

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

Organ of the British Union
Conference of Seventh-Day
Adventists

Editorial Offices: The Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts

Vol. 41, No. 28, Nov. 27, 1936

Your December Appointment

By H. W. LOWE

WHICH part of the calendar is the more important—the beginning or the end?

Most people, thinking of New Year's opportunities and resolutions, etc., would say the beginning. Perhaps most of us believe that good beginnings make good endings. But have you ever thought that, actually, we might be a good deal better off if we realized that good endings make good beginnings? To illustrate. It does not take a clever man to start new projects. The really clever man is the one who carries a project through to a successful conclusion. And if he always finishes successfully, he'll almost always begin his new undertakings correctly. It does not need a spiritually alert individual or church to start new plans, new services, etc. But it requires ability, plus perseverance, plus consecration to a task, in order to carry on to fruition.

Yes, good endings make for good beginnings!

Especially is this the case in this Christian life where we mark off time by years. It is folly to think you are bound to end a year as you begin it. You are more likely to begin a new year as you end the old one.

How imperative, then, to end each year successfully.

Every Adventist has it in his power to complete this year successfully. But what is success? Is it measurable by a cheque book? Remember Spurgeon's warning.

Preaching on the subject of money he said he had only known one family that had not been spiritually injured by the possession of riches; years later, he sadly withdrew that solitary exception. "Possessions, outward success, publicity, luxury—to me these things have always been contemptible," wrote Albert Einstein.

No, success, from God's viewpoint, is assuredly not a money

value. H. M. Field has given us this comment: "Everybody finds out, sooner or later, that all success worth having is founded on Christian rules of conduct." In other words, success is a matter of a spiritually right relationship with God.

How does one maintain that correct relationship with God? It does not come without effort. It is not forced on us from above. Probably the three most important avenues for developing a right attitude to the Godhead are through constant contact with nature, through direct revelation from God in His Word, and by communion and the experimental faith begotten by prayer. The first is, due to our industrialized life and city dwellings, denied to increasing multitudes of men. The second is definitely discounted by our modern indifference, and the third is becoming a discarded habit and a lost art.

But we Adventists must not, dare not, ignore the study of God's Word and the practice of prayer. Which brings us immediately to that appointment. At the close of each year we set aside seven days as days for special prayer. God's appointment with His people! No successful business man, no person with any sense of propriety misses his appointments. To do so would cost time, friendship, money.

It costs more than that to miss these appointments with God.

You business and professional men cannot afford to miss this ap-



Sister Brooks of the Chiswick Church, who has collected £72 this year for missions.

pointment. "The time spent in prayer never hinders, but furthers and prospers a man's journey and business; therefore, though thy haste be never so much, or thy business never so great, yet go not about it, nor out of thy doors, till thou hast prayed."—*Bishop Bayley.*

Our executives in conferences and factories, as well as doctors in practice in and out of institutions, heed this Week of Prayer. The world around finds our institutional employees and executives each morning and each special season together in prayer. None should be absent, because none can afford to miss it. Did you, on this point, note these words to the General Conference staff recently? "While I am speaking . . . may I say that I believe that everyone should attend morning worship? . . . We all need the help that comes to us in this hour of morning worship. . . It is a good thing to remember that faithfulness in these matters is expected."—*J. L. McElhany, "Review and Herald," October 22, 1936.*

What applies to the morning prayer season applies to special prayer seasons.

This principle of power through prayer applies to all our membership. There is not a solitary exception to the rule that we prosper as we pray.

December 5th to 12th is our Week of Prayer. All churches will arrange frequent, if not daily, services for special worship and prayer. Even special children's services should be arranged where possible.

If this facility for prayerful contact with God is used, we shall finish the old year well, and we shall begin the new year auspiciously.

There is another secret which makes success, even material success, dependent upon spiritual relationship with God. Some five hundred years before the days of our Lord, the people were passing through strange times in Judah. They were intensely busy, but their business was abortive. They sowed, but they reaped little. They accumulated, by dint of prodigious

exertion, but their possessions did not meet their needs. By reading Haggai chapter one, we observe that the secret of their poverty was that they were "hurrying every man after his own house." Verse 9.

Selfishness! Piling up personal possessions, leaving God's house derelict! Looking after self, caring nothing for God's cause!

December 12th is the day when we may prove that we are not

Another Year

*Thy mercy, Lord, has closed us round,
Spared through another year,
Thy love has sent an angel guard—
Again, 'tis Week of Prayer*

*See, now we come with grateful hearts,
We worship at Thy shrine.
Lord, in this hallowed Week of Prayer
We seek Thy face divine.*

*Behold Thy people, Blessed One,
And wheresoe'er they meet,
Bow down Thine ear, hear while they pray
Before Thy mercy seat*

*Then shall we rise with strength renewed,
With light for darkening hour,
With grace for every time of need,
Clothed with the Spirit's power*
MRS. T BUCHMAN.

under such a curse. Our Annual Thankoffering should surely be liberal in times like these. Christian benevolence, large-hearted liberality—therein is a secret which many God-blessed souls know in these selfish times. Let us remember that God perceives not only the amount we give, but the amount we squander in selfishness. May our offering indicate the measure of our gratitude to God for His gracious mercy to us in times of unprecedented apathy to the needs of His work on earth.

Times are disturbing. Events are ominous. The cause of God is needy. But no disturbance can unbalance the soul that is securely centred on God. No events can thwart God's purpose, and means for propagating His message will come from His loyal people.

We must not forget this appointment with God. We must not fail Him, nor suffer His work to languish.

Notes from the Union President

It is a matter of regret that we have a number of calls for workers for overseas missions which we cannot answer. Here is one for a teacher for West Africa. Another is for a teacher for East Africa. Still another comes for a secretary-treasurer and a department leader. Then, from far-away India we have two calls for workers for the beautifully-situated Vincent Hill Training School. Britain, as the centre of the Empire and with a missionary-minded people, ought to be able to supply these calls and many more. There are many outlets for the employment of graduates of the right type.

WE need a larger output of graduates from our College. We should also have higher standards of education, all the time maintaining a higher spiritual objective toward which to bend all our qualifications and energies. Prayer is asked that we may know how to raise standards and how to increase the number of workers available for many providential openings.

EVANGELISTIC reports are hopeful. They usually are to begin with. What we need to do now is to follow these evangelists with our prayers that they may continue in strength to save many souls. Firstly, we should pray for the men who preach. They need not only ability, they need spiritual power. They need humility of mind that success, whether initial or ultimate, may not exalt them beyond the Spirit's reach. The man who is preaching apparently successfully to large crowds is the man in greatest danger: Pray for him! Secondly, let us pray for the listening public, that convicting power may settle on their hearts, that grace may be embraced by saving faith. H. W. Lowe.

WEEK OF PRAYER—DECEMBER 5th to 12th

Calendar Reform

Recent Investigations in Geneva, Rome, and London

By A. S. MAXWELL

WHAT is the truth regarding the present status of Calendar Reform?

Are the reformers gaining ground or not?

What is the significance of the action favouring Calendar Reform passed in June 1936, by the International Labour Office?

Is any importance to be attached to the vote taken by the Universal Christian Council for Life and Work in August last, supporting a "perpetual, twelve-month, equal-quarter plan"?

Again, is it likely that Calendar Reform will ever come up again for consideration by the League of Nations?

Is there any possibility of its being adopted by the League and afterward by the nations of the world?

With these questions in mind, and at the request of the General Conference Committee, we set off on our tour of investigation on October 6th last.

During the next ten days we visited the following persons:

AT GENEVA

1. *League of Nations*.—M. Metternich, Acting President of the Communications and Transit Section of the League; Mme Lehmann, Secretary of the Communications and Transit Section; Mr. Tombs, Canadian Government delegate to Communications and Transit Section; Miss Ward, Head of the Press Bureau; Mme. Kyle, Secretary to M. du Forville (Private Secretary to M. Avenol, the Secretary General).

2. *International Labour Office*.—M. Maurette, Acting President; Father LeRoy, Secretary for Catholic Social Services; M. Thélin, another department head, a Protestant and friend of Dr. Schönfeld.

3. *Universal Christian Council for Life and Work*.—Pastor H. L.

Henriod, Secretary-General; Dr. Schönfeld, Director of Research.

AT ROME

1. *Headquarters of Jesuits*.—Father Nösbet de Boynes.

2. *Castelgandolfo (The Pope's Summer Palace)*.—Rev. Father J. Stein, Vatican Astronomer.

On returning to England, we continued our inquiries in London, interviewing the following: Mr. M. R. K. Burge, Director, the London Branch Office of the International Labour Office; Mr. R. C. S. Stevensen, Permanent Official for League Affairs, Foreign Office; Rev. Burlingham, British Christian Council for International Friendship, Life, and Work; Mr. H. H. Martin, Secretary, Lord's Day Observance Society; The Very Rev. Dr. W. R. Matthews, Dean of St. Paul's; Dr. Sidney Berry, Secretary of the Congregational Union; Mr. R. T. Codd, Secretary, Imperial Alliance for the Defence of Sunday; Rev. A. E. Garvie, D.D., Past Chairman of the Congregational Union; Dr. H. Spencer Jones, Astronomer Royal, Greenwich Observatory; Mr. A. de V. Leigh, Secretary, London Chamber of Commerce; The Very Rev. Dr. J. H. Hertz, The Chief Rabbi, British Empire.

In addition, we have conducted lengthy correspondence with the Bishop of Chichester, who is Chairman of the Universal Christian Council for Life and Work, and Mr. R. Wilson Black, J.P., Treasurer of the National Free Church Council.

These interviews, extending over a period of five weeks have enabled us to obtain a large amount of valuable information on this whole subject, and also to acquaint many influential people for the first time with the existence of opposition on conscientious grounds to the "blank day" calendar.

We were received by one and all

with the utmost courtesy, and most of the interviews lasted for an hour or more. At their conclusion we were frequently thanked for the information we had conveyed.

In many of the interviews also we were able to undo much that the Calendar Reformers thought they had accomplished by their misrepresentations, and in some cases to persuade individuals to withdraw their support from the Calendar Reform movement.

At Geneva, so far as we are aware, we interviewed everybody who was able to give us any information on the subject of Calendar Reform. We were most fortunate in meeting Father LeRoy, a Jesuit, who expressed deep interest in our point of view and gave us an introduction to a personal friend of his at the Jesuit headquarters in Rome.

Journeying to Rome, we had the privilege of an interview with Father de Boynes, who, in turn, introduced us by letter to Dr. Stein, the Vatican Astronomer. Thus, for the first time in history, a Seventh-Day Adventist was privileged to enter the Pope's Summer Palace at Castelgandolfo and spend an hour with this eminent scientist. Dr. Stein, we would like to say, received us with great courtesy, and we had the pleasure of talking with him not only about the calendar question and the attitude of astronomers thereto, but also on other matters concerning the signs of the times, and the second advent.

The interviews with Pastor Henriod and Dr. Schönfeld at Geneva concerning the action of the Universal Christian Council favouring Calendar Reform, were unusually helpful. Indeed, as a result of these interviews and also of our subsequent correspondence with the Bishop of Chichester and others, there is every hope that the minutes of the Universal Christian Council on Calendar Reform will be amended.

The interviews in London were exceptionally interesting and profitable, and must result, to a large extent, in thwarting the plans of the Calendar Reformers.

ANNUAL THANKOFFERING—DECEMBER 12th

THE PRESENT SITUATION

1. *The International Labour Office.*—This Body, which is closely connected with the League of Nations, is not likely to give any further consideration to Calendar Reform. The subject was brought before it by the delegates from Chile and Belgium in June last, and rushed through rather hurriedly without any general enthusiasm or conviction. Indeed, so superficial was the study given to it that some persons present were not even aware that the resolution had been adopted.

The International Labour Office, it should be noted, did not consult the Communications and Transit Section concerning the resolution, nor seek its counsel at any time—despite the fact that the Communications and Transit Section is the only body with wide experience of the calendar question at Geneva.

It seemed to us, talking with the Acting President, M. Maurette, that the International Labour Office would be glad when it could wash its hands of Calendar Reform and pass it on to the Council of the League.

2. *The League of Nations.*—The resolution passed in June by the International Labour Conference, calling upon the Council of the League to reconsider the question of Calendar Reform, will in all probability come before the Council of the League at its next session in January, 1937.

This will not be a public conference, and it will not be possible for private organizations to send representatives, as was the case in 1931. Any expressions of opinion must be sent to the Government representatives who will be present at the League Council meeting.

Should the Council of the League decide to give further consideration to Calendar Reform, then it will refer the matter once more to the Communications and Transit section of the League. This section is now being reorganized, and could not possibly accept the responsibility of a further investigation of the subject until this reorganization is completed, which will be some time during 1937.

From this it would appear that

Calendar Reform may again become a subject of major interest to the League and to ourselves during 1937, and we must therefore be extremely watchful during the next few months.

It is a mistake to suppose that the permanent officials at the League are enthusiastic about Calendar Reform. On the contrary, there is strong evidence of boredom at the very mention of the subject. By their ceaseless propaganda, and misrepresentations of League actions and statements, the Calendar Reformers have developed a decided opposition to themselves and their cause

at Geneva. We were actually informed by one secretary that she spends much of her time writing letters to correct the misleading statements published in the press of all countries by the Calendar Reformers. "It is most trying," she said to us. "They are so biased."

The officials at the League of Nations are, we believe, doing their best to deal with this difficult and controversial subject as fairly as possible. They assured us that they would keep us informed as to the course of events, so that we may know how best to act should any emergency arise.

(To be continued.)

SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

President: Pastor R. S. Joyce

Office Address: Midland Bank Chambers, 506 Holloway Road, London, N.7

Telephone: Archway 1927

Paragraphs for Those Who "Look on the Fields"

THE greatest gift in this world is the blessing of God. The South England Conference is prospering under this gift.

WE felt confident that a brief, enthusiastic campaign was a vital secret in the success of the Harvest Ingathering work. Brother Warland's bulletins appealed and urged that this year's attack should be fervent and sharp. We reached greater heights than ever before. Our goal is half the Union goal, and God blessed all who gave their time and energy to this year's appeal, so that we had just over our goal by the specified time of the last report—two months sooner than in 1935.

ON page 1 is a photograph of one of our record-making sisters. This is Sister S. Brooks of the Chiswick Church. An examination of her records over the past twenty years would astonish workers and lay-members alike. This year she collected £72. She is a grandmother, and rarely gets five shillings or over at one house—very few record-makers do. Patient perseverance and devotion to the task make for such success.

For the past few weeks, the workers have been settling into their new locations. Our aim is to care for the older churches and enter new places. With this in mind the field has been organized into districts so that each church and company will not only have the leadership of its elder or leader, but will also have direct conference worker supervision. We trust that this will make for the more solid grounding in the faith of all our believers.

IN 1934, our net gain in membership was 112. This increased to 118 in 1935. In nine months this year our net gain is 167. Thank God for this. Pray that the members may yield themselves to His guidance so that He can, as Peter expresses it, "stablish, strengthen, settle." Will YOU do all you can when you converse with members, new and old, to strengthen and "settle" them? A terrible responsibility rests on those of us who sow seeds of doubt and discord.

As we look at the war-swept countries so near us, how grateful we should be that we are able to work in such a time as that which Paul enjoyed only for so short a space. In Acts 28:31 we are told that he spent two peaceful years

in "preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him." Our evangelists are earnestly studying and using all possible up-to-date methods to appeal to the people this winter.

All the workers in the field and office are of good courage. We often thank God for such a united, enthusiastic group of labourers.

Brother J. M. Howard has entered Ipswich in Suffolk, a town of 70,000, with only one Adventist. He has had as many as 920 at a Sunday evening service. Brother A. J. Mustard, and Miss L. J. Clarke are associated with him.

Brother L. D. Vince started with nearly 900 at his opening meeting in Swindon, Wilts., a town of 71,000, with one Adventist. Brother P. Cumings and Miss V. Warren are with him. The following is an extract from a write-up by a reporter in a local paper:

"The programme of last Sunday evening certainly struck an entirely new note. Evangelist Leonard D. Vince, of London, conducted a special Armistice service and nearly 900 people were present. In a powerful address he brought a message of comfort and encouragement for the difficult times in which we now find ourselves. The attention of the audience was keen throughout the entire service."

Brother B. Sparrow and Miss Guntrip are having good attendances in Margate, while Brother D. M. Swaine and Miss M. John are enjoying like blessings in Cheltenham.

Brother A. K. Armstrong, assisted by Miss M. Clements, had 750 at his first meeting in Southampton, and Brother A. G. Tapping commenced with 300 on his first night in Eastbourne last Sunday. Brother W. J. Newman and Miss W. Buckle are helping him.

THE large evangelistic programme for this winter, of which the above is less than half, is made possible only by the faithfulness of the membership in the matter of tithe-paying. So far, without any specials, we have a gain in this conference of £865. Can we make a gain of £1,000 before the year closes? Are you paying your tithe? Are you paying a faithful tithe?

Think of some of the blessings that would follow such an increase.

We take an interest in money because of what money will enable the servants of God to do. Whenever we see an increase in our funds, we thank God; not for the cash, but because we know what the money, under the blessing of God, will enable His servants to do in feeding the flock and seeking the lost.

OUR greatest gift is this truth. All our blessings flow therefrom. When it fills us we cannot wish to enjoy the blessings it brings ourselves alone; we long to share them with increasing numbers. Our workers are united in this longing; our church leaders are united in this longing; many of our members are working to this end. Are you?

LET me close with a statement from the pen of our prime minister. He says that religion is not "a life of occasional fervours, or even of splendid acts of heroism and self-devotion, but of quiet, unobtrusive earnestness amid the commonplace work of the world."

R. S. JOYCE.

Edmonton

ON Sabbath, September 26th, fourteen new members were welcomed into the Edmonton and Enfield Wash churches following the baptism which took place at Walthamstow. This was made possible by Brother Swaine postponing his baptism that we might join with him.

The crowded church and central body of twenty-one white-robed candidates presented a pleasing spectacle as we accompanied Pastor Joyce, who officiated, to the rostrum.

God has blessed His work in this part of London in a remarkable way, and as we look back over the past two years, with its joys and sorrows, its struggles, its triumphs of faith, and the twenty-nine souls that have found the right way, some Jesus for the first time, we pause in humility, for surely God moves in a mysterious way.

For a long time our members in Edmonton have functioned as a

church, and it was with their backing that we entered Enfield Wash, close by, nineteen months ago to conduct an evangelistic campaign which resulted in the organizing of a new company after ten months.

The time came, however, for us to do something definite for Edmonton, so we left the Sunday meetings in Enfield to the care of Brother Horace Pearce, who had been with us as song leader. Brother Pearce, who gladly gave his services after a full day's work in The Stanborough Press, never failed in his responsibility, although he motor-cycled a long way in all weathers. We appreciate this valuable help even as do those to whom he ministered.

At the critical time during the meetings in Edmonton we were faced with an unexpected problem. For when we were about to announce the change of hall, the accommodation that had been promised was denied us. So, for eleven more weeks, the meetings continued in the Town Hall, while the writer hunted everywhere for a hall and Miss Buckle took care of the interest.

After eight weeks of fruitless searching, rather than lose the large congregation acquired, we were driven to take over a dilapidated blacksmith's shop and renovate it for use.

This apparent hardship has proved a boon and a blessing, for now in the heart of Edmonton's busy thoroughfare we have a presentable, brilliantly-lit building in which to hold all our services.

Every department of the church has successfully carried its responsibilities and we have found great joy in service. Especially has this been seen in the Ingathering, which was completed in six weeks.

And now farewell to London, a parting of friends but not a severing of friendships. Good-bye to our faithful and much-loved-by-all co-worker, Miss Buckle, who joins Brother Tapping in Eastbourne. Tenderly committing the care of the work into the experienced hands of Brethren Bacon and Colthurst, we turn our steps toward Swindon with its 72,000 inhabitants. We go in the strength of the Lord. L. D. VINCE.

NORTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

President: Pastor O. M. Dorland.

Office Address: 22 Zulla Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham.

Telephone: Nottingham 6312.

Wakefield District

IN spite of the cold, wet evening of October 27th, a good number of members and friends were present at the meeting in Wakefield. This was only natural, as it was Pastor E. E. Craven's farewell address, preparing for his departure to a wider field of labour in Ireland.

The address was very appropriate for the occasion, as the main text was, "See that ye fall not out by the way."

Occasions such as these are sad times, especially for the church that is saying good-bye to the pastor and friend who has led them to the fold. Four years ago when Pastor Craven first came to Wakefield, bringing with him the Gospel of truth, he and his family were the only Adventists in the city, but now, every Sabbath, thirty to forty persons gather together to praise God in the Advent Mission. The same can be said about Barnsley. In both places he has done good work, and was much loved and respected by the people for whom he laboured.

The Wakefield members and friends gave Pastor Craven a small gift as a token of their love for him, and many words were spoken in appreciation of all he had done for them. Pastor Craven asked for permission to share his present with Brother Davies, who for over fifteen years has proved a reliable helper.

In a few weeks Brother Walton is also leaving us to join Pastor Craven in Ireland. We all wish him God's blessing in his work, and hope he will remember Wakefield by the small gift we are planning to give him.

Pastor McMillan will then join our working force to keep the light of truth burning in the hearts of these people and to kindle new lights. With the help of Brother Davies and the writer, he will care for the churches in Doncaster and

Wakefield, while Brother French takes charge in Barnsley.

With good courage Pastor Craven left for his new field of labour. We wish him God-speed, but are looking forward to his return at Christmas, when he comes to baptize more who are waiting to join with God's people.

E. ADAIR.

Devotional Convention in Sheffield

ESPECIALLY for those who were unable to attend the recent session of the British Union Conference, it was mooted here in Sheffield that a devotional convention be held. Accordingly, arrangements were made and invitations issued to all members and friends in the district to assemble in Sheffield on Sabbath, October 17th. There was a remarkably good response. Almost to a member they came and enjoyed what proved to be a most happy and profitable time.

We were privileged to have in attendance, as visiting brethren, our Union and local conference presidents.

At our opening meeting on Friday evening, Pastor Dorland delivered an appealing address on the need of our being filled with the Holy Spirit. The Sabbath-school on Sabbath morning was ably presided over by Brother Standen, assisted by the Sabbath-school superintendents of Sheffield, Rotherham, and Killamarsh. Pastor Lowe was the speaker at the morning service. His sermon on those striking words of the apostle Paul, "Our sufficiency is of God; who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the Spirit," was truly uplifting and inspiring. We all assembled again in the afternoon and were stirred by a moving address on "The Day of the Lord" by Pastor Dorland.

Our brief but enjoyable convention was pleasantly brought to a

close on Saturday evening by our Union president taking us on a pictorial visit to the "Land of Mussolini."

At the time of the convention, when but seven weeks of the Harvest Ingathering Campaign had passed, it was our pleasure to announce that, collectively, Sheffield, Rotherham, Killamarsh, Staveley, and Chesterfield had reached the district goal. Sheffield itself had reached its own goal in six weeks—an achievement unprecedented in the history of the church!

It would be ungracious to omit an expression of thanks to those who helped so willingly. Therefore to Brother and Sister Nicholson, Snr., and their assistants who served hot drinks at lunch and tea-time, soloists, organists, one and all, we would say, "Thanks so much."

We are of good courage here in Sheffield and already are making plans for a vigorous evangelistic campaign in yet another section of this great city. We pray that under the blessing of God it may be the largest and most fruitful that Sheffield has ever had.

W. R. A. MADGWICK.

IRISH MISSIONS

Superintendent: Pastor E. E. Craven
Office Address: 17 Chadwick Street,
Lisburn Road, Belfast, N
Ireland

"Inasmuch"

THERE is an urgent need in Derry for parcels of clothing. Owing to the severe weather and lack of warm clothes, several of our members and their children cannot come out to the meetings. We ask our brethren and sisters to respond to this appeal. Such clothing as would fit boys and girls from the ages of four to twelve would be particularly appreciated. A young man, height about 5ft. 9in., is in desperate need of a suit. As we approach the season of goodwill remember the poor in Derry.

Will you please send all parcels to Miss B. Cleary, 68 Chapel Road, Waterside, Derry.

Thank you! B. CLEARY.

Field Missionary Department

Secretaries:

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Union | G. D. King |
| South England | A. W. Cook |
| North England | B. Belton |

The Colporteurs' Conference

A CONFERENCE gathering is always an important event in the life of the Adventist Church. Earnest members make it a matter of prayer weeks and months before the date of gathering, and then faithful members journey to the meetings prepared for, and expecting, great things from God.

A conference is usually a time of real spiritual refreshing and a time when advancement is made in Christian experience and in church activity. In recent years our regular conference gatherings have been times of rather crowded programmes and intense planning for denominational progress; our work is becoming so complex that at our ordinary general meeting the time allotted to each department is of necessity very brief, and only the most pressing problems can be discussed. For some considerable time now, each year, our brethren and sisters engaged in the literature ministry have come together for special prayer and study concerning the problems of their work.

These gatherings have been called colporteurs' institutes, but might be well thought of as special colporteurs' conferences—certainly they should be times of real blessing and inspiration and a call to advancement for all concerned.

This year the special gathering will be held at Stanborough Park, from December 28th to January 5th. Our colporteurs throughout the British Union territory will meet together to seek the Lord and to study efficient methods of Christian salesmanship. In addition to special help from prominent leaders in the British Union Conference we shall have with us, at that time, Brother L. A. Vixie, the newly-appointed publishing secretary of the Northern European Division. It is hoped also that Pastor W. E. Read, the president of the Division, will be with us

for part of the time. There is every prospect that the meeting will be one of the best of its kind ever held in Great Britain.

At this time we would be encouraged to know that our membership throughout the Union was making the plans for this colporteurs' conference a matter of earnest prayer. We would invite you to supplicate the throne of grace that the Spirit of the Lord will come in mighty power upon our workers in the literature ministry. No class of workers in this cause is more worthy of your interest and none is more encouraged by the knowledge that you do so remember them. These men and women of the printed page are pioneers of the Advent faith and they share the same spirit, and are of the same fine tradition as the pioneers of the Advent cause in early days.

It is expected that at the coming conference there will be quite a group of new workers receiving specialized training and instruction in gospel salesmanship. Such training is of the utmost importance and value, and means a great deal in the future experience of the colporteur-evangelist. Possibly there are still others who would be glad to avail themselves of this training in preparation for service.

Invitations to attend the conference will soon be issued, as is the usual custom, by The Stanborough Press Ltd. If you are in any way interested, will you please communicate with the writer immediately. A great opportunity awaits those who are ready to step into the opening providences of God.

It might not be out of place to remind our membership that this time of the year—just before Christmas—is the great "buying season" and, consequently, is the best "selling season" from many points of view. This is the most propitious time for you to gain practical experience in the field. The excellent Christmas literature,

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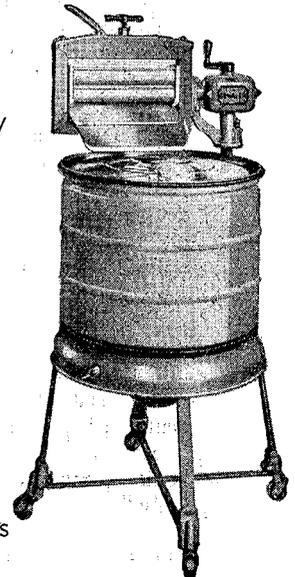
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especially prepared, is now available, and wise members will not hesitate to reap the waiting harvest.

Remember the printed page is often God's appointed agency for a soul's salvation and you can be the instrument in God's hands for its distribution. G. D. KING.

The Literature Ministry

Christmas Morning and the "Morning Watch"

EVIDENTLY a large number of our members are planning for their friends to receive *The Morning Watch* as a greeting card on Christmas morning or before. Already our people have purchased three thousand five hundred copies. You get a dozen of these beautiful booklets for half-a-crown. Your friends have a reminder of you every day of 1937! A.W.

In Roman Catholic Schools

USUALLY Roman Catholic people adopt a very suspicious attitude to literature offered by Protestants. "No, we don't believe in that," is a common response, even before they know what it is.

Brother Olliver, however, has more than once had a gratifying experience with the sale of *Bedtime Stories* in Catholic institutions. The other day he called at a convent school where he had once sold these little books, and to his delight the teacher purchased eighteen copies. No wonder Brother Olliver was pleased. A.W.

The Black-coated Men Like It

I AM pleased to report that two ministers purchased a copy of *The Bible Speaks* and one of them remarked to me the day after he bought it, "That was a splendid book. I can recommend it to anybody." D. C. McRAE.

At Rest

BALDERSTONE.—We regret to announce the death of Sister Balderstone, aged sixty-six, who for fifteen years was a faithful and loyal member of the Chiswick Church. She accepted the truth under the labours of Pastor O. M. Dorrland. Of a loving and kindly spirit, anxious for the salvation of men and women, she was used of God in winning others to the message she loved. She was laid to rest in Acton Cemetery on October 14th. Pastor F. A. Spearing officiated and spoke words of comfort to a sorrowing husband and family who mourn their sad loss. To all these dear ones we extend our deep sympathy and pray that the "God of all comfort" will sustain them until the glad resurrection morning. A. LACEY.

FARLIE.—It is with sadness in our hearts that we report the death of Sister Caroline Rachel Farlie, for more than twenty years a faithful member of the Catford-Lewisham Church. Our sister went to her rest, appropriately enough, on God's rest-day, October 24, 1936, at the age of fifty-nine, after a very painful illness of about two years. It was our privilege to visit Sister Farlie on the Sabbath before she died, and to learn from her own lips that she was ready to go, and was prepared to meet her Saviour in His good time. It was in the year 1914 that Sister Farlie accepted the faith through the labours of Pastor L. F. Langford. She held various offices in the old Catford Church, before its union with the church at Forest Hill. A real Christian, a faithful wife and mother, she leaves behind to mourn, her husband, three step-children, eleven other relatives, and many friends. The bereaved look forward to meeting their dear one again at the first resurrection. The funeral services were conducted by the writer, assisted by Pastor W. J. Young. F. A. SPEARING.

HARGREAVES.—Gwendoline Constance Hargreaves, nee Brown, fell asleep in Christ, October 26, 1936, at the age of thirty-five. Our sister was baptized in 1923, being won for the truth by her mother's influence, and in the following year became matron of the Stanborough Park College. In this capacity she served faithfully and well till 1930, when she was united in marriage with Dr. Henry Hargreaves, a missionary in Persia. She shared his labours in that country. About two years ago they returned to England, pending arrangements for a hospital in Persia, and that he might further qualify as an ophthalmic surgeon. While they were expecting a decision from the Fall Council concerning work in Persia, she was taken suddenly ill and, in spite of all that medical skill could do, died the following day. During the short illness she spoke often of her Saviour. We laid our sister to rest in St. Peter's Cemetery, Chingford. Pastor R. S. Joyce and the writer conducted the service.

God's cause has lost a valuable and consecrated servant. Sister Hargreaves was loved by all who knew her. She leaves behind a daughter, Katherine, five years old, her husband, a father, and one sister, who mourn a heavy loss, but know that their dear one made good use of her short life and will shortly put on immortality. W. T. BARTLETT.

DR H. E. HARGREAVES and family sincerely thank all friends for the sympathy shown to them in the previous sorrow which has fallen upon them. They have been greatly encouraged and sustained by the prayers of God's people.

PIEDNUE.—Early on Sunday morning, November 1, 1936, our beloved sister in the faith, Mrs. H. Piednue, passed peacefully to her rest at her home in Upper Parkstone, Dorset, near Bournemouth. Sister Piednue embraced the message over forty years ago in the very early days of the work in London, and was always a leader, and trusted teacher in whatsoever church she served. Sister Piednue will be sorely missed by the Bournemouth Church, where she served so faithfully for many years. Her life and example was always an inspiration to others in her loyalty to the truth, loving ministry and sympathy for others, and in fruitful service ever seeking to hasten the return of Jesus.

The funeral service was conducted in the new Bournemouth Seventh-Day Adventist Church on Sabbath, November 7th. Pastor H. W. Armstrong, who had come appropriately for the occasion, spoke with deep feeling of the great loss the cause had sustained in the parting that had come. Basing his remarks on the latter portion of Rev. 17:14, he touchingly referred to experiences in London when our deceased sister first accepted the truth while associated together in fellowship in the old North London Church, at Duncombe Hall, Hornsey Rise. The writer followed, pointing to the comforting assurance of our sister's glorious resurrection when Jesus comes. Brother Vine, our local elder, Brother Wills, deacon, also spoke words of deep love and appreciation of the deceased, as also did others of the church officers and members. A feature of the service was the beautiful singing of two favourite hymns, "Just as I am without one plea," and, "In the heart of Jesus," by Miss Iris White, one of Sister Piednue's beloved Sabbath-school scholars. As the service closed, the church filed slowly past the coffin, paying a last silent greeting to one who had finished her course and whom, if we are similarly faithful, we shall meet again at our Lord's return.

To the sorrowing sisters and the family generally, words of comfort from the Scriptures were addressed in which every-one present silently shared. The interment took place at Horndon in Essex. F. S. JACKSON.

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STUDENT from South Africa wishes to stay with S.D.A. family in London. Write: C. Haupt, 12 Balham Hill, London, S.W.12.

SUNSET CALENDAR

| | Lon'n | Not'm | Car'f | Edin | Bel't |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| Dec. 4th | 3.53 | 3.50 | 4.06 | 3.41 | 4.02 |
| Dec. 11th | 3.51 | 4.48 | 4.04 | 3.37 | 3.58 |

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

Published fortnightly on Friday for the British Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists by The Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts.

Copy for next issue.—December 3rd. EDITOR: W. L. EMMERSON.



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