



VOLUME 8

APRIL, 1958

NUMBER 4



## This Glorious Hour

### OF THE HOME MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT



By E. W. Pedersen

NEVER before has the well-known Past met an unknown Future in a more challenging Present than today. For the first time in history man has the means of utter destruction in his feeble, trembling hands. The two most powerful nations of the earth, each viewing the other with fear and suspicion and poorly concealed hatred through a flimsy iron curtain, stand at attention, ready for annihilation of the human race. Just one little word, just one little mistake, one little lie, one twist of a brain cell in one single individual—and atomic Ragnarok will be history.

What a time to be alive!

God's never-failing clock is fast ticking the last minutes of time into eternity, while millions upon millions of confused humanity are madly running to and fro in their vain pursuit after Utopia of health and happiness and eternal life, of security and prosperity—rushing past the one door through which they might enter and find all they seek in a simple faith and trust in God and His Christ.

What an hour for Seventh-day Adventists!

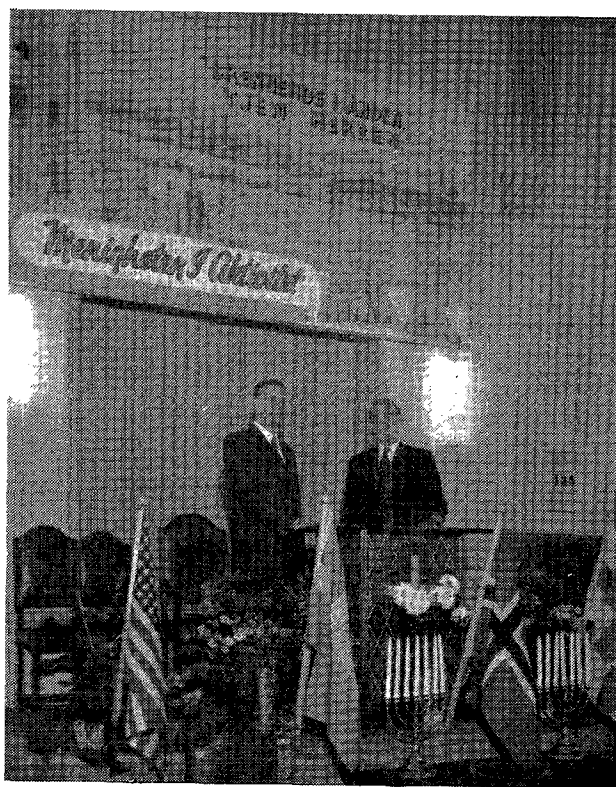
Surely this is a time for sober thinking, for prayer and fasting, but also for fortitude and confidence, for determination and courage. In her last Christmas

message to the peoples of the British Commonwealth of Nations Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth said:

"Today we need a special kind of courage, not the kind needed in battle, but a kind which makes us stand up for everything that we know is right, everything that is true and honest. We need the kind of courage that can withstand the subtle corruption of the cynics, so that we can show the world that we are not afraid of the future."

As God's people we need the same kind of courage, a courage that springs from an unflinching faith in the Lord and in our own eternal destiny, in the message entrusted to us, and in the inspired counsel given us of how most effectively to proclaim it. Outright cynics may be rare among us, but—and this is as bad in effect—we have within our ranks far too many discouraged, tired, and dispirited men and women, timid of almost everything but r.i.r. (routine in rut or rut in routine). In places we find them even as "leaders." The blowing of the alarm in Zion is overdue, the clarion call to arise, to arouse, and to shine with the radiance of heavenly glory.

What a challenge to the Home Missionary Department!



C. E. Guenther of the General Conference and E. W. Pedersen standing beneath the motto at the Laymen's Congress for Norway and Sweden, held in Oslo, October, 1957.

"The world needs missionaries, consecrated home missionaries." (*Christian Service*, page 86.) And it is the sublime privilege and sacred duty of the Home Missionary Department to produce them, train them, and lead them out into the harvest field as successful soul-winners to meet this need of the world.

The Home Missionary Department is actually a misnomer as far as "depart-

ment" is concerned. Modestly we lay claim to the whole and entire militant body of Jesus Christ, the undivided brotherhood and sisterhood of the church, individually and collectively as an all-inclusive unity of each unit. "God expects personal service from every one to whom He has entrusted a knowledge of the truth for this time."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, page 30.

## Million-Dollar Offering

### THE GREATEST IN ADVENTIST HISTORY

By A. F. Tarr, *President, Northern European Division*

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS will be making history on June 21st, the first Sabbath of the coming General Conference Session. On that day an offering is to be received which it is anticipated will exceed all other offerings ever taken on a single Sabbath. It is an offering which will reflect the ardent desires of an entire world church to see a great task completed. In order that this may be possible, and that our membership everywhere may give tangible expression to this desire, it has been arranged that gifts be received in all local churches in every country in sufficient time to be incorporated in the great General Conference offering in Cleveland on June 21st.

The date set for the offering in the Northern European Division is May 17th. Immediately after that day information will be sent by churches through their respective local and union conferences to Division headquarters, and from there it will be flashed across to the General Conference so that the gifts from our entire Division membership, along with those from other world divisions, can be added to the offering taken among the delegates in Cleveland—an offering which it is confidently expected will reach ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

Through this concerted and universal action of Seventh-day Adventists, we believe that unprecedented gifts from churches and isolated members will flow into the Lord's treasury at this important

and critical time. Overwhelming evidence on every hand proclaims that the conditions long predicted by prophets of old are right upon us. All that separates us now from the longed-for return of our Lord is our great unfinished task. Our service, our prayers, and our material means have yet a vital part to play in hastening that day. And in our very response to this call to give as we have never given before, we are bestirring ourselves from the lethargy that may have gripped us in the past and are awakening to a more complete sense of our momentous responsibility in this climactic hour.

The amount which our Division has been called to contribute toward the million dollars is \$28,949.12 or over £10,000. The entire amount, if raised, will be applied toward World-Wide Advance: Forty per cent going to needed work within our own Division, and the remaining sixty per cent being appropriated to the world field in which we, too, shall share at the time of the 1958 Autumn Council.

We appeal to every churchmember in the Northern European Division to give sacrificially and unprecedentedly on Sabbath, May 17th. Thus may the work of our church measure up to the demands of the hour, and a new milestone be passed by this great and memorable endeavour to meet the stupendous needs of an advancing work in these critical and ominous times.

The Home Missionary Department stands for service and for a full realization of the fact that in her laity the remnant church possesses her true asset, actually and potentially, numerically and financially. We stand for action—action of ever-increasing momentum. We welcome any and every task, and are ready for any sacrifice that will speed on the truth eternal toward its grand triumphant climax. We fear nothing but indifference, apathy, and inaction. If we resent anything, it is to be remembered and sent for *only* when money is to be raised or some wheel to be greased. Trust and confidence in us as equal, responsible partners of the great Gospel commission, and the opportunity and facilities for us to exercise this God-given right to full advantage, are essential to the successful and fruitful discharge of our sacred obligation.

God's plan for the finishing of His work has been drawn up in such bold Home Missionary lines by divine inspiration that even the short-sighted cannot fail to see it:

"The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, page 117.

The laity is getting a clearer vision of what this means. We are anxious that executives, administrators, ministers, and church officers with us arrive at a better understanding of what it involves.

Our earnest desire is that we all may realize so as to utilize to the full of our abilities and God's possibilities—

*This glorious hour of the Home Missionary Department.*

### Remember

THE best days of evangelism are here, for the Holy Spirit is being poured out.

"Angels are your partners in soul-winning. They will help you teach the most hardened and careless."—*Christian Service*, page 259.

Your faithful service will be fruitful. "Accompanied by the power of prayer, the power of persuasion, and the power of the love of God, your work will not, cannot be without fruit."—*The Ministry of Healing*, pages 143, 144.

# The Personal Touch in Soul Winning

By A. F. Tarr

IN NO other life and ministry has the personal touch in soul-winning service been so beautifully exemplified as in that of the divine Son of God. Though able to hold great congregations of many thousands spell-bound for hours, on mountain slopes or on Galilee's shores, or indeed, wherever He chose to address them, our Saviour still found time to spend long periods with solitary individuals, expounding to them the most profound and arresting truths presented in all of His rich and fruitful ministry. And to these personal conversations focused on intimate and individual needs, yet with lessons for the great mass of humanity, there has been accorded equal place in Holy Writ with the mightiest of His public sermons.

It was in the midst of this personal ministry, when all feeling of tiredness and of hunger and thirst had given place to the magic thrill of witnessing a single soul's eager response to His offer

of salvation, that our Saviour was able to declare to His astonished disciples: "I have meat to eat that ye know not of. . . . My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work."

Those words have, all through the centuries, beckoned His followers on to a like service for their fellow-men in whatever age, country, city or avenue of life they should find them. Their significance has been further amplified in the following statement from *The Desire of Ages*, page 151:

"Jesus saw in every soul one to whom must be given the call to His kingdom. He reached the hearts of the people by going among them as one who desired their good. He sought them in the public streets, in private houses, on the boats, in the synagogue, by the shores of the lake, and at the marriage feast. He met them at their daily vocations, and manifested an interest in their secular affairs. He carried His instruction into the house-

hold, bringing families in their own homes under the influence of His divine presence."

And to this we add from *The Ministry of Healing*, page 143: "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men. . . . He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'"

To render such a service we must, like our Saviour, discern that outward appearance, or even the early, often casual response to an approach does not always betray the need, sometimes the desperate need, that burns in men's hearts. Only a selfless, loving heart can detect behind a sometimes smiling face a life that is hungry and desperately craving the help that the great Physician alone can give. Men and women like this are to be found in every walk of life. Some may be our neighbours, some may be in our very homes. From *Testimonies*, Volume 6, page 294 we read:

"The churches need to have their eyes anointed with the heavenly eyesalve, that they may see the many opportunities all about them to minister for God. . . . Even within the shadow of our own doors are families in which we have not shown sufficient interest to lead them to think that we cared for their souls."

And then the servant of the Lord adds:

"It is this work lying nearest us that the Lord now calls upon the church to undertake. We are not to stand, saying, 'Who is my neighbour?' We are to remember that our neighbour is the one who most needs our sympathy and help. Our neighbour is every soul who is wounded and bruised by the adversary. Our neighbour is every one who is the property of God. . . . There are no territorial lines, no artificial distinctions, no caste, no aristocracy."

Earlier in the same volume, page 29, we read: "The Lord desires to see the entire church devising ways and means whereby high and low, rich and poor, may hear the message of truth."

This evening it was the writer's privilege to attend the Oslo M.V. Society's weekly meeting. Present also was the secretary of Norway's Society for the



H.M. Leaders of Laymen of the Northern European Division. Visitors seated in front row are: W. A. Wild of the Southern European Division, T. L. Oswald of the General Conference and O. Brozio of the Central European Division.

Blind, a man who himself had lost his sight and who had to be led to the platform to address the congregation. Heartly support was accorded the cause of the blind, not only by way of an offering to purchase for them a tape-recorder, but by many volunteering to read to the blind and to render various other types of helpful service that might be needed in their homes.

Here was a type of personal ministry that has far-reaching possibilities. Through Dorcas contacts also, and in innumerable other ways churchmembers of varied abilities and walks of life can, by their very friendliness, set thoughts and affections in motion which will turn the steps of many toward the kingdom of God. In *Testimonies* Volume 6, pages 83 and 84 we read: "Many can be reached only through acts of disinterested kindness. Their physical wants must first be relieved. As they see evidences of our unselfish love, it will be easier for them to believe in the love of Christ."

It is this love demonstrated in the lives of Christ's professed followers that the world is vainly seeking in the church today. Brethren and sisters, ought they not to be seeing more of it in the Seventh-day Adventist church? And perhaps even in the particular church of which you are a member or a leader? If so, what is your responsibility in the matter? Has your service or your influence, within and without the church, been characterized by that personal touch that marked every phase of our Saviour's ministry? It is this that the world and the church need so desperately today, and they will respond to it if you will only give them the opportunity.

"All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in."—*Acts of the Apostles*, page 109.

With such a situation about us, and living as we do in the most critical, the most momentous hour of this world's history, with eternity's brink looming before us, surely not a moment must be lost in stretching a personal, loving, rescuing hand toward every man and woman and child within our reach.

## A Continuous Programme of Bible Lay Evangelism

(Concluded from back page.)

(b.) Continuity of the church training programme in service, comprising both theory and practice.

(c.) Continuity in creating and utilizing new opportunities for lay ministry.

(d.) Continuity of encouragement of the members, in words and deeds.

### Alert to Opportunities:

1. Campaigns organized on conference level.
2. Efforts planned on local church level.
3. Individual—"independent" endeavour.

Every special day and campaign listed in our Annual Calendar of H.M. dates offers every member the kind of missionary service which carries with it, either immediately or eventually, directly or indirectly, the possibility for Bible evangelism in the form of Bible studies and/or Cottage Meetings. Bible Evangelism *does* lie before our laity as an inviting challenge all the year round. This must be fully appreciated.

### Keep a sense of Proportion in Your Emphasis:

Your missionary programme, to make Bible Evangelism an all-the-year-round reality, must be well balanced. Much of our campaigning and promotion have become so intense and high-pressure, unfortunately, that a reaction is almost

natural and practically inevitable when some campaigns are over, and the specific Bible Evangelism should follow. External pressure to accomplish, without a corresponding inner urge to do so, impairs the acceptable motive and is therefore injurious to the soul, and it militates against the continuous programme of acceptable service. Unfortunate pressure and promotion of an essentially spiritual service may reduce that service to the common level of dead works—dead in spite of any glimmer that may surround them—and to the fluctuation of mere human inclinations. Goals worthy of our highest aspirations are in order. But let us not become too engrossed reaching statistical goals at the expense of precious souls.

Make Bible Evangelism follow-up either the main objective of the campaign itself, or an integral part of it!

### YOU and the Programme:

"Time is short, and your [our] forces must be organized to do a larger work," of continuous Bible Evangelism. "Spasmodic efforts will do little good." (*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, pages 27, 45.) You have, or can have, everything it takes to make this programme a living and life-giving reality.

No pastor or leader ever had better material to work with than have Seventh-day Adventist pastors and leaders of today. Truly wonderful are the Advent people. Leadership worthy of our magnificent laity is the need and demand of the hour. It is an indisputable requisite for that continuous programme of ever larger service which soon shall be climaxed in triumphant glory.



African women of the Ite Dorcas Society led by Mrs. S. A. Nagel, ready to share their faith the practical way.

# Formula For Soul-Winning

C (21 + L) = S

By E. R. Warland

AS WORKERS in the great Advent movement, we are all desirous of being really successful in soul winning. Yet how often we neglect one of the most profitable methods—that of home-to-home visitation. May it not be that the Adversary discourages us from this kind of service because he knows it was our Master's own most successful method?

We are told by the Lord's messenger that "our Saviour went from house to house." (*Christian Service*, page 114.) "This house to house labour, searching for souls, hunting for lost sheep, is the most essential work that can be done." (*Evangelism*, page 431.) "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'"—*Christian Service*, page 119.

Three points should be noted in these quotations.

1. For home to home visitation we have our Saviour's own example.
2. In these times it is still "the most essential work that can be done."
3. Our Saviour's method was to help people and win their confidence before bringing to them the definite invitation to follow His way of life.

During recent years it has been our privilege to direct the attention of many of our lay brethren and sisters to this divinely appointed way of winning souls; for this is indeed a missionary service particularly suited to our lay members. And without exception, where such work is done in the spirit of Jesus, it always brings blessing to those who engage in it as well as to those whose homes are visited. This has been proved by the many personal testimonies which we have heard, and can perhaps best be illustrated by a letter which came in our mail only this morning. It was written by a member of one of our smaller churches, one who first caught the vision of Home

Visitation at our Laymen's Congress last year. We quote from our brother's letter:

"I talked just recently to our church-members on home visitation and encouraged them to have a try. So one Saturday evening six of us in twos set forth to work a village.

"Knocking at the doors we found the people most friendly and pleased to see us, and nearly everyone invited us in. We talked on the Bible and of our Bible course which we offered to them, also giving to them *Our Times*—the evening went too quickly.

"On meeting again we were delighted to know that seventeen people had promised to take studies with Voice of Prophecy lessons and we had many invitations to come again and spend an evening with them.

"I am thankful to say that it was through the training I had last Easter that this little band of six set forth to do the Lord's work."

We are told that "the best help that ministers can give the members of our churches is not sermonizing, but planning work for them. . . . And let all be taught how to work. Especially should those who are newly come to the faith be encouraged to become labourers together with God."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, page 82.

Let us then inspire and train our lay members to visit homes and, with kindly understanding, search for souls. And let us go with them in the service. Nothing will help our members more. Well do we recall the testimony of a brother who, when challenged with this service for Christ at our Laymen's Congress, did not desire to participate. "But," he said, "when I saw the conference president and the ministers doing it, I was encouraged to participate. I said to myself, 'They are not just telling us to go, and staying home themselves—they are coming with us.' And I felt I had to go, too. How happy I am that I did!"

But to have success in this, as in any

kind of service, we should keep in mind some basic principles, and learn as much as we can from the experience of others. We, therefore, recommend:

1. Prayer should precede, accompany, and follow every visitation endeavour. (Psa. 127:1; John 14:12, 13.)
2. The territory to be worked should be carefully selected and prepared for the visitors.
3. The visitors should be carefully paired off and fully instructed in how to approach the people they visit.
4. Suitable literature should be given and an invitation to listen to our radio broadcasts or attend evangelistic or other Sunday services.
5. Where circumstances are favourable the visitors should enter the home, converse briefly on the particular value of God's Word in these days, and offer a brief prayer for the Lord's blessing on the home.
6. A careful record should be kept of the nature of the interest and of the literature left in the home.
7. A follow-up plan, to suit the circumstances, should be made and followed.

A plan which incorporates these principles and which has proved very successful in Britain is as follows:

A few streets in the church vicinity are selected and for two or three weeks prior to the visit a tract such as "Keep Looking Up," "Jesus Saves," and "Can We Believe the Bible?" has been put through the letter box. On the visitation day, preferably a Sunday, the visitors call, inquire whether the little booklets have been read and appreciated, and ask whether the folk would like to receive more. This gives the visitors some idea of the interest the folk have in spiritual things, and provides an opportunity for helpful conversation.

A copy of our missionary paper *Our Times* is then given to the home, often together with a handbill or card inviting them to one of our church services. Alternatively, the visitors may leave a little card giving the times of our radio services.

Tracts are continued for a few more weeks, and then another personal call





Class in Birmingham, England, of those who recently qualified for the "Layman's Bible Training Certificate."

quacy for the task springing from a lack of training. It is true that it is frequently easier to do certain tasks ourselves than to spend time, thought, and energy in instructing others to engage in service. Maybe the taking of this line of least resistance explains the apathy that exists in some of our churches, in connection with which the messenger of the Lord makes this pointed comment:

"Churches are withering up because they have failed to use their talents in diffusing light. Careful instruction should be given which will be as lessons from the Master, that all may put their light to practical use."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, page 431.

Others may say that they have tried to inaugurate training classes, and have even completed a series of studies, but with rather frustrating results. What, then, are the essentials of a programme that actually emanates in efficient service?

A consistent enthusiasm must underlie the whole of the project from its inception clear through to its conclusion. This spirit is contagious, and provides a resilience to disappointment when the going is hard. Enthusiasm will magnify the most menial task.

The objective of the training must be kept in focus throughout the whole programme of instruction. Every aspect of the course must be set in the framework of soul-winning accomplishments. This will give purpose and point to what could otherwise be tedious detail. The training class courses must be elevated above just the acquirement of helpful information. It is advisable for the teacher to dispense with instruction which he cannot present as vital to the main purpose. Thus the class sessions will be vibrant with living principles, and the members will revel in the studies and be eager to prepare for active service.

Class demonstrations, first by the teacher and then by the members, help to fix the various principles in a very interesting manner. These demonstrations should begin early in the course, so that there will be a progressive assimilation of correct methods until the whole Bible study is efficiently presented. Train the members to develop a wholesome critical faculty that they may be able to discern what is truly effective. The ability to know what approximates the ideal is

made. Our visitors ask whether the folk would like to become regular subscribers to *Our Times*, in which case the paper is delivered, as issued, every fortnight.

This plan has worked successfully in several places, and we are encouraging all our churches to follow it. To help them procure the necessary tracts, a plan has been in operation several years now by which a bonus of free tracts is given to churches on the quantity of *Our Times* taken regularly throughout the year.

The following figures, representing the result of the work of a band of six or eight members in one of our smaller churches, shows the kind of results which come from such regular missionary work.

450 homes received the first series of four or five tracts. Of these 185 requested a second short series.

57 homes now purchase *Our Times* regularly.

12 students enrolled in the Bible Correspondence School.

In a number of towns, including the one for which these figures are given, the visiting members are now giving regular Bible studies, often with the film-strip projector. In fact, some have already had the joy of witnessing baptisms and additions to their own local church.

Yes, without doubt the formula for successful lay evangelism is,

$$C (2l + L) = S.$$

which interpreted means, CHRIST'S blessing multiplying the work of TWO LAY MEMBERS working together with LITERATURE results in SOULS added to the church. (Acts 2:47.)

## A Lay-Training Programme that Trains for Efficiency

By E. H. Foster, H.M. Secretary, N. England Conference

OUR MINISTERIAL responsibility toward the membership is not adequately discharged by "feeding the flock" on the Sabbath day and at other meeting times, by personal visitation, or by just inviting the members to engage in Christian service. Our work as ministers must in-

clude, besides all other functions of our calling, a strong, regular training programme, if we are to measure up to the highest standard of service. All too often the reason for meagre laymen co-operation lies not in the lack of desire to help on their part, but rather a sense of inade-

essential for the formation of a good personal standard.

Plans for the employment of each trained class member must be formulated early, for there is nothing which will dampen ardour for future training-classes so certainly as lack of opportunity to serve when the class work is completed. It is true that there is generally a reticence to launch out in the work, but this is a surface nervousness which the teacher must help the member to overcome by providing a suitable companion for the early visits.

Better still if the teacher himself, or his Conference associate workers, can arrange to introduce class members into the home of each prospect.

There is no need in this article to remind our colleagues of the many avenues which provide contacts for Bible evangelism in the home. The earlier the lay-members become acquainted with their prospects, the easier it will be for them to build up mutual confidence. It is not wisest, generally speaking, for a layman to follow on from a minister's visits, as the distinction between a college-trained worker and some of our good members may place the layman at a disadvantage in the prospect's mind.

The training programme must be continuous for maximum results. Of course it takes on different forms at various times of the year. In early September the regular weekly instruction classes begin; this will enable home visitation to start after the Christmas holidays. It is most important that the minister still keep in touch regularly with his laymen, preferably each week, so that any difficulties might be resolved promptly and encouragement given. He must be ready to accompany the lay worker at times of major decision, and by tactful ministry assist in gaining a favourable result.

However small the fruitage from layman ministry, the conference workers will ensure that sincere appreciation is expressed, in private and in public, for the services rendered, thus providing a foundation for further efforts which, because of added experience, should be more productive. Thus the training programme continues year by year building up an ever-increasing group of efficient laymen to co-operate with the ministry in the finishing of the task.

## The Minister and His Laymen

By C. R. Bonney

TO THE church has been entrusted the sacred privilege or responsibility of taking the everlasting Gospel to the whole world, which includes the cities and villages of our own districts. For this very purpose the church has been organized; and it is apparent that until this organization is fully used the work cannot be completed. The Lord's messenger stated this fact many times in such words as: "The Saviour's commission to the disciples included all the believers. It includes all believers in Christ to the end of time. It is a fatal mistake to suppose that the work of saving souls depends alone on the ordained minister. All to whom heavenly inspiration has come, are put in trust with the Gospel. All who receive the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellow men. For this work the church was established."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 822.

In this great work the successful church is like an army organized to wage a battle, and "the strength of an army is measured largely by the efficiency of the men in the ranks. A wise general instructs his officers to train every soldier for active service. He seeks to develop the highest efficiency on the part of all. If he were to depend on his officers alone, he could never expect to conduct a successful campaign. He counts on loyal and untiring service from every man in his army."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, page 116.

This means that the responsibility of the minister to the layman is two-fold. (a) To train for service. (b) To use in service according to individual ability.

There is no doubt that when there is such a relationship between the minister and the laymen much more can be done in the cause of God than where the minister endeavours to do all the work himself. It is often found that a lack in such co-operation is due to insufficient confidence in the ability, or maybe the tact, of the layman. This is where the necessity

of training comes in, and from experience, we can say that when the laymen are given access to good, practical training we receive many surprises as to what can be accomplished by them.

From our British Bible Correspondence School we send out to our ministers the names of no fewer than three thousand five hundred interested students each year. In some districts it is impossible for the minister to make a personal call on all the interests sent to him. Unfortunately, because of this, many really interested students are never visited, or visited too late. Such a situation is unnecessary where there is a church membership. All these interests give the minister a wonderful opportunity of using, to great advantage, the laymen who have been trained for service. Surely it is far better for a layman to make a personal call on an interested student, than for that student to have no personal contact with the local church. I have one district in mind where the minister has confidence in his laymen and uses them to a great extent, according to their ability, in the personal visitation. The success in that district, according to the number of baptisms, is outstanding. This minister uses his laymen to make the first contact, after which they report back to him; he then knows the degree of interest in each case and can use his precious time in concentrating on the most likely cases with the laymen.

Such an organized method of evangelism not only brings added numbers to the church, but also inspires the churchmembers to greater heights of spiritual attainments in their own experience. As leaders of the church we occupy a position similar to that of a foreman or the captain of a ship's crew; and as such we are to keep those under our charge, in the churches, busy about the Lord's business. Such harmonious working will keep the members happy, help them spiritually, and hasten the finishing of the work.



Division Laymen's Congress held in Birmingham, England, September, 1957.

## Laymen's Congresses

### Are They Necessary? Do They Pay?

By E. W. Pedersen

THIS Layman's Congress was the finest gathering I have ever attended—including workers' meetings. The spirit from beginning to end was marvellous."—A Conference President of many years' experience.

"I have attended many meetings and congresses during the many years I have been a Seventh-day Adventist, but this is the most blessed gathering I have yet been to."—A plain Champion Lay-brother.

"The instruction given was of the best I have ever listened to, and I have attended other congresses in many other parts of the world." "We experienced a most constructive and happy time. . . . The spiritual standard was high, and

much knowledge received which, if put into practice, will most certainly bring many souls to Christ."—Two clear Voices out of the Mighty Choir of Happy Delegates.

The year 1957 will stand out in the Home Missionary history of the Northern European Division as the Laymen's Congress-year. If ever there was a series of inspiring meetings that rallied the cream of active Seventh-day Adventist soul-winning laity of our lands, and set their willing feet on the widening path of greater service, this was it. Testimonies like those above are too numerous to be contained within the covers of this paper.

"*Laymen On The March, Fervent In The Spirit: Serving the Lord*" was the

motto under which these Division Congresses began in Great Britain and swept over Iceland, Denmark, Norway-Sweden, into Finland, and finally down to the Netherlands where we ended up in November. Except for the British Congress, C. E. Guenther of the General Conference was with us throughout, and his valuable service was greatly appreciated. He, together with specially selected local talent, and the writer, shared the load of instruction which by all was regarded as superb.

The more spiritual exercises and meetings were moulded after the general pattern of the programme: heart-winning, uplifting, inspiring. It may be hard to say which was most appreciated: the theoretical teaching or the practical demonstrations both in and out of class; but certain it is that the field house-to-house work in pairs was a mountain peak for all. It was so interesting, so inspiring, so heart-warming, so blessed, so easy! Statistics were made over these visitation campaigns, and it was truly remarkable how friendly the people were, generally speaking; and how readily doors were opened to give access to their homes, even to have prayers with them. Many of the delegates had never done this kind of missionary work before. Yet speaking about enthusiasts, here they were—after the "outing." Everywhere and without exception all were genuinely happy for the experience. They returned as did the seventy in Luke 10:17. What a thrill to see the glow in their eyes and to listen to their experiences: "Called on seven



Division Laymen's Congress held at Tampere, Finland, October, 1957.



homes, got into seven homes, had prayers in seven homes," said one couple, and what could be more perfect! No regrets? Oh, yes we had two cases in all. Number one: "The only regret I have is that I haven't done this before." Number two: "I am deeply sorry that I have been so negligent in the past. I have been fearful and indifferent. I now realize that I have been robbing myself of wonderful blessings. From today I shall, by the grace of God, remain a true witnessing Adventist."

Now, ministers, if this same thing could be done on the local church level—and why shouldn't it?—what wouldn't it mean to the spiritual life and happiness of your people! What wouldn't it mean to their service for God, and to your own soul-winning programme! Your flock would be happier and healthier, angels would strike a higher note of rejoicing, and the work would be speeded up toward its ultimate triumph.

The ordinary of these 1957 congresses was perhaps extraordinary, but the extraordinary is always possible with a consecrated laity like ours.

Some other special features: A personal message to us from Elder Figuhr, a personal message from Elder Oswald, and a personal message from Elder Tarr when he could not be with us. Our national poets were represented by specially composed congress songs. Home



*Division Laymen's Congress held at Utrecht, Netherlands, October, 1957.*

Missionary exhibitions of which the Norwegian-Swedish was the most comprehensive and artistic of all. Soul-winning interviews, soul-winning enactments—and right here special tribute must be paid to the spirited young people of Oslo. What they put on on Saturday night was nothing less than a professional masterpiece: captivating, inspiring, yet dignified and moving. Many delegates opened their mouths and forgot to shut them.

It should have been taken up as a sound movie and be sent East and West, North and South.

But time would fail me and space be insufficient should I deservedly speak of these four-days retreat into fellowship, study, and hard work, at Birmingham, Reykjavik, Odense, Oslo, Tampere, and Utrecht. Only let me admit this: After the success in Britain in the spring I wondered what the other congresses would be like in the autumn. Could they possibly be as good? Autumn came, and the sun of God's love and grace was shining as brightly as ever. From land to land it was success upon success, and for the simple reason that the Lord was with His people.

*Are Congresses and Conventions Necessary? Do They Pay?*

*They are necessary.* We submit that they are as necessary for the laity, as the workers' meetings are for the workers. That is, they are necessary for that growing life of vigour and efficiency that must be maintained to have progress in service. But do they pay?

*They do pay.* At times this observation is made, and no doubt sincerely so: We see so little results of these congresses and conventions, and they cost a lot of money. The inference is that they do not pay, or that visible results in statistics should show greater justification for them.



*Division Laymen's Congress for Norway and Sweden held at Oslo, October, 1957.*

We believe in results, and in many places results are both encouraging and gratifying. However, it must be remembered that although we try to operate our organized work on a sound financial basis, spiritual values cannot be measured in currency, soft or hard. Moreover, if these spiritual values of a congress are to be judged by the post-congressional spiritual output of fervour and hard work with a corresponding gain in souls, and such results do not materialize to the desired extent—we should be fair enough to the laity and honest enough with ourselves to inquire objectively into the cause(s) of the apparent failure: does it lie with the congress, or with the laity, or perhaps somewhere else?

If the congress/convention can send the delegates home as better men and women than when they came; men and women with a new experience, a new vision, new fervour and zeal, greater love and deeper consecration; men and women ready and willing to serve, the congress has achieved its prime objective. *It has paid.*

What then happens to this wonderful human material sent back to the various churches *after* the congress, depends primarily and largely on the kind of local leadership they will get. Admittedly love can cool off, zeal burn out, and indifference set in with plain laziness in hot pursuit. But it is equally true that love, interest, and understanding, encouragement, and inspired leadership by a leader, faith and confidence—will in most cases counteract any such adverse trends. We realize the existence of a real leadership problem in many of our churches. We must do something about it and do it soon. To begin with we as ministers and church officers can all strive to become better leaders ourselves, leaders that truly do lead. For leadership worthy of our consecrated, willing brethren and sisters is the answer to the question, the solution to the problem, the key to the success of greater results.

Yes, congresses and conventions are necessary, and they do pay. That is why we are planning new and better ones.

and change their course of life as radically as most have had to do to become Seventh-day Adventists, is it thought too hard a thing for them to be inspired for active service? Surely not! The men and women on the denominational payroll may be few in number, but there are almost one and a quarter million members scattered around the world. This great army enlisted, inspired, trained, and shown how, could soon finish the task under the enabling Spirit of God in "latter rain" measure.

A first step in getting this great army on the march is for the ministry to believe that the members can do it. That conviction will lead to the preparation and delivery of sermons that will inspire the churches with an eager desire to serve. Not all can do the same things, though there are some aspects of Christian service in which all can take part. But it is important to know the members well, and to assign them tasks that they are well able to perform, and to be able to convince them that what they can do will contribute to the finishing of God's work in the earth.

Next, training is necessary. Those who can do personal work for others must be taught the fundamentals of Christian service, how to deal with minds, how to present the truth, how to meet objections, how to bring other souls to the Lord. For this kind of work—cottage meetings and personal Bible studies—the "Light-bearer" training course is wonderful. When you decide to try to get all your members working, talk to them encouragingly, show the Home Missionary Department film: "The Living Link," then, striking the iron while it is hot, form a "Light-bearer" class without delay.

It may be that some members are better able to do health-and-welfare service. Have some able person give instruction in the running of local Dorcas societies, and show how each member of the societies can have some part in this wonderful scheme. Or perhaps you have members who could and would work with literature—part time colporteurs, or workers with small literature and tracts. Call in the Publishing Department man to give a course of instruction to such members. Leave no-one out. "To every man his work."

But teach them how!

## Can It Be Done?

By A. C. Vine, H.M. Secretary, S. England Conference

THE WORK of God in this earth can NEVER BE FINISHED. . . ."

Sister E. G. White wrote that! Did the sentence catch your eye? Does it shock you? If God's work can never be finished, to what purpose is all the organization, the sacrificial giving, the ordaining and the arduous labours of ministers, the printing and distribution of Gospel literature, and so on? Why should devoted ministers, Bible instructors, teachers, and others wear themselves out in service, if the work can never be finished?

Of course, you know as well as I know that my opening sentence is not complete. What follows in the statement made by Mrs. E. G. White makes all the difference. Here it is in its entirety: "The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of the ministers and

church officers."—*Gospel Workers*, page 352.

In the light of the way we have conducted our work heretofore, would it be considered wrong to quote only that first clause, and leave it at that?

As the work of churchmembers is so vital to the finishing of God's work in the earth, it does seem strange that not more is done in the local churches to organize the membership for service.

Listen: "The best help that ministers can give the members of our churches is not sermonizing, but planning work for them. Give each one something to do for others."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, page 82.

God has called out a people into the light of the truth that they may all be witnesses, each doing what is best suited to his abilities to win souls and "prepare the way of the Lord."

Our people are willing, too. If they can be won by the three-fold angelic message,

Then show them how to do it, and let them strike out for themselves. As the members now go about their various tasks in the work of the church, they will most assuredly make many encouraging contacts, find real live interests in souls hungering and thirsting for truth. Almost certainly, some of the lay people will find themselves often in need of the minister's help, and will report interests to him. This will be a joy to every true Gospel minister, and he will endeavour to attend to every interest reported to him.

Some of the members would find they could work successfully with the film-strip Bible studies. I do not know how many languages these are prepared in, but many members in Britain find that they can easily either get into their neighbours' homes or get their neighbours into their own homes to see a projector-film-strip Bible study. Souls are being won this way.

How much, much more witnessing could be done if every conference worker would realize that "in some respects the pastor occupies a position similar to that of a foreman of a gang of labouring men, or the captain of a ship's crew," as Sister White says in *Gospel Workers*, pages 197, 198. I quote further: "They are expected to see that the men over whom they are set, do the work assigned to them correctly and promptly, and only in case of emergency are they to execute in detail."

"The owner of a large mill once found his superintendent in a wheel-pit, making some simple repairs, while half-a-dozen workmen in that line were standing by, idly looking on. The proprietor, after learning the facts, so as to be sure that no injustice was done, called the foreman to his office and handed him his discharge with full pay. In surprise the foreman asked for an explanation. It was given in these words: 'I employed you to keep six men at work. I found the six idle, and you doing the work of but one. Your work could have been done as well by any one of the six. I cannot afford to pay the wages of seven for you to teach the six how to be idle.'"

"This incident may be applicable in some cases, and in others not. But many

pastors fail in not knowing how, *or in not trying* [emphasis ours] to get the full membership of the church actively engaged, in the various departments of church work. If pastors would give more attention to getting and keeping their flock actively engaged at work, they would accomplish more good, have more time for study and religious visiting, and also avoid many causes of friction."

"The time is short. The king's business requires haste." Let us give to every man his work, inspire him, encourage him, teach him, show him how, and support him in his work all along the way. Then will be poured out the enabling Spirit, and the work will be finished—"cut short in righteousness."

We hail the loyal laymen who have heard  
The voice of Christ who pleads with  
love divine;

Those heroes come, obedient to His Word,  
Responding to His call to rise and  
"shine."

They swell the layman's army in its might;  
They lift the torch of truth, at home,  
abroad;  
They find a thousand ways to send the light  
And help enlarge the kingdom of our  
God.

Thy feel the pull of everlasting power,  
The mighty magnet of a higher goal,  
For they have seen the challenge of the  
hour—  
The vision of the value of a soul.

May God accept and bless each flaming  
heart,  
Whose shining service is of priceless  
worth,  
As each one finds his place and plays his  
part  
To finish God's great work upon the  
earth.  
ADLAI A. ESTEB.



Sisters on duty helping the needy at Silkeborg, Denmark.

## The Sisterhood of the Church

### Its Potentialities and Place In God's Plan

By Edna M. Tarr

IT HAS been estimated that seventy-five per cent of the church is composed of women! With a Division membership of 52,168, this means that there is a mighty army of 39,126 women in the church, all endowed with God-given talents, which, if but rightly directed could be used to untold advantage in the programme of the church.

On the other hand there has perhaps been no time in the world's history when the services of the sisterhood have been in greater demand than they going to be in the days just ahead. Calamity, sorrow, and suffering such as no ordinary balm can heal, will be in the land. To meet this condition God calls for a new order of things. We are counselled: "No-



Gifts for Displaced persons from the London Dorcas Federation ready for shipping. Standing are Sisters S. Smith and E. M. Tarr.

thing can, or ever will, give character to the work . . . so well as Samaritain work. . . . A different order of things needs to be established among us as a people." (*Welfare Ministry*, page 132.) And in *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 387, we read of this new approach: "Multitudes are so sunken in sin that they have lost the sense of eternal realities and they hardly know if they have souls to be saved or not. They have neither faith in God nor confidence in man. Many of these can only be reached through acts of disinterested kindness. Their physical wants must first be cared for." They must be fed, cleansed, and decently clothed. As they see the evidence of your unselfish love, it will be easier for them to believe in the love of Christ.

Here is the work which will demand the fullest co-operation of the sisterhood of the church, and as a result many souls will be won to Christ. Listen to the challenge: "Let every sister who claims to be a child of God feel a responsibility to help all within her reach. . . . Sisters, God calls you to work in the harvest field. . . . In the various lines of home missionary work the modest intelligent woman may use her powers to the highest account."—*Welfare Ministry*, page 160.

Yes, the Lord has a work for women

and in the Dorcas Welfare activities comes her greatest opportunity for service, a service which the lowliest can render,

## A Prayer

(Dedicated to London Dorcas workers.)

I pray for quietness of mind  
As I shall do my work today,  
For I, a seeking soul might find—  
One who has wandered from the way,  
And should that one ask help of me  
My heart must be at rest in Thee.

I pray for sympathy of heart  
To feel the other person's need,  
And grace that I may then impart  
The food on which his soul might feed;  
A listening ear, a kindly eye  
And hands that will his wants supply.

I pray for readiness of speech  
That every word might be sincere,  
As truth from out my lips may reach  
The inmost hearts of those who hear.  
Then the good seed I sow broadcast  
May bring a harvest unsurpassed.

I pray the prayer that Jesus asks,  
That in the ripening harvest-field  
More labourers will take up tasks  
That there might be a fruitful yield;  
"Send forth Thy workers everywhere,  
Lord of the harvest—hear my prayer."

STANLEY COMBRIDGE.

a service representing food for the hungry, joy for the sorrowing, and guidance for all on our journey heavenward.

We rejoice to see the church responding to the call to engage in this most urgently needed work. Six Dorcas Federations have now been organized within the Division, and eighty-one new Dorcas societies formed during the past two years. But out of 822 churches in the Division, 385 are still without any Dorcas units whatever. Very much still remains to be done and we simply must not fail for, in the words of General Conference Associate Home Missionary Secretary, A. A. Esteb: "Seventh-day Adventists are destined to be the good Samaritans of these latter days. We will yet give the world the purest demonstration of Christian love that the world has witnessed since the days of the apostles."

Yes, God needs the women in this time of crisis. Sister White has described these women in *Welfare Ministry* as women who believe we are indeed living in the last days and that we have the last solemn message of warning to be given to the world; women who are earnest, prudent, warmhearted, tender and true to principle; persevering women who will take their minds off self and will centre them on Christ; women who have the blended attributes of Martha and Mary, a willingness to minister and a sincere love of the truth; women gentle in manners, and lowly in heart, and who will work with meekness; women who will read and explain the Word to families, praying with them, caring for the sick and relieving their temporal necessities.

What a high purpose for women!  
What a grand destiny! Can we measure up to this standard?

Too long have the sisterhood built around themselves walls of timidity and reserve, walls of indifference and prejudice, walls of selfishness or of just being too busy! God has a mighty programme for our sisters right in the city where they live, in the block down the street, perhaps next door, if they will only awake to their responsibility.

"Woman does not know her power."  
"Our sisters are not deficient in ability."  
"God did not intend that her capabilities



A large consignment of goods for the needy on the continent, being sent by the Swedish Dorcas Societies.



A refugee camp in West Berlin visited by E. W. Pedersen. This camp greatly appreciated our help.

should be all absorbed in questioning: What shall I eat? What shall I drink? and wherewithal shall I be clothed? . . . She should develop and cultivate her powers." "The Saviour will give woman a power that exceeds that of men." "They shall reach a class that our ministers cannot." These are a few of the striking statements in the Spirit of prophecy regarding the womanhood of our church. On every hand we see evidence that people appreciate the cheerful patient, and willing service of a Christian woman.

We invite our pastors and leaders to a new belief in this welfare ministry, and to a most hearty co-operation with their Dorcas Welfare organizations. When the right relationships are established, their evangelistic programme will have a new appeal for the public and the church. But this is not enough. Dorcas workers everywhere are so very conscious of their inefficiency and weakness. This ought to be remedied by a heartening confidence on the part of the ministers and the church leaders and by constant education, reading, and study, so that they may meet the various situations with the conscious backing of the church and with intelligence.

Demands may be made upon them to give at a moment's notice a reason for their faith, or sound counsel on the ill effects of tobacco, strong drink, meat, or healthful living; someone may need help on child guidance or marriage guidance, or on some serious domestic problem,

and divorce or other tragedy may be averted by the counsel given; some may be called upon to give simple treatments to relieve pain. They must meet courteously the rich as well as the poor, care for the aged, know the manners of bedside visiting, meet men and women behind prison bars, or in a cancer ward, or even usher souls into the great beyond. How often a unique opportunity for positive witnessing is lost by an ill-informed worker. We read: "God is displeased with those who are too careless or too indolent to become efficient, well-informed workers."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 229.

The work of the pastor and the church missionary leader includes incorporating the Dorcas Welfare activities into the missionary programme of the whole church.

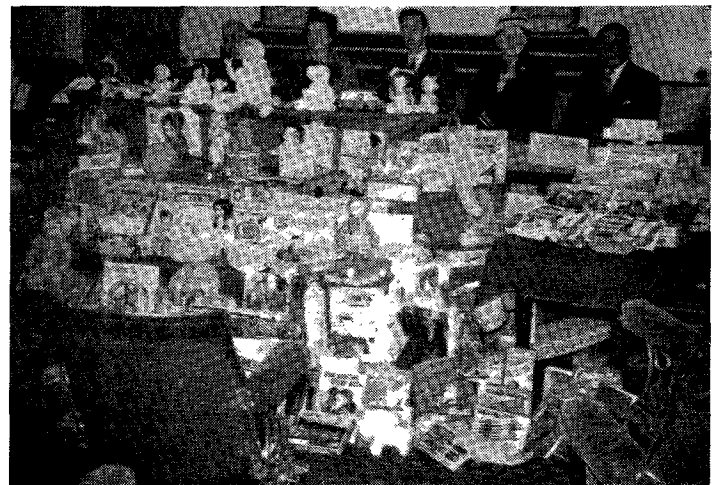
The Spirit of prophecy admonishes: "If we can arrange to have regular, organized companies instructed intelligently in regard to the part they should act as servants of the Master, our churches will have a life and vitality that they have long needed."—*Welfare Ministry*, page 144.

Not only the church, but Dorcas will be made to live again, and our sisters will rise from their discouragement and feel that they too can do a work for the Lord. Then the church will go forth, "fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners." Song of Solomon 6:10. God's work will be finished, and we shall go home. Oh, may the sisterhood of the church never falter in the important task assigned her in God's great and closing programme.

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A beautiful display of Christmas Gifts from the Wood Green (England) Dorcas workers for forgotten children in their neighbourhood. These were distributed with the help of the local County Council Child Care Officer (on the platform.) Much follow-up work has resulted.

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# Bible Evangelism in West Africa

By E. Keslake

THE FIRST commissioning services for the modern "120" in the West African Union, were held in connection with some of the camp meetings in the East Nigerian Mission during November and December, 1957.

A total of 116 had fulfilled all the requirements of the General Conference Home Missionary Department. They had taken the "Training Light Bearers" course early in 1956, and had gone to work in a soul-winning endeavour and were successful in bringing in 412 who at the time of the commissioning service were prepared for baptism.

The first of these commissioning services was in Aba. The writer presented a message portraying the zeal of the early "120" (Acts 1:15). They were the ones to whom the Gospel commission was given by Jesus just before His ascension. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit in its out-pouring in the "early rain," the greatest soul-winning programme the world has known was carried on. The Gospel was quickly preached to all the world (Col. 1:23). Today God is looking for a modern "120" who, when endued with the power of the "latter rain," will go forth with similar zeal to finish the work of God.

Pastor A. Nzotta, the Home Missionary Secretary for the East Nigerian Mission, introduced the candidates for commissioning and certified that the thirty-two who were standing to their feet had fulfilled all of the requirements for commissioning as members of the modern "120." When asked if there were those present who had been brought into the truth by these thirty-two, imagine the thrill to have seen 112 stand to their feet. To each of the "120" was presented a certificate of commissioning and the writer gave the charge.

Then an impressive candle lighting service followed, which graphically brought to the attention of the large audience the way in which the light of the Gospel spreads from one to the other. All those who have taken or are taking the "Training Light Bearers"

course in the audience, were asked to stand. Then after the reading of some appropriate passages on light bearing, the union Home Missionary Department secretary lighted his candle, and from his lighted candle, lighted the candle of the Home Missionary Department secretary of the East Nigerian Mission. In turn he lighted the candles of each of the home missionary leaders from the local churches who in turn lighted the candles of those who had just been commissioned as members of the modern "120."

These went through the audience, lighting the candles of those who had taken the "Training Light Bearers" course who were still standing. It was most impressive to see how quickly the light of a single candle spread, until the pavilion was lighted by the flames of many candles.

In Umubiakwa there was an even larger group ready for commissioning. A group of forty had fulfilled all the requirements and had been the means of winning 100 to the truth.

Not far away there was another group of thirty-two in Umuocha who were prepared. They had brought in 120.

It remained, however, for the little group in Umuokpara to shatter all records for soul-winning achievement. Twelve were prepared for commissioning as members of the modern "120," but they had been the means of bringing eighty into the truth, an average of over six souls won for each of the laymen who were commissioned.

It is most wonderful indeed, to see the missionary zeal of our brethren and sisters in East Nigeria. A new day in soul-winning has dawned in the West African Union Mission. The East Nigerian Mission is leading the way to greater endeavour for God. I am sure that their enthusiasm will spread, and similar commissioning services will be held in each of the other missions of our union.

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## The Indispensable Vanguard of Youth

By M. E. Lind

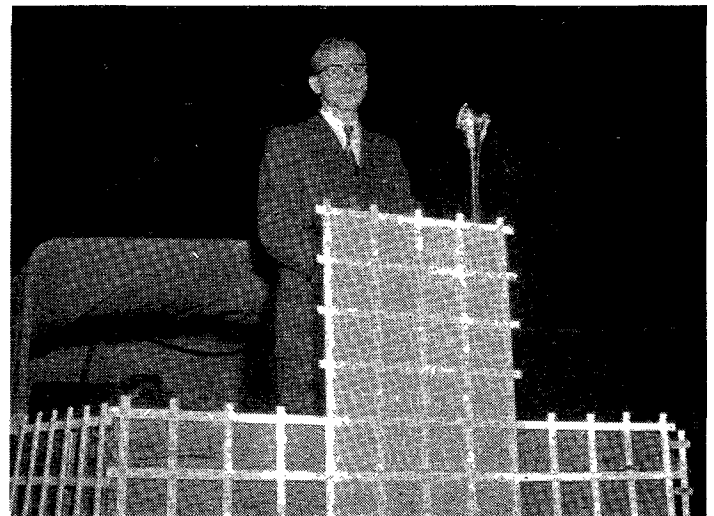
IT WAS during my conversation with Brother Watts, church elder of Cardiff, the captial city of Wales, that he pulled from his breastpocket a letter and said: "This is from the Director of

Welfare, and concerns proposed visits by members of our Youth Society to some Old Peoples' Homes. Listen to what it says and notice the list of appointments:

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*Youth engaged in evangelism. Mr. Keyn preaches to over 700 in the market place in Oslo.*

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"I have pleasure in offering you the following programme. If any of the dates are inconvenient please let me know as soon as possible, so that I may arrange alternative dates.

- "125 Cathedral Rd.: 11th March, 1958;
- "Quarry Hill House, St. Mellons: 20th March;
- "'Wellclose': 28th March;
- "'Oldwell': 11th April
- "35 Cathedral Rd.: 25th April."

This incident could be multiplied scores of times. It shows in a definite manner that the youth of our church is actively and purposefully engaged in the breaking down of prejudice, in creating goodwill for the church, and in direct soul-winning activities. This is as it ought to be. Our youth should always be found in the frontlines, fighting the good fight. But much, much more could be done to utilize the zeal and vigour of youth.

The servant of the Lord in speaking of the Advent youth says: "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world. How soon might the end come—the end of suffering and sorrow and sin! How soon, in place of a possession here, with its blight of sin and pain, our children might receive their inheritance where 'the righteous shall inherit the land and dwell therein for ever.'"—*Counsels to Teachers, Parents and Students*, page 555.

Some years ago, when I first arrived at our Division headquarters, I sent out a *questionnaire* to a large number of young people, covering the entire Division territory. One of the questions which I asked them to answer was:



*This Advent Youth choir under the direction of Mr. Keyn, visits hospitals such as the Radiotherapy Hospital and the Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Hakadal near Oslo, bringing sunshine into the lives of many sufferers.*

"What in your estimation is the best antidote to apostasy among our own youth?"

Will it surprise you to learn that fifty-one per cent of the young people approached were firmly convinced that if our youth upon entering the church had been encouraged intelligently to take an active part in Christian endeavour, many who today are not with us might have been saved?

Did you know that fourteen per cent of all our youth feel that they are not

even needed in the church? Does this come as a shock to you? We sincerely hope that many of us will be shaken from our own apathy regarding youth. We appeal to church leaders and conference workers alike, not for sympathy on behalf of our youth—they would resent it, I am sure—but for a wise and systematic usage of them.

Within the framework of the Northern European Division we have 18,967 young people enrolled in our MV societies. During the past year this army of youth reported that they had helped 25,380 persons. They had donated \$1,935.00 in local welfare. They had made 37,428 missionary contacts, and assisted in giving 20,028 Bible readings. They had enthusiastically participated in the running of 118 Sunday schools with a total enrolment of 3,084 students. Just think of this when you are enjoying a quiet Sunday morning in your home! At that time of the week many of our fine young people are teaching children not of our faith the better way of life. During 1957 nine hundred young people were baptized in our Division. Many of these had been won for the truth by our own youth. During that year twelve evangelistic ef-



*Pastor Gammon baptizing a new convert won through the Edmonton Youth Effort.*



A group of patients at a crippleage near Oslo listening to an M.V. programme given for their benefit.

forts were conducted by our own youth in the homeland and in the mission field. How well they acquitted themselves in Oslo where their open-air campaign drew hundreds of people week by week! In Edmonton, England, where the fine, mature youth society ran such a successful effort resulting in twelve being baptized up to the present! In Stockholm, in Bergen, and in diverse places our young people have either been running outpost efforts or signally assisting in city efforts.

During the Ingathering campaigns for

missions, it has been a source of inspiration to see the enthusiasm with which our youth have entered upon this vital task. Not all the young people have reported back to their youth societies the results achieved. We are proud, however, to inform you that in our Division the young people gathered more than \$31,142. This amount surpasses the total results of several of our individual unions. Yes, given the chance, young people enjoy nothing more than being out in the front-line where the battles are the hardest.

## A Continuous Programme of Bible Lay-Evangelism

By E. W. Pedersen

THE BASIC ESSENTIAL of a continuous programme of Bible Lay-evangelism is spiritual and not technical. It is Christianity as an organism thriving on the vitalizing, sustaining Life from within, rather than Christianity as an organization operating through the impetus of human agencies from without. *Good* works may be produced in either case; *acceptable* works only as the spiritual is present as the sole motivating factor; *good and acceptable* works *always* abounding to the glory of God, when the two are congenially blended together.

Only a heart set aflame by the Holy Spirit and daily nourished by the in-

dwelling Christ will possess the constant incentive to act and the power to transform mere spasmodic work into steady Christian service. This must be an abiding conviction of our leadership. It is fundamental.

### The Human Elements and Aids:

1. The programme that works will have been prayerfully conceived, intelligently planned, and technically perfected: then conscientiously put into operation, carefully supervised, Spirit executed, and patiently carried through to its successful completion.

2. For its continuity and success it depends on three main factors:

- a. The pastor or leader.
- b. The laity, individually and collectively.
- c. The ever-progressive elements of the missionary programme of the church.

The pastor is the key-man, and the measure of success he achieves in discharging this aspect of his tremendous responsibility is proportionate to the degree of fervour with which he is God's man, and the extent to which he becomes and remains a true laymen's man. A true laymen's pastor will in the laity see his greatest asset, his working capital, as well as his unfailing reserve. He will believe in them and ever be ready to act on that belief. "Trust awakens trust."

The laity are sons and daughters of the Most High God and should always be treated as such. They love their Lord and long for His return. Consequently, they are anxious to serve to the best of their ability. If not, then there is something wrong somewhere, and the cause may not necessarily lie with them.

By the "ever-progressive elements" of this continuous programme we mean the detailed working plans for:

- (a.) Continuity of efforts to increase the lay working force and potentiality of the church.

(Concluded on page 4.)

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PRICE 3/- A YEAR

Published monthly as the Official Organ of the Northern European Division of Seventh-day Adventists, 41 Hazel Gardens, Edgware, Middlesex, England. Printed at The Stanborough Press-Ltd., Watford, Herts., England.