in Denmark. Pastor Kristensen gave an account of how it had become possible to build the church at Horsens. In this connection he thanked the Horsens Town Council for its good-will gift of the plot of land on which the church has now been built. He also thanked the building committee and the architect for the tastefully decorated and yet most suitable church building which they had erected. Thanks were also given to the contractors for the fine work and the good understanding with which everything had been done. The seating capacity of the church room itself is 150; a small hall holds seventy people, and there is also a small modern flat.

Pastor Kristensen expressed the wish that the church at the end of 1954 would be free of debt. He thanked everybody for their great benevolence, and in conclusion stated that the church is not only open to Adventists but for all the citizens in Horsens.

Several speeches were made, including one by the architect, Mr. Fritz Madsen, who thanked those responsible for giving him the opportunity to erect the church, and also the contractors for their excellent co-operation.

The mayor of Horsens, Mr. R. Holm, brought the congratulations of the city and said that the citizens had found pleasure in seeing how the contractors had been able to build this church in a way that fitted so beautifully into the surroundings.

On behalf of the contractors, Mr. Chr. Nielsen thanked those responsible for giving his firm the contract, and congratulated the Adventists on their new building.

The pastor of the church, Henning Jacobsen, read telegrams which had been sent from other churches.

When the benediction had been offered by Pastor Jacobsen, the dedication service and another happy and holy Sabbath day came to an end. The next day the new church was open for its Sunday school.

Exterior of the lovely new church at Horsens, Denmark.



Church Dedication at Horsens, Denmark

By T. Kristensen

"A BEAUTIFUL and Festive Dedication of the Adventist Church"; "300 Dedicated the Adventist Church"; "A Little Society Completed a Great Task"; "A Beautiful Ceremony in the Pretty Little Church."

The above were the headlines that appeared in the newspapers in Horsens on Sabbath, March 20, 1954, when the dedication of the Adventist church took place. Our church in Horsens has a good standing and a friendly contact with the newspapers, and the reporters wrote several articles about the dedication. I therefore take pleasure in quoting the following from the press:

"By a beautiful and solemn ceremony the members of the Adventist church in Horsens dedicated their new church on

Saturday afternoon. The church, which is built at the Bygholm brook, was filled to capacity and many had to stand. In the course of the afternoon, admiration was expressed from many sides, not only for the way the architect and the contractors have managed to solve the problem of building the church in its present fine surroundings, but also because of the satisfaction that the Adventist church in Horsens—which hitherto has had to move from one rented locality to another—now has in its own church building. The ground for the church was presented by the city of Horsens."

The dedication service was commenced with a hymn and a prayer. The president of the Seventh-day Adventists in Western

Denmark, Pastor Thorvald Kristensen, extended a hearty welcome to everyone present, and gave a special welcome to the architect, Mr. Fritz Madsen of Viborg; to the mayor, Mr. Robert Holm; the vice-mayor, Mr. Vald; Bertelsen, the contractors; and to Pastors A. Lohne of Oslo; and Pastor G. Lindsay of London, together with three former pastors of the church; L. Muderspach, G. E. Westman, and Kaj Pedersen.

The president of the West Nordic Union of Seventh-day Adventists, Pastor Lohne, gave the dedicatory sermon. He said that the purpose of the church was to gather the children of God for prayer and communion with our heavenly Father. As the church was dedicated it was with the assurance that the Lord would listen to the prayers which would ascend from this place. There is nothing, the pastor continued, that can draw men so near to God as prayer. Loneliness results in worry, but those who have learned to talk with their heavenly Father need not be left alone.

In his closing remarks, Pastor Lohne said that he hoped this new church would be a place where people could meditate upon the love of God and the things which give meaning to life, and that His presence would be felt by all who entered its doors.

Promises from the Scriptures were read by four ministers, and Pastor A. Varmer, *(Continued on page 7.)*

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Interior of the new Horsens church looking toward the rostrum.