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The Winter Council

By W. T. Bartlett

THE Division Council at Oslo was a blessed time for those present. There were weighty problems calling for action, and new difficulties coming into view, but a quiet confidence in God ruled the hearts of the Division representatives and we separated to our respective tasks looking for a year of progress and stronger development.

All the available members of the Division committee were present and Dr. C. E. Nelson and Brother A. S. Maxwell came by special invitation. These two were added to the committee by vote during the session. As usual, all the members of the local Union committee were invited. Dr. C. Ottosen, the head physician at Skodsborg and pioneer of our thriving medical work in Scandinavia, was present for a part of the time. Greatly to the joy of the committee, whose request for a visitor from the General Conference had been at first thought impossible, Brother W. A. Spicer was present. His health is improved and beside conducting the morning studies, Brother Spicer was able to be with us throughout the proceedings, helping in our problems out of his rich stores of experience. His morning studies were intensely interesting and encouraging. He not only reviewed the experiences and providences that built up

the Advent movement but also pointed out to us the deep lessons that these facts teach us when we see them marshalled in historic order. Never have we listened to more inspiring talks. On three days, Bible studies were conducted at the close of the afternoon by the writer, so that unusual time was given at this Council to the study of God's Word and prayer. As the Sabbath began the members met for a special time of study and consecration. Brother W. E. Read led out most helpfully and all present testified to their faith that God was actively guiding His cause and people forward to early victory.

Another visitor was eagerly expected and although his arrival was delayed by passport technicalities for days his presence marked a new era in the story of our Division. Our brother had been expelled from his field of labour and he was invited to the Council, partly because there was urgent need for immediate decision as to the course we should adopt in this crisis. Careful study is being given to the steps that will best secure our brother's freedom and continuance in the work.

A thrilling report came from Poland. Brother Babienco went there in time to deal with a movement among the churches, led by self-seeking men, which threatened the integrity of the cause. God is rewarding the faithful work of the new president and his courageous assault upon the enemies of the truth. We have reason to look for far better times in the future in Poland.

Cheering reports came from all the Unions. All pleaded for more money but all were mindful of the mission fields. There was no sign of selfish policy. The brethren were all desirous of building up the cause in due proportion. Brother Clifford from the Gold Coast sat once more in his place at the Council table and brought us encouraging re-

Greetings and Gratitude to Our Believers

It is the desire of the brethren at Oslo in the Winter Council of the Division to send to you one and all our greetings in the Lord.

We wish to express to you our thanks for your splendid generosity and self-sacrifice as seen in your liberal gifts to the cause. It cheers our hearts to see how, in these times of scarcity, the people of God give so freely from their diminished means. The tithes and offerings have kept up very well compared with the previous year.

ports. Most of the evenings were given over to public meetings for the church in Oslo. Night after night the members crowded their capacious building. Brother Spicer took the Sabbath morning services and several other meetings filled the Sabbath hours. Brother Christian spoke to the church on Friday evening.

Seven well-filled days came to their close on the afternoon of November 28th, and two hours later most of the delegates were on their homeward journey, hastening to Week of Prayer appointments. We had the dining-room of the hotel in which we slept for our business proceedings, and took most of our meals at the Kurbad, our large and prosperous Oslo

treatment rooms. The conditions were very favourable for continuous work and we were at it from morning till night. There was no note of discouragement or dissension. God is blessing His servants as they set themselves in the face of difficulties to glorify Him by faith and entire consecration and the gathering was one of happy Christian fellowship.

The Business of the Council

By E. D. Dick

THE Winter Council is always a busy time. It is also a good time. Besides the devotional meetings and Bible studies, which were especially good this year, the Division officers, departmental secretaries and presidents of the Union conferences, and J. Clifford, the only mission superintendent present, rendered reports. These introduced many problems of administration and policy which required careful study and attention.

While adverse conditions have prevailed throughout the field, the reports rendered showed progress in many lines of endeavour.

The additions by baptism and vote showed that 1932 was the banner year in the history of the Division, for there were 268 more accessions during that year than any year hitherto. The record for the past four years is 2,844, 2,702, 3,227, and 3,995 respectively. The membership at the end of the third quarter of this year for the Division had reached 29,997, or just three short of our goal of 30,000. Recent reports from Union missions not represented at the Council lead us to believe that the year 1933 will even exceed 1932 in membership gains.

The interests of missions rightfully engaged much of the attention of the Council. J. Clifford, superintendent of the Gold Coast Union Mission, spoke to a large audience in the Oslo Church and presented the needs of his field to the Council.

The following actions affecting

the work in the home and mission fields will be of interest to the readers of the SURVEY.

Not as a matter of routine, but in humble recognition of the blessings and care over His work, this resolution of thanksgiving was adopted:

As we gather in Winter Council we give sincere thanks to God for the many blessings bestowed on the work and workers in this Northern European Division during the past year, for the increased power attending the preaching of the message, for

Soul-Winning Goal

IN view of the unprecedented soul-winning opportunities facing us to-day, the spirit of inquiry manifested by multitudes, the shortness of time in which God's work must be finished, and the gracious bestowal of the Holy Spirit on consecrated workers in so many places,

Resolved, That we determine as workers in the church of Christ to carry on earnest, aggressive soul-winning endeavour throughout all our conferences and mission fields, planning by the grace of God to make 1934 a better year than we have ever known for its success in gaining converts and establishing fruitful believers; and because of the great inspiration a goal can furnish to conference workers and lay-workers, we adopt as our goal for 1934 a ten per cent net increase in membership.

the courageous, forward movement of our missions, for the liberality and consecration of the churches, for the victories gained over enemies, for the lessons learned in terrors of trial and poverty, and for the deepened conviction that God's truth is march-

ing on in spite of Satan's agencies to early victory. We realize anew that all our strength and hope are in God, and because of His manifold mercies we dedicate ourselves with whole hearts to the warfare with sin and the hastening of our dear Redeemer's kingdom.

Early in the Council the chairman reported on the spirit of liberality and loyalty to our world mission programme which prevailed at the Autumn Council recently held in Battle Creek. Much of the funds which are used for the support of the missions of this Division is received from our brethren in America. In view of this it was voted that the following greetings be sent to our brethren in America through the General Conference:

REPORTS from many sources make us realize that our brethren in America are passing through serious times. With sadness we learn that it has been necessary in so many cases to reduce greatly the working forces of the conferences. We learn of their willingness, even in the face of this condition, to maintain their percentages to missions. In view of their liberality in assisting us in the support of the missions entrusted to our Division, it was

Voted, That the greetings of the Winter Council and believers of the Northern European Division be sent to the General Conference and our brethren in America, and that we express to them our deep gratitude for their liberal help which they have continued to give in support of our mission fields.

As the reports were given by our leaders telling of the loyal support of our believers in sacrificial gifts, Harvest Gathering work, and co-

operation in various activities for the promotion of our cause, we desired to express to our believers our sincere appreciation of their labours of love. This appears as a separate address to our believers elsewhere in this paper.

The dates for the promotion of special church activities in 1934 were agreed upon as follows:

Sabbath-School Rally Day	January 20th
Christian Home Day	February 3rd
Missionary Volunteer Day	March 3rd
Missionary Volunteer Week	March 3rd to 10th
Big Week Rally Day	April 14th
Big Week Campaign	April 14th to 21st
Educational Day	June 2nd
Medical Missionary Day	July 7th
Harvest Ingathering Rally Day	September 1st
Duration of Ingathering Campaign	September 2nd to October 13th
Colporteur Day	November 3rd
Week of Prayer	December 1st to 8th

Recognizing the Home Missionary Department as one of the essential avenues for the advancement of our truths, much time was given to the consideration of its problems, and the following resolutions were adopted:

HOME MISSIONARY CONVENTIONS

WHEREAS there is great need in our churches for trained and more effective leadership, and

WHEREAS many of our members are not making the most of their opportunities for soul-saving labour,

We Recommend, 1. That wherever and whenever possible Home Missionary leaders and secretaries of nearby churches be gathered together for short institutes, where the duties and problems of home missionary leadership may be studied. 2. That week-end institutes be held in churches or groups of churches at which methods of work and the blessing of soul-saving service may be presented.

WELFARE WORK

WHEREAS welfare work has proved a great blessing in building up the missionary spirit in the homeland, bringing help to many in need as well as bringing our home and foreign mission work into greater favour in the public mind in countries where welfare work is being carried on,

We Recommend, That we reaffirm the resolution on welfare work passed at the Winter Council at Rigá, 1931, and urge all our conferences to give careful study to the advisability of starting this work at an early date.

HARVEST INGATHERING GOAL

Voted, That the Harvest Ingathering goal for the Division for 1934 be fixed at \$102,500, and that this be apportioned to the Unions as follows:

Baltic Union	\$9,300
British Union	42,000
Polish Union	5,200
East Nordic Union	16,000
West Nordic Union	24,500
East African Union	1,000
Ethiopian Union	800
Nigerian Union	1,200
Gold Coast Union	1,250
Sierra Leone Union	750
Upper Nile Union	400
North Cameroons	50
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	\$102,500

It will be seen that this is a slight reduction over the previous year's goal, but it is hoped that it will not decrease the results, but rather give every field the joy of reaching its goal.

Study of the Sabbath-school work showed that in some places our children were attending the day



On Bible Study

WITH an active and unscrupulous enemy confronting us on every side, we must rely on the promise of the Holy Spirit to help us in our warfare, and must achieve our victory by the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. We are deeply convinced that we, with our fellow-workers, must be personally acquainted with that Word, and thoroughly practised in its manifold use. To our fellow-workers we appeal that they never permit themselves to be turned aside from earnest, daily Bible study; that they carefully plan to build up the brethren and sisters in sound doctrine and Bible religion, and that they do not rest until they know that our members, young and old, are giving to the Bible its full place in moulding their daily experience. All our workers who follow the Ministerial Reading Course will read through the New Testament in 1934. Could we induce the whole membership to join us in this daily reading?



schools on the Sabbath, and further, that there was a very serious loss of adult members from the Sabbath-school. A third loss to the Sabbath-school is found in the irregularity of attendance on the part of many. These conditions brought forth the following actions by the Council:

METHOD OF CALCULATING MISSING MEMBERS

THAT we request all Sabbath-school secretaries, Union conference and local, to follow the General Conference plan in reporting their missing members, viz: "Add the cradle roll,

kindergarten, primary children, and junior pupils to the church membership, and the total would be the Sabbath-school membership goal. Subtract the actual membership of the school from the membership goal, and the balance shows the missing members."

INCREASING ATTENDANCE AT SABBATH-SCHOOLS—MISSING MEMBERS

THAT we ask our Sabbath-schools to assume the responsibility for bringing the missing churchmembers into enrolment and recommend that the officers in every school, quarter by quarter, compare their records with the church list to ascertain who is missing.

SCHOOL CHILDREN IN THE SABBATH-SCHOOL—CHURCH SCHOOL

WHEREAS, we have been instructed that "nothing is of greater importance than the education of our children and youth" and that "Satan is going forth as never before to enlist the youth under his black banner that leads to death and ruin,"

We Recommend, 1. That we call the attention of our parents to the need of having all of our children in the Sabbath-school.

2. That where attendance of our children in the day schools on the Sabbath is required by law, our leaders and workers take special interest in instructing our believers as to the necessity of securing Sabbath privileges for their children and to counsel them as to the proper steps to secure this freedom.

3. That where there are sufficient children in the church to warrant the operation of a church school, conference leaders be urged to study with these churches ways and means of providing a Christian school for their children.

Other actions affecting the Sabbath-school were taken:

SABBATH-SCHOOL TEACHERS' TRAINING COURSE

THAT where language prevents the use of the General Conference Teachers' Training Course, we ask every Union president and Sabbath-school secretary to provide year by year for their Sabbath-school workers the best possible substitute.

SABBATH-SCHOOL GOAL

Baltic Union	\$5,700
British Union	26,300
Polish Union	4,300
East Nordic Union	13,270
West Nordic Union	24,700
East African Union	4,550
Ethiopian Union	600
Nigerian Union	1,000
Gold Coast Union	750
Sierra Leone Union	500
The Cameroons	180
Upper Nile Union	150
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	\$82,000

A study of the missionary volun-

teer work and its problems led to the adoption of the following :

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER RESOLUTIONS

1. WHEREAS our young people are our greatest asset and their development and spiritual condition of corresponding importance, and

WHEREAS plans of a far-reaching nature are in existence, which would meet these needs if promoted with energy,

We appeal to conference presidents, and conference workers everywhere, to show a definite interest in all young people, encouraging them along life's pathway, emphasizing the necessity of earnest Bible study, the reading of the best literature, and living a life of prayer.

2. FURTHER, That we ask all conference workers to acquaint themselves with M.V. plans and to cooperate closely with M.V. secretaries and young people's workers, especially helping them in carrying out the devotional features of the department's plans.

3. WHEREAS there is a very large number of young people in our institutions who are in particular need of spiritual help,

We Recommend, That institutional leaders give careful attention to the spiritual needs of these youth by spiritual revivals, organization of prayer bands, encouraging proper reading and wholesome recreation, and above all to present in these institutions a spirit of confidence in the leadership of this message and in the triumph of this movement.

4. WHEREAS the junior work is of utmost importance in the spiritual development of our young people, but through lack of proper leaders in many places is not meeting the need,

We Recommend, That our schools form a band for the study of junior leadership.

5. BELIEVING that the young people's meetings at the annual conference offers opportunity for definite work for young people, we counsel the conferences to arrange for at least one young people's meeting each day, and that where possible one person should be asked to lead these meetings throughout the conference. It was also agreed that much more could be accomplished for the young people if they could have their meetings alone and therefore we should not encourage the older people to attend.

The goal for our young people's offerings was also apportioned as follows :

British Union	\$750
Baltic Union	175
East Nordic Union	250
West Nordic Union	500
Polish Union	125
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Division	1,800
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The publishing department was well represented by a report from its secretary, and a public service in the Oslo Church. Plans for providing more literature for our mission fields include the following resolutions :

POLICY—PUBLICATION OF LITERATURE IN MISSION FIELDS

IN VIEW of the increasing requests for new literature in our mission fields, the following is adopted as a policy for the publication of all books and pamphlets other than regular periodicals :

1. Requests for such new literature shall be passed by the Union committee of the mission concerned to the Division Committee, with proposals as to subject matter, edition, author, or translator.

2. After the approval of the Division Committee has been given to the proposals, the work of preparation of manuscript shall proceed, and in the case of new works a copy of the completed manuscript in English shall be forwarded to the Division Committee for final approval.

3. The publishing house that is to print the book will be requested to submit a quotation for the work to the Division treasurer.

POLICY—INITIAL EXPENSES—LITERATURE PRODUCED FOR MISSION FIELDS

IN ORDER to make possible the production of new literature at a low price for the native peoples of mission fields, we adopt the following policy :

1. All initial expense involved in the production of such literature as is approved by the Division Committee shall be borne by the Division from monies derived from the Missions Extension Fund or other appropriations, a regular sum for this purpose being included in the annual budget.

2. Initial expense shall be understood as including :

(a) Translation expense, when special labour is employed.

(b) Typesetting and preparation for the press.

(c) Copyright fees, original photographs, and blocks.

3. It shall be understood that this does not apply to literature for sale by colporteurs.

The literature sales goal for the Division for 1934 was set at \$270,000.00 and apportioned to the Unions as follows :

Baltic Union	\$17,000
British Union	110,000
East Nordic Union	45,000

Polish Union	13,000
West Nordic Union	80,000
East African Union	1,500
Nigerian Union	1,500
Ethiopian Union	500
Gold Coast Union	500
Sierra Leone Union	500
Upper Nile Union	500
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Division	270,000
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We were fortunate in having at the Council a number of our doctors and others directly interested in medical work. Plans for strengthening this phase of our work include the following resolutions :

DOCTOR FOR GOLD COAST

IN VIEW of the wonderful opportunities and the pressing needs for medical work in the Gold Coast,

We Recommend, 1. That we take definite steps to procure a doctor for that field, and that the visiting Division representative and the mission superintendent approach chiefs with the view of obtaining gifts for establishing dispensaries and a hospital.

2. That we petition the General Conference for assistance from the Medical Foundation for the purpose of supporting a doctor, the amount to be determined after Brethren Nord and Clifford give a report of their findings.

MEDICAL WORK IN ESTONIA

IN VIEW of the desire of the Baltic Union to establish medical work in Estonia,

We Recommend, 1. That they secure a house or flat suitable for conversion into treatment rooms.

2. That their doctor spend some time at the Skodsborg Sanitarium and visit other treatment rooms to acquaint himself with the physiotherapy methods.

3. That the Baltic Union submit any plans for prospective treatment rooms to the medical secretary of the Division for suggestions.

HEALTH WORK IN SCHOOL AND CHURCHES

WHEREAS the Spirit of prophecy strongly urges that all of our believers and workers have a thorough knowledge of physiology and personal hygiene,

We Recommend, 1. That earnest consideration be given to the teaching of these subjects in the various grades of our schools.

2. That our workers whenever possible avail themselves of our nurses and doctors in connection with their evangelistic campaigns.

3. That we endeavour to organize home nursing classes in every church.

4. Where a church can conveniently provide sufficient space, a modest treatment room be established for the benefit of the poor under the supervision of an experienced nurse, and that our lay members assist in giving treatments.

HEALTH MEASURES—MISSIONARIES

WHEREAS, the health of our missionaries in tropical countries is endangered, and in view of the need of instruction in tropical hygiene and disease,

We Recommend, 1. That space be reserved in the ADVENT SURVEY for special articles on suitable medical subjects for our missionaries.

2. That all appointees to the mission fields be encouraged to take a three months' course at Livingstone College, London, or some other suitable school, and further, that each appointee be presented with the book entitled, *Tropical Nursing*.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION—STUDENTS
IN TRAINING SCHOOLS

Voted, To ask that the principals of each of our training schools arrange through their Union committees for the examination of the students of our training schools early in each school year.

Some features of the educational work were studied and actions covering this phase of our work were taken.

ENROLMENT IN TRAINING SCHOOLS—
INDUSTRIES

WHEREAS our training schools have been established as "cities of refuge" for our tempted and tried youth, where they may be rooted and grounded in Christian experience and thoroughly instructed in the third angel's message,

We Recommend, 1. That our workers be encouraged to take a more definite interest on behalf of our young people in helping them and their parents to work out ways and means so that more of our youth can enjoy the privileges of a Christian education.

2. That the boards of managers of our training schools be asked to continue to give earnest study to the development of profitable industries so that a larger number of our young people can attend our schools.

CHURCH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AND
TEACHERS' INSTITUTES

BELIEVING that our church school work would be greatly strengthened if more definite guidance and counsel were provided,

We Recommend, 1. That conferences or Unions where church schools are conducted be encouraged to provide more definite plans of inspection and educational leadership for these schools, and

2. That church school teachers' institutes be held alternate years where the teachers may have the opportunity of studying their problems.

3. That in order to provide teachers for our church schools, conference workers be asked to encourage young people who give evidence of having teaching ability to secure training along this line.

Various phases of the mission interests were also studied. J. Clifford, superintendent of the Gold Coast Union, and T. Tranborg, of Sierra Leone, were with us throughout the Council. A bulletin giving all the Council actions of interest to the missionaries will be sent to each mission worker, so only a few of the actions are given here.

POLICY—MISSIONARIES ATTENDING
LOCAL ANNUAL CONFERENCES

IN VIEW of the fact that most of our missionaries in Africa are greatly isolated and seldom have opportunities of spiritual and inspirational



Resolution of Consecration

WE wish to pass on to our brethren and sisters in service our solemn conviction that the hour has fully come for us to be unreservedly consecrated to our task. Every worker must employ his faculties and energies to the utmost, and should set before himself a higher standard of devotion, of self-sacrificing labour, and of success in the number of souls won, than any committee would venture to expect.

We pray always for you, that our God may count you worthy of your calling, and fulfil every desire of goodness and every work of faith, with power.



help of workers' institutes or other like gatherings, and would be greatly strengthened and encouraged in their work by meeting with their brethren and sisters in the homeland in the annual conferences, and

WHEREAS these missionaries when attending the annual conferences can render valuable help to the meetings through taking part in the public services and in personal visits, it was

Voted, That in order to make it possible for furloughing missionaries of our Division to attend the annual conference of their local field, should such meeting be held while on furlough, the railway fare and regular hotel allowance for the missionary and his wife be shared equally as follows: The Division, the home conference of the furloughing missionary, the employing mission (or Union in case the missionary is a Union employee), and the missionary himself.

The distribution of the budget

was awaited this year with unusual anxiety, for it looked as though we were going to have to pass on to the fields a rather heavy reduction. We were, however, very loath to do this for it would have meant a reduction of workers in the home fields and mission fields.

After bringing together every resource it was found that we had a prospective deficit of \$5,000, and it was decided to meet this by appealing to our Sabbath-schools to bring in this extra amount during the coming year. This is going to mean added effort and sacrifice, but the very maintenance of our mission forces demands that we do this. We therefore trust that all will use their influence to rally our Sabbath-school membership to meet this increased goal.

Other actions of a general nature include the following:

TENURE OF OFFICE—COMMITTEE
MEMBERS

IN VIEW of the widespread approval of the 1931 policy restricting tenure of office,

We Recommend, That for the sake of bringing into our local conference councils an enlarged circle of experienced men, no individual be elected to committee membership for more than six consecutive years, except institutional representatives or conference officers.

CIRCULATION OF "REVIEW AND
HERALD"

Voted, That we endeavour to get the *Review and Herald* into every English-speaking Seventh-Day Adventist home in the Division, and that the Ministerial Association of the Division be given the responsibility for promotion of this endeavour.

In closing this busy week of study and planning for the future of our work, all left the Council with courageous hearts to press forward in the renewed confidence that we are living near the triumph of our message and the soon return of our Saviour.



PRAY when you are faint-hearted. When you are desponding, close the lips firmly to men; do not shadow the path of others; but tell everything to Jesus. . . . In your weakness lay hold of infinite strength.—"Ministry of Healing," page 513.

GREETINGS from the 1933 Autumn Council.

One thought seems to be uppermost in the minds of all classes of people at the present time: "What is the meaning of current events? Whither are we drifting? What is the world coming to?" We read these inquiries in the press, we hear them asked by people on the street, we hear them from the platform and the pulpit—everywhere: *What do these things mean?* Thoughtful editorials and articles from the ablest writers appear in the leading papers and magazines, all asking or attempting to answer the question: Whither are we drifting?

In all history there has never been such a world-wide fear of the future as has possessed the hearts of men for the past few years—a fear that is growing, indescribable, undefinable, but none the less almost universal, and that has cost the world millions of lives and billions of dollars. This fear is in the hearts of rulers and law-makers who shape the affairs of nations; it haunts the hearts of bankers and financiers; it affects the merchant and the manufacturers, the buyer and the seller. Everything is uncertain. If Christ were on earth in person, as He once was, how could He describe present-day conditions more accurately than He did in these words to His disciples: "Upon the earth distress of nations with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring. Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things that are coming upon the earth?"

Were these troubles confined to one nation or to one country, it would be different; but they are world-wide, and affect all peoples. No sooner have we ceased to discuss some uncontrollable calamity occurring in one place than a report comes of some great disaster in another area. On the one hand there are millions of people actually starving; on the other men are burning their surplus grain for fuel or destroying it in other ways.

Some great cities, formerly rich and prosperous, confess themselves bankrupt and their coffers empty; and the leading nations are spending far beyond the ability of the people to pay. Taxation increases

on every hand, and property holders are desperate to secure funds to meet the demands made upon them. Many are asking: Shall we abandon our farms and homes, and let the state take over our property? Still the nations and local governments feel compelled to go on increasing their expenditures, piling debt upon debt.

Morals are slipping, and even in professedly Christian lands the standards of uprightness and morality are being lowered. The chronicle of crime occupies a leading place in the daily press—murders, kidnappings, suicides, banditry, robbery, arson, increase month by month until sober-minded persons ask what the end can be. Worst of all, unless it touches men personally, they become almost indifferent to it. It used to be thought that the World War was responsible for the increased crime; but fifteen years after the armistice the orgy goes increasingly on. What does it all mean? Students of Bible prophecy read in present-day conditions the fulfilment of the signs given by Christ as signs to show His coming near. If not, what will ever constitute their fulfilment? Said the Saviour:

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. . . . Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; when they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away till all be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but My words shall not pass away."

Paul caught the very spirit of the second coming of Christ when he wrote to the church at Rome that stirring admonition which certainly belongs to the Advent believers at this hour:

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and

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let us put on the armour of light. . . . Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."

Two things should concern us deeply at the present time: (1) To be ready for the coming of the Lord, and (2) To finish His work in the earth.

Be ready. Again and again the Saviour gave the admonition, "Watch," "Be ready."

"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. . . . Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

"And what I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch."

How could the Lord show more concern for His people than He does when He uses such importuning language? It is more than advice: it is love mingled with deep desire that His people will not be so occupied with the affairs of this life that they will neglect to prepare for the coming of the day of the Lord. That day is a day of weal or of woe to each one of us individually. It settles our eternal destiny. Beyond it there is no reforming, no repentance, no forgiveness. Then, too, it takes place while we are living, and active in the affairs of life. The coming of Christ is not preceded by a time of godliness and seeking after righteousness by the peoples of the world. We are told that:

"As the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also

LETTER
throughout the World
COUNCIL

the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."

Our first duty, therefore, is to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Master. We must be ready and in an attitude of waiting if we are to be saved in that great day. A profession of religion is not sufficient. We must be clothed with the righteousness of Christ, which comes alone through faith. Nor are we to live in fear of failure. There must come to each one of us the experience so exultantly described by Isaiah:

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God: for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels."

In this way, and in no other, can we be prepared for the coming of our Lord.

We must finish the Lord's work upon the earth. This is our duty as well as our privilege. God's work is precious to Him: He has committed it to His people to finish; and it must be finished. This means that the Gospel will be preached in all the world; for Christ Himself declared:

"This Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

One of the evidences of the soon coming of our Lord is the preaching of the three angels' messages in all the world, as John saw in vision on Patmos. The everlasting Gospel, the three messages of

Revelation fourteen, must go to all the world as a witness.

It is wonderful how the proclamation of the third angel's message has sped on, passing from nation to nation, from one language to another, till at the end of 1932 it has already reached 275 countries, speaking 485 languages and dialects. The last six years have seen the message proclaimed in 229 languages in which it had not been preached before. In less than every ten days on the average for the past six years a new language has heard some part of the three angels' messages. At the close of 1932 our church membership was reported as 362,101. With these language areas entered by voice or printed page, it has been estimated that if we had sufficient working force we could now reach a billion and three-quarters of the two billions of the world's population.

The year 1932 was the best year in all our history in soul winning. Strange as it may seem, in the very time when money was hard to get, our people rallied to the calls made, and gave so liberally from their limited resources that we have been enabled to keep our work moving forward after effecting various cuts in salaries and operating expense. Our hearts have been greatly cheered by the rapid increase in church membership during the past two years. In almost all the world field the growth in membership has been the best in our denominational history; and in North America 1932 was the best year in baptisms and increase of membership that we have ever had.

The future lies before us. With the blessing of God we can make our work from now on far more fruitful in souls than it ever has been in the past. Consecration and a united front will ensure success. When every brother keeps stroke with every other, when unity and brotherly love prevail, when in earnest prayer we seek the Lord and put sin out of our hearts, we have every reason to believe that the Lord will send to us the fullness of His blessing. "If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tender-hearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one."

—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, page 189. What a harvest of souls this would bring!

Some fear that if prosperity returns (and the world is struggling to bring this about) the church will lose its zeal, and cease its activity in soul winning. This must not be. The church is to "be in the world, not of the world." Neither prosperity nor adversity should affect our zeal and consecration to God. Our faith and love is the key that unlocks the storehouse of His riches to us. As time passes, and we come nearer and nearer to the end, the church is to be more prayerful, more zealous, more sacrificing, more Christlike, and put forth greater efforts to win others to Christ.

Ministers and laymen should unite in their efforts to reach the unconverted. Our laymen are already doing a great work, but a greater lies before them as well as before our ministry in winning souls to Christ. Shall we not make 1934 our banner year in Christian growth and in soul winning?

♦ ♦ ♦

God has in store love, joy, peace, and glorious triumph for all who serve Him in spirit and in truth. His commandment-keeping people are to stand constantly in readiness for service. They are to receive increased grace and power, and increased knowledge of the Holy Spirit's working. But many are not ready to receive the precious gifts of the Spirit which God is waiting to bestow on them. They are not reaching higher and still higher for power from above, that through the gifts bestowed, they may be recognized as God's peculiar people, zealous of good works." —*Testimonies*, Vol. 8, page 247.

♦ ♦ ♦

MANY never attain to the position that they might occupy, because they wait for God to do for them that which He has given them power to do for themselves. All who are fitted for usefulness must be trained by the severest mental and moral discipline; and God will assist them by uniting divine power with human effort. —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 248.

Some More Items of Interest

WE should like to have included in this issue a full report of each Union and each department of the Division but if we did so the paper would exceed the size limit. A few brief extracts must suffice to tell the story of the hard work and self-denial which have made possible the progress reported at the Winter Council. Most of these reports refer to the period for the first nine months of 1933.

Baltic Union Conference. There have been 446 baptized into membership in this Union. A colporteur brought into the message no less than twenty-eight people in five months. An evangelist, although suffering in health while conducting an effort, baptized twenty-eight. Two others brought in twenty-five and twenty-one respectively. There is great poverty and sickness in this field and Brother Rudy, the president, urged the need of medical and welfare work.

British Union Conference. The president reminded the Council of the large population in his Union. Because of this there was but one Seventh-Day Adventist to every 10,070 people. He said that the prospects were very good and estimated that 7,000 people were listening to the message every night through the fourteen public efforts that were in progress. He appealed for more workers for this important field.

East Nordic Union Conference. Brother Lindsay reported that this Union does not have many workers, but a spirit of evangelism has taken hold of the believers and there had been 486 baptisms. One young man with the aid of a Bible-worker had brought in between sixty and seventy members. Two workers in Sweden had raised a church of over thirty. The work is promising there and the workers are of good courage.

Polish Union Conference. The year 1933 was faced with a financial deficit and a shrinking tithe. Five ordained ministers and ten licentiates had been laid off on ac-

count of lack of funds. But in spite of this 250 souls had been baptized. It had been necessary, also, to close the school for one year because of lack of funds. The president, Brother T. T. Babienko, pleaded for help for this field so that their work may not be curtailed at this critical time.

West Nordic Union Conference. Brother Muderspach reported 374 souls having been brought into the message. This is in spite of the fact that a large number of their workers could be employed only half-time owing to lack of funds. Statistics from this Union showed progress in all the various branches of the work. The president emphasized the great need for help for Iceland and North Norway.

Gold Coast Union Mission. Brother J. J. Clifford, the superintendent of this field, said that approximately seventy-five per cent of the money expended on native work during the year 1932 had been raised by the members. During the past two years twelve new Sabbath-schools had been organized. The work had suffered in this field through lack of continued leadership, and he stressed the need of a training school in order to care for and train those who were coming into the message. There is also need for a worker for the coast cities and a doctor. Elsewhere in this issue we print an appeal for a hospital and a college from the Omanhene of Agona.

Publishing Department. Brother J. J. Strahle, who is secretary for this department, remarked that the message, which is now being printed in 158 languages in the world field, is issued in thirty languages in our Division. In East Africa, the book, *This Mighty Hour*, has been bought by the English, Indians, Goans, and Japanese. He saw great possibilities for the literature work also in Ethiopia and West Africa. In some Unions in the homelands there had been an increase in sales while in others there had been a decrease. Taking the Division as a whole the

sales for 1932 were about \$1,000 less than for 1931. He urged the need for strengthening this phase of the work as it means so much to the success of the work as a whole.

Home Missionary Department. The Home Missionary Secretary, Pastor C. V. Andersen, gave credit for the success of the department to the loyal work of the Home Missionary Secretaries in the Unions and local conferences. He looked upon the Home Missionary Department as the agency for the training of the 30,000 believers in the Division to minister to the millions yet unacquainted with the message in our field. For the first nine months of 1933 there was a substantial increase in all lines of home missionary activity as compared with the same period in the previous year.

Sabbath-School Department. Pastor W. T. Bartlett reported 37,387 members in the Sabbath-school. This is 2,214 less than the previous year, but is largely due to the transfer of Tanganyika to the Central European Division. He stressed the three following features for earnest study by the responsible leaders:

1. That in some fields many of our juniors are attending the day-school rather than the Sabbath-school.

2. According to the General Conference plan of calculating missing members it was found that in the home fields seventeen per cent of the church membership was missing.

3. The average attendance in Europe shows a further twenty-four per cent loss through irregularity. Brother Bartlett suggested that this deficit probably lowers our gifts to missions and our general standard of spiritual health and vigour.

Educational Department. Brother E. D. Dick reported an enrollment of 355 in our fourteen church schools, 409 in our six European training schools, and 6,091 in our

mission schools. He suggested the need of a deeper interest being taken in our youth that more might be encouraged to attend our European training schools. In reference to the mission schools he said that a strong work for primitive peo-

ple is best accomplished by developing a strong educational and evangelistic programme together. Thus the need for strengthening our training schools and girls' schools in the mission fields.

E.M.E.

Greetings to Missionaries

Dear Brethren and Sisters:

YOUR names are continually coming before us in committee and we remember you all frequently in our prayers. Now that we are assembled in our Winter Council at Oslo, it is the desire of all that we send you a message of greeting and brotherly love.

As we listen to the reports of the work we have many reasons to be of good courage. Our gains for 1932 exceeded any previous year by 268. The reports for this present year are likewise encouraging. One Union president reports 486 souls having been brought into the truth during the past year. Another 446 during the first three quarters of this year. In Finland one minister has won sixty-eight to the truth. In the Baltic Union sixty have been baptized as the result of one effort by a conference president. In the British Union the work is also encouraging. Our evangelists are meeting with favour. Some report audiences of 1,000 to 1,400. While our work in Poland has been beset with difficulties, yet the future is bright. We believe that God will yet be greatly honoured in spite of efforts to hinder His work. Reports from the missions are likewise encouraging. One superintendent reports a most inspiring series of meetings which thousands attended and over 375 were baptized. Our cause is onward. In spite of the loss of Tanganyika our gains during the nine months have brought us to the 30,000 mark for the Division.

Both at the Fall Council and in our Division Committee earnest efforts have been made to avoid any cut this coming year. You will read, however, about the decline in the value of the dollar and will realize that this is bound to affect the amount appropriated to us by the General Conference when it is converted into European curren-

cies. However, we are all able to rejoice in a growing income from some of our larger Unions. The Ingathering Campaign has gone £2,350 beyond last year's total, though in other fields there have been shrinkages of income.

We find no reason, however, for discouragement in our perplexities. You and we have always expected that our road to Zion would become steep and stony before we

reached the gates of the city to which we journey. The wrath of the dragon is a waymark of cheering omen. More and more we trust you as we see how you relate yourselves to the heavier burdens and bigger problems of your own work. We believe that you, and the workers in the home fields, are going to find that according to your greatest needs will your strength be, as you cleave with purpose of heart to the Lord.

Let us pray for one another, and provoke one another by shining examples of steadfast faith and dauntless courage to larger and more Spirit-filled service this coming year. The Lord is at hand.

Yours in the ever blessed hope,

DIVISION COMMITTEE.

Oslo, Norway,

November 28, 1933.

Native Petition for a Hospital and School in Agona, Gold Coast

OMANHENE'S OFFICE,
AGONA, ASHANTI.

23rd October, 1933.

Sir,

The humble petition of the Omanhene of Agona in the Eastern Province of Ashanti, Gold Coast Colony (West Africa) showeth:

1. That Agona where the "Great" Okumfo-Anokya hailed from, is and has been the headquarters of Fetishism. The "Great" Okumfo-Anokya whose stool I occupy was the head of all fetish priests in Ashanti.

2. That work of a Mission is developed only by divine power I know. I loath to debase another Protestant denomination, the — Mission established its church and school at Agona since 1896. Because of the power of Satan which is very strong within my State, the light of the Gospel held by the denomination referred to herein shines dimly.

3. In 1914 by divine power, your Mission which adheres to the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath established not in any State in Ashanti but in my State.

4. That this was in fact a mystery. The Church and the School have now branches in many towns

and States as offshoots of the Agona establishment.

5. That your humble petitioner with the concurrence of his Councilors, prays that the most barren field in Ashanti may be manured by the building of a Hospital and a College at Agona to render the State fertile for the Divine Message.

6. Your humble petitioner ventures to state that the need for a hospital here is great because of the infant mortality due to diseases of various kinds is high as well as diseases among adults which are very terrible to enumerate. The natives as far from Ofinsu, Ejura, Mampong, Ejisu, Efiduase, and Kumasi prefer to come to the Mission's dispensary here for treatment other than to go to the Government hospital; it is only severe cases which the natives reluctantly send to the Government hospital. In this connection, your humble petitioner prays to tender his appreciation for the care and treatment of the sick by your Mission within my State and the surrounding villages.

7. Your humble petitioner's request for building of the College is based on the fact that (1) my town was the first in Ashanti to

Report of the Northern European Division

Name of Conference or Mission	No. Churches	Baptism and Vote	Apostasy	Death	Net Gain	Present Membership	Evangelistic Workers	Colporteurs	No. Sabbath-Schools	Membership	Average Attendance	Tithe	Tithe per capita	Sabbath-School Offerings	Weekly Offerings	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
N. E. Division	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Baltic Union	104	98	44	14	34	5,137	53	47	126	5,286	3,833	\$ 6,913.30	0.10	1,427.94	.....
British	2	74	144	15	6	4,985	95	80	140	4,926	3,835	\$ 28,089.60	0.44	5,644.95	.....
E. Nordic	3	91	318	8	17	294	4,366	66	85	165	2,691	\$ 9,642.60	0.18	2,854.55	.....
Polish	4	147	86	157	2	3,353	53	46	194	3,688	2,486	\$ 2,715.30	0.06	791.95	.....
W. Nordic	5	126	98	39	21	6,196	49	75	170	5,478	4,239	\$ 16,902.30	0.21	4,378.11	16.67	
Union Tls. 3rd Qtr. 1933	542	744	263	60	389	24,037	331	333	795	23,016	17,084	\$ 64,263.10	0.21	15,097.50	16.67	
E. Afr'n Union Miss.	6	29	12	105	4	-91	3,351	16	...	146	5,866	6,361	\$ 790.20	0.02	768.48
Ethiopian	7	7	289	10	...	15	440	425	\$ 282.90	0.07	145.44
Gold Coast	3	6	37	568	3	...	33	1,584	1,247	\$ 380.60	0.05	144.49
Nigerian	9	4	175	12	7	158	1,205	14	...	80	5,255	4,559	\$ 661.80	0.05	319.38
Sierra Leone	10	10	2	1	432	8	...	23	976	620	\$ 389.40	0.07	101.53	2.97
Upper Nile	11	3	109	3	...	13	231	200	\$ 244.50	0.17	88.00
French Equa. Misn.	12	6	2	...	1	19	19	\$ 27.10	0.35	29.74
Mis's Tls. 2nd Qtr. 1933	59	226	119	11	105	5,960	56	...	311	14,371	13,431	\$ 2,776.50	0.03	1,597.06	2.94	
Grand Tls. 3rd Qtr. 1933	601	970	382	71	494	29,997	387	333	1,106	37,387	30,515	\$ 67,039.60	0.17	16,694.56	19.67	

receive the Message of God sent per Mr. S. G. Lewis and (2) boys and girls from my State, because of the School here being of the primary nature, after passing the standards of education in the local School, are always ambitious to continue their studies but for the lack of a college of their own denomination here.

8. Your humble petitioner prays therefore for your Mission's approval for the buildings of the Hospital and College to be erected at Agona. Your humble petitioner prays to mention that he and his Councillors will build at their expense the hospital and give their full support in the building of the College.

9. Your humble petitioner's prayer is similar to that of the man from Macedonia, "Come over into Agona and help us" in the healing of their sick and education of their children.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

(Signed) KWADJO APAW.

OMANHENE OF AGONA—ASHANTI.

Witness of Signature :

(Signed) ANOKYE AKWASI II.

ASENIEHENE OF AGONA.

Through the superintendent in charge of S.D.A. Mission, Agona, to the Organizing Secretary, World-Wide Advent Missions, 41 Hazel Gardens, Edgware, Middlesex.

of; truly "by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people." In spite of hardship and hunger it was inspiring to hear them rejoice in the work which had been given them to do and to hear them with confidence say, "If it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it."

One man had been beaten "with many stripes"—but had not Paul passed through the same waters? Yes, and is it not recorded that he "rose up, and came into the city; and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe?" Then what was there to hinder this apostle-colporteur from continuing with his work at the next village! "And when they had preached the Word in Perga, they went down into Attalia."

Some had been into the market places and had been surrounded by those who, out of mere curiosity, came to see "what will this babbler say," but with choice words they had been able to dispose of a number of books. Mark was not the only one who said that on returning to territory he had previously worked "the brethren received us gladly," for many others had the same experience. They were hailed as "brother" and "the man with good books," and in many instances kindness and hospitality were bestowed upon them. They had preached to the people, and one had "continued to preach unto midnight," and still he was requested to carry on.

Apostle-Colporteurs

BY A. W. ALLEN

So many times we missionaries say, "How much more we can appreciate the Bible for having come to this land," and it is perfectly true. The more we see of this country of Africa, and the more closely associated we become with the African, so much the more do we feel the very atmosphere of the Bible stories.

Just recently at a colporteur institute each colporteur was given the opportunity of relating his experiences in his work. At first the men were reticent to express themselves from what was thought to

be "modesty," but after one or two had risen to their feet it seemed as though we were listening to the apostolic stories afresh.

Standing before us were David, Elijah, Mark, Ishmael, Zephaniah, Judah, and others; not the Bible characters in person but certainly their doubles in experience. Their faces lit up with enthusiasm, as did ours, as they related their stories. Here were "unlearned and ignorant men . . . who had been with Jesus," who were speaking in terms which their own people a few months ago had never dreamed

for the Quarter Ended September 30, 1933

Harvest Ingathering	Annual Offering	Miscellaneous Offerings	Week of Sacrifice	Young People's Offerings	Big Week	Total Offerings	Total Offerings per capita	Percentage of Offerings to Tithe	Total Contributions for Home Missionary Work	Total Contributions for Local Church Work	Colporteur Sales
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
3,299.79	0.26		1,042.12	2.20	7.90	5,780.21	0.09	83.6	110.88	1,040.06	3,266.58
21,988.25	0.79	18.78	4,650.74	137.99	86.53	32,528.03	0.51	115.9	314.41	2,579.74	24,237.29
10,422.13	4.60	95.94	9.57		95.27	13,482.06	0.25	139.8	377.12	664.33	1,944.31
961.46		1.36	492.16	5.45	117.30	2,369.68	0.05	87.2	94.95	96.74	1,616.35
10,117.61	7.72		289.61	57.69	192.75	15,060.16	0.18	89.1	1,060.30	2,186.23	24,250.20
46,739.24	13.37	116.08	6,434.29	203.33	499.75	69,220.14	0.22	107.7	1,957.66	6,567.10	65,314.73
13.20			494.80		4.35	1,280.83	0.03	160.0			198.21
			22.33		33.04	200.81	0.05	70.9			104.44
16.72			170.94		23.27	355.42	0.05	93.3			
91.62	3.73				38.00	450.72	0.03	68.1			618.45
17.93	19.63		101.60			243.66	0.04	62.5			
10.21	0.88		0.02		15.80	114.91	0.08	46.9			63.31
			20.70		5.17	55.61	0.71	205.2			
149.67	24.24		810.39		117.63	2,701.96	0.03	97.3			984.41
46,938.91	37.61	116.08	7,294.59	203.33	617.38	71,922.10	0.19	107.2	1,957.66	6,567.10	66,299.14

Are these not apostolic experiences? As we listened we rejoiced for these few loyal witnesses whom God is using in this caste colony of Kenya. They would have continued all day, but time was golden and many times we had to stop them. Their stories of threatened imprisonments, beatings, and "drawings into market places unto the rulers" were numerous. Here is one story as David himself told it.

"I was working in Kisumu. A few days previous a warning had gone from the police that a dangerous thief was at large, and one mark of his identity was that he was carrying a box. I was carrying a box—and sure enough I was arrested and taken to the police and accused as being "the dangerous thief." Soon after arrival at the police station I was forced to open my box and questioned as to my identity, my authority for carrying such books, and what I was doing with the money. I was so nervous I failed to answer satisfactorily and trembled within me as I was threatened with a beating. Shortly afterwards I was taken to the chief of the local native Baraza (government). My heart sank as I saw the chief's face, but I prayed an earnest prayer to God as my heart beat faster and faster. The chief examined my book and then his face changed. I knew my prayer was answered! I told the chief who I was and what I was doing, and he became so interested he gathered

all the soldiers and listeners into a circle and then requested that I preach to the people. In some mysterious way I thought of that



The Work Demands Haste

The days are passing quickly, scarcely here [the year. Ere they are gone, and consummate "This generation" soon must pass. Our Lord [cord; Must soon return, the prophecies re- But still on every side much work we see [be. As yet undone. We must more active No time for Christ's co-workers now to waste. [haste. The work demands all energy and

From out the east and west, from north and south There comes a pleading cry from heathen mouth, "Come over now and help us, lest we die," [cry. As if it were their last despairing We also hear the rumbling sound of war, [near and far. Which comes to us from countries Inhabitants are trembling now, and fear [see and hear. Those things which all about they

Another sound, a cheering one, is heard [God's Word From e'en the darkest lands, where'er Is preached, as grateful hearts their voices raise, [praise. When freed from sin, in prayer and The workers are but few, the harvest great, [late. Time's nearly gone, the hour is very Hard problems and great trials must be faced. [haste. God's work demands all energy and

—A. H. Downs.

verse, 'He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.' I tried my best to explain the verse and I showed them how God was sowing bountifully and that one day He would reap a bountiful harvest. On my appealing to my audience to prepare for that harvest the chief decided that he must buy a book. His secretary also purchased one and six people in the audience did likewise."

The colporteur work here in East Africa is progressing favourably, although our force is small. The very nature of the work is absolutely contrary to the people's customs and ideas, and it calls for great sacrifices on their part, therefore we rejoice that the few faithful men we have have proved themselves to be more than colporteurs, and are in the true sense of the word, "apostle-colporteurs."



Look unto Jesus in simplicity and faith. Gaze upon Jesus until the spirit faints under the excess of light. We do not half pray. We do not half believe. . . . Pray as you never before prayed that the Lord will lay His hand upon you, that you may be able to comprehend . . . the love of Christ, . . . that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.—"Testimonies," Vol. 7, page 214.

The Old Year's Farewell to the New

BY L. H. CHRISTIAN

FAREWELLS sometimes belong to those mixed and mystic human happenings of which we may say that the worse they seem, the better they are. If some casual acquaintance departs, the farewell is easy. If some troublemaker, a bore, or just a nuisance goes away, the departure gives a feeling of relief. But when we say good-bye to close and valued friends, there is deep regret and sorrow. It is thus with the ending of a year. A year of sad disaster closes and we are glad it has gone. An ordinary year passes, and few notice it. But a real happy, prosperous year, one that we could look back upon with joy, ends and the last farewell is one of sadness. How are we to think of, and what are we to remember, from the Old Year now passing?

As we look back over 1933, we appear to see just one disturbing change after another. There were threatening wars and revolutions. There was hard poverty and distress. The slogan terms for the entire year were "crisis" and "depression." To us as an Adventist people came certain deep personal disappointments and trials. By many these will be long remembered. In one of our neighbour Divisions, scores of churches, and nearly the entire mission work, was suddenly stopped by a harsh decree. But, to the joy of us all, God overruled and granted liberty once more. There is a lesson for the whole Advent movement in that experience. In one of our fields in this Division, the president, after twelve years of faithful, self-denying toil, has been banished, never to return. In the same land, another godly and promising young man quickly crossed the border, or he would have gone to prison for many years. In other places some, growing weary of God's truth, have wandered into ways and works of darkness. But, in spite of all these trials and the difficult

world conditions, 1933, for God's work, was one of the best years in the history of the Advent cause. Indeed the year brought us great joy. Many of our people were led into a deeper religious experience. Hundreds of new converts and many backsliding members have come to Christ. Homes that had known estrangement have found new peace and joy. Churches that were dying have been revived. The very persecution, opposition, poverty, and suffering, with the startling developments of world events, have called us as a people nearer to God. Indeed the name of 1933 might well be "Ebenezer"—"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

But what are now the prospects for the year before us? They are "as bright as the promises of God." True, there are many clouds on the horizon. War rumours fill the air. Unemployment, destitution, disaffection, brewing rebellions are seen in many lands. Yet for the Advent movement the outlook never was better. We are in the midst of a strong soul-saving awakening. We find with our own people a deeper desire than ever before to seek God. And they are eager to support the foreign missions as well as the cause at home. In the world, New Year resolutions are common. They are lightly made and quickly broken. With us, a New Year consecration and a new simple, earnest dedication of all to God is the best we can do. There is no need of becoming pessimistic. Facing the New Year with courage, and relying on the protecting power of the Saviour, we may confide our children, our lives, and our all to His care.

Yet things to-day are in such a state that many questions enter our minds as we think of the Old Year and the New. Will there be many more New Years before the appearance of the Lord? We hope not. Some day soon we shall reach the last New Year season on earth.

What experiences either of joy or sorrow will this coming New Year bring to us as individuals? Will the Lord spare our lives for the entire year? Some of our dear members here and there will no doubt be laid to rest—are we all ready for that farewell? What will the world situation be in the year to come? Things do look very ominous. Many factors and forces indicate that another war may be at hand. Will 1934 be such a year of destiny as was 1914? Or will the angels of God be permitted to hold the winds yet awhile?

There is another line of thought for the New Year that should not be neglected. How many souls can we win for Christ during 1934? How much can we give for the support of His cause? How many books will our colporteurs sell? How many young people will attend our schools? To those who have a little spare money, the present time brings new perplexities. Some feel that it is dangerous to keep holding on to money not needed. We have recently seen that God's Spirit is impressing some of our brethren to give larger sums to the cause. To us the most inspiring and comforting thought as we enter upon the New Year is this: God will do us only good. He has some precious gift; some rich personal experience for each one of us in 1934. It may come to us through sorrow or sickness, but it will be a blessing. Thus the final farewell message of the Old Year to the New rings clear and true: Be of good courage. Obey the marching orders of your great Commander. Attempt larger things for God.

The Advent Survey

Organ of
The Northern European Division of the
General Conference of S.D.A.

Editor: Ella M. Eastcott

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