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A Message from the President



IT IS with great humility that I bring to the TIDINGS family throughout Southern Asia this my first message in the capacity as President of this Division field. It is a position to which I have never aspired and one from which I would naturally shrink were it not for the realization that God has His hand over the affairs of His church, and for the knowledge of

the loyal devotion and dedication of every worker and layman in this Division to the unfinished task that lies before us.

Pastor Pierson through the past four years has given a lead to our programme of advance that few could equal. He has made every worker—regardless of the line of work in which he is engaged—evangelistic minded. He has set a pace that has almost been breath-taking at times, and under his enthusiastic and wise leadership we have made advancement never equalled in any four-year period before in the history of our work in Southern Asia.

It is now for us to carry on the thrilling programme he has outlined along the way he has marked out for us. Our working force has greatly increased; every department has had a healthy growth; it is now up to us to faithfully nourish the seed sown so that this growth will continue and to see that we do not go backward in any line of

endeavour in the cause of God, but ever onward. "Onward, ever onward" must be our watchword until the work is finished and we enter our heavenly home. It is not far distant. It is nearer, much nearer than we can believe. Just over the mountain top we can view our promised land.

I am most grateful that Pastor Kemmerer, who has so wisely managed the finances of our work through this period of growth and advancement has been asked to continue as our Treasurer. His wise counsel and balanced financial programme will mean much to our onward march. Though he with his family will soon be going on their well-earned furlough, Pastor L. C. Shepard who has just returned from furlough will take over Brother Kemmerer's work during his absence.

We are also thankful to the General Conference for appointing Pastor D. S. Johnson as our Division Secretary. Brother Johnson has proved himself to be an able leader in his work as President of the West Pakistan Union and we welcome him into our midst to take over the responsibilities that Brother Ashlock carried during this past term.

We re-consecrate ourselves anew to God and pledge ourselves to all of you for unselfish service for the advancement of the work in Southern Asia. We earnestly seek your prayers for divine guidance and your close co-operation in the task that lies before us so that we all may be able to say together at the time of the next General Conference—if Christ has not ushered in His kingdom before then—"It has been a good term and the Lord has led us onward."

O. O. MATTISON

Excerpts from

MISSION FUNDS

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

(May 24, 1954, 7:30 p.m.)

W. H. BRANSON

THIS meeting tonight begins the forty-seventh session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

This will probably be the greatest gathering of the Seventh-day Adventist Church membership ever to attend a session of the General Conference. We are expecting some twenty-five thousand over the two week-ends, and have arranged for an additional large hall for those days.

This session will also no doubt be the most important gathering of the church of God ever to assemble since the creation of the world. This is because we have come here during the closing hours of human probation. The rapid fulfilling of the signs of the times clearly indicates that the work of the church is about finished. May God honour this assembly by His holy presence. Let us earnestly pray that this may be the most spiritual meeting the church has ever held. The times demand it. Our own spiritual needs require it.

OUR MEMBERSHIP GOAL

When we gathered here four years ago we joined in setting a new goal before the church for the ensuing four years. That goal was to double our membership within the quadrennial period. Well, the goal has not been reached. But we have been richly blessed of God in seeking to accomplish this mighty task.

The entire world field accepted the challenge, and in every division our workers and laymen alike put forth their best efforts to reach the goal. The Spirit of God co-operated with the church in this great effort, and many marvellous things have been accomplished.

We can truly say with the psalmist, "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." Ps. 126:3. The highest gain by any division was Africa, with 74 per cent. Next highest was the Far East, with 42 per cent. Three unions overseas fully reached the goal, and our hearts will thrill with joy as they tell us of their experiences in leading their forces to victory in this matter. The highest gain reported by any union was the

Coral Sea Union, with an increase of 331 per cent. The next was the Congo Union, with a 169 per cent gain. Fourteen unions reached over 50 per cent of the goal. More than twenty local fields will also be able to report that the goal has been fully reached.

The baptisms during this quadrennium have numbered 294,793.

The net gain in world membership has been 208,284.

Our present membership, December 31, 1953, was 924,822.

The per cent of gain for the world field was 29 per cent.

Our Sabbath school membership has reached 1,187,883. This is the largest gain in the history of our work.

Sabbath school offerings raised during this period were \$21,132,201.48, a gain of over three million.

It is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

It is a literal fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy where he said, "Arise, be enlightened; for thy light is come, and the glory of Jehovah is risen over thee. For behold, darkness shall veil the earth, and dense vapour the peoples; then Jehovah shall shine forth upon them, and His glory shall be manifested upon them. And the nations shall walk in thy light and kings in the brightness of thy sun rising. Lift up thine eyes round about thee, and see, all of them gathered together, advancing unto thee; thy sons come from afar, they shall come, and thy daughters shall be nursed at their side. Then shalt thou behold it with exuberant joy, and thine heart shall palpitate, with exulting delight, when like the sea the multitude shall roll onwards upon thee; like a rapid stream the nations shall flow in unto thee." Isa. 60:1-5, (Spurrell's translation).

Surely what we have seen is the result of a mighty manifestation of the work and power of the Holy Spirit. It is the fruitage produced of copious showers of the latter rain. Our hearts are enlarged and overflow with joy over the conversion of so many to the faith since our session here four years ago.

The mission offerings for the support of our work have been flowing in from our loyal and true people in an ever-increasing stream during these four years.

The work of public evangelism has been stressed throughout the world divisions, and many thousands of persons have thus been brought directly under the influence of the Advent message through the preached Word. This work we should continue to promote until around the earth the cry may be heard from the lips of the living preachers that "the day of the Lord cometh and is nigh at hand."

It is through the "foolishness of preaching" that God has ordained that men shall be saved. All other lines of Christian service are auxiliary to this.

During these four years we have built 1,500 to 2,000 new church buildings in which to house our congregations of believers. Some of these are large representative buildings that will serve not only as church homes but as permanent evangelistic centres, where the work of public evangelism will be carried on constantly. Such centres have been acquired in the very heart of both London and New York City, the two greatest and among the most difficult cities on earth, and we believe will result in bringing our message to the attention of multitudes in these populous centres that could not be attracted in any other way. How happy our people are for these hundreds of new church homes!

OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Among other outstanding accomplishments of the church during these four years we would list the following:

1. A dental college has been opened at Loma Linda, California, and our first class of some forty students are just now completing their freshman year.

2. A building programme has been launched at the College of Medical Evangelists, both at Loma Linda and at Los Angeles.

3. A large and much-needed addition was made to the General Conference office building in Washington, which has added to the efficiency of the work in our general headquarters. This had been sorely needed for many years.

4. One of the most outstanding ac-



ELDER BRANSON RETIRES FROM PRESIDENCY

Statement by Elder Branson

By this time I am sure that all our people, at least in this country, know that I have become affected with a disease, a sort of palsy, which they call Parkinson's disease. This difficulty became noticeable some time after the last session of the General Conference, and it has reached its present stage very gradually. This difficulty has not kept me from the work at any time. It has greatly affected my public ministry. The nervousness caused by this disease is always exaggerated whenever I try to speak in public or get under pressure in heavy committee work.

The palsy has also affected my voice. I used to have a very strong, clear voice. There are occasionally times when the Lord gives me a clear, ringing voice again, but the palsy generally affects the voice, and therefore I can no longer speak in clear tones, as I formerly did. I have counselled with a number of specialists, who advised me not to continue longer under the burden of world leadership as president of the General Conference. I am sure you all recognize that world leadership in the church today is a heavier burden than at any other time in the history of the world. This position requires the

services of one who is in possession of all his physical powers and who is able to speak with a voice that will command the attention of the hearers everywhere. It is no task for one who is handicapped with some malady that prevents him from doing his very best work. I am therefore making the request at this time of your Nominating Committee that they do not consider my name for the office of president of the General Conference for the ensuing four years, but that they choose someone else who is stronger and better able to carry on the work of church leadership in the strenuous and trying days that are just ahead of us.

Mrs. Branson and I shall be very happy to continue to serve the church in some lesser capacity if that should be desired. We stand ready to support whoever may be chosen with whatever strength God shall give us and shall earnestly pray that God will make His chosen one a tower of strength to the entire church.

Brethren and sisters, let me repeat: We are near the end of the journey. We are nearing home. May God bless you and keep you faithful until the end. This is our earnest prayer.



enrolled in our various Bible correspondence schools. These correspondence courses are sent out in 57 languages. Radio Ceylon, which is said to be the most powerful commercial short-wave station on earth, broadcasts eleven Voice of Prophecy programmes each Sunday, covering a territory that no doubt reaches over half of the population of the earth. From faraway lands such as Africa, Persia (Iran), Malaya, Europe, Borneo, Mauritius, and Arabia come requests for the Bible lessons. From countries hitherto entirely unentered by the Christian religion come responses and requests for baptism. Thousands are declaring their intentions to become Christians and keep the Sabbath.

Thus the very atmosphere about us and throughout the world is charged with the great Advent mes-

sage. Voices everywhere are calling to the inhabitants of the earth that the hour of God's judgment is come, and urging them to prepare for the event of the ages, the Second Advent of Jesus our Lord.

7. During the four years our colporteurs and members have distributed more than \$60,000,000 worth of our denominational literature. This represents a probable gain of some fourteen or fifteen million dollars over the previous four-year period. Millions of tracts and leaflets have been given out by our people, thus literally fulfilling the statement that our literature "should be scattered like the leaves of autumn."

8. A large Layman's Congress held in Grand Ledge, Michigan, and a Pan-American Youth Congress held in 1953 in San Francisco, have given great emphasis to our lay evangelism

accomplishments of this quadrennial period, we believe, was the holding of a Bible conference during the year 1952. This was held in the large Sligo church at Takoma Park, and was attended by many of our world leaders, Bible teachers, editors, and evangelists. This conference dealt with the great fundamental doctrines of the Christian religion, with special emphasis being given to those articles of faith that have made us a separate and peculiar people. The studies given by those who were chosen to speak, revealed the fact that a wonderful unity of faith exists among our ministers throughout the world. There were no discordant notes sounded, and those who attended saw a literal fulfilment of the oft-expressed desire of Jesus that His people should "all be one," and also the appeal of the apostle Paul when he said, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." 1 Cor. 1:10.

The report of the Bible conference has been published in two volumes and thus made available to all our people. We hope that as far as possible, every church member will secure and read these two volumes.

RADIO AND TELEVISION WORK

5. During this four-year period our radio work has spread throughout most of the free countries of the world, bringing the Advent message within the reach of millions who hitherto had never heard. This message is now being given over some 928 stations in many languages, radiating far and wide, to the various countries of the world.

6. A network television programme was undertaken in 1951 for the North American field, and this has developed so rapidly that to date 93 stations are telecasting the Advent message in this field. This will no doubt become one of the most powerful means of disseminating the truth that has thus far been made available to the church. Most of these 93 TV stations are broadcasting our programmes without charge to the denomination.

Our present combined radio programmes carry the message within reach of four-fifths of the entire world population.

Over two and a half million have

and Share Your Faith programmes, with the result that thousands of our adults and youth have been inspired to join the ranks of our lay workers in a strong effort to reach the millions about them with the judgment-hour message.

9. Throughout many of the countries of the world an unprecedented amount of publicity has been given to the teachings of our church through the public press, and through this means also untold millions have been brought in contact with our message.

Our Missionary Volunteer department will report that during this quadrennium 37,472 youth have been baptized into this faith through the efforts of our Volunteers. The Home Missionary department will tell us that during the past four years some 23,542 lay preachers helped our regular labourers in proclaiming our message through public evangelism. This represents a 96 per cent gain for the period.

The Ingathering (Uplift) funds for the four years amounted to approximately \$18,600,000. This is a four-million-dollar gain over the former period. We wish, on behalf of the General Conference and the fields, to say a big *Thank you* to everyone who had a part in bringing about this marvellous result.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

10. Our colleges, and middle and primary schools have reached a peak attendance during this period just closing.

11. Our medical institutions have treated 8,786,498 persons during this quadrennium.

12. Through our temperance societies Seventh-day Adventists have captured the leadership of the temperance forces in this and other countries, and our representatives are carrying on an educational campaign that is wielding a strong influence throughout the world field.

13. Our Religious Liberty secretaries have been struggling to prevent the adoption of the so-called calendar reform and to keep the doors of liberty open to our colporteurs and Ingathering solicitors.

SOME COUNTRIES NOT REPRESENTED

At best this report cannot be complete, owing largely to the fact that about half of the world is shut off from us and cannot send either delegates or reports to this session. In many fields we know that our

ministers and members are suffering much persecution.

WE ARE NEAR THE END

As we open this session of the General Conference for business it is with the profound conviction that we have about reached the end of our earthly journey and that whatever we have yet to do must be done quickly. I wish tonight to leave on the records of the session my own profound conviction that the time of Christ's coming is at hand. I know that many of you have the same conviction. And in this we no longer stand alone. In a letter to his diocese in November, 1945, the Archbishop of York said:

"The Biblical declaration that the end of the world will come suddenly is driven home to us with fresh mean-



THE HAND THAT HOLDS US STEADY

L. M. Spear

When the shades of evening gather,
And we seek repose from labour,
How sweet to turn our thoughts to our
dear Friend;
Just to close the shutters tightly
To the world and all its tumults
And let to Him our earnest prayers
ascend.

For His ear is ever open
To our trials and our sorrows;
Oh, how patiently He listens to our cry.
When we try to reach perfection
And our failures plague and haunt us,
He gives us strength to make another
try.

For 'tis by His might we're strengthened
For the battles and the conflicts
That beset us as we travel on life's way.
So we'll grasp the Hand that's mighty,
The Hand that bears the nailprints,
The Hand that holds us steady day by
day.



ing. . . The writing on the wall of threatened doom and destruction can now be read clearly by all thoughtful men."

Yes, actually the time left us in which to finish our world task is shorter than we think. Beloved, the blessed hope of the heralds of this mighty Advent message is now about to be realized. *Jesus is coming soon.* And His coming will be doomsday to the wicked, but it will be the beginning of eternity to Christ's followers. To the wicked it will be a time of utter darkness and despair, while to the righteous it will be the dawn of an eternal day.

And the time is at hand. It has overtaken us. We may expect Him

to come without further tarrying. The prophecies are fulfilled. All things are ready and we must from now on live in a state of constant expectancy—ready, watching, and longing for His appearing.

As never before, we can say, "It is the last time." We have come a long way since the General Conference session of 1863, with twenty delegates representing thirty-five hundred members, all in the United States. But the Word of God was precious in those days. The judgment-hour message of 1844 had begun its work of calling out the remnant. The declaration of the apostle John applying to the time following the great disappointment was just beginning to be understood: "Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings." The vision of a world task was just coming into focus. It was another eleven years before the first foreign missionary entered the field. The work of this denomination had just started. But the hour had come for the last message of mercy to go to a doomed world. Our spiritual forefathers moved out in a sublime faith which all the devices of the evil one could not destroy.

Tonight, we rejoice in that which God has wrought for the glory of His name. Many are here from the East and the West, from the North and the South, to join hearts and voices in praise to Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvellous light.

Above all, brethren and sisters, let us remember that "it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Let us keep ever before us the solemn truth that "except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." Let us call to mind the former days when we were but an obscure handful, enduring a great fight of afflictions, and realize that we are still in the eyes of the world a poor, despised company, pilgrims and strangers, with no continuing city on this earth, but seeking one to come. Our sufficiency is of God. He led us out in the beginning of the way; and He alone can bring us safely through to the journey's end.

The theme of this session of our General Conference will be the imminence of the return of Jesus. The fires of faith, hope, and comfort in this mighty doctrine must be rekindled in our hearts. We, of all people, must constantly feel the warmth and glow of this stupendous

(Continued on p. 6.)

“ I WILL COME AGAIN ”

R. R. FIGUHR

(Excerpts from *Devotional Study, May 25, 1954, 8:30 a.m.*)

OUR theme for this morning on the Second Advent of Christ has been called by inspiration “the very key-note of the Sacred Scriptures.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 299.

A proper understanding of this fundamental doctrine brings all the prophetic writings into proper focus. Biblical declarations of a new and perfect order to come become clear.

It is this hope that has raised up Seventh-day Adventists and made them a peculiar people, strangers and pilgrims in the earth, looking for that city whose builder and maker is God.

This teaching must ever occupy a prominent place in the thinking and living of Seventh-day Adventists. This will be the greatest event of history.

We have been proclaiming it for more than a century. It is today being preached by Adventist preachers and laymen around the world; as a result, in all lands there are people looking and longing for the soon return of Christ.

Where do we find the reason for our confidence in this great doctrine that is cheering and sustaining so many not only in life but also in the hour of death? We turn for the answer, not to the word of man, but to the divinely Inspired Word, which brings to us God’s own answer.

As one reads the Gospels he is impressed by the number of references the Master makes to His second coming. He points forward to it as the solution of all earth’s problems. Then will end all sorrow and tribulation. Forewarning His disciples of the persecution that they would suffer, He encouraged them with the words: “In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” This statement can only be understood in the light of Jesus’ coming, which ushers in a new order. With this agree the words of the apostle Paul when he speaks of the resurrection to take place at the Lord’s coming, saying that if in this life only we have hope, we are of all men, most miserable. The Christian endures

hardships and injustices, looking forward to the Lord’s coming as the time of his deliverance and transfer to a land where such problems no longer exist. On such a basis only could Jesus tell His disciples to be of good cheer in their hour of tribulation.

The transfiguration on the mountain prefigured Christ’s return in glory. Before that event as recorded in Mark 9, Jesus had said that there were some with Him who would not die till they had seen the kingdom of God come with power. This statement is understood only in the ex-

perience of our Lord’s transfiguration, of which the Scripture says, “He was transfigured before them. And His raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them.” This image of their glorified Lord vividly stayed with the disciples in the subsequent years, graphically keeping before them the coming of their Lord in power and glory.

When in response to the disciples’ request Jesus taught them how to pray, He told them to include in their prayer the petition, “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.” This prayer will be fully answered only when the kingdom of Christ is established on earth after His second coming. Praying for the speedy return of their Lord is no hardship for the Lord’s followers.

CHRIST’S OWN PROPHECY

One of the outstanding chapters of the Bible is Matthew 24, in which Jesus goes into considerable detail



ELDER FIGUHR’S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

Thank you, Elder Branson, and thank you delegates, brothers and sisters, for the confidence that your vote indicates. I hardly know what to say. I feel very serious, for this is an exceedingly heavy responsibility to lay upon anyone. Were it not that God assures us of His presence and guidance and of His companionship, I am sure anyone would shrink from assuming such a responsibility as this. I feel comforted and reassured to know that you will pray that God will lead us. I know it is God’s plan and purpose to lead His people, and I sincerely hope that the excellent beginning we have made in this council in seeking the Lord, we shall continue in the days, months, and years, if necessary, until the Lord brings us into His everlasting kingdom.

I do not suppose for a moment that anyone can satisfy a million people. I just want to say that I wish to be found in the middle of the road, walking toward the kingdom of God. I recall the words of the

Spirit of prophecy which say that if the devil cannot keep us bound in the ice of indifference, he endeavours to rush us into the fires of fanaticism. May we be found in the middle of the road, expending our energies in the proclaiming of this truth.

I may say that I earnestly hoped and fervently prayed that our dearly beloved Brother Branson would be able to continue on. He has given to us such marvellous leadership. The remarkable record that has been established during these four years under his earnest, faithful leadership is unparalleled. The large number of baptisms, the large additions to the church, the growth in every direction, indicate the blessing of the Lord. I had hoped that he might continue. I was very happy working with Brother Branson. But the turn of events has been in another direction. So I simply ask that you pray that God may have His way, that His work may prosper, and that together we may be faithful until the day of God.



regarding His second coming. His disciples had asked Him about His coming, and the entire chapter of fifty-one verses is an account of His coming, the manner, the conditions that would exist in the earth preceding His coming, and the danger of being deceived regarding this event. It likewise speaks of the peril of indifference among those who profess to believe in His return. Had we nothing else in the Scriptures on the second coming of Christ than this chapter, we could feel well instructed on this subject and be assured that He will return to earth the second time.

Though the disciples were called to participate in the spiritual ministry of Christ, pre-conceived ideas so clouded their minds that three and a half years of associating with and listening to the Master's teaching were not sufficient for them to comprehend fully the great fact of the Saviour's return to this earth the second time. The Lord endeavoured repeatedly and in many different ways to lead them to a correct understanding of the fact that this present order of things is to pass away and that an entirely new one is to be established, this to take place in connection with His glorious return to earth. Even at the time of His death they had failed to understand it. On the way to Emmaus they confided to one whom they took for a stranger that they had "trusted that it had been He which should have redeemed Israel." Luke 24:21. No reference whatever was made in their conversation to a second coming. They thought only of the establishment of an earthly kingdom. How slow the human mind is to grasp Heaven's great truths!

It was not until their minds were enlightened by the Holy Spirit that we hear the apostles speaking clearly and with conviction of the Second Advent of their Lord. At last this great fact seems to have come into proper focus. We now hear Peter referring to the signs preceding the coming of the Lord and speaking of "that great and notable day of the Lord." Acts 2:20. Just a little later, when Peter had healed the lame man at the Beautiful gate of the Temple, and all the people had come together, wondering over the miracle, he turned their attention to Christ as the Source of healing power. He then admonished them to repent and be converted, that their sins might be blotted out when the times of refreshing should come from the presence of

the Lord. "And He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things." Acts 3:20, 21.

The effect that the acceptance of this doctrine is to have on the believer is stated in these words, "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace,



THE WATCHMAN'S WORD

Arthur W. Spalding

The twilight steals from out the brake,
The furtive shadows glower,
The walls their sable draperies take
Beneath the watchman's tower.
Hark to the challenge from below:
"Ho, watchman! Give us word!"
And deep and solemn, measured, slow,
The watchman's voice is heard:
"A-II's w-e-ll! A-a-II's well!"
The watchman saith,
"But guard the gates; the night comes
down."
And far away there answereth:
"The gates—the gates—the night—comes
down."

The evening star shines in the west,
But setting, setting low.
The iron-bound doors close in the guest,
And shut without the foe.
And from his silent, lofty keep,
Like call of evening bird,
Intoned in accents full and deep,
The watchman's voice is heard:
"A-II's w-e-ll! A-a-II's well!"
The watchman saith,
"Yet watch! and wake! There stirs a
sound
Upon the evening's light-blown
breath!"
And faintly, far, the war notes sound!

The midnight blackens all the field,
The walls dissolve in night,
When sudden, silence, fast congealed,
Breaks forth in wild affright,
And loud alarm springs to life,
Till hell beneath is stirred;
Yet o'er the bedlam of the strife
The watchman's voice is heard:
"A-II's w-e-ll! A-a-II's well!"
The watchman saith,
"The walls thrust back the mad assault!
Fear not the foe, and fear not death,
But mount, and guard, and meet th'
assault!"

The morning's banners faintly flash
Upon the eastern sky,
And still the foeman's cohorts dash
Against the bulwarks high.
But cheerily rings the trump the hour,
And bravely runs the word;
For from his high-thrust warden tower
The watchman's voice is heard:
"A-II's w-e-ll! A-a-II's well!"
The watchman saith,
"The King, with all His armies, comes!"
And loud the people answereth:
"The King! The King! He comes! He
comes!"



without spot, and blameless." 2 Peter 3:14.

We are told that all sacrifices that have been made for the cause of Christ, all that has been given up for His cause, will, at His coming, be restored a hundredfold (Matt. 19:27-29). "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." 1 Cor. 2:9.

This hope must make us a peculiar people. Our living must be consistent with our hope. We cannot settle down in this world, for it is not our home. The apostle Paul urges, "Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth." Col. 3:2.

The true Adventist loves the thought of the appearing of his Lord. It means for him the end of his pilgrimage.

"In that world of light and beauty,
In that golden city fair,
Soon its pearly gates they'll enter,
And of all its glories share."

LITTLE TIME REMAINS

Between us and the realization of that blessed hope there remains still a short journey. The way is beset by dangers. The delusion and deceptions of our determined enemy are many and powerful. We must heed well the admonition of our Master given especially for His followers living in the days of His Advent: "Take heed that no man deceive you" (Matt. 24:4), and "He that endureth to the end, shall be saved." Matt. 10:22.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

(Continued from p. 4.)

truth. Jesus is coming again. We must sing it; we must preach it; we must believe it; and we must be constantly ready for it.

Long ago the servant of the Lord warned that some among us would not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.

Brethren, we have reached the time. What you see and hear today is the fruitage of God's Spirit. Let us recognize it as such, and let us rejoice that we have been accounted worthy of thus becoming labourers with God in the very closing phases of His work of saving men.

Excerpts from

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

C. L. TORREY

"For who hath despised the day of small things?" Zech. 4:10.

It is an inspiration to turn the pages of history recording the acts of the early Sabbath-keeping pioneers and note how they made their plans, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to follow the Lord's command to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel." In their midst stood the servant of the Lord, through whom He sent messages of instruction and plans for the development and the finishing of a great work. With the exception of God's Word and the instruction given Sister White, these brethren had little to encourage them.

I want to take you back to April, 1848, to the time of the first general meeting of Sabbath-keepers in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. There were only about fifty people present from this area. According to the record the purpose of this meeting and subsequent conferences held elsewhere that year was to collect and bind together the believers in the Sabbath truth. The year 1848 is an important date, for it was then that the plans of the Sabbath-keeping pioneers began to take form in a definite way, and from this time forward action was the watchword of these men and women of faith.

In 1848 the pioneers had no money to promote the work God had commanded them to do. They lived in abject poverty and made every possible sacrifice that the work might go forward and prosper. A. W. Spalding, in his book *Captains of the Host*, wrote of those times in part as follows:

Joseph Bates "decided that he must supplement his preaching with literature. He determined to write a book or tract on the Sabbath question. How to pay for the publication he did not know, for his funds had shrunk to one lone York shilling, twelve and a half cents."—*Captains of the Host*, p. 114.

"One morning as James White left for his work he took from his pocket his last coins, nine cents, and gave them to his wife. It would pay for three pints of milk, three days, for herself and the baby. . . .

Two men founding a church: Joseph Bates with one York shilling, James White with nine cents! What a beginning for a church that spends its annual millions today."—*Ibid.*, p. 173.

"James White himself was penniless, except as he worked at manual labour; the other preachers were in about the same case."—*Ibid.*, p. 177.

And as we read of those days of hardship and toil, we find that some could not endure the hardness of the way, and turned away from the truth. Yes, it was a time to try men's souls, and only those who endured the fires of affliction and whose lives and hearts were completely devoted to God remained loyal and steadfast.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE CHURCH

In 1848 the pioneers had no plans for the financial support of the church and no money for building projects. In April of 1858 a class was formed in Battle Creek, Michigan, presided over by J. N. Andrews, to study the Scriptures for light on the financial support of the ministry. This study resulted in the appointment of a committee of three to prepare material on the subject of systematic giving to be published in the church paper. The article was approved and published in the

Review and Herald, February 3, 1858. Later the tithing principle was adopted at the General Conference session of 1878, held in Battle Creek, and five men were appointed to prepare a work on the Scriptural plan of systematic benevolence. A little pamphlet was prepared and issued in 1879 entitled *Systematic Benevolence; or the Bible Plan of Supporting the Ministry*. The plan then became general among Seventh-day Adventists, and it was their conviction that all are enjoined to return to God His portion that they might receive and enjoy the many blessings God wishes to bestow.

In addition to the tithe, freewill offerings, according to the ability of the members to give, were recommended.

As a result of the recommendations in 1878 and 1879, many millions in money have come into the Lord's treasury, thus making it possible to add to the working staff year by year, until December 31, 1952, there were 17,774 conference and mission evangelistic workers in many nations being supported by tithe and freewill offerings. Besides these there were 21,385 institutional workers of all classes being supported wholly or in part by institutional income. Note the following:

Besides the foregoing, our people have contributed of their means for their church school buildings, equipment, and operating expenses. They have willingly given to help erect their churches and have donated funds for various projects promoted by the denomination. The total denominational investment in buildings and equipment as of December 31, 1952, amounted to \$228,662,246.90.

Total Tithes and Offerings Since Early Days to End of 1953

Tithes	\$466,267,084.48
Offerings	198,865,883.65
Total tithes and offerings	\$665,132,968.13

The Tithe and Offerings for the Past Quadrennium

Year	Tithe	Increase	Mission Offerings	Increase
1950	\$ 27,728,250.32	\$ 649,390.27	\$10,377,644.83	\$ 32,429.32
1951	31,685,687.98	3,957,437.66	10,556,631.18	178,986.35
1952	34,051,151.18	2,365,463.20	11,459,181.37	902,550.19
1953	36,648,876.47	2,597,725.29	11,973,942.33	514,760.96
Totals	\$130,113,965.95		\$44,367,399.71	
1946-49	98,678,951.66		38,398,283.46	
Increase	\$ 31,435,014.29		\$ 5,969,116.25	

Surely our people have been large-hearted and generous with their funds as they have given of them for the cause they love.

Mission giving started in a very small way. It is of interest to note an action recorded on October 4, 1878, at the time of the General Conference session. Here it is:

Resolved, That we recommend to all our Sabbath schools the practice of contributing a penny or more to the funds of the Sabbath school, by both teachers and scholars, on every Sabbath day.

In 1878, \$25.00 was sent to the General Conference. The next year, or 1879, the General Conference received \$1,584.12. In 1887 the Sabbath schools were urged to give larger offerings. That year the General Conference received \$10,615.00. This was contributed and used toward the opening up of the first mission station in Africa. Since the beginning of our work our Sabbath schools throughout the world field have contributed a total of \$92,821,741.31.

The greatest single offering for missions comes through the avenue of the Sabbath school. During the four-year period represented by this report, \$17,028,070.09 has been contributed in North America and \$3,995,914.41 in overseas divisions, making a total of \$21,023,984.50, or an increase of \$3,294,178.54 over the previous four-year period.

Our Ingathering programme, in which our members go to their friends and neighbours for funds, is the second largest source of income. During the past four years \$18,544,787.21 was gathered by our loyal and faithful people for our world work. This is an increase over the past quadrennium of \$3,972,765.12. Of this amount \$13,187,962.38 came from North America and \$5,356,824.83 was gathered in overseas divisions. The total Ingathering funds received since the inception of the Ingathering plan to the close of 1953 amount to \$68,140,545.51.

The Midsummer, Week of Sacrifice, and Missions Extension offerings have been a great blessing to the mission programme. The total funds received from our people for these offerings during the past four years has amounted to \$2,650,821.79.

Another important resource of the General Conference is the percentage of tithe. Under this plan each conference in North America shares its tithe with the General Conference and thus joins hands with the mission fields in the extension of the work.

All articles and information regarding the forty-seventh session of the General Conference, May 24-June 5, have been taken from the special General Conference numbers of the "Review and Herald."

APPROPRIATIONS

From year to year appropriations have been voted at each Autumn Council for the world field. These appropriations have continued to increase as God has opened the way into new fields.

The total appropriations to the world field in 1933, or twenty years ago, amounted to \$3,217,012.65. The appropriations for 1953 totalled \$21,920,315.83, or an increase of \$18,703,303.18. As a result of these increased appropriations, making possible the employment of more workers, combined with the work of the Holy Spirit upon the hearts of men and women in many lands, the membership since 1933 has increased 540,671.

I wonder what the pioneers would say if they could see the growth of the work, the baptized believers from all lands, and read the reports of the millions of dollars contributed by our people annually for the support of the work in the world field.

HARRIS PINE MILLS

In September, 1951, Brother and Sister Clyde Harris, placed their entire business, the Harris Pine Mills, at the disposal of the General Conference. This generous contribution was made after much thought and prayerful consideration. The business is estimated to be worth several million dollars and represents forty or more years of untiring effort to accumulate funds for the cause. Brother and Sister Harris stipulated that the proceeds from the earnings should be used for the extension of our world-wide work.

At the last two Autumn Councils two cheques in the amount of \$100,000 each from earnings have been added to the budget for the world field. This is but a beginning, of course, of further funds to come from this source. The General Conference and the field generally are grateful to Brother and Sister Harris for this splendid gift, which will mean so much in the finishing of the work.

SACRIFICE

Sacrifice lies at the foundation of the gospel plan. It has the approval of both Christ's teachings and His example. It was in earnest toil and sacrifice that the pioneers of this movement launched the work. Should our people lose the spirit of sacrifice, just at that time will our work lose its power.

If our workers and our people were to have the spirit of the pioneers, what a change would come in among us! There would be willing hands on every side. Our people would gladly give up some of the comforts they enjoy here on this earth and would give themselves more fully to the finishing of the work. They would be seen going from home to home with literature and giving Bible readings. They would give of their means as never before. There would be re-enacted the experience of the great Nestorian movement, when men's hearts and lives were ablaze for God:

It is not money alone that will finish this task. God has a thousand ways of finishing His work. He expects us to contribute of our funds for the extension of the cause, and He accepts our sacrifices and blesses us in so doing. However, we must not put our dependence upon money, but rather upon God. We need greater faith for the task before us, for the time is coming—indeed it has come to some countries already—when our money will be worthless, and we shall deeply regret our inactivity and our withholding from God the funds we might have contributed for the salvation of souls, but it will be too late. Let it not be said of any of us that we have hoarded our money in worldly banks or in real estate, et cetera, but rather may it be said of us, "Thou hast been faithful."

In retrospect we have reviewed briefly the growth of the Advent Movement, and we thank our loving, heavenly Father for His watchcare and His divine and providential leadings through the years that have gone. And we bow our heads in adoration as we read of the great sacrifices made by the men who pioneered the movement, caring not for their own lives that the cause might triumph.

Yes, the work that began so small has prospered, and will continue to prosper, until the task is finished. God's blessing rests in benediction upon His church, and the work will soon be consummated in power and glory.

Excerpts from

THE SECRETARIES' REPORT

D. E. REBOK

God's church began at creation, and has continued till the present. Prophetically, we are now in the period of the last of the seven churches of Revelation. Seventh-day Adventists are *the remnant* of God's church, and to us has been committed in a very special way the work of the three angels.

Our *Business* is: "Prepare to meet thy God." Amos 4:12.

Our *Commission* is: "Go ye therefore, and make Christians of all nations." Matt. 28:19, margin.

Our *Message* is: "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matt. 4:17.

Our *Challenge* is: "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matt. 24:14.

Our *Theme* is: "BEHOLD I COME." How fitting becomes the theme song of this forty-seventh session of the General Conference—"What If It Were Today?"

REPORT ON THE PAST

Today we pause to look back over the past 110 years of Advent history. We must try to put ourselves in the place of our pioneers, to get the real feel of "small beginnings." They had just passed through a time of sweet anticipation and then of bitter disappointment.

As we look at the statistical picture for those early days, let us at the same time envision the hope put into the hearts of our leaders by such words as these from the pen of Ellen G. White:

"I seemed to be in a large gathering. One of authority was addressing the company, before whom was spread out a map of the world. He said that the map pictured God's vineyard, which must be cultivated. As light from heaven shone upon anyone, that one was to reflect the light to others.

"I saw jets of light shining from cities and villages, and from the high places and the low places of the earth. God's Word was obeyed, and as a result there were memorials for Him in every city and village. His

truth was proclaimed throughout the world."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, pp. 28, 29.

The large electrical map of the world will help us to see in reality what Ellen G. White saw in vision. It shows the expansion of our worldwide work by decades beginning with—

1840-1849—One lone light at Washington, New Hampshire, where Advent believers accepted the Seventh-day Sabbath, and then brought into existence the first Seventh-day Adventist church—a day indeed of small beginnings.

1850-1859—The decade beginning in 1850 was a formative period in Seventh-day Adventist history. A large number of enterprises and plans of work were started. Some of those were:

The Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald—1850

The Youth's Instructor—1852

First labourers with ministerial credentials were sent out at the expense of the church—1853

First Sabbath school organized—1853.

First church school, at Buck's Bridge, New York—1853

First tent for gospel work purchased—1854

First publishing house built at Battle Creek—1855

First State-wide annual meetings, the fore-runners of camp meetings—1859

First acceptance of "systematic benevolence on the tithing principle"—1859

Development of organization resulting in State conferences.

1860-1869—Our denominational name was chosen on October 1, 1860. In 1863, on May 21, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists was organized, with twenty delegates present, representing six local conferences and 3,500 members.

In 1866 our first medical institution, the Health Reform Institute, was established in Battle Creek. In 1868 the General Conference sent J. N. Loughborough and D. T. Bourdeau on a mission, with a large tent, to open work in California.

In 1869 James Erzenberger was sent by the Swiss brethren to attend the General Conference session of that year.

1870-1879—Our first college was opened in Battle Creek, Michigan. It was dedicated on January 3, 1875.

Our work on the Pacific Coast was established by the organization of the California Conference on February 15, 1873.

The first issue of the *Signs of the Times* came out on June 4, 1874, with James White as editor.

The Pacific Press Publishing Company was formed on April 1, 1875, with a capital stock of \$28,000.

The first foreign-language periodical by the Seventh-day Adventists was published in 1872. It was the Danish-Norwegian *Advent Tidende*. This was followed in 1874 by the Swedish *Sanningens Harold*.

Elder J. N. Andrews, our first foreign missionary, sailed on September 15, 1874, for Switzerland.

1880-1889—The Sabbath School department adopted the plan of offerings to support our far-flung missions.

The spirit of sacrificial giving, which resulted in such notable achievements during this decade, was convincingly demonstrated by our first foreign missionary, J. N. Andrews, who, about ready to lay down his armour in death, signed with trembling hand a cheque for five hundred dollars—all that remained of his earthly possessions, that the foreign missions programme might go forward.

1890-1899—From England, the work now advanced into Scotland and Wales. On the European continent the message spread into Finland, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Rumania. It also began to be proclaimed in Iceland, Turkey, Syria, India, Burma, and Japan.

Moving in a southerly direction from the home base, it reached the great South American continent, and various parts of Central America.

In 1890 the little ship *Pitcairn* was built and dedicated to the task of carrying the message to the islands of the South Pacific, including Pitcairn, the Society Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, and the Cook Islands.

The vision of the Advent people had now been lifted to comprehend the uncivilized and the heathen as well as the people of civilized and Christian lands.

1900-1909—The transfer of the

denominational headquarters to Washington, D.C., following the loss by fire of the sanitarium and publishing house in Battle Creek, provided a new setting and opportunity for greater advances. The new location proved to be very advantageous to the work at large, as the activities of the cause were soon established on a stronger and better basis in the new environment.

The decade began with 1,785 churches and 64,003 members, and ended with 2,691 churches and 100,931 members.

1930-1939—In 1936, as an outgrowth of the Advanced Bible School, the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary was established in Washington, D.C., for graduate study. Medical institutions were established in Bolivia, Sweden, Solomon Islands, Southern Rhodesia, Belgian Congo, Johannesburg and Penang, Colorado and Nashville in the U.S.A., Korea, India, and Finland.

Publishing houses, branches, and book depositories were provided in Greece, Iceland, Indo-china, India, and the Gold Coast of West Africa.

1940-1949—In five years beginning 1945, 1,421 missionaries were sent out, and the fields were re-occupied. The net gain in membership for the five years following the war was 158,770, the best record ever made up to that time.

The number of advanced schools increased by 58. Book and periodical sales jumped from \$3,784,000 in the year 1940 to \$12,456,000 in the year 1949.

This decade saw the organization of the Radio Commission. A nationwide hook-up carried the Voice of Prophecy broadcast in the United States. Radio Luxembourg carried our first broadcast in Europe.

Our annual tithes and foreign-mission offerings trebled, from \$11,949,000 in 1940 to \$37,264,000 in 1950. This was a period of building institutions, churches, and missions. The post-war prosperity was reflected in the faithful gifts on the part of our people and a corresponding enlargement of the work in both the home and foreign fields.

1950-1954—In this five-year period one division (Middle East) and four unions (Bismarck-Solomons, Nile, Ceylon, and South Philippine Unions) came into being; and throughout the world twenty-one local conferences and missions were organized. Fifteen new mission stations were opened, and over one

thousand new Seventh-day Adventist churches were organized.

Twenty new training schools were established, and thirteen new mission hospitals, supplying a total of five hundred beds. Every one is a new centre of Christian influence and of Seventh-day Adventist evangelism.

The results of the Bible correspondence school work are worthy of study. For the period of the last six years we turn to Southern Asia and Japan, as good examples:

	Southern Asia	Japan
Enrolments	300,000	130,000
Active students	175,000	42,874
Finished course	60,000	19,332
Number baptized	1,300	1,800

The number baptized includes only those who have reported direct to the school. Without doubt there are many more who have not so reported. In Southern Asia alone 20,000 of those who graduated from the course have signed cards indicating their acceptance of Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

For a picture of Seventh-day Adventist occupation of the world we again call your attention to the electrical map, and ask for your most careful and prayerful study.

OUR FOREIGN MISSIONARY OCCUPATION OF THE WORLD

In June of 1953, *Time* magazine published some figures which showed that Seventh-day Adventists were third in the number of foreign missionaries and first in the amount of money used. This brought a number of inquiries, and to satisfy ourselves and others we took a census of the world field. Today we have the names and addresses of the foreign missionaries sent out and maintained by Seventh-day Adventists. On August 26, 1953, we had exactly two thousand missionaries in the field, on furlough, or on their way to the field. The following tabulation is most interesting:

Divisions	In Field	On Furlough	Under Appointment	Total
Australasia	213	—	—	213
Central Europe	—	—	—	—
Far East	196	28	52	276
Inter-America	209	7	26	246
Middle East	77	6	4	87
Northern Europe—Missions in East and West Africa	138	10	10	158
South America	130	14	6	150
South China Union	18	7	8	33
Southern Africa	406	14	21	441
Southern Asia	187	44	23	254
Southern Europe—Missions in North Africa	139	2	5	146
TOTAL	1,713	132	155	2,000

HONOUR TO OUR FALLEN HEROES

Here we pause to do honour to the 346 workers who since the last General Conference have laid down their lives in faithful service for Christ at home and abroad. To them apply the words of the apostle Paul concerning his own service and sacrifice, so that we may truly say, "They have fought a good fight, they have finished their course, they have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for them a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give them at that day: and not to them only, but unto all them also that love His appearing."

W. A. Spicer, missionary, secretary, General Conference president, a great leader greatly beloved by Seventh-day Adventists the world around.

E. D. Thomas, tried and true leader in Southern Asia, a man of great ability and sterling worth.

L. G. Mookerjee, of India, for many years a household word among us as a tower of strength to the church.

Southern Asia—*E. E. Roenfelt*: To proclaim the everlasting gospel to more than 480,000,000 people, speaking about 250 different languages, is a colossal and humanly speaking impossible task. But that is the task that faces our workers in the Southern Asia Division. There we have even today only one ordained minister to every five thousand cities, towns, and villages.

During the past quadrennium the workers in this division added another glorious chapter to the book of Acts for the Orient. Over one thousand evangelistic campaigns were conducted, with the result that during this four-year period there were more baptisms than there were during the previous eight years. Everywhere throughout Southern Asia men and

women are searching for that which they can find only in Christ. A new day has dawned for our work in this citadel of superstition and paganism. It is our day of glorious opportunity.

A. W. Cormack—In the Naga hills of Assam our people some time ago distributed a large number of *Bible Readings* in the Lushai language. The leaders of another mission operating in that area, becoming alarmed over the possible results of the study of these books, organized the young people in a campaign of gathering them up. Many persons who had purchased them were persuaded to give them up and over three hundred copies were collected. What to do with them now, was the question.

Hesitating to destroy them, the leaders of that mission decided to distribute them among the pagan tribes across the Burma border, among whom no mission work had yet been established. It was felt that they might not do those pagans much harm. Accordingly, these books were scattered among those far-off and previously untouched people. They were read and studied, and soon people began to turn from their heathenism and to keep the Sabbath. Already two delegations have made the three-hundred-mile round trip on foot to our mission head-quarters in Assam for the purpose of pleading for a missionary to be placed among them.

Thus to further His work the Lord sometimes uses even the efforts of those who oppose it.

E. E. Roenfelt—In the Bangalore hills of South India a Hindu lad came to a knowledge of the truth and accepted it. Into his heart there came an over-mastering urge to share it with others. His family was bitterly opposed to him, and he could not go to one of our schools to prepare himself for service. But preach the message he must, despite his youth and lack of education. He went to a nearby tea plantation where a large group of men, many of them Communists, were employed. To them he preached as best he could. Things began to happen. Strikes, walkouts, and stop-work meetings, which had been frequent, ceased. Some of the men began keeping the Sabbath, and all of them became changed in their outlook. So impressed was the plantation owner by what occurred that he has signified his intention of building an Adventist church on his plantation.

(Continued on p. 17.)

Excerpts from

STATISTICAL REPORT FOR QUADRENNIUM

H. W. KLASER

CHURCHES AND MEMBERSHIP

At the close of 1953 the membership of Seventh-day Adventists around the world was 934,822, worshipping in 11,158 churches. This is an increase of 208,284 members and 1,167 churches since the beginning of the quadrennium. For every 1,000 members there was a net increase of 291 during the past four years; 134 in the North American Division and 371 in the divisions overseas.

WORKERS

There were 39,159 persons devoting their full time to the propagating of the Seventh-day Adventist doctrine in 1952; 17,774 were doing evangelistic work and 21,385 were connected with the various institutions such as schools, hospitals, publishing houses, et cetera. Of this number 14,785 were in North America and 24,374 outside North America. Summaries of the various classes of workers are given in the Annual Statistical Report.

	North America	Outside North America	World Field
Number of churches	3,016	8,142	11,158
Church members	275,733	649,089	924,822

A comparison of membership by division fields for the years 1945, 1949, and 1953 follows:

Seventh-day Adventist Church Membership by Divisions

Division	1945	1949	1953
Australasian	22,930	26,983	36,415
Central European	38,039	43,570	43,713
China (estimated)	22,940	23,415	21,168
Far Eastern	36,052	47,515	67,674
Inter-American	54,503	71,784	96,179
Middle East	-----	-----	1,787
North American	212,514	243,193	275,733
Northern European	30,520	21,764	46,365
South American	41,284	52,982	69,985
Southern African	46,460	70,190	115,574
Southern Asia	8,133	10,373	14,309
Southern European	38,005	66,873	94,700
U.S.S.R. (estimated)	16,513	16,513	40,000
Unattached Territory	8,485	21,383	1,220
Totals	576,378	716,538	924,822

BAPTISMS

During the past four years there were 307,581 persons received into church fellowship by baptism and on profession of faith; 68,419 in North America, and 239,162 in divisions outside North America. This is a remarkable record. Every minister and lay member prays for a larger ingathering of souls, but when the totals are tabulated our hearts are cheered with the number that have identified themselves with us.

TITHE AND OFFERINGS

The constant growth of the denomination naturally requires a larger outlay of funds. We must strengthen the stakes as we lengthen the cords.

During 1953 the members around the world paid into the treasuries of the denomination \$60,412,195.84. Of this amount more than 36½ million was tithe, nearly 12 million for foreign missions, and nearly 12 million for home and local work. It is

(Continued on p. 15.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

VOTED, 1. That the membership of the Nominating Committee shall consist of:

a. One member for each 12,000 church members or major fraction thereof, computed by divisions on the basis of the church membership at the close of 1953; provided however that no division shall have less than two members on the Nominating Committee on the basis of church membership; and provided also that unattached unions shall have at least one member.

b. Seven additional members, selected from among the General Conference Committee delegates at large not otherwise assigned.

2. That members of the Nominating Committee shall be chosen as follows:

a. The delegation of each division shall meet separately under the chairmanship of the respective division presidents, and acting as a unit shall select from its group, by ballot, the number of members to which it is entitled on the basis of church membership. Each union conference with a membership of 12,000 or more shall be entitled to representation on the pro rata basis of their membership, the total for the division to be as provided in the list given below.

b. The General Conference Committee ex officio delegates at large who are not otherwise assigned, shall sit as a separate group to select the number of members provided by paragraph 1 *b.*

c. The officers of the General Conference residing in Washington, meeting with the delegation of the unattached unions, shall function as a division delegation in the matter of selecting members to represent the unattached union.

d. Delegates at large seated under the provisions of Article III, Section 3 *b.* of the constitution will join the delegation from the division in which they are, or were last, employed.

e. Those chosen should, as far as possible, represent the various groups of denominational leaders and workers, such as executive officers, departmental secretaries, ministers,

The following are some of the nominations, taken from the report of the Committee on Nominations of the General Conference:

President of General Conference	R. R. Figuhr
Secretary of General Conference	W. R. Beach
Treasurer of General Conference	C. L. Torrey
President of North America	W. B. Ochs
President of Australasian Division	F. A. Cliffard
President of Central European Division	Wilhelm Mueller
President of Far Eastern Division	F. A. Mote
President of Inter-American Division	A. H. Roth
President of Middle East Division	G. J. Appel
President of Northern European Division	A. F. Tarr
President of South American Division	W. E. Murray
President of African Division	R. S. Watts
President of Southern European Division	M. V. Campbell
General Vice-Presidents of the General Conference	A. V. Olson L. K. Dickson A. L. Ham H. L. Rudy
Associate Secretaries of the General Conference	F. L. Peterson, H. T. Elliott, W. P. Bradley, Roger Altman, N. W. Dunn, E. E. Roenfelt, J. I. Robinson.
Under-treasurer	O. A. Blake
Assistant Treasurers	J. F. Cummins, R. H. Adair, F. B. Knight, C. W. Bozarth
General Field Secretaries of the General Conference	W. H. Branson, D. E. Rebok, J. L. McElhany, V. T. Armstrong, W. P. Elliott, Glenn Calkins, N. F. Brewer, J. A. Buckwalter, L. E. Froom, E. J. Lorntz, W. E. Read.
Auditor for General Conference	W. E. Phillips
Associate Auditors:	H. W. Barrows, H. T. Bloum, F. Bremwald.
Statistical Secretary, General Conference	H. W. Klaser
Secretaries of General Departments:	
Educational Associates	E. E. Cossentine G. M. Matthews, L. R. Rasmussen, K. J. Reynolds.

teachers, medical workers, and business managers. Those chosen under the provisions of 1 *b.* and 2 *b.* shall include representatives of General Conference institutions.

f. Members of the General Conference Committee who were elected to

office under the provision of Article V, Section 1 *a.* of the constitution, or their successors, whose term of service is expiring, shall not be members of the Nominating Committee except as provided in Section *g.* below.

Home Missionary Associates	T. L. Oslwald J. E. Edwards, A. A. Esteb, C. E. Guenther
International Temperance Association Associates	W. A. Scharffenberg Francis A. Soper, W. H. Beaven, H. F. Brown.
Medical Associates	T. R. Flaiiz, M.D. J. W. McFarland, M.D., Carl Sundin, Miss D. Lois Burnett, Ralph Waddell, M.D.
Ministerial Association Associates	R. A. Anderson Louise C. Kleuser, G. E. Vandeman, Walter Schubert, E. E. Cleveland.
Publishing Associates	G. A. Huse D. A. McAdams, B. E. Wagner, W. A. Higgins
Radio and Television Associate	E. R. Walde James E. Chase
Religious Liberty Associates	A. W. Johnson A. H. Rulkoetter, F. H. Yost, J. C. Thompson.
Sabbath School Associates	L. L. Moffit E. B. Hare, W. J. Harris, H. W. Lowe.
Young People's Missionary Volunteer Associates	E. W. Dunbar T. E. Lucas, L. E. Skinner, E. L. Minchin
Bureau of Public Relations Associate	Donn Thomas Howard Weeks

Officers of the Southern Asia Division

President	O. O. Mattison
Secretary	D. S. Johnson
Treasurer	M. E. Kemmerer
Departmental Secretaries:	
Educational	R. S. Lowry
Home Missionary & Sabbath School	W. L. Barclay
Medical	G. A. Nelson, M.D.
Ministerial Association & Young People's Missionary Volunteer	J. F. Ashlock
Radio & The Voice of Prophecy	A. E. Rawson
Temperance	Chad B. Israel
Acting Religious Liberty	Chad B. Israel

g. Division presidents shall not be members, but shall sit with the Nominating Committee with the privilege of voice and vote while the president, the secretary and the treasurer of the General Conference are being considered.

h. Those chosen as members of the Nominating Committee must be duly accredited delegates in attendance at the 1954 General Conference session.

i. The following is the suggested procedure when the respective dele-

gate groups assemble to choose members for the Nominating Committee:

(1) The chairman shall announce the number to be chosen as provided in Section 1 of this series.

(2) Nominations shall be called for from the floor, and shall include so far as is consistent with paragraph *h.* above at least two nominees from each union conference for each member to which the union is entitled under the provisions in paragraph 2 sub-section *a.* above.

(3) No delegate shall nominate more than one person.

(4) At least twice as many nominations shall be received as the number required for election.

(5) When the list of nominees is made up it shall be written on a blackboard or large placard and displayed to the entire delegate group, as a guide in voting.

(6) When this list is completed, ballots shall be passed to all delegates present in the group, with instruction to choose from the list of nominees the requisite number to be supplied by the group for membership on the Nominating Committee, including, so far as is consistent with paragraph *h.* above, the representation from each union conference provided in paragraph 2, sub-section *a.* above, and to write on the ballot the names chosen.

(7) The ballots shall then be tallied, and the persons receiving the highest number of votes shall become the members of the Nominating Committee to which the delegate group is entitled.

j. The names selected by each delegate group are to be handed promptly to D. E. Rebok, secretary of the General Conference.

3. That the Nominating Committee of 84 members shall elect its own chairman and secretary under the temporary chairmanship of the president of the General Conference.

Day of Fasting and Prayer

The day-light hours of Tuesday, May 25, was set aside by the delegates as a day of fasting and prayer. From 7:30 to 8:10 a.m. the delegations met by Divisions for special prayer. At 12:15 p.m. Elder W. H. Branson led out in a public call to prayer and fasting. From 12:15 to 3:15 p.m. all committee appointments were cancelled.

SOUTHERN ASIA NIGHT

H. M. TIPPETT

(Excerpts from Report for Wednesday, May 26, 1954)

R. H. Pierson, president of the Southern Asia Division, and his co-workers proved in their thrilling presentation of the work and workers in that vast field that there is nothing ordinary about the Advent Movement.

The evening programme was introduced as usual by a wonderful piece of music under the direction of J. Wesley Rhodes of the music department of Union College.

As D. W. Hunter, president of the Northeast Union Mission, dressed in the native garb of his district, stepped to the speaker's desk, the lights of the arena, housed in huge golden chandeliers hanging from the ceiling, were dimmed and the auditorium was in semi-darkness. But this was not the way Brother Hunter had planned it at all, for the procession of workers from the Southern Asia Division was about to begin, and he smilingly waved a signal to the man at the switchboard to turn on the lights full blaze. It is a tribute to those who planned the lighting and protection devices for this session to see how easily and with what precision these things are controlled.

Then with the characteristic tempo of the music of old India, reminiscent of temple drum and pagoda bells in the shadow of the towering Himalayas, the organ began its processional march. In quiet expectancy the audience gazed earnestly toward the doors of the main aisle where, it was announced, the workers of the Southern Asia Division in attendance at the conference would appear. And such a procession as it was. First came retired labourers who had served in the heat of the day, some of whom are still at work in this country. For example, S. A. Wellman, Elder and Mrs. J. S. James, Elder and Mrs. E. M. Meleen, Elder and Mrs. I. F. Blue, Mrs. G. F. Enoch, and Mrs. Little. Then came former missionaries now in responsible places in the homeland, such as C. L. Torrey, A. L. Ham, E. B. Hare, all of the General Conference staff. Following them came evangelists, educators, nurses, and doctors

currently bearing the burden of the work in all this great area. Finally, mingled among them, young people and children full of vigour and anticipation at having a part in the work in the days just ahead, all of them in every group dressed in some form of native costume. From India, Burma, Pakistan, and Ceylon they came; from jewelled cities, nurtured by holy rivers, Bombay, Calcutta, and Rangoon, teeming with multitudes of restless people from the lush paddies and parched plains of equatorial lands and from the snow-bound mountains of Tibet; from the storied vale of Kashmir and the famous Taj Mahal. Slowly the procession moved down the aisle and up onto the platform, their brightly coloured apparel accented by weird headdress or umbrella or brass urn carried on the head in native fashion. They came in family groups and by scores until the emotions of the audience were moved to quiet tears of joy and pride and renewed consecration. Brother Hunter identified many of the workers as they appeared on the platform.

A. L. Ham, former president of the Southern Asia Division, now one of the field secretaries of the General Conference, offered the opening prayer. As the procession again moved off the platform, J. F. Ashlock, secretary of the Southern Asia Division, reviewed in brief the territories from which they came. The illuminated map of the world, which was introduced at the morning session, was blinking out its wonderful message of progress decade by decade while this part of the exercise was going on. A benign face of Christ against the backdrop made solemn the inscription in royal blue letters above it. "Behold I Come." It was a wonderful hour.

Brother Pierson presented his report with the aid of a motion picture in colour. What remarkable providence it is that these modern inventions can be turned to the report of the advance of the gospel. Here the people for whom our missionaries

labour were brought before our eyes at the plough, in the city market, or in the hovels that speak of their great need. Schools and hospitals and mission headquarters provided by our mission offerings were made vivid with the characteristic activities in which they are engaged.

While the report was going forward, some of the workers featured in the pictures were spotlighted at one side of the platform, the coloured lenses making their peculiar garb glow with a radiance most appealing. Highlighted in this way was a typical Mohammedan call to prayer, presented by A. M. Akbar, of the West Pakistan Union Mission, who later gave his testimony as recorded below. A song in the Tamil language was sung by I. K. Moses, of the South India Union Mission; and testimonies were given by M. S. Prasada Rao, secretary-treasurer of the Northeast India Union Mission, and Pein Gyi, secretary-treasurer of the Burma Union.

Said Brother Akbar:

"Fellow believers of my country Pakistan send you their warm and heart-felt greetings. We thank you very much for what you good people have done for us. I wish I had enough time to tell you about all that the Lord has done for a young man of Pakistan, whose conversion story I am going to relate now.

"This young man, living far north in that land, was once sent by his father on an errand. While on the way to his destination he learned that Jesus Christ was the Redeemer of the world. He disliked Christianity and everything associated with it. But he was induced to accept a copy of the Bible. On accepting it he began to study it. Every day he would go out into the jungle and read a portion from it and then hide it and come home. He had had many good experiences in the things of God, though not fully understanding them. As this young man was convinced that this was the truth and that he must accept it if he wanted to be saved, he had to flee from his home because

of his father's wrath. He found a place in the city of Lahore, and finally was sent to our mission school. There he learned more of the truth and accepted Christ as his personal Saviour.

"Now that young man is standing before you and bearing testimony to the fact that the Lord is good and kind and that missions do pay. The Lord is working wonders in these countries, winning people to His kingdom.

"Thank you very much, dear people, for your kind prayers and your good means you have given to preach the message to us. May the Lord bless you all."

And here is the testimony of Brother Prasada Rao.

"After my parents accepted the truth forty years ago they sent me as a small boy to the Seventh-day Adventist mission school just started in Bangalore by Elder and Mrs. Meleen. After completion of my schooling there I entered denominational work as a stenographer in the South India Union office. After that I worked for a little while in the office of Dr. Flaiz, who was then the president of the Telugu Mission. I worked then in the Burma Union Mission, and after that I was transferred to the division office and worked under C. L. Torrey, who was then the division secretary-treasurer. He taught me book-keeping. After that I was at Spicer College and taught for five years, subsequently I came back to the division office, and it was my pleasure to work for ten years as the assistant auditor of the Southern Asia Division. For the last two and a half years I have been working in the office of the secretary-treasurer.

"We are grateful for the opportunities given us to develop, and in appreciation we want to dedicate ourselves to the Lord to be what He wants us to be, to go where He wants us to go, and if need be to lay down our lives for the cause we all love."

Said Pein Gyi:

"About fifty years ago my father came over from China to Burma. As a young man he was engaged in the construction of a building in our school at Meiktila. The influence of such consecrated missionaries had its effect, and he was converted. My mother had been a Buddhist and was slow in accepting the message. After seven years of struggle in her heart she was at last converted. I was converted in the year 1925 and have been in the mission service since 1931. After attending our mission

school at Meiktila I served as book-keeper in our mission office. After a few months' work in our schools I received an appointment as a union treasurer.

"During the enemy invasion back in 1942 we evacuated from Rangoon to the mountains in South Burma. When we were cut off from the rest of the world, and Christians were closely watched and sometimes persecuted, I thanked God for His protection and care throughout the occupation period. I was able to make some contact with workers in the country



Southern Asia Division was represented by the following:

Division

Delegates at Large.—J. F. Ashlock, A. J. Johanson, R. H. Pierson.

BURMA UNION MISSION

Delegate at large.—C. B. Guild.
Regular Delegates.—N. O. Dahlsen, I. D. Higgins, Pein Gyi.

CEYLON UNION MISSION

Delegate at Large.—E. A. Crane.
Regular delegates.—A. R. Appel, A. W. Robinson.

NORTHEAST INDIA UNION MISSION

Delegate at Large.—D. W. Hunter.
Regular Delegates.—R. J. Borrowdale, O. W. Lange, M. S. Prasada Rao.

NORTHWESTERN INDIA UNION MISSION

Regular Delegates.—L. E. Allen, R. H. Dunn, C. R. Holford.

SOUTH INDIA UNION MISSION

Regular Delegates.—Robinson Koilpillai, I. K. Moses, R. L. Rowe, Miss T. E. Sandberg, Charles Thomas.

WEST PAKISTAN UNION MISSION

Delegate at Large.—D. S. Johnson.
Regular Delegates.—A. M. Akbar, C. H. Hamel.

General, Mission, and Institutional Delegates

I. R. Bazziel, G. W. Bowers, A. Fossey, C. J. Jensen, L. J. Larson, D. S. Laursen, M. M. McHenry, W. Hume McHenry, W. J. McHenry, E. M. Meleen, T. R. Torkelson.



and had to work under difficult circumstances. We dedicate ourselves to the finishing of the work of God in Burma and also in taking the truth to those who do not know Christ."

"Concluding his report Elder Pierson gave repeated emphasis to a phrase that made a deep appeal to every heart—"God's tomorrow." Somehow the meaning left a deep impression upon us that with consecrated men and women like these, great things may be expected in the tomorrow of this movement, and there was the united "Amen" that all who could might respond to the appeal in the closing song, "Answer the Call, Ye Brave Men" by the King's Heralds of the Voice of Prophecy.

STATISTICAL REPORT FOR QUADRENNIUM

(Continued from p. 11.)

interesting to note that the North American Division, with 29.8 per cent of the members, paid in 79.1 per cent of the total funds. There are several factors that bring this about: Some are: first, many Seventh-day Adventists live in undeveloped countries and with a different standard of living; they do not have to contend with the influences of the gold standard or controlled currencies. Second, although all funds are converted to U. S. dollars for comparative purposes, yet if funds of each country could be shown in their own unit of currency, it would be more favourable to their report. Seventh-day Adventists are found in every stratum of life, from the highlands of New Guinea to the sidewalks of New York. We may not all have the same economic standards, but spiritual standards are the same the world around, and we know that figures and other tangible evidences are not the full indication of how near is the completion of the preaching of the gospel to every nation.

The total income through our churches around the world during 1953 amounted to \$114.94 per minute, day and night, seven days per week throughout the year. By the placing of the foreign mission offerings from the North American Division in the overseas section, the above figure gives \$73.66 per minute for use in the North American Division and \$41.28 per minute for use in the overseas divisions, or \$106,073.63 per day for the North American Division and \$59,439.50 per day for the divisions overseas.

CHURCH BUILDINGS

At the close of 1953 there were 11,158 church organizations, with 6,705 buildings and a seating capacity of 1,049,678, having a value of \$47,375,201.89.

MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES

As of September 1, 1953, Seventh-day Adventists had 2,000 missionaries in various parts of the world, 1,713 in the field, 132 on furlough, and 155 under appointment.

During the past four years 860 new workers have been sent overseas, not including children of missionaries or labourers returning to their fields from furlough. Of the 230 countries listed, embracing the world, with an estimated population of 2,400 million, Seventh-day Adventists have entered and are carrying on work in 197 countries, with a population of 2,364,431,157, or 98.5 per cent of the population of the world. This leaves yet to be entered 33 countries, with a population of 35,568,843. This world-wide work is being carried in 721 languages and dialects of which there are publications in 198.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

In the parochial school system of Seventh-day Adventists, at the close of 1953 there was an enrolment in the elementary grades of 197,515 pupils, being taught by 6,308 teachers in 4,568 schools.

The above figures represent an increase during the past four years of 714 schools, 404 teachers, and 34,751 pupils. The enrolment per 1,000 church members is 252 for the overseas divisions and 123 for North America. This is 35 less enrolment per 1,000 church members overseas and 12 more enrolment per 1,000 members in North America.

Students above the elementary grades throughout the world field numbered 37,151 at the close of 1952. This is an increase of 4,874 over the 1949 report.

PUBLISHING HOUSES

Reports for 1953 have not reached me for all the publishing houses. There were 39 reported for 1952, and the retail value of books and periodicals for that year was \$16,371,888.24, book sales of \$10,880,613.83, and 348 periodicals totalling \$5,491,274.11. It is estimated that retail sales values will be 3 per cent higher for 1953. Literature is



Nominating Committee Personnel

SOUTHERN ASIA

D. S. Johnson, C. B. Guild.

FAR EAST

H. D. Johnson, F. R. Millard, C. W. Lee, J. M. Nerness, M. C. Warren, Gil de Guzman.

MIDDLE EAST

N. C. Wilson, R. H. Hartwell

CENTRAL EUROPE

O. Gmehling, R. Dettmar, S. Christoffers, O. Brozio.

SOUTH CHINA ISLAND UNION MISSION

Milton Lee.

NORTHERN EUROPE

A. Lohne, W. W. Armstrong, C. Gidland, J. O. Gibson.

SOUTHERN EUROPE

F. Lavanchy, A. Lorencin, L. Schneebeauer, L. Beer, D. G. Rose, C. Monnier, M. Lourinho, A. Cosen-dai.

GENERAL CONFERENCE INSTITUTIONS

E. D. Dick, I. J. Woodman, Dr. W. E. Macpherson, Dr. Robert Hare, W.

H. Teesdale, J. D. Snider, I. E. Gillis.

INTER-AMERICA

C. G. Gordon, C. O. Franz, G. C. Nickle, E. J. Lorntz, A. C. Stockhausen, F. S. Thompson, S. E. White, Jorge Escandon.

NORTH AMERICA

L. E. Lenheim, W. A. Nelson, M. V. Campbell, Don Rees, D. A. Ochs, C. J. Coon, W. H. Shephard, M. L. Rice, G. E. Hutches, C. M. Bunker, J. D. Smith, C. A. Scriven, T. Carcich, C. L. Bond, C. L. Bauer, R. R. Bietz, R. C. Baker, R. R. Breitigam, Carl Becker, V. G. Anderson, W. W. Fordham, R. H. Nightingale, L. C. Evans.

AUSTRALASIA

T. C. Lawson, W. G. Turner, H. White.

SOUTH AMERICA

Alredo Aeschlimann, R. A. Wilcox, R. L. Jacobs, L. B. Halliwell, M. S. Nigri, F. C. Webster.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

K. F. Ambts, W. D. Eva, S. G. Maxwell, E. D. Hanson, A. W. Staples, A. W. Austen, Dr. S. A. Kotz, A. J. Raitt, V. Robinson, I. E. Shultz.



being printed in 198 languages and dialects. 70.4 per cent of the sales were in the North American Division.

of patients treated, charity was extended in the amount of \$806,874.96.

HEALTH INSTITUTIONS

This section must also be for the year 1952. This report shows an increase of 20 institutions over the three-year period, bringing the total to 181, with a bed capacity of 12,011. These institutions took care of 188,978 house patients and gave treatments to 2,093,423 out patients. This work was carried on by 380 physicians, 2,347 nurses, 1,622 student nurses, and 6,063 other employees. Among the large number

SABBATH SCHOOL

At the close of 1953, 18,448 Sabbath schools around the world reported 1,187,883 members. This represents a growth of 2,272 schools and 259,728 members in the four years between 1949 and 1953. In areas outside North America the Sabbath school enrolment of 920,106 was 271,017 larger than the church membership, and represents 142 Sabbath school members for every 100 church members. In the United

States and Canada the 267,777 Sabbath school members were 7,956 less than the church membership, or 97 Sabbath school members for every 100 church members.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MISSIONARY
VOLUNTEERS

There are 310,715 members reported in the 11,395 young people's societies, representing an increase of 1,386 societies and 59,036 members over the year 1949.

GOD'S WORK MOVES FORWARD

Every line of work shows advance. There are areas of test and trial, and we regret there are some who become discouraged and drop by the way, but the power of God is manifesting itself, and who knows, the work may be nearer finished than we think, certainly much nearer than can be shown in any report.

It is with a spirit of consecration that this report is submitted, a spirit of humbleness and confidence, for "I know whom I have believed" (2 Tim. 1:12). A glorious victory is before us.

THE SECRETARIES' REPORT

(Continued from p. 11.)

Yes, God is at work in His own marvellous ways, and He is at work in and through us. Mighty movements are on to warn and to influence men everywhere. *The truth* for these last days is making a mighty impact upon nations, kindreds, tribes, and people.

Today India with her 1,250,000 villages is waiting for us to supply one million dollars with which to launch her *village-a-day* plan, which will cost one dollar for one village.

Brethren and sisters of the Advent Movement everywhere, let us make the mission offering on June 5, 1954, our million-dollar offering to **ADVANCE THE WORK IN ALL THE WORLD**, thus hastening Christ's return. "BEHOLD I COME"—*What If It Were Today?*"

A cabled message from the General Conference advises that A. J. Johanson and family will not be returning to Southern Asia. His replacement has not been announced.

Delegates to General Conference numbered 1,402. This compares with nineteen delegates to the first General Conference held in 1863 ninety-one years ago.

FIRST SABBATH MORNING SERMON

(May 29, 1954)

A. V. OLSON

WE are gathered here from all parts of the world. I believe this is the largest gathering of leaders, workers, and representatives from the world field that we have ever had in the history of our church. We have not come here for entertainment, we have come here to do business for God, and I believe we have come to this gathering this morning with a hunger in our souls to get nearer to God.

I invite you to turn in your Bibles this morning to Isaiah 21:11, 12: "The burden of Dumah. He calleth to me out of Seir. Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night? The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come."

In ancient times cities were built with great protecting walls, with towers for watchmen. In these towers men were set to watch, to scan the surrounding country to see whether an enemy was approaching. They were also the ones who gave the time. The people then had no clocks, no watches, as we do today. It was left to the watchmen to answer those who wanted to know the time. A mother, perhaps, watching during the hours of the night over a delirious child that seemed to be growing worse and worse, would step outside in her longing for the morning to come and cry to the watchman, "Watchman, what of the night?" Back came the answer, "The morning cometh."

Today out of the depths of a night of sin there comes forth a cry from humanity, "Watchman, what of the night?" Our world is sinking in sin and corruption. Ominous clouds hang over us. Men's hearts are gripped with a feeling of fear and foreboding. The entire creation, Paul tells us, is groaning for deliverance. Seventh-day Adventists around the world are longing for the time to come when the morning shall dawn, when the night of sin shall end, and our blessed Lord shall come to gather His people. But Seventh-day Adventists are not the only ones who thus long for the end of the night. We are told that all around us thou-

sands of souls are looking wistfully to heaven, longing for deliverance. My text says, "Watchman, what of the night?" The watchman replies, "The morning cometh, and also the night."

But there is another answer, also a divine answer, found in Romans 13:12: "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light."

I read here from the servant of the Lord just a few little statements:

"We are living in the time of the end. The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, p. 11.

Again:

"The end is near, stealing upon us stealthily, imperceptibly, like the noiseless approach of a thief in the night."—*Ibid.*, Vol. 9, p. 135.

"Never since the creation of the world were such important interests at stake as now depend upon the action of men who believe and are giving the last message of warning to the world."—*Life Sketches*, p. 246.

"To sleep now is a fearful crime. The Lord is coming. . . . We hear the footsteps of an approaching God to punish the world for their iniquity."—*Special Testimonies for Ministerial Workers*, No. 11, p. 29.

As we turn to the prophecies of the Bible and study them prayerfully, we are led to the conclusion that the end is near indeed. Take the prophecy of Daniel 2. As we trace it down from the head of gold to the toes of iron and clay, we know that this prophecy has been literally fulfilled and that we are indeed right in the very toes of the image. As we study the prophecy of Daniel 7 we come to the same conclusion. If we turn to Daniel 8

and 9, we find the same truth very impressively brought to our minds.

Again, we can read the prophecies of our Saviour, as recorded by Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and we are forced to the conclusion as we see the events occurring around us that indeed we are in the very end of time.

Then, turning to Revelation, we find the same glorious event foretold, and again we know that we are nearing the end. Surely, my brethren and sisters, as we study these prophecies our hearts are thrilled with the assurance that our blessed Lord is coming soon. And our hearts cry out, as did the heart of John the revelator, "Come quickly, Lord Jesus."

That is our great hope this morning. Can we not almost see the gleams of the golden morning?

About the only thing that stands between us and the coming of our Lord is the unfinished task. God has committed to His Remnant Church the mighty task of carrying the gospel message into all the world. I read: "The work of preaching the gospel has not been committed to angels, but has been intrusted to men. Holy angels have been employed in directing this work, they have in charge the greatest movement for the salvation of men; but the actual proclamation of the gospel is performed by the servants of Christ upon the earth."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 312.

Again I read: "The solemn, sacred message of warning must be proclaimed in the most difficult fields and in the most sinful cities, in every place where the light of the great threefold gospel message has not yet gone. Every one is to hear the last call to the marriage supper of the Lamb."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 27.

Our Lord placed the great burden upon the hearts of His disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creatures, as recorded in Matthew 28. The same thought is found in Mark, and also in Revelation 14, where we have a word picture of God's last work to be accomplished in this world. Much has already been accomplished. Those of us who have been attending these sessions and who have listened to the reports rendered by the presidents and others of the various divisions of the world field have surely been thrilled as we have heard what God has already accomplished in these lands. Most countries of the world have been entered. Today we are nearly a million strong in baptized

Sabbath Attendance at General Conference

The first Sabbath service of the General Conference was held at a pavilion called the Cow Palace with seating capacity for 16,000 people. Even that was not large enough to accommodate all who desired to listen to the message of the morning. Overflow meetings were held in the Civic Auditorium seven miles away and the message relayed by loud speakers and public address system. The total attendance was in excess of 25,000 Seventh-day Adventists.

A special feature of the Sabbath services was a massed choir of 500 voices under the direction of Ben Glanzer.

Then, L. L. Moffit, the Secretary of the Sabbath School department of the General Conference, presented a few comparisons. In 1918, the first General Conference to be held in San Francisco, the largest attendance at Sabbath school was 3,000. At that time the world Sabbath school membership was 154,000 and the total Sabbath school offerings for the year amounted to \$600,932.00. In 1953 the total offerings were nine times greater and our membership had grown to 1,200,000.

The Sabbath morning address was delivered by Elder A. V. Olson, General Vice-President of the General Conference.

members, and much more than a million strong, if we count adherents. Mighty institutions have been erected throughout the world. Thousands of churches have been built.

If we stand before the map over in the Civic Auditorium when the lights flash on, we would almost be led to believe that the light of this truth has shone upon all the inhabitants of earth. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Much has been done, but much more remains to be done. Think of the dark counties in our own land, here in North America. Think also of the multitudes in our cities still groping in the darkness, without God, without hope, without the knowledge of this blessed truth. Then think of the unwarned millions across the sea.

When you visit lands like India, China, the islands of the South Pacific, you are deeply impressed with the magnitude of the task yet to be

done. Those lands simply swarm with human beings. Night or day they are all about you. Brethren and sisters, we have scarcely touched them with the tips of our fingers. And all of these people must hear the message before the end shall come.

God has given us facilities, agencies to help us in the accomplishment of our task, but if we trust to what has been accomplished, if we trust to our institutions, our million members, our educators, and our experience, we may be led to commit a great mistake.

Let me read this to you: "Let men become lifted up in pride, and the Lord will not sustain them and keep them from falling. Let a church become proud and boastful, not depending upon God, not exalting His power, and that church will surely be left by the Lord, to be brought down to the ground. Let a people glory in wealth, intellect, knowledge, or in anything but Christ, and they will soon be brought to confusion."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 8, p. 127.

We can thank God for what has been accomplished. We can thank Him for the institutions and the workers and for the money that flows into our treasury. My brethren, we must not depend upon these things alone, for if we become lifted up because of these things, we will surely fail. We need something much more important than this. Our only hope is in God. In Zechariah 12:6 the Lord tells us that it is not by power nor by strength, but by His Spirit that the work is to be accomplished.

I am so glad this morning that God has promised His power to His church. In Joel 2:1 I read words that were written for this time. It says, "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand." In the twenty-first verse of this chapter I read, "Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things." And in the twenty-third verse we are told, "Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for He hath given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month." Of this we read, "The power of God awaits our demand and reception. . . . It is given according to the riches of the grace of Christ, and He is ready to supply every soul according to the capacity to receive it."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 672. Again I read some very significant words,

"The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to as in the future; but it is the privilege of the church to have it now." Mrs. E. G. White in *Review and Herald*, March 19, 1895.

Oh, I trust brethren and sisters, that that thought may be burned into our hearts and minds. I want to read it again: "The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to as in the future, but it is the privilege of the church to have it now." When can we have it? Now. This was written in 1895. That is about sixty years ago. The church could have had it then. We could have had it at any time since then. We could have it now, today, brethren and sisters. And it is that power that we must have.

We never can finish the task, I repeat, without this power. Since it has been our privilege to have this power all this time, why have we not had it? Is the fault with God? Surely not. I read here from the *General Conference Bulletin* of March 30, 1903: "I know that if the people of God had preserved a living connection with Him, if they had obeyed His Word, they would today be in the heavenly Canaan."

Why are we not there? Why are we sitting here at the Golden Gate instead of sitting by the pearly gate in the city of God? It is the church's failure to obey that has caused this delay. In 1896 Mrs. White wrote: "If those who claim to have a living experience in the things of God had done their appointed work that the Lord ordained, the whole world would have been warned ere this, and the Lord Jesus would have come in power and great glory."—*Review and Herald*, Oct. 6, 1896.

Brethren and sisters, is it not time to search out the reason, to search out the hindrances, and to take steps to remove them? You know, we may spend much time fixing goals and laying plans and perfecting the mechanics of our movement, and this is all necessary and good, but this alone will not bring the divine power. We must remove the hindrances. And I want to ask a series of questions right here.

As we think back over the past, as we think of the situation today, are we following the divine blueprint? Are we following this blueprint in our schools, in our publishing houses, in our sanitariums?

I ask these questions seriously. Often in the past, religious movements have been led astray because their schools and theological

seminaries failed to live up to their real calling and their responsibilities. What about our schools? Are they living up to the blueprint? I could ask the same question again about our publishing houses and our sanitariums. I believe that as leaders and managing boards we need to study these questions and try to discover whether or not our institutions are really operating in harmony with the blueprint. I want to ask, too, Are we using the tithe that is pouring into the treasury around the world in a way that God can approve?

Are we as leaders, workers, and members living in harmony with our Christian standards? Are we following the instruction that God has given us through the Bible and the *Testimonies* as far as simplicity and modesty in dress are concerned? Or



BEAUTIFUL CITY

Charles E. Grey.

There's a city that's builded in a land far away

Where neither sorrow nor death ever come;

Where the glory of God shines far brighter than day,

And God's children shall all be at home.

The wall of that city, of pure jasper is made,

Clear as crystal, so all may look through

And behold how its "stones in fair colour are laid,"

And glisten as on flowers the dew.

The streets of that city are paved with pure gold,

So burnished, like glass they appear; And mirrored within, the saints may behold

Matchless beauty of scenes far and near.

In the midst of that city life's pure river flows,

With its water so sparkling and clear; While on its green banks the tree of life grows,

And birds fill the air with their cheer.

And the Father of lights, the God who is love,

And Jesus and angels are there; When at last all the ransomed are gathered above,

What music shall then fill the air.

O that beautiful city! It is waiting above With its glories celestial and fair;

It is bidding us welcome to that home filled with love,

And inviting us all to be there.

The Spirit and the Bride say "Come, Come today,"

And let him that heareth say "Come"; And whosoever's athirst, "Come make no delay";

At the water of life's fount there is room.



are we drifting, following the standards and the customs of the world? Are we shunning worldly pleasures? You know how Satan is working today simply to drag the world down to destruction by offering pleasures and amusements of all kinds.

What about our moral conduct? Are we living up to the high standards set for us in the Bible? Are we living clean lives? You know how Satan is working today to break up homes, to cause men and women to disregard the marriage bond. I do not wish to stop to comment on the corruption and the immorality in the world, but brethren and sisters, we shall have to watch ourselves lest we be caught in this maelstrom of evil and dragged down to perdition.

And I want to ask, Are we practising the principles of healthful living? God has given us a health message to carry to the world, and Seventh-day Adventists have been known as health reformers, as standing at the head in this matter. But I ask, Are we faithfully living up to what we have been taught? Are we maintaining these principles in our lives? Are we eating and drinking to the glory of God, or are we drifting? I receive letters very frequently in my office from brethren and sisters, from workers and lay members, in which they deplore what they consider a drift away from the principles that we have believed and taught. They seem very much concerned. I trust that the situation is not so serious as they seem to feel. Yet, speaking frankly, I must confess that from what I have seen with my own eyes and what I have heard with my own ears, I am afraid that we are not as loyal to these principles as we should be. Now, we may think that this is a very unimportant thing, but we read in our Bibles that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost, and if we destroy these temples, God will destroy us. And here we also are told that whether we eat or drink or whatsoever we do, we should do it all to the glory of God.

Let me read just this one sentence: "Tea and coffee drinking is a sin."—*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 425. I simply use this statement to emphasize what I have been trying to say, and to show the importance of our obeying God in all things, of heeding the instruction He has given us. If in our eating and drinking we are permitting ourselves to do those things that are sinful in the sight of God, can we then bow down

at our bedsides or our family altars or in our secret chambers and ask God to bless us? Can we then ask Him to send His Holy Spirit upon us in rich measure? Can we with confidence expect God to grant us the abundant showers of the latter rain, if knowingly and deliberately we do those things that are sinful? I cannot. Sin is sin, brethren and sisters, and sin must be washed away from us. After confessing our sins we must turn to God for forgiveness and then forsake them.

I read from *Testimonies*, Volume 3, page 269: "God holds His people, as a body, responsible for the sins existing in individuals among them. If the leaders of the church neglect to diligently search out the sins which bring the displeasure of God upon the the body, they become responsible for these sins."

What does God expect His leaders to do? Diligently to search out the sins that bring the displeasure of God upon His people. "He will teach His people that disobedience and sin are exceedingly sinful to Him and are not to be lightly regarded. If wrongs are apparent among His people and if the servants of God pass on indifferent to them, they virtually sustain and justify the sinner." Leaders carry a tremendous responsibility.

I read again, *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 426: "We are nearing the Judgment, and those who bear the message of warning to the world, must have clean hands and pure hearts. They must have a living connection with God. The thoughts must be pure and holy, the soul untainted, the body, soul, and spirit be a pure, clean offering to God, or He will not accept it."

"Sin and sinners in the church must be promptly dealt with, that others may not be contaminated. Truth and purity require that we make more thorough work to cleanse the camp from Achans. Let those in responsible positions not suffer sin in a brother. Show him that he must either put away his sins or be separated from the church."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 147.

Brethren and sisters, I believe that what we need today is a revival. From the *Review and Herald* of March 22, 1887, I read these words from the pen of inspiration: "A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work."

What is our great need—more money, more institutions, more plans,

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more workers? These are all needed, but there is something we need more today—a revival of true godliness. Oh, may God send that revival! Shall we not earnestly pray for it?

How is the church to be cleansed? Does this mean that we are to go about with spy-glasses and a great sword? Does it mean that we are to have a wholesale casting out from the church of all those who we think are not perfect? Does it mean that everyone is to set up his own standard of righteousness and then slay everyone who does not meet that standard? No, my brethren and sisters, God has set up His own standard and no man has a right to set up a standard for someone else.

I believe the way to begin is by turning the gaze upon our own selves. May God help us as leaders, may God help us as ministers, may God help every church officer and every member of the church, carefully to consider his own case.

I believe this is what Jesus taught in Matthew, the seventh chapter: "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou

the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast the mote out of thy brother's eye."

That is good doctrine, and may God help us to follow this instruction, first to cast the beam out of our own eye, in order to see clearly to remove the mote out of our brother's eye.

Brethren and sisters, is it not time for us to seek God in a new way? I want to read a little more, from Joel 2:15: "Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts; let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach."

This reveals the seriousness of the situation. It also reveals to us how earnest God is and how earnest He wants us to be, as leaders, as ministers, as members of the church. Thus speaking to us as leaders, He asks that we should blow the trumpet in Zion, that we should sound a warning. We are to lift up our voices like a trumpet and show the people their sins. Yes, we are to gather them together. We are to sanctify the congregation. And we are to gather the young and the little children, and then notice how God wants His ministers to relate themselves to this problem: "Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord." We are to weep between the porch and the altar.

We have come to a time when it seems to be out of place for men to be so stirred that they will actually weep. I read in my Bible that when Jesus looked upon Jerusalem and saw that city in sin, His heart was moved with compassion, and He wept. I read that Paul wept as he ministered to the people of his time. He wept when he saw them in sin. I believe that we as leaders and ministers must come to view matters as Christ did. We must understand, as Paul did, the value of human souls, the importance of men and women to God. We must

A WORKING church on earth is connected with the working church above. God works, angels work and men should work, for the conversion of souls. Efforts should be made to do something while the day lasts, and the grace of God will be revealed that souls may be saved to Christ. Everywhere souls are perishing in their sins, and God is saying to every believing soul, Hasten to their help with the message that I shall give you. . . .

"Missionary success will be proportionate to whole-hearted, thoroughly consecrated effort. Every departure from true missionary effort, every failure to cherish the missionary spirit, has reacted upon the church, and there has been a decline of spirituality. But every earnest effort that has been made in missionary lines, has brought spiritual health to the church, and has not only increased the membership of the church, but has increased its holy zeal and gladness. . . .

"Many have been altogether too long in a sleepy condition. While some have worked intently, and have manifested unflinching energy, others have stood as spectators, and have been ready to make remarks of a critical character as to methods and results. This they are ready to do, though they have never exercised their minds in originating any plans whereby precious souls might be saved for Christ. They stand ready to find fault with those who do something. When these indolent souls awake, and show some signs of

**"HASTEN TO THEIR
HELP WITH THE MES-
SAGE . . . I SHALL GIVE
YOU"**

Mrs. E. G. WHITE

returning consciousness, they are disappointed if others do not at once find them pleasant places in the work. It is a great shock to them to find out that work cannot be done without painstaking, self-denying, self-crucifying efforts. They expect success, and think that they must have the same order of success as did the apostles on the day of Pentecost. This success they will have when they go through the experience of humble, self-denying sacrifice as did the apostles. When they present as earnest supplications from broken, contrite, believing hearts as did the apostles, then the same proportions of success will attend their labours."—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 204-207.

"The Lord has made men His agents, and with heart filled with the love of Jesus, they are to co-operate with Him in turning men from error to truth. God blesses the earth with sunshine and showers. He causes the earth to bring forth its plenteous treasures for the use of man. The Lord has made man His almoner to dispense His heavenly gifts by bringing souls to the truth. Will my brethren in America inquire how the

precious saving truth reached them when they were in darkness? Men and women brought their tithes and offerings unto God, and as means filled the treasury, men were sent out to advance the work.

"This same process must be repeated if souls in darkness are reached in this day. But I have seen that there are many who are withholding their tithes altogether, and others are withholding a part, and yet the great missionary work increases year by year. We should learn to economize in our household expenditures. No needless expenses should be incurred; because want and wretchedness, poverty and misery of every description, press upon our notice, and we are called upon to help those who are needy and distressed. We must see that those who need food and clothing are supplied, that those who are in soul-poverty may understand the goodness of salvation.

"It is when we are engaged in earnest work, working according to our several abilities, that God manifests Himself to us, and gives us grace for grace. A working church in travail for souls will be a praying church, a believing church, and a receiving church. A church whose members are found upon their knees before God, supplicating His mercy, seeking Him daily, is a church that is feeding upon the bread of life, and drinking of the waters of life. The promise, 'Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you,' will be verified to them."—*Ibid.*, pp. 204, 206.—*Rev. & Her.*

see the necessity of finding a way by the grace of God to lead the church into a new experience, to lead the church into that place where God can bestow His Holy Spirit in abundant measure upon us.

My dear brethren and sisters, I long for this work to be finished. I am growing homesick. I told you the other day that I was born into this message, born into an Adventist home. My grandfather and grandmother were looking for the coming of Jesus. My father and mother were also looking for the fulfilment of the promise. They were waiting for the coming of Jesus. They sleep today in the dust.

From my childhood my heart has thrilled at the thought of the coming of Jesus. I long for that moment when we shall lift up our heads and see our Saviour descend in glory with all His holy angels to gather the re-

deemed of earth. I long for that day when His voice shall roll like a trumpet through the earth and the graves shall open and the sleeping saints shall be raised. I long for that day when I shall clasp to my bosom again my father and my mother.

Brethren and sisters, is it not time for the revival, is it not time to put away sin, is it not time this morning to become very earnest in the service of God? Is it not time for us to consecrate our lives wholly to God? I read here from *Gospel Workers*, page 323: "We are coming to a crisis which, more than any previous time since the world began, will demand the entire consecration of every one who has named the name of God." What does God want? An entire consecration. And when we thus consecrate ourselves to God, God will fulfil His promise.

I read from the *Review and Herald*, Nov. 10, 1885: "God will soon do great things for us if we be humble and believing. More than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications."

Again I read, from *The Great Controversy*, page 612: "Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers."

What a wonderful work is just ahead of us! God grant that this promise soon will be fulfilled. When all consecrate body, soul, and spirit to

THE INDWELLING CHRIST

M. E. KERN

God they will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical and mental power. The inexhaustible supplies of Heaven will be at their command. Christ will give them His Holy Spirit. Through co-operation with Christ we are complete in Him, and in our human weakness we are enabled to do the deeds of omnipotence. Brethren and sisters, I appeal this morning to all within the hearing of my voice, and through you to our brethren and sisters around the world, to consecrate yourselves to God, in the words of 1 Chronicles 29:5: "Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?" In Philipians, the third chapter, we have the words of a man who was consecrated to the Lord. Paul was a man who had sat at the feet of Gamaliel. He had had a very liberal education. He was a member of the Sanhedrin. The future was bright before him. God called him to become a missionary, a preacher of the gospel. But that meant Paul had to turn his back on everything the world offered to him. But he says: "What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ."

That's what consecration means. And that is what God is asking this morning of you and me. He wants us to stand ready to accept His call, to go at His bidding, to do anything that needs to be done, to leave our homes, our loved ones, to go to foreign lands if necessary, there to suffer and may be to die. We are to lay all on the altar, not alone leaders and ministers, but every member of the church. We must be willing to give all to God, and to say, "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark." Brethren and sisters, the time has come to awake out of sleep, to place ourselves wholly in the hand of God ready for service, ready for sacrifice.

There is another passage here, and it is my last one, in 2 Timothy 2:4: "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life."

Brethren and sisters, we must not permit ourselves to become so entangled with the affairs of life, with the cares of life, that we shall lose sight of God, lose sight of the fact that the end is almost here and that we must get ready to meet our God—so entangled that we cannot go as good soldiers at the bidding of Christ to any part of this world. No, we are to lay all upon the altar. Will you not this morning consecrate all to God?

A JUNIOR girl at camp meeting said to me, "I have given my heart to God here, but I'm afraid I can't hold out when I go home. Mother, who is a widow, and sister, and I are the only Adventists in our town, and I know the temptations we will meet. I was just thinking, if you could go home with us and live in our home, and tell me what to do, I could always do right."

I said to her, "My child, even if I could live in your home, that would not assure you victory; but Jesus will go home with you and live in your heart; and with His help you will not fail."

That is the privilege of every child of God, young or old, to have Jesus in the heart.

In speaking to His disciples about His departure from the world, Jesus said, "At that day ye shall know that I am in My Father, and ye in Me, and I in you." Jesus, in His message to the Laodicean church, after reproving us for our lukewarmness and urging repentance, said: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me." Revelation 3:20.

This blessed truth was very prominent in the teaching of the apostles. Paul wrote: "We were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." Rom. 5:10. That is, we are saved day by day by the life that He lives in us. The beloved John gave the reason why those to whom he wrote were overcomers: "Because greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world." 1 John 4:4.

VICTORY OVER SIN

In the same epistle John made a statement that has troubled many good Christians: "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." 1 John 3:9. The impossibility, of course, is not physical, but moral. We say that wood cannot sink. Joseph said, "How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" Gen. 39:9. No, he couldn't do it. Regeneration does not free us from our human

nature but, thank God, it gives us the power to prevent us from falling into sin.

In a previous article a statement was quoted from *Steps to Christ* regarding Christ's righteousness being imputed to us for all the sins of the past. Following that statement the author says: "More than this, Christ changes the heart. He abides in your heart by faith." Then we are told how we can hold to that experience. "You are to maintain this connection with Christ by faith and the continual surrender of your will to Him; and so long as you do this, He will work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure."—*Steps to Christ*, pp. 67, 68.

This is the secret of victorious living—faith and continual surrender of ourselves to Him. In *Christ's Object Lessons*, we read: "The sanctification of the soul by the working of the Holy Spirit is the implanting of Christ's nature in humanity."—p. 384. The historical Christ will not suffice. We must know Him personally and have His abiding presence in our lives.

Several years ago I visited the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, built by Constantine in A.D. 330, over the reputed spot where Christ was born. This visit seemed to make a bit more vivid in my mind the reality of that most important event in human history. It stirred my emotions of love and wonder as I contemplated what it meant to me, to the world, and to the inhabitants of the whole universe. And yet, to stand where the miracle of the incarnation was wrought had no power in it to save me from my sins. Only the miracle of the new birth and of the indwelling Christ can save my soul.

Only a few steps from that reputed birthplace of Jesus is a little room where Jerome, one of the early church Fathers, lived for several years. He was a great scholar, and produced the Latin Vulgate translation of the Bible; but from what we know of him it is evident that his living there by that sacred spot did not result in changing his rather disagreeable disposition. No—

"Though Christ a thousand times
In Bethlehem be born,
If He's not born in thee,
Thy soul is still forlorn.

O make thy heart His resting place,
A chamber for His birth.
And Jesus Christ will live again.
Within thy heart on earth."
—*Review and Herald.*

CEYLON UNION

Office Address: P. O. Box 905,
Colombo, Ceylon

JAFFNA CHURCH DEDICATION

L. F. HARDIN

SUNDAY the 4th of April was a memorable day for the church members of the Jaffna church in Ceylon. For many months Pastor Jonahs and the members of the church have worked hard and for long hours to finish the new church building. After the completion of the building it was a happy group of church members, along with a large number of visitors from Colombo and Divulapitiya churches and many friends from Jaffna that gathered at 4:30 p.m. for the dedication service.

Brother S. J. Bastiampillai from Colombo read the Scripture reading and offered the opening prayer. Brother Y. G. Prakasan from Divulapitiya, who had laboured previously in Jaffna, gave a short history of the work of the church in Jaffna. The dedication sermon was delivered by Pastor L. F. Hardin, acting president of the Ceylon Union Mission. Pastor Jonahs led the congregation in the responsive reading of the act of dedication, followed by the dedicatory prayer offered by Pastor A. M. Jesu-

MILLER—Miss Zelpha Miller passed to her rest on April 29, 1953. A large group of church members and friends gathered at the Hosur Road cemetery in Bangalore, just as the sun was setting, to pay their last respects to this faithful missionary worker. Miss Zelpha Miller was born to Mr. and Mrs. Albert Miller at Afton, Oklahoma, U. S. A., on February 13, 1905. She attended Ketchum Academy in Oklahoma, and later took her nurse's training in Glendale Sanitarium. She came to India in 1938 to connect with the Surat Mission hospital. Miss Miller worked there until her furlough in 1942, when she returned to the homeland.

dason, who also has laboured many years in Jaffna. Special musical numbers were given in Tamil and English. The sermon was translated into Tamil by Brother S. J. Bastiampillai. At the conclusion of the service, the benediction was offered by Brother Y. G. Prakasam.

The church in Jaffna has been designed very beautifully and stands as a monument to the work of God in this northern city of Ceylon. It is a bright light shining out to witness for the onward progress of the Gospel of Christ, and to warn souls in darkness of the soon coming of our Lord and Saviour. May this house of worship be the means of drawing many souls to God and prepare them to meet the Lord when He comes.

AT REST

In 1950 she returned to mission service and connected with the Karachi hospital where she remained true and faithful to her duties as a nurse until she suffered a stroke in the Spring of 1952. It was necessary for her to lay down her duties at the hospital and go to Bangalore to stay with her sister, Mrs. O. O. Mattison, where she remained until the time of her death.

In addition to a large host of friends, who knew her as a dedicated, loyal, and cheerful worker in God's cause, she leaves to mourn their loss her sister, Mrs. O. O. Mattison, and her brother, Mr. Dewey Miller.

—E. L. SORENSEN.

Southern Asia Tidings

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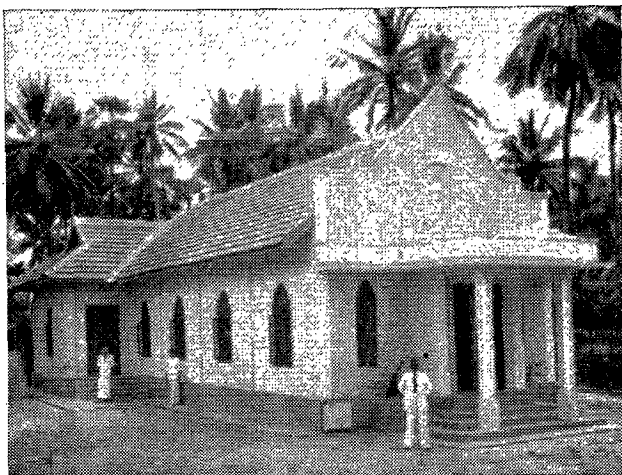
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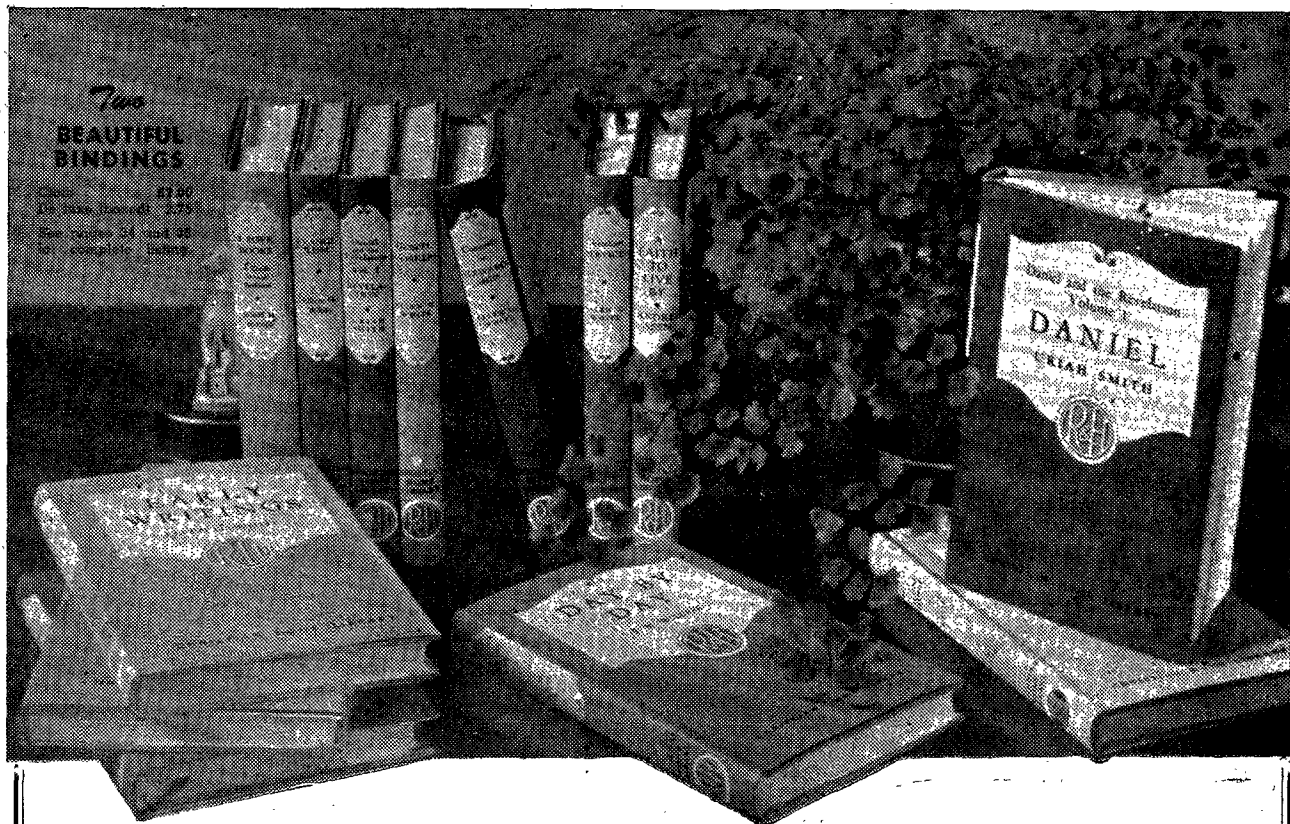
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The new church in Jaffna, Ceylon, which was dedicated recently.



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Word has just come that Volume II of the Commentary will be ready to be shipped about the middle of May. You may expect your volume about the middle of July.

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