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WINTER COUNCIL SPECIAL—PART 2



Seventh Winter Council

HELD AT STANBOROUGH PARK, WATFORD, HERTS.

NOVEMBER 27 to DECEMBER 4, 1956

ABOUT OUR FATHER'S BUSINESS

BEFORE Jesus ascended to His Father He gave a special and definite work for His followers to do. He made it known to the eleven disciples in the Mount, saying: "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Marginal reading.)

Therefore, as professed believers in Christ, everything that we do should centre in the one purpose, that of advancing His kingdom on earth, and preparing a people for an eternal home with their Lord. To accomplish this great and noble work we must, like Jesus when He was here upon earth, be constantly about our Father's business.

The work of God has always been carried on in love, and with a certain measure of sacrifice by His followers. There is also a great reward in store for those who have carried on the work in obedience to the charge given.

Today, we as Seventh-day Adventists, face the greatest task ever. The time has nearly run out. There is such an immense amount of work yet to do and hindrances and obstacles mount up in many places. It seems that we are almost up against the last earthly conflicts. The situation in the Middle East has a sobering, warning message for all the world, and we should understand the seriousness of the conflict even better than do the statesmen and diplomats of the nations. We have the sure word of prophecy to lighten the way ahead. We need not be ignorant concerning the near future.

It is part of the business at our annual Winter Councils to consider our finances: assets and liabilities, income and expenditures. It is right and proper to do this, for finances are a very necessary part of our missionary programme. The Lord Himself has thus ordained it. He instituted the tithing system for His children in order to teach them their proper relationship to the earthly goods that they handle. They are to recognize that they are but stewards, administering God's bounty. They are to support the church of God and the ministry by the funds that God has reserved to Himself. They are also to bring free-will offerings of their own to the Lord's treasury. Their faithfulness in handling the lesser values—the material things—will reflect their faithfulness in the eternal values, their relationship to God and to the unwarned millions in the world for which they are responsible to bring this last warning message.

TITHES

The greatest material revenue of the denomination is the tithe. During 1955 \$ 1,192,011.13 was received in tithes in the Northern European Division. This is an increase of \$ 84,709.38 over 1954. It is the largest annual increase that we have ever recorded. When we consider that the tithe from the Adventists around the world, when computed in dollars, amounted to \$ 41,195,925.29 for 1955, we see what a tremendous sacred revenue accrues to this church.

The very heavy increases in tithe in the various unions, is no doubt partly due to conference-wide tithe promotion. It is also largely due to the rising cost of living which is reflected in wage increases everywhere.

But we have not yet reached the goal: "Every Church Member a Faithful Steward." We must consider it a part of our pastoral duties in preparing a people to meet God, to teach our membership the sacred responsibility of rendering a full tithe to the Lord. In the Spirit of prophecy we have the following counsel: "When all are faithful in giving back to God His own in tithes and offerings, the way will be opened for the world to hear the message for this time." —*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, page 450.

Nineteen-fifty-six started out even better than 1955. When we study the statement of comparative figures given for the first nine months of 1955 and 1956, we find that the increase is \$ 63,829.14; but it would have been very much larger if we had used the same rate of exchange in 1956 as in 1955 in all parts of the Division. The total tithe increase for nine months for the whole Division would then have been \$ 93,087.53. We have reason to thank God for this added revenue for this year so far. I should also point out that the new exchange rate also affects the Swedish Union to some extent, because the tithe in the Finland Swedish Conference is calculated in Finnish marks.

MISSION OFFERINGS

It is also gratifying indeed to observe that the percentage increase in mission offerings for the year 1955 compares very favourably with the percentage increase in tithe in the conferences.

It is worthy of our notice that the combined Sabbath school offerings for the year 1955 show an increase of 6.5 per cent over 1954. This is 1.5 per cent better than the increase in 1954. The Annual and Week of Sacrifice offering

is still not quite up to what it ought to be in some parts of the Division. This offering should be promoted in a stronger way locally.

The mission offerings for 1956 show up quite well. The Ingathering campaign is not yet finished, but all the fields participating will not only reach their goals, but go beyond. The West African Union is right now in the midst of its campaign. It was indeed interesting to attend the biennial constituency meeting in the Gold Coast last year and hear the excellent reports that the district leaders rendered in regard to the Ingathering campaign in their fields, and their attainments. They are by no means lagging behind in this lively enterprise.

THE BALANCE SHEET

From the Balance Sheet and the Auditor's Statement we observe that the financial situation of the Division organization is good. The working capital is provided for in harmony with General Conference requirements. Since the war our conferences in Finland have not been able to send out the mission offerings owing to exchange regulations. We are glad that the Bank of Finland has now granted permission to transfer sufficient funds to cover salaries and expenses for missionaries called from Finland. The first £1,000 has just arrived. We appreciate so much the efforts of our brethren in Finland to make these transfers possible.

INDEBTEDNESS

Before closing this report we want to briefly refer to the total indebtedness of the various organizations in the Northern European Division field. It is gratifying to know that the combined assets in conferences and institutions in the Division, total \$ 11,680,692.98, but the fact that the total liabilities in these organizations amount to approximately \$ 3,500,000 is "a fly in the ointment." It is true that some of these liabilities are trust funds and deposits held in cash; but still there is too much borrowed capital that must be paid off, and this matter must receive the due attention of the union and local leadership. We must take a more serious view of indebtedness, and with united effort roll off this reproach upon the cause.

We appreciate the splendid co-operation that exists between all the organizations, from the local church and up. We thank the rank and file of our membership for their constant willingness to serve as best they can, in the various campaigns and endeavours of the church. We also thank the General Conference for their interest in the many problems

that we have to cope with in this part of the Lord's vineyard that has been entrusted to us. And last, but not least, we thank our heavenly Father and our Lord and Saviour for the enabling grace and power that has been granted to us from above, to do a work that heavenly angels would have been pleased to do.

G. A. LINDSAY.

MISSION APPOINTEES

SINCE the General Conference Session in May, 1954, forty-three mission appointees have left the home bases of this Division for service overseas: Britain 25, Denmark 5, Finland 4, Netherlands 2, Norway 6, Sweden 1.

	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Date of Dept.</i>
1954			
Acton-Hubbard, Mr. & Mrs. L.	England	West Africa	July
Olsen, Mr. & Mrs. Erling	Norway	Uganda	July
Handysides, Pastor & Mrs. D. J. and two children	England	South Africa	September
Holder, Miss Amy	England	West Africa	September
1955			
Wolfe, Mr. & Mrs. J.	Scotland	West Africa	January
Muderspach, Mr. & Mrs. J. and two children	Denmark	West Africa	January
Logan, Mr. & Mrs. E. and daughter	Scotland	Rhodesia	July
Beardsell, Mr. D.	England	East Africa	July
Brinkman, Pastor & Mrs. J. and son	Netherlands	Inter-America	July
Farrell, Mr. & Mrs. J. and son	Scotland	West Africa	August
Fordham, Mr. & Mrs. G. A. and two children	England	West Africa	August
Nielsen, Mr. & Mrs. C. Zadok and two children	Denmark	Ethiopia	October
Lowe, Dr. P. A.	England	West Africa	November
Saarinen, Mr. & Mrs. E. E. and child	Finland	Ethiopia	November
Leigh, Miss Barbara	England	West Africa	December
1956			
Harju, Mr. & Mrs. L. and two children	Finland	West Africa	March
Smart, Pastor & Mrs. R. M. A. and daughter	Scotland	Ethiopia	May
Christensen, Miss Else Schantz	Denmark	Ethiopia	August
Dunton, Mr. & Mrs. H.	England	West Africa	August
Jackson, Dr. & Mrs. G. A. and son	England	Ethiopia	August
Sanders, Miss Margaret	England	West Africa	September
Barfoot, Mr. & Mrs. F. C. and daughter	England	West Africa	September
Jenkinson, Miss Betty	England	West Africa	September
Klaussen, Mr. & Mrs. M. O. and two children	Norway	Rhodesia	October
Opsahl, Pastor & Mrs. F. H. and two children	Norway	Ethiopia	October

GLAD TIDINGS FROM THE BATTLE FRONT

ETHIOPIAN UNION MISSION

IN Psalm 118:23, 24 we read: "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

What has happened in Ethiopia in the past few months is really wonderful. The Lord has, in a quiet but most decided way, worked on the hearts of the people and a true revival has begun.

In the southern and south-western provinces we have the names of about 1,200 persons who want to join the church. In the western provinces there are at least 600 who know something of our faith and have expressed their desire to join the church. In Tigre, a northern province, we have recently heard of a new awakening.

In order to take care of these interests, we have sent two evangelists to the southern Sidamo Province, and two evangelists with their three helpers to the Wolamo Province. Besides these, three teachers have been sent to open and run a school in Wolamo. To the Kambata district we have sent six evangelists. We have also sent one Ethiopian ordained minister to assist the evangelists in their work. We have borrowed the best evangelist from Eritrea for two and a half months to visit and instruct in the Kambata district. When the Training School finished its school year in October, we sent the best of the graduates, who speak the Wolamo language, to work in Wolamo.

E. Palm, superintendent of the southern district, is in charge of organizing and leading the forces. We have, in fact, mustered all the workers we possibly can to take care of the God-given

interests. In the Wolamo district on one Sabbath, we baptized 139 people.

For years we have worked, prayed, and hoped for a large ingathering of souls, and today we can use the words of Jesus: "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

One of our workers, Brother Alula, was recently sent to a town in the northern province of Tigre where there was an interest, and from where we had received letters. We had sent them the Voice of Prophecy lessons which have done a marvellous work. One man came the 700 kilometres from his town in Tigre to Addis Ababa to be baptized. After his baptism he begged me to send an evangelist to his people, as there were many who, as a result of their study of the Voice of Prophecy lessons and the Bible, had come to the conclusion that the Adventist mission had the truth. Brother Alula was sent the second time and stayed with the people for four weeks. He has just returned and reports that twenty persons are ready for baptism.

Just before leaving for the Winter Council, I received the following reports:

Brother Bjaanes, the superintendent of the Western province of Wallega reports that he has ninety-five souls ready for baptism.

Brother Negari, in the Wolamo district, reports that he has eighty-five souls ready for baptism.

The Sidamo and Kambata districts have not been able to report yet as the rainy season is just over.

How true our Saviour's words are when He said, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few."

Our present membership is 1,668 and we expect a great harvest of souls in the near future. In our nine schools we have about 1,000 students from whom we hope will come a good group of faithful and God-fearing workers who will help to finish the work.



Our four hospitals which treat approximately 97,000 patients per year, exert a good influence and break down prejudice against us.

Our prayers are that the Lord will hold back the winds of strife a little longer, that we may be able to reach the many thousands of Ethiopians who are stretching out their hands to God as is mentioned in Psalm 68:31.

S. A. BROBERG.

WEST AFRICAN UNION MISSION

THIS past year has seen many changes in West Africa. With the coming of independence in the Gold Coast on March 6, 1957, we felt that we must push forward with the spreading of the Gospel. We have done our best to keep abreast of this growing trend toward independence, and are putting Africans into the local mission appointments just as fast as we have them trained sufficiently to shoulder the responsibility. Our opportunities in West Africa today are unlimited and this great field is white to harvest. Our workers and members, on the whole, are of good courage, in spite of the many difficulties.

Some time ago the Rev. Stephen Neill in a report to the International Missionary Society following a visit to Africa said:

"With a fairly wide knowledge of the church in the world, I would affirm with some confidence that there is no area in the world in which the church is faced with so unexampled an opportunity

as in tropical Africa, and none in which the resources of the churches may at this moment be more advantageously deployed."

Many of the mission bodies who until recently, restricted their activities to the more coastal areas, are now waking up to the opportunities which there are in the more northern territories. We have for some years had work in these districts, but we must now make an all-out effort to evangelize more rapidly before we are overtaken.

CHURCH BUILDINGS: During the past six years we find that seventy-seven new churches have been built and a number are in process of erection. This year a fine new church has been erected on our mission compound at Ibadan, Nigeria, and this was dedicated by C. D. Henri on October 25th. The members of the Ibadan church, like so many others round the field, have held their meetings in one of the school rooms which was far too small to house them all each Sabbath. Many had to sit outside on the steps and hear as much of the sermon as they were able. We certainly thank the Lord for this further provision for our members to worship in comfort.

At the beginning of the year H. J. Welch was appointed Education and MV secretary and he has done a fine job in this office. Together with M. E. Lind he held an MV Secretaries' Council in Ibadan for the Nigerian and Gold Coast Missions. At this council plans were laid to push forward with the MV work in a strong way. A large Youth Camp was also held in the Gold Coast which, it is hoped, will be the first of many of its kind. Pastor Lind also conducted youth rallies as he visited the various missions. We thank him for the inspiration which he brought to the young people of West Africa.

EDUCATION: In the educational field, too, great progress has been made. This year we have sent overseas for training, five of our leading teachers and ministers. We now have a total of seven students studying at Newbold College, two at Reading Polytechnic School and one at the Howard University in America, besides three who are attending universities in West Africa. There are also a number of students taking university

studies at their own expense. We are expecting great things from these young men when they return to West Africa.

Our High School in East Nigeria has now received full recognition from the West African Examinations Council. This recognition enables the students to sit for the General Certificate of Education in our own school. Our Secondary School at Bekwai in the Gold Coast is also working toward gaining this recognition. During this past year we have also added a new science block to both these schools. These will enable our students to take science as part of their examination. This

Division Membership

September 30, 1956*

British Union	8,008
Ethiopian Union Mission	1,668
Finland Union	4,694
Greenland Mission	3
Iceland Conference	367
Netherland Union	2,406
Polish Union	3,150
Swedish Union	3,928
West African Union Mission	17,490
West Nordic Union	8,833
TOTAL	50,547

means a lot today in West Africa where the peoples are becoming so scientifically minded.

PUBLISHING: Early in the year we bade farewell to D. L. Chappell who had been with us for five years. His zeal for the publishing work has inspired many of the colporteur force to redouble their efforts in spreading the printed page. We recently welcomed our new Union Publishing secretary, F. C. Barfoot, who was previously working with the London colporteurs. In spite of this change-over, the total book deliveries are up by over £3,000 compared with the same period last year.

Our Home Missionary Department has also made good progress under the able leadership of E. Keslake. Early in the year we were privileged to have a two-week visit from T. L. Oswald from the General Conference. During his visit institutes were held in the Gold Coast and there has been a marked increase in activities since that time.

The Voice of Prophecy, under the direction of R. W. Coon, reports that as they have been more selective in the acceptance of students, there is an increase of the total graduates by a little more than 2,500 over last year. This indicates that a higher class of student is now enrolling and completing the courses than previously.

EVANGELISM: During August in the Gold Coast, forty-three efforts were conducted by laymen, ministers, and teachers and altogether they report an average attendance of 1,420 and a total number of converts of 533. Up in Bo, Sierra Leone, an evangelistic institute was held with over fifty pastors, evangelists, and teachers present.

From North Nigeria J. J. Hyde reports that they have held their largest baptism ever and that there is a great need for expansion in that field. They badly need a school for training evangelists in a simple course using their own Hausa language. Very few have any education to speak of.

The pagan areas of North Nigeria are just crying out for the Gospel message. We want to open up a station in the Kaduna area but at present no family can be spared. We could use another dozen families if only there were the means to support them. Mohammedanism is spreading rapidly up in the north and we must move quickly or it will be too late to enter this vast territory.

Our total baptisms for the past year amount to 1,359. The Gold Coast reports 580, East Nigeria over 300, and in the Ivory Coast, where our work is only in its infancy, we have a report of 20 so far this year. Up at the extreme end of our field in Sierra Leone, they report a total of 125. We thank God for these precious souls won for His kingdom.

Although we have had many problems yet we have reason to believe that God has been by our side directing the work. The challenge of the unfinished task among fifty million people in a field which is ripe to harvest weighs heavily upon our hearts. We trust that you will remember West Africa constantly in your prayers that God will help us step into a few of the many open doors which may be closed tomorrow.

JESSE GIBSON.

FINLAND UNION

IN THE Finland Union, 224 souls have been won during the first three quarters of the current year. The net increase in membership has been 102 as compared with 56 last year and the membership now stands at 4,694.

The increase in tithe is over 1½ million Fmk., and offerings, ½ million Fmk.

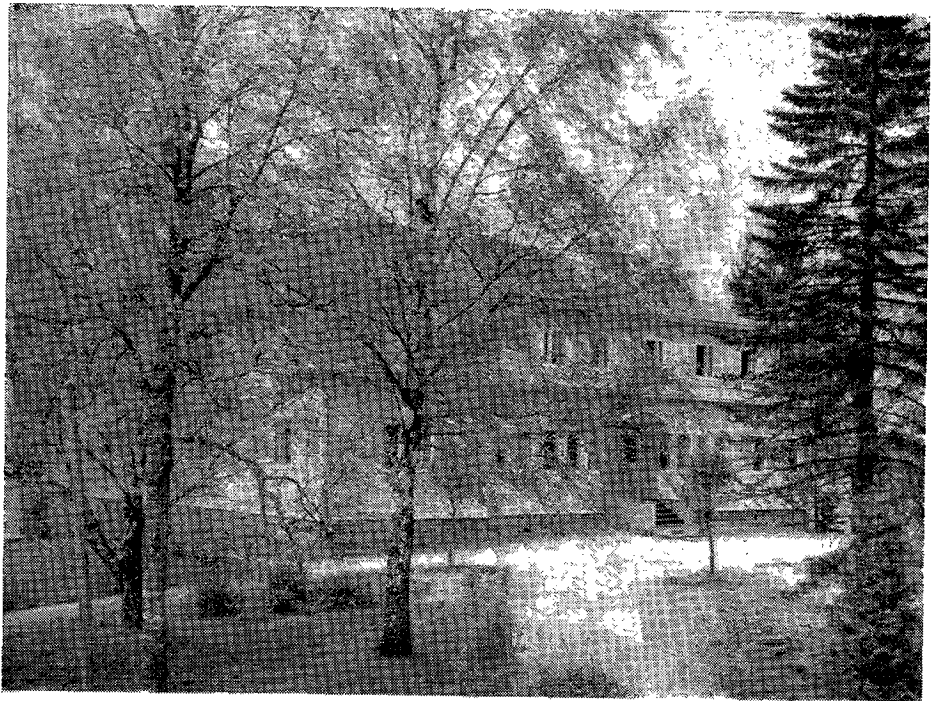
The results in the Ingathering are better than ever, surpassing the amount of 5 million Fmk.

Up to October 31st, our faithful literature evangelists and members have distributed literature to the value of over 62 million Fmk. This is about 15 million Fmk. more than during the same period last year. Finland has a small population. The time has come when our literature evangelists especially in the country, go to most Finnish homes every year. This brings new problems to the publishing house. We must get a good variety of interesting books, books that proclaim the straightforward message, spiritual revival and health evangelism. We are happy that such books as *The Ministry of Healing*, and *The Desire of Ages* have been unexpectedly popular as selling books. Souls are won through the literature work. We are in urgent need of a printing plant of our own in Finland.

The enrolment of students at our mission school is 130, and we are expecting some good workers from among them. One proof of the Finnish young people's desire to increase their knowledge, is the considerable number of Finnish students at Newbold during the past years. The literature evangelism has been the gateway to school and college.

The youth camp, despite its inadequacy, has been a rich blessing. It has been a housing place for about 500 children, juniors and seniors, during the summer months. Many have here taken their stand and joined the church through baptism. Last summer we received valuable help and much good advice from Pastors L. A. Skinner and V. N. Olsen, and we are thankful for their visit.

The young Finland Union has two special reasons for joy. We now have our own comfortable Old People's Home



The new Finnish Old People's Home.

where we have more than thirty residents. The home is free from debt and its operation is not a burden to the conference. Our interest in the old people has aroused great appreciation in the eyes of the world and thus directly speeds the progress of the Advent message in our country.

Another cause for joy is the new church in Helsinki. Years ago we bought a centrally located plot that cost 7 million Fmk. On this ground a big building company undertook to erect an eight-storey building, and as compensation for us, to build a church in it with a seating capacity of 350 and a smaller hall and a room.

In addition to this, we received apartments for a few million marks so that in all, we have for the plot received property for at least 20 million Fmk. A difficult church problem has thus been solved in a wonderful way. From the same building we have also acquired apartments for the union office and staff members, and this is a great concession for the obtaining of rented apartments in the city is almost impossible.

The dedication of the church will be on December 30th and soon after that evangelistic efforts will be begun.

Just recently we have started to publish

a magazine for the blind. The name of the magazine, *Torch*, symbolizes the light that our message brings even to the lives of the physically blind.

We are very glad that we are now able to send money out of the country again, especially now that Finland has her own workers in mission lands. Our desire in Finland is once again to take part in the finishing of the work in other lands with ever increasing efforts so that we, too, may help give the third angel's message to all peoples.

O. PELTONEN.

ICELAND

I BRING you greetings from our six conference workers and five teachers, 367 churchmembers and our ninety-five pupils who are attending our three schools.

We have no complaint to make concerning the small area of our field, for it is two and a half times the size of Denmark! There are, however, only 160,000 inhabitants. In view of the fact that by comparison our workers are so few, we sense a great responsibility. We have a keen desire above all things, to reach the 160,000 souls scattered all over this island.

Three phases of our work in Iceland have had better success this year than ever before.

HARVEST INGATHERING: Never in our history have we reached such a high goal in the Ingathering campaign as this year. We have reached 146,000 kr. We feel sure that we shall reach 150,000 before the end of the year. Already we have pledged ourselves to collect 160,000 kr. next year, which means 1kr. from each individual in the country. The public are getting more and more friendly toward our work and to Ingathering. We try to make the most of this opportunity, and incorporate as much as possible of the message into the Ingathering magazine which is left with every person who contributes.

THE MISSION SCHOOL: This school has had a higher enrolment this year than ever before. We have forty-one students and almost as many applications had to be turned down because of lack of space. When we were building the school and furnishing it with equipment in the year 1950, we thought our faith was great to count on an enrolment of forty students. Now, however, we need more space and more equipment.

Through the school we have made the acquaintance of some influential

people of the country. At present one of the best known Lutheran ministers—a former missionary in China, has enrolled his daughter in our school. A week ago when he came to visit his daughter, he offered a prayer at our evening worship, and showed himself very friendly in every way. Another Lutheran minister attended almost all of our meetings at our last Conference Session in Reykjavik.

During three months of the summer, our school is converted into a sanitarium. This has proved to be of great financial help to the operation of the school. It would seem that if we had more rooms for guests in the summer and more rooms for students, that the day would not be far ahead when the school would be a self-supporting institution. It has become a fixed custom that our guests should attend the Sabbath services. They enjoy them, and give generous offerings.

THE WELFARE WORK: This phase of our work has made better progress this year than ever before. Last winter the Dorcas sisters collected £1,000 among the business firms in Reykjavik, and in about one hour they sold wares to the value of £200 at their annual sale. Our welfare work is known and respected all over the city.

The press has shown itself very favour-

able toward our work. Again and again articles have appeared about our school work, the summer sanitarium, and the welfare work. Last summer a well-known business man from Reykjavik who was a guest at the summer sanitarium, expressed his belief that we would increase our membership to a thousand members within the near future. We all long and pray that that day will soon be here, and believe that it is not too far ahead.

J. GUDMUNDSSON.

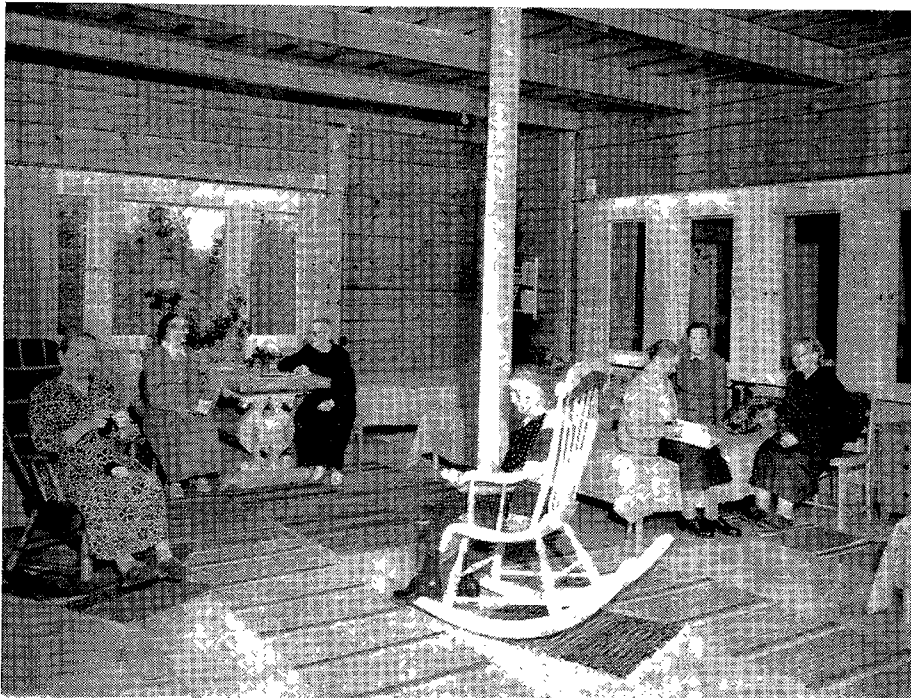
SWEDISH UNION CONFERENCE

THIS is the first time the Swedish Union as such has rendered a report. For all good experiences we want to praise God and glorify His high and holy name.

EVANGELISM: The membership of the union has increased a little during the first three quarters of 1956. There have been added to the church ninety-six souls and the membership now stands at 3,928. It would seem that the serious events in the world today have created a deeper spiritual interest among many people. In several places pastors have reported more attending the meetings. One brother had 600 to 800 people at his first meetings which, under present conditions, must be considered very good. We hope and pray that the evangelistic work which has now begun, will be blessed and give good results.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS: Tithes and offerings show an increase over the past nine months. There is a 3 per cent gain in tithes, 7½ per cent in mission offerings, and 66 per cent in other offerings for foreign missions. We are thankful to God that He prospers His people and makes them willing to support the cause so loyally. The interest in Ingathering is also increasing. We especially would mention those in our Old People's Home who collected the grand sum of Skr. 3,600 of which Skr. 700 was collected by one individual. Never before has the goal been reached so rapidly. By October 31st, the union total amounted to Skr. 232,089.

OUR SCHOOL: This year our Junior College at Ekebyholm has had 122



Our dear Finnish sisters enjoying the comforts of their new home.

students, five more than the previous year. Last school year, all the students from the graduating class passed their examinations. Some of the graduates took part in a programme. The school inspector remarked about this programme: "I feel humble when I listen to the frankness of these students and hear the experiences they have related in their speeches. This is unusual among students in other schools. It means that Ekebyholm gives its students something very valuable to their inner lives in addition to book-learning." He closed with the words: "I feel proud and grateful to be the inspector of this school." This year five students are attending the seminary classes. Their purpose after graduating is to take part in soul-winning work. As we need men and women so badly who are willing to work for God, we are glad for these students.

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL: We believe that the Bible Correspondence School is a very worth-while contribution to field evangelism. Of the new members, twenty-five were students of this course.

LITERATURE WORK: The retail sale of literature, published by the Swedish Publishing House, shows a good increase. For the year ending September 30, 1956, literature was sold for Skr. 729,201 as compared with Skr. 566,685 in the previous year. The increase since the organization of the Swedish Union is thus Skr. 162,516 or 29 per cent. The sales of colporteur books was Skr. 374,965 as compared with Skr. 241,587 for the previous year, an increase of 55 per cent. Sales of the *Signs of the Times* show an increase of about 50 per cent. The sale of our health paper, *Sundhetsbladet*, was about the same as in 1955. During the last year, the first edition of the mission book, *Miracles in Borneo*, of 10,000 copies, was disposed of as well as 17,636 copies of the children's book *Solglitter*.

PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT: Two years have passed since the printing plant was dedicated, and it is a pleasure to report that the plant has now taken over all the printing of the publishing work in our field. It began with our church paper, *Missionaren*, and the young people's paper, *Ungdomens Budbarare*, and from November 1, 1955, even our Swedish

Signs of the Times, as well as the Sabbath school lessons. Every month our press puts out as a part of the great production programme, 21,000 copies of the health magazine, 9,000 copies of the Swedish *Signs of the Times*, one special spring issue of 20,000, and the midwinter number of 32,000. It also prints all stationery for administration purposes as well as the Bible Correspondence School material. This year, for the first time, 84,000 copies of our Ingathering magazine were printed, then besides all this regular work two books have been printed, the first edition of Ingrid Albiner's *Like Us in All* and the translation of the missionary book, *Miracles in Borneo*.

MEDICAL WORK: We believe that the medical work is of great value to the Advent movement. Through the work done in the past, our sanitariums have gained a very good reputation all over the country of Sweden. We are working out plans for the construction of the new building at Nyhyttan Sanitarium. This sanitarium has had good success during the past year both as regards number of patients and income. We look forward to the day when Nyhyttan will be an institution able to meet the conditions of an up-to-date institution. But first of all we desire that it stand as a witness for God. In this connection we would mention the fine little institution of "Silverudden" in our Finland Swedish Conference. At the moment a new building is under construction. It will give us twenty more beds and a complete new treatment department which will be a great asset to the institution.

CHURCH BUILDINGS: This year we have dedicated two new churches in Sweden. In Wasa, Finland, a new church building is under construction. It will seat 285 and will be one of our best churches.

PRESS RELATIONS: The press have given us much publicity recently. Not only did the daily newspapers discover our existence but so did the periodicals. The large paper, *Se*, made a fine illustrated report of the Youth Congress. They used a picture of one of our Ethiopian girls on the front page. The paper, *Svenska Journalen*, has also published a good illustrated write-up which we supplied about Ekebyholm. During

the Youth Congress we contacted the broadcasting company and told them of the meetings in the King's Tennishall. They immediately invited us to tell about our work, over the air. Several months ago we were invited to make a half-hour broadcast on Adventists. This was unfortunately heard only on the ultra-short wave which has about one million listeners. The newspaper, *Stockholms Tidningen* printed a fine review of this programme. Another radio programme in which our young people take part will be broadcast on December 8th in an afternoon programme under the title, "With Youth Around the Country."

We feel the responsibility for God's work in the Swedish Union Conference and what it means to be witnesses for the truth today. By the grace of God we are seeking to measure up to God's requirements. In this serious time we want to continue preaching and teaching the message to all people, making them ready for the coming of our Lord and Saviour.

CARL GIDLUND.

WEST NORDIC UNION

DURING the first three quarters of 1956 we have won 318 souls. This figure is well above the average for the past few years. So even if we do not see the big masses joining our movement, we are glad for the steady growth of our membership.

MEMBERSHIP: In the West Nordic Union (Denmark and Norway) there are now 8,833 Seventh-day Adventists. Compared with the small population of 7½ million, the membership is comparatively large, but measured by distance, the church families are very scattered. The coastline of Norway is more than 2,000 miles in extent; and the Faroe Islands of Denmark, far out in the Atlantic, are also within our field. It is an expensive task to care for the work under these circumstances. Our departmental secretaries, Paul Frivold and Børge Olsen, often spend many weeks at a time visiting the field.

NEW JUNIOR COLLEGE: The biggest event I can report is that the building of a new junior college in Norway is

well under way. Soon after the property was acquired, the building plans were ready. The greatest obstacle was the permission to build. The authorities gave us no hope. They said other schools had waited several years and we would have to wait our turn. But God intervened. To the great astonishment of many, building permission was given, and now the work is in full swing. The new property is beautifully situated forty miles from the capital on the shores of an inland lake. From the site the school commands a wonderful view across the lake with hills and snowcapped mountains beyond. This year the land yielded a good harvest. Besides that, fine vegetables and fruit were grown. One thousand fruit trees have already been planted and seem to be thriving well. The manager of the farm also takes care of 800 hens.

It is with great joy we learn that part of the Thirteenth Sabbath overflow for the fourth quarter of 1957 will go to this grand project. We are doing all we can to raise the needed money, but this tremendous task cannot be accomplished without outside help.

EDUCATION: The Vejle fjord College in Denmark is filled to capacity and overflowing. One hundred and thirty-seven students crowd the classrooms and every other available space; seventy-nine of the students are from Denmark, five from the Faroe Islands, fifty-two from Norway, and one from Iceland. The fine amount of Kr. 21,000 was collected in the Ingathering Campaign.

About 400 students are enrolled in our sixteen church schools. After complete renovation, the church school in Oslo has been recognized by the educational authorities. As a result the churchmembers in the capital will be free from paying taxes to the public school system.

CHURCH BUILDINGS: Two churches have moved into their new homes so far this year. They are the churches in Skien and Mo i Rana, both in the East Norway Conference. They are small churches with a seating capacity of about seventy-five each. One of these churches used to meet down in a cellar, and the other had no permanent place of worship. The most interesting part of this church building programme is that the churchmembers, led by O. J. Olsen, have done most of

the work themselves in their spare time.

The church building in Næstved, East Denmark, was re-dedicated in September, 1956, after complete restoration and enlargement. In the main hall there are now 100 seats, and a smaller hall for the juniors.

Another church building in West Denmark is going up at Nærum. The main hall will have a seating capacity of 300 and a smaller hall will seat 100. The churchmembers have done admirably, collecting money and materials and then giving of their spare time to help with the work.

The largest churchbuilding in the union is being erected at Skodsborg Sanitarium. It will seat 500 people in the main hall. This will be a grand and much needed addition to the sanitarium. We hope it will be ready for dedication in the spring of 1957.

The Drammen church in East Norway and the Harstad church in North Norway are ready to commence their church buildings. The Bergen church in West Norway has bought a site in the city, and they are working on the plans for a much needed church building.

HEALTH WORK: The four health institutions operated by the denomination in the union are all doing wonderful work for their thousands of patients. Skodsborg Sanitarium in Denmark had 4,231 patients during 1955. The northernmost outpost, the clinic in Tromsø, far beyond the Arctic circle in North Norway, has treated an average of eighty patients every day during 1955. Skogli Sanitarium, in East Norway, has had among its patients members of Parliament and other influential people.

The clinic in Oslo, Kurbadet, is enjoying a fine patronage among the people of Oslo. Nearly one hundred privately operated clinics in Denmark and Norway also exert a mighty influence for the message.

On December 17, 1956, a fine clinic was officially opened in the Faroe Islands. It is the only one of its kind there, and Brother and Sister Illum from Denmark will have a wonderful opportunity to contact the Faroe islanders through the health work.

HOME MISSIONARY WORK: Dorcas welfare work has taken a new upswing the past few months. In Denmark two

welfare federations have been organized and are operating very nicely. A few weeks ago the West Danish Federation met under the leadership of Sister Ida Øster. Splendid reports were presented by the different societies and practical and inspiring instruction was given.

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLS: These are filling their important place in the soul-winning programme of the church. More and more the ministers realize how a close co-operation can strengthen and complete their efforts in public campaigns.

MV WORK: The new permanent summer camp, "Sommerfryd," (Summer Joy) was dedicated in North Norway on August 1, 1956. On a beautiful peninsula stretching out into a fjord, fifteen brightly painted cabins are scattered among the trees. The kitchen has also been built but a meeting and dining hall have still to be put up. A tent has served so far. During 1956, 1,244 MVs have attended summer camps in Denmark and Norway.

TEMPERANCE: The Temperance work has been organized in harmony with the principles of the denomination. This phase of departmental activities brings us into contact with people we could otherwise never approach. The temperance papers both in Denmark and Norway have been received very well indeed.

In Denmark all temperance secretaries had a splendid convention. It was the first of its kind in our field.

PRESS RELATIONS: A steady and increasing stream of news reports about Adventist activities appears in the public press of Denmark and Norway. In this way hundreds of thousands are gradually becoming acquainted with our beliefs, and learning of our work from a positive angle. This in time will bear fruit in many different ways.

FINANCES: The Ingathering for 1956 was not completed by the end of the third quarter but the tithe shows an increase of kr. 97,042 and the missions offerings an increase of kr. 24,930.

The above mentioned facts and figures give only a small glimpse of the many-sided and intense activity carried on in all departments and institutions within the West Nordic Union. Eternity alone will give a correct picture of what is being done.

ALF LÖHNE.

THE NETHERLANDS

MY DUTCH co-workers and I consider it a great privilege to be here, and to attend this Division Council. Our hearts are filled with gratitude to God for His manifest blessings in the Netherland Union during the past year. Through the faithfulness of our brethren and sisters, and the excellent co-operation and activity of our workers, this year has been the best year in our Dutch Advent movement. Every branch of the work shows progress.

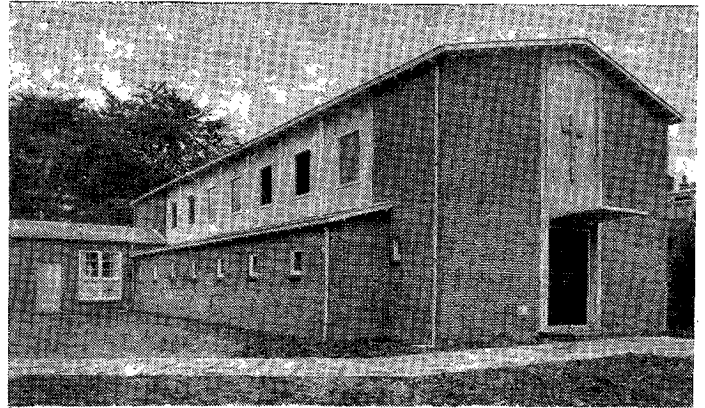
At the end of September, 1956, the membership in the Netherland Union was 2,406. During the past four quarters, 223 members have been added by baptism or vote. We are very thankful for these dear brethren and sisters, but unfortunately we must take into our calculation the 146 losses: by death (23), apostasy (35), and emigration (88). This gives us a net gain of 77 members.

During the first nine months of this year we received tithes amounting to f 265,748.79, that is a gain of f 28,362.92 over the same period in 1955. Our Sabbath school offerings also show a gain of f 1,279.50, and our Missions Extension Fund an increase of f 1,191.96. In Ingathering the conference treasurers state that we are well over our goal of f 40,000, for f 49,631.15 has already been reported.

During the Ingathering Campaign two of our ministers visited a factory. As they entered a private office, the director said: "Gentlemen, we are very sorry that we did not keep our promise last year and send you a gift. We misplaced your magazine and so did not have your address. Please write us out a receipt for f 100 (about £10), that is for last year; now make out another receipt for f 100, that is for this year; and please make out a third one for f 100 as an apology for our mistake in losing your address last year."

Our Voice of Prophecy Department is doing an excellent work. This year 4,282 applications and gifts amounting to f 5,147.28 were received. Those who have finished the course number 199, and 415 names have been handed on for follow-up work. With the active help of our ministers, forty students were bap-

The new church in the centre of the city of Groningen.



tized this year. From the many good experiences which we have had in this department, I bring you this one:

One of our students was chief cook at the students' restaurant of the University of Amsterdam and became very interested in the truth. As he studied the lessons about the Sabbath, he asked the board for a free Sabbath. This was refused. The president of that board is Prince Bernhard. We wrote him a letter, but he answered that on Saturday the restaurant was at its busiest and that on Sunday there was practically no activity. So our brother lost his job. He had a very difficult time, for his wife did not follow him in the truth. Our minister prayed with this brother, and the churchmembers were also praying for him. After a few weeks, he got a new job where he could keep the Sabbath, and his salary is now much higher than before. His wife is now receiving Bible studies, and she will be baptized very soon.

The Voice of Prophecy is a wonderful institution for soul-winning. We feel that in the Netherlands the people have become a little tired of attending public meetings, and I believe that the Voice of Prophecy will play an even greater part in our evangelistic programme.

For seven years now the "Voice of Hope" (our Dutch radio programme) has been broadcast by Radio Luxembourg. In spite of the late hour (Saturday at 11.15 p.m.) we have been able to enrol more than 800 listeners in the Bible Course during the past year. This is a much larger number than in 1955. From January 1, 1957, our programmes will be broadcast on the medium wave (208 m) on Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. We have

changed over because the price for the long wave has been raised again, and is much too expensive for us.

A very important phase of our work is our Missionary Volunteer Department. I am grateful to report that our youth have done the lion's share in the Ingathering. This year we have held a very inspiring Youth Congress in Utrecht. More than 600 were in attendance. We have also held a camp for the seniors, and a camp for the juniors as well as ten week-end camps. These camps proved very successful and have been a great help to our young people, and a number of baptisms took place.

Our colporteur-evangelists are doing a good work. During the past ten months they have sold books and magazines for nearly f 80,000, f 1,500 more than last year. Our publishing secretary is building up a great army of part-time workers. The work is not easy because of the adverse activities of a group of Reform Adventists. These many times work under our name and sell the books of Mrs. E. G. White. But in spite of this our colporteurs labour on cheerfully, faithfully, and courageously. Many people are awakened to the significance of our times by the knock of our colporteurs on their heart's door.

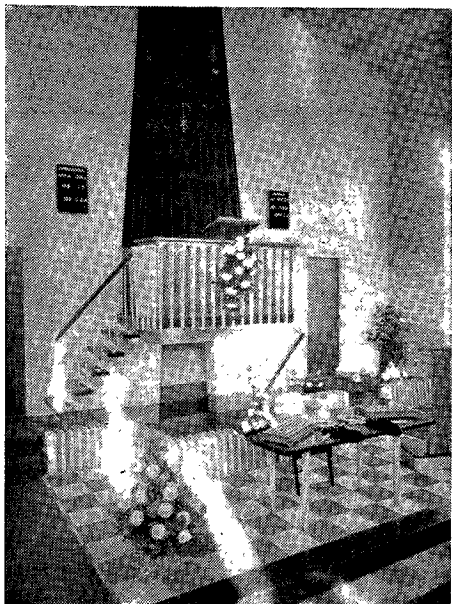
At our school, "Oud Zandbergen," we have at the moment twenty-six students. This is a very small group. It is our great problem and task to educate our people to send their children to our school. We are also planning for church schools in one or two big cities; but there are several regulations of the government which we have to take into consideration. We are happy to report that five students

have been baptized during the school year.

We now plan to open a Christian Kindergarten on our property at "Oud Zandbergen." Many parents in the neighbourhood have already signed to send their little children to our school. Last week we had thirty-four enrolled for the new school year commencing in February, 1957.

Our Temperance work is making progress. There is a real campaign in our churches to sign the pledge and be connected with the temperance association. In several cities our temperance film, "One in 20,000," has been shown in private meetings with good success. Unfortunately the Government has not permitted us to show the film in public.

We have spread thousands of pamphlets about our temperance work over the country and during the past quarter



The pulpit, baptismal font below, and table laid for ordinances in the new church at Groningen.

have published the first copy of the *Temperance News*.

Our Old People's Home, "Vredenoord," is still a real success. A few months ago we bought a neighbouring house, and next week this building will be used as an annexe to our main building. Seventeen old people will have a place in this new building and there will be quarters for the staff as well. Our

plan is to make a communication wing between both buildings with twenty single rooms.

Our institution is well known in the neighbourhood for the peaceful atmosphere and good accommodation. Many good old people are waiting for a place in our home. We are thankful to report that this institution is self-supporting.

In the north of the country we have built a wonderful little church right in the centre of the city of Groningen. The dedication service was held on September 25th and Pastor E. B. Rudge was with us. It was a very impressive service and the church was filled. We had many visitors from other denominations. The Dean of the Christian students of the University was present, and he wrote an excellent article about our new church. We are very thankful to the brethren in the Division who helped us in such a generous way to build this church.

We are very thankful that every line of God's work in our small country shows advance. We also have our difficulties and problems, but the Lord has blessed us with a fine team of workers and in our churches there is a good spirit. Because we understand that we are living in a very earnest time and that we may be nearer the end than we think, we feel the need for a deeper consecration in our personal lives, and we are praying that the power of God may be manifested in our field in a special way. It is with this spirit of consecration that this report is submitted, a spirit of humbleness and confidence, for "I know whom I have believed." We are thankful to know that a glorious victory is before us.

F. J. VOORTHUIS.

BRITISH UNION

WE HAVE an interesting and encouraging report to present from the British Union, both from the field and from our institutions.

CHURCH BUILDINGS: Since we met together last year, five new church buildings have been built or purchased: two in South England, one in North England, one in Wales, and a fine building in Dublin, Eire. Another splendid building is now under construction in Belfast

which will greatly assist in the evangelistic work in that country.

While reporting on buildings, we are pleased to say that an additional wing has been built on the Old Folk's Home, now making it possible to accommodate twenty-five of our faithful, elderly members. There is a waiting list of applicants to enter this home. A fine spirit exists, which is due largely to the kind, efficient service of the matron and her assistants.

FINANCES: The finances of the British Union for the first nine months of this year are as follows:

Tithe	£99,676	16.9%	increase
Offerings	14,344	13.7%	increase
Ingathering	58,543	13.8%	increase

These are splendid figures and reveal both the blessing of the Lord and the faithfulness of His people. Each conference and mission shares in this increase and every offering, except the Investment Fund, is well on the upgrade.

GRANOSE FOOD FACTORY: The manager of our health food factory reports: "Annual sales have increased from £103,000 to £175,000 in three years. Nearly all products have shared this increase. The Nut Food Department is growing rapidly, but processes are laborious. During the past two years we have partly mechanized, but we must invest another £12,500 in 1957 for this purpose, or we shall lose the golden opportunity which exists for larger business and which will quickly yield larger profits."

THE HYDRO: It is common knowledge that the Stanboroughs Hydro has had a rough passage for many years, due largely to the existence of the National Health Service in Great Britain. We are pleased to report that so far this year a definite turn for the better has been experienced.

The weekly average income for the past three years is: 1954, £501; 1955, £519; 1956, £630.

While we are not yet out of the wood, we are glad to say the institution is moving toward meeting its own operating expenses, the loss this year being only about a quarter of what it was three or four years ago.

We are pleased to report the appointment of Miss R. Finlay as Matron, who in addition to being fully qualified for

the position, is also a graduate of Newbold College.

Under the guidance and blessing of God we look hopefully to the future of this institution.

MV DEPARTMENT: Our Union MV secretary reports that this year six camps have been conducted: two senior camps with an enrolment of almost 200, and four junior camps with an enrolment of almost 350. Not only is the popularity of the camps growing among our young people, but also their effectiveness in soul-winning is increasing. Baptismal classes were conducted at the camps, and five young people were actually baptized at the camp.

The MV leaders have been attempting to harness the missionary spirit of our youth for direct evangelistic work. Two MV Youth campaigns have been conducted: one in Stoke-on-Trent under the direction of Pastor B. Pilmoor and Pastor J. Mahon, from which there has already been a baptism of eleven, and one in Edmonton, North London, under the direction of Pastor K. H. Gammon and Brother Alec Freeman, in which over fifty non-Adventists are being visited by the young people themselves.

In both of these campaigns careful preparation was made, the young people having been successfully taken through the "Training Light-bearers" course before the campaigns started.

SECONDARY SCHOOL: The past year has been one of continued expansion both in enrolment and in the education offered at the Stanboroughs Secondary School. We will, however, consider only the spiritual side of the work done for the children attending. It should be remembered that of the enrolment approximately one-third are Adventists, while two-thirds come from non-Adventist families.

This year four of our scholars have been baptized. Two past scholars, both of whom first contacted the truth at this school, have taken their stand. One, the head boy of 1955, has attended his tribunal and is now doing his National Service in the Hydro. The other, a girl, now working for the Voice of Prophecy, has at last been given permission by her parents to attend the present baptismal class. Two more boys, both school members, are also attending these same classes.

The head girl of 1954 who left us after taking G.C.E. has kept in touch and is desirous of obtaining parental permission to be baptized. A boy of non-Adventist parents has decided after only one year at the school to become a regular Sabbath school attendant, and has expressed the wish to be a Seventh-day Adventist missionary when he grows up. We do ask your prayers for all these boys and girls.

The School choir has not only competed successfully in recent music festivals, but has sung at Sunday night evangelistic meetings in Southampton, Twickenham, and in the New Gallery.

In brief it may be said that each succeeding term makes us more conscious of the wonderful evangelistic opportunities in our school, and of the blessing of God upon the labours of the staff.

Plans are going ahead for the establishment of a Union boarding school in the building known as the Annexe. This will meet a long-felt need in our educational work.

TEMPERANCE: During the past twelve months the British Temperance Society has been operating successfully, having conducted over a hundred meetings in various schools, colleges, and medical institutions. These have included meetings in the House of Commons, the Chester Beatty Cancer Research Institute, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Royal Holloway College (a branch of London University), and various British Medical Association meetings.

Nearly all the national newspapers have carried reports of the activities of the British Temperance Society.

HOME MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT: Our Dorcas Welfare work continues to grow. In addition to helping the local poor and needy, most of our sixty-eight organized Dorcas Welfare Societies are giving material help overseas. Last winter the London Federation, helped by provincial churches, sent no less than three tons of bedding to refugee camps. In the present emergency, in addition to an official Union donation of £105, a number of our Dorcas Societies are busy preparing clothing, bedding, and other facilities for the Hungarian refugees. One Scottish church alone has one ton of clothing ready. In both Scotland and Wales our Dorcas societies have recently

been federated for mutual encouragement and strength.

MEMBERSHIP: Finally let us consider what God has done through His servants in the all-important matter of accessions to the church. In the first nine months of the current year 374 were added, bringing our membership to 8,008. For the first time in our history we can report having reached the 8,000 mark. From our records it was interesting to discover that it took twelve years to raise our membership total from 6,000 to 7,000, but less than three years to raise it from 7,000 to 8,000! It is our earnest hope and expectation in these closing days that our entire membership will be so empowered by the Holy Spirit that it will be only a short time before we shall reach and pass the 10,000 mark. To this end we as leaders in the British Union rededicate our lives. We thank God for all He has done this past year in these islands with their 52 million people.

W. W. ARMSTRONG.

Publishing and Bible Schools

(Concluded from page 15.)

Union, as well as the Quarterly Training Class programme.

Our attention was called to the experience of one young man who in the first nine months of 1956 delivered orders to the value of £1,500. He has now had the joy of seeing one person baptized, and is still studying with ten others.

Pastor King paid tribute to the work of Pastor A. W. Cook who had been laid to rest during the current year. Pastor Cook served for twenty years as a publishing leader in the British Union.

A great source of encouragement to the colporteurs is the increasing number of names of interested persons contacted through our literature ministry reaching the Bible Correspondence Schools. Two hundred and sixty-four were reported baptized in 1955; and 377 in 1956. The total number of baptisms reported for 1955 of our Bible school students is almost 500; and since our schools began in 1947, about 4,500 reported as Bible school students, have been baptized.

During the middle of July, Elder E. R. Walde, of the Radio Department of the General Conference, visited six Bible schools in the home unions.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS

SABBATH SCHOOL

PASTOR M. E. LIND told the Council that at the present time our Sabbath schools are riding the crest of a financial wave without parallel in the history of our Division. We are also witnessing an increasingly large number of new members entering our Sabbath schools. This is probably the first time in our history when new members in excess of 10,000 have been enrolled in any one year. However, he cautions us to remember the African proverb, "Gakyali Mabaga—There is still much to be done!"

During the year, 23 conventions were conducted in the Division. Out of the many helpful discussions at these conventions came the very challenging thought that in the personal contact between teacher and pupil, we have one of the greatest possibilities in the prevention of apostasies in our churches. Pastor Lind told the story of how two young sisters in Northern Finland braved the bitterly cold weather on motor cycle, travelling about 120 miles to attend a Sabbath school convention. Upon being asked why they had come that long way in such weather conditions, they merely replied: "Oh, we wanted to become good Sabbath school teachers." Pastor Lind thanked God for the many men and women who Sabbath after Sabbath stand before their classes, feeding the flock.

This year the membership in our Sabbath schools has increased beyond the 80,000 mark, an increase of more than 10,000 new members in one year! According to reports more churchmembers are today members of our Sabbath schools than ever before. The 1,131 Sabbath schools, with their 2,862 classes, constitute a real force for good in our church.

During the first nine months of this year, Sabbath school offerings total £48,774. This is an increase of £3,131, which again was an increase over 1954 by £2,418.

Throughout our Division we now have 222 Branch Sabbath schools. From these will spring many of our future companies

and churches. There are also 90 Sunday schools with an enrolment of 2,572 children. Encouraging reports came from Scandinavia of how prejudice has been broken down through the contact made with our Sunday schools, and many have found the truth through the medium of their children's attendance.

Pastor Lind closed his report by thanking all Sabbath school workers for their splendid co-operation during the past year. He also thanked the faithful Sabbath school members from Greenland in the North to the African mission fields in the South, who week by week contribute to the spreading of the Gospel by their lives and by their generous gifts.

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER

IN PRESENTING the MV report for the past year, Pastor M. E. Lind stated that there were now 18,817 young people in the Northern European Division in 643 societies. "Here," he said, "we have a real force of energy and vitality, and it is our privilege and duty to guide them into useful activities."

These young people have conducted 4,821 Gospel meetings, and helped win 432 persons.

The British Union and the South England Conferences have shown their faith in their youth by providing a budget for two youth evangelistic efforts. The attendance at these efforts has been excellent, and the prospects most encouraging.

Then there are the Sunday schools. It should be remembered that the responsibility of caring for 2,572 children in ninety Sunday schools has rested upon the shoulders of our young people in no small measure.

In the recent Ingathering Campaign the youth, in a signal manner assisted in reaching the wonderful results achieved. Their courage and determination swept aside like a tidal wave every obstacle, and resulted in the collection of £10,000 in Britain alone. From D. Vink, MV

secretary of Holland, comes the message: "Our youth gathered Hfl. 18,000 out of a grand total of Hfl. 49,000, at the same time distributing 36,000 pieces of missionary literature. In Finland the youth collected more than Fmk 526,024 and in the West Nordic Union Kr. 119,000 was the result of their participation. In Stanborough Park the young people of this church alone collected over £2,000.

During the summer months of this year 4,399 young people attended twenty-one youth camps. Much thoughtful preparation by our youth leaders went into the planning of these camps so that our youth might be given the right lead in character building activities and develop that sense of comradeship and Christian fellowship so lacking in our time. As a result, eighty-two young people joined the baptismal classes during the camping season.

During the summer months, North Norway dedicated their permanent campsite. Prominent people from the vicinity were present and expressed their pleasure at finding young people with a Christian outlook. Other camps were conducted in Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Holland, Faroe Islands, Norway, and Great Britain. Of special interest was a senior camp arranged by W. B. Ackah, MV secretary of the Gold Coast. In an old seventeenth century castle where formerly slaves were held awaiting shipment to foreign lands, ninety young people gathered for nine days of intensive training and useful activities. During the camp the young people daily visited surrounding villages in Share Your Faith activities and when the camp broke up, twenty-six new converts had been enrolled in Bible classes and many pounds' worth of literature sold. In West Nigeria two profitable Junior camps were held, and in East Nigeria a number of large youth rallies with an attendance of several thousand were conducted.

Deep appreciation was expressed for the visit to the Division of Pastor L. A. Skinner, of the General Conference MV Department. Pastor Skinner attended large youth rallies in London and Birmingham. He led out in youth leaders' courses in Holland and participated in youth camps

in Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, and Great Britain.

In closing his report Pastor Lind expressed his deep concern about those of our youth who apparently have not joined in with this spiritual programme. He appealed to church leaders, pastors, and administrators, and most of all, to parents, to help preserve the youth for Christ.

HOME MISSIONARY

THE Home Missionary secretary, Pastor E. W. Pedersen, in introducing his report for the first nine months of 1956, stated that the Department was solemnly dedicated to foster a progressive programme of Christ-centred training in soul-winning and Christ-like missionary service which, he declared, would truly give character to the church and hasten the Lord's work toward its glorious finish.

Fully aware that only a fraction of the evangelistic activities were being reported by the church, he said he was glad that the records of heaven are not mere duplicates of our faulty reports, but true statements of acceptable service rendered.

Missionary contacts numbering 279,694, or 139,000 more than last year, had been made, almost 37,000 Bible studies given; 574 souls had been won through the prayers and consecrated efforts of the devoted men and women of our ranks. He said it was the aim of the Department to lead every believer into this joyous experience.

Only seventy conventions, institutes, and congresses had been reported held as against 454 in 1955. Should someone feel inclined to think we are becoming rather convention minded, he reminded us that new members who need training are constantly being added to our number, and that we are still in the position where this admonition is applicable: "It is training, education that is needed."

He commended the 40 per cent of our membership who threw themselves with such ardour and zeal into the Ingathering Campaign each year. Though all reports were not as yet to hand, it was already apparent that all unions and conferences

either had or would surpass their respective goals. Some fields have done exceptionally well. Holland, for instance, toiled many long weeks for Hfl. 30,000 in 1954. Last year they reached fl. 37,000 with greater ease. Some weeks ago, Home Missionary Secretary Slond sent in a truly "Flying-Dutchman" message: "49,000 passed; toward the 50,000 mark!" Iceland with 117,475 Kr. now is 7,000 above her 1955 total, while Britain sticks to her well-known conservatism of aiming at the stars and reaching them. Her annual goal is always last year's total, plus; and the plus this time was over £7,000, making a grand total of £58,542. 12s. 5d. Outside Britain the two Danish conferences were the first to reach their goals; and they did it on their fourth report. West Africa, in the middle of their campaign at the moment, will set another new record before they are through.

Pastor Pedersen urged all not to forget the many thousands of calls made, the many hundreds of thousands of pieces of literature distributed, and the millions of words spoken for the Master during the campaign, as well as the golden opportunities for follow-up work.

In reporting on the Dorcas Welfare work, Pastor Pedersen declared: "Dorcas has risen from the dead!" During the year, thirty-three new Dorcas Welfare Societies had been organized, bringing the total for the Division up to 374. "Our aim is a Dorcas Welfare Society in each church," he stated. To further strengthen the work, several Federations had been organized. But new organizations are not all. More than 30,000 pieces of clothing and over 6,000 food baskets were given away while 104,000 hours were spent in health and welfare service; 50,000 people benefited, and the value of goods given away was well over \$58,000.

In closing, Pastor Pedersen expressed his sincere appreciation to the believers and his fellow secretaries who had made his report possible. At no time in the history of the Advent church had the challenge of a tremendous unfinished task seemed greater. To each and every one of God's professed people comes the challenge to lift up Christ as the true Saviour and only solution to man's problems.

TEMPERANCE

DURING the past year, Pastor E. W. Pedersen, Division Temperance secretary, reported, the Temperance Department has made especially marked progress. National societies have now been organized in all home fields and most of them are working. Our youngest and smallest national society which is in Iceland, informed us that the 367 society members gave a grand collection of \$100 on Temperance Day, October 27th.

Nineteen-fifty-six saw the launching of a Northern European Division edition of the temperance magazine, *Alert*, which is being sold in bulk also to other temperance groups.

Nineteen-fifty-six also saw the first church temperance secretaries' convention to be held in the Division. It took place at Odense, Denmark, under the enthusiastic leadership of B. Olsen and H. J. Christensen. Brother Soper of the General Conference was also present and gave valuable help. Present as a special lecturer at our invitation was Mr. Markersen, chairman of the Danish Temperance Federation, who paid sincere tribute to our society's contribution to the temperance cause in Denmark. He also complimented us on the very fine temperance issue of our Danish *Signs of the Times*, which we publish once a year. "The finest temperance publication in the country," was his appraisal of it.

During the annual conference session in Oslo this summer, the temperance forces staged a march through the city. The largest and most impressive group, we were told, was the Seventh-day Adventist Society marching under the banner: "Alcohol Enslaves, the Gospel Sets Free!"

Outstanding activities in Britain have been the showing of the Anti-Tobacco film, and the lecture of Dr. Professor A. Ivy at the New Gallery under the chairmanship of Mr. Summerville Hastings, M.P.

Attending the second session of the Scientific Studies for the Prevention of Alcoholism, in Geneva, were five delegates from our Division: two from Holland, and one each from the British, Swedish, and West Nordic Unions.

PLANS AND RESOLUTIONS

The twenty-fifth International Temperance Congress Against Alcoholism at Istanbul last September was attended by our Division and British Temperance secretaries.

"By the association with other temperance forces in our endeavour to foster and promote temperance," Pastor Pedersen declared, "we are following the instruction of the Spirit of prophecy, thereby not only assuming the place in the temperance world we ought, but finding ourselves in a position where our light can shine for many who otherwise might never have the opportunity of becoming acquainted with us and our message."

He appealed for the full and understanding support of all to the temperance programme.

PUBLISHING AND BIBLE SCHOOLS

THE Publishing report, presented by Pastor G. D. King, revealed an encouraging gain in deliveries during 1956 to the value of nearly \$12,000, which would have been greater but for the dollar exchange rate in Finland.

Permission to engage in the colporteur ministry in Britain, granted by the British Government in 1952 to overseas students at Newbold College, had proved a tremendous blessing to the Senior College. In that year overseas students sold literature to the value of £600. Last summer the figure was £7,263, with a grand total since 1952 of £16,000.

Last summer forty-three students earned scholarship benefits of which twenty-seven were from overseas. In all, twenty students from overseas were credited with full scholarships as against ten from Britain. The value of sales being £7,263 by overseas students and £5,601 by British students, giving the grand total of £12,865 sold in Britain by students of Newbold College this summer. Since 1952 the total sales by students amounts to £43,608.

Another successful feature of the selling programme has been the "set selling plan," particularly featured in the British
(Continued on page 12.)

APPRECIATION AND THANKS

THE DELEGATES to the 1956 Winter Council of the Northern European Division wish to record their deep appreciation and thanks:

(a) To God for the many outstanding evidences of His continued overruling power and guidance throughout the Division territory during the past year.

(b) To the General Conference for their sympathetic, generous, and practical interest in the various needs of the Division field, and for sending their two representatives, Elders V. T. Armstrong and E. E. Roenfelt, whose inspiring ministry and wise counsel have meant so much to the success of the Council.

(c) To our members and workers in every field who, through their faithfulness, self-sacrifice, and loyalty to the cause of God have made possible the excellent reports of progress to which we have listened.

(d) To the British Union Conference, the Granose Foods Ltd., the Stanboroughs Hydro, The Stanborough Press Ltd., the officers of the Stanborough Park church and all who have, in so many ways, contributed to the comfort, convenience, and the overall success of the Council.

CALL TO EVANGELISM

WHEREAS, The hour is rapidly approaching when the third angel's message will swell into the loud cry; and

WHEREAS, Movements are already at work in the world which indicate that God is providentially bringing our message to the attention of millions; and

WHEREAS, Frequent articles in the secular and religious press give evidence of a more favourable attitude on the part of many non-Adventist leaders,

Voted: 1. That our ministerial workers, pastors, evangelists, and departmental secretaries throughout the Northern European Division be urged to prepare the members of our churches to act their part in a programme of total evangelism by the whole church.

2. That our conference leaders with their committees study carefully their respective territories and make plans to enter every unworked area as rapidly as possible.

3. That our members be instructed in the art of conversational evangelism as an effective method of witnessing to their friends, neighbours, labour and business associates, thus following the example of our Lord and the apostolic church.

4. That ministerial institutes be held wherever possible, to deepen the spiritual life of our workers and prepare them for the part they must act in this great hour of advance; that at such institutes special study be given to the great fundamentals

of the Gospel of Christ, and thus help our ministers present in a stronger and more effective way the fullness of Christ and His saving grace, in the setting of present truth.

5. That a call be made to the entire church through our administrative leaders, pastors, evangelists, and elders summoning our whole membership to full consecration of life and service, urging that we enter into a fellowship of prayer, knowing that the high objectives of our God for His people can be brought about only by the outpouring of His mighty Spirit of power.

MISSING MEMBERS

WHEREAS, Many of our churchmembers are now missing the spiritual blessing that comes through faithful attendance at the Sabbath school and other church services, causing some to become indifferent to spiritual values, and recognizing that one of the best ways to encourage church attendance is to have the members attend Sabbath school regularly,

Voted: 1. That conference administrators, pastors, church officers, Sabbath school officers, and teachers co-operate in a concerted effort to do everything possible to encourage missing members to become regular attendants of the Sabbath school and other church services.

2. That in each Sabbath school an officer be invited by the Sabbath School Committee to be in charge of the Sabbath school membership record, keeping up to date a card file of churchmembers and children of Adventist homes.

3. That the Sabbath School Committee distribute to the various Sabbath school classes the names and addresses of missing members, as prospective members, these names to be kept separate from the regular class roll.

4. That each Sabbath school teacher take note of absent members, and assign certain members of the class to visit these missing ones and report back to him the following week.

5. That all persons unable to attend Sabbath school because of infirmity or other unavoidable circumstances be enrolled in the Extension Division for proper care in harmony with existing plans.

6. That in the Senior Teachers' Training Course, Sabbath school teachers be given special instruction on the art of visitation as outlined in the *Handbook for Sabbath School Teachers* (Senior Division); and,

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the church to care for the spiritual growth of its members,

Further voted: That each quarter at one of the meetings of the Church Board reports be given showing what progress

has been made in winning missing members and former Seventh-day Adventists back to the church.

MV VOICE OF YOUTH EVANGELISM

WHEREAS, Our "army of youth" are designated by inspired messages to act a vital part in quickly heralding "the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour" to the whole world; and,

WHEREAS, Newly prepared materials now make possible a wide coverage of MV Voice of Youth evangelism; and,

WHEREAS, The 1957 Golden Anniversary of the Missionary Volunteer movement offers an unusual opportunity to lead consecrated youth in our greatest MV Voice of Youth evangelistic crusade, and bring a new surge of spiritual life to the thousands in our churches, and to make an unprecedented drive to win back to Christ and the church the many youth who were once with us,

Voted: That conference administrators and church pastors, in co-operation with the Missionary Volunteer Department, lay strong plans for the greatest youth soul-winning programme in our history, by means of:

1. A full programme of thoroughly planned revivals for the youth in all our churches throughout 1957, especially during the MV Week of Prayer.

2. MV Voice of Youth evangelism by our youth, in every community possible.

3. Conference workers' councils and Missionary Volunteer officers' institutes in every conference to study and implement these plans.

DIVISION LAY CONGRESSES, 1957

Voted: That the proposed Division lay congresses for 1957, as recommended at our 1955 Winter Council, be held during the spring and autumn of 1957, and that we endeavour to conduct them on an international basis, the Division to work out details with the respective unions.

HOME VISITATION DAY, 1957

WHEREAS, The Spirit of prophecy declares that "the great work of the third angel's message must be largely accomplished by persevering, individual effort, by reaching the people in their homes" (*Historical Sketches*, page 150); and,

WHEREAS, The Home Visitation Plan has been used as an effective means of contacting homes with our literature and providing openings for Bible studies.

Voted: That in each union a special tract be prepared for distribution on the Home Visitation Sabbath by the churches.

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL ENROLMENT

WHEREAS, Our Bible Correspondence Schools render a distinctive evangelistic service and have proved an effective soul-winning agency; and,

WHEREAS, November 9, 1957, has been designated Home Visitation Sabbath,

Voted: 1. That this day be known as Bible Correspondence School Enrolment Sabbath.

2. That the churchmembers be encouraged to secure, in their home visitation on that day, applications for enrolment in our Bible Correspondence Schools.

3. That in place of a special visitation tract, the first lesson of our Bible Correspondence Courses be used.

A WIDER DISTRIBUTION OF THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY WRITINGS

WHEREAS, One of the blessings given to the remnant church is the gift of prophecy, through which the church and its membership has been greatly blessed when heeded, and

WHEREAS, There are areas in which the writings of Ellen G. White are not available in the language of the country, therefore

Voted: That the union committees give early study to providing ways and means to translate and publish such books or portions of books that set forth the most pertinent statements of healthful living, Christian education, and other important instruction in Christian living and endeavour.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, The vacation Bible School plan has met with enthusiastic approval, both in North America and in some of our overseas divisions, and has proved to be a very effective means of bringing a knowledge of the Bible and an appreciation of the better things of life to hundreds of children, creating neighbourhood good will and opening doors for other types of community evangelism,

Voted: That in each union of our Division the union and local Educational, Missionary Volunteer, and Sabbath school secretaries be called together to give careful study to the value of vacation Bible Schools and, where considered practicable, that a plan for the promotion and operation of such schools be submitted to the union committee for approval.

"THE DESIRE OF AGES" MISSIONARY EDITION

WHEREAS, The book, *Desire of Ages*, which presents in its 800 pages the very heart of the Gospel in an appealing, non-prejudicial manner, has been selected as the Dollar Missionary Book for this year, and will be available at that price only to the close of 1956; and

WHEREAS, The messenger of the Lord has indicated that "God would be pleased to see *Desire of Ages* in every home," inasmuch as "In this book is contained the light He has given upon His Word" (*Colporteur Ministry*, page 127);

Voted: 1. That our churchmembers be encouraged to take advantage of this rare opportunity to join in placing the English edition of *Desire of Ages* in thousands of homes.

2. That the conference Book and Bible House and local churches be encouraged to unite in devising plans and providing means to furnish *Desire of Ages* to local non-Adventist clergymen, to be accompanied, if desired, by an appropriate letter.

3. That we encourage individual, institutional, and/or local church sponsorship of a mailing plan which would make *Desire of Ages* available to:

(a) Former patients of sanitariums and nursing homes, physicians in private practice, dentists, physical therapists, and masseurs.

(b) Non-Adventist staff members of industries operated by Adventist business men and to their non-Adventist clients or customers.

(c) Individuals who have graduated from a health or Bible course in a denominationally operated Bible or Health correspondence school.

(d) Readers of denominational literature who have voluntarily requested a renewal to an initial gift subscription to denominational journals.

(e) Service personnel.

4. That we encourage individual, local Missionary Volunteer society, and local church sponsorship which will undertake to place free copies of *Desire of Ages* in the rooms of representative hotels on the great lines of travel, with information that will enable the reader to contact the sponsor and purchase a copy of this volume or to secure further literature.

5. That individuals and organizations be advised to secure at once a sufficient stock of *Desire of Ages* to meet anticipated missionary needs for this project.

(To be continued.)

DIVISION DIRECTORY

- A. F. Tarr *President*
- G. D. King *Secretary*
- G. A. Lindsay *Treasurer*
- Alf Karlman ... *Auditor and Asst. Treasurer*

DEPARTMENTAL SECRETARIES

- *Publishing, Press Relations, Radio, and Religious Liberty*
- *Ministerial Association*
- E. W. Pedersen *Home Missionary and Temperance*
- J. A. Simonsen *Education*
- M. E. Lind *Sabbath School and Missionary Volunteer*

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EDITOR MRS. A. F. TARR

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