

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

Organ of the British Union
Conference of Seventh-Day
Adventists

Editorial Offices: The Stanbor-
ough Press Ltd, Watford, Herts.

Vol. 41. No. 29. Dec. 11, 1936

THE CALENDAR ISSUE (CONCLUDED)

By ARTHUR S. MAXWELL

[In the issue of the MESSENGER dated November 27th, we published the first instalment of Pastor A. S. Maxwell's report on his recent interviews in London, Geneva, and Rome, in connection with the Calendar Reform question. Below we present the conclusion of the report, summarizing the attitude of the remaining Bodies consulted.]

3. *The Universal Christian Council for Life and Work.*—This Council, which has been studying Calendar Reform for many years, is definitely in favour of the fixation of Easter and opposed to the thirteen-month calendar. The resolution passed in August at its Chamby Conference, supporting a "perpetual, twelve-month, equal-quarter plan," does not, so Dr. Schönfeld informed us, truly represent the mind of this Body. All that the conference had in mind, he said, was to inform the League that in any plan of Calendar Reform, the churches would prefer a twelve to a thirteen month calendar; but that the conference had no intention of supporting a "blank day" calendar.

It is obvious to anyone acquainted with the subject that the wording was inspired by representatives of the Calendar Reformers, who, we were told by one

individual, "pushed their way into the conference."

Dr. Garvie and the Bishop of Chichester have assured us that they will look carefully into this matter and report their findings in due course. As stated previously, there is every prospect that the wording of the resolution will be amended.

4. *The Vatican.*—The Calendar Reformers have been at pains to emphasize the prospect of early support from the Pope, but the Jesuits with whom we had the opportunity of conversing did not support this view. While they

were all most careful to preface their remarks with the statement, "We are not authorized to speak on behalf of the Holy Father," yet they definitely gave us the impression that the Vatican would not support so revolutionary a proposal as a "blank day" calendar.

We were referred to Dr. Stein as the most competent Roman Catholic authority on Calendar Reform. We found him very conversant with the subject, and he assured us that he was personally strongly opposed to the "blank day" plan.

He also informed us of the strong opposition—with one exception—to the "blank day" calendar on the part of the leading astronomers of Europe belonging to the

Astronomische Gesellschaft. At our request, he confirmed this in writing, and we now have this letter in our possession.

5. *The Free Churches.*—While we have not had the opportunity to interview all the leaders of the Free Churches in England, we believe that the attitude of Dr. Sidney Berry, the secretary of the Con-



A unique display of Dorcas work in the Plymouth church. See report on page 4.

gregational Union, is characteristic of Free Church opinion. He informed us that the only interests his Body had in the calendar was concerning the fixation of Easter, but that it did not concern itself with the general reform of the calendar. He stated that, while he could not personally agree with the strict Sabbatarian view, he felt sure that the Body he represented would unanimously oppose any plan for Calendar Reform that might prejudice the interests and override the conscientious convictions of religious minorities.

Dr. Garvie, by the way, informed us that he viewed the whole Calendar Reform movement with grave suspicion.

6. Sunday Defence Societies.—Our interview with Mr. H. H. Martin, secretary of the Lord's Day Observance Society, in 1931, has now borne fruit, in that his whole executive council has gone on record in opposition to any form of "blank day" calendar. In fact, Mr. Martin said to us that if any sort of Calendar Reform should be proposed involving an eight-day week "once in a thousand years" his society would oppose it. He went further and said that his organization was now so firmly convinced of the peril of Calendar Reform that if we and all others should cease opposition, the Lord's Day Observance Society would carry it on.

It was most encouraging to find that this powerful organization which is able to enlist upwards of two million supporters in any crisis threatening Sunday, is now definitely on our side.

In a prolonged interview with Mr. R. T. Codd, secretary of the Imperial Alliance for the Defence of Sunday, lasting for over an hour and a half we were able to show him that the interests of his society would also be seriously menaced by a "blank day" calendar, and we have now sent him several sets of literature on the subject for distribution to his council, of which, by the way, the Marquess of Aberdeen is the chairman. There is every prospect that

the Imperial Alliance for the Defence of Sunday will be our next ally in the fight against Calendar Reform.

7. The Jews.—In all our plans and interviews we have kept in the closest touch with Dr. J. H. Hertz, the Chief Rabbi of the British Empire, whose wise counsel has been most welcome. Dr. Hertz has been very appreciative of the efforts put forth to obtain information on this subject, and has assured us that he will throw the whole weight of his organization into the battle when the crisis comes.

He is, of course, in touch with many distinguished politicians such as Lord Cecil, Sir John Simon, General Smuts, Lord Cranborne, and others, and he is planning to communicate with them again before the subject reaches the League Council in January.

8. Astronomers.—In addition to the information gathered from Dr. Stein, the Vatican astronomer, as mentioned above, further important facts regarding the attitude of astronomers to Calendar Reform were supplied by Dr. Spencer Jones, the Astronomer Royal at Greenwich. While Dr. Spencer Jones has no personal objection to a "blank day" calendar and sees no particular importance in the regular sequence of the seven-day week, he nevertheless admitted that there is no urge whatever on the part of astronomers in general for the reform of the calendar. Astronomers, he said, use a calendar of their own—the Julian—and have therefore already adapted themselves to the vagaries of the Gregorian calendar. Even should the "blank day" perpetual calendar be adopted, said Dr. Spencer Jones, astronomers would continue their present mode of reckoning.

The Astronomical Union, which is the largest and most influential body of astronomers, appointed a commission some time ago to study the matter of Calendar Reform. After careful consideration, they decided to abandon the matter as one of no special interest to astronomy.

9. The Foreign Office.—In our interview with Mr. Stevenson, who will attend the League Council in January as British representative, we learn that there is no enthusiasm on the part of the British Government for Calendar Reform. Mr. Stevenson informed us that he, like others, has been deluged with propaganda from the Calendar Reformers, but had remained unimpressed thereby. He does not think that there is any likelihood whatever of either the League of Nations or the British Government adopting the proposed new "blank day" calendar.

Asked as to what procedure we should adopt in order to make our position clear and ensure that the British Government be aware of the extent of the opposition that exists, he suggested that letters from all the different opposing bodies should be sent as soon as possible to H. M. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. We have therefore communicated with the bodies likely to oppose, and requested them to send in their official pronouncements as early as possible. Letters have already been sent from the Lord's Day Observance Society and the British Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists. Others, we believe, will follow in the near future.

In closing this report, we feel we should express our gratitude to God for the way He has opened up opportunities for us, at so short notice, to interview so many important people. In many cases we have been able to walk straight into their offices, without even so much as a telephone introduction, receiving in every case the utmost courtesy and leaving with much friendliness.

Whatever the ultimate outcome of this whole controversy, we believe that much good will have been accomplished, not only by opening the eyes of many persons of influence to the existence of conscientious conviction on the Sabbath question, but perhaps most of all by the making of many new friends who may be of vital assistance to us in days to come.

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NEWBOLD COLLEGE

Principal: Pastor W. G. C. Murdoch
Address: Nr. Rugby, Warwickshire

"While We Were Yet Speaking"

Most praying Christians, at some time, have known the wonder and the joy of Daniel's experience, in having their petitions answered even before they were completed.

We college students, too, during our Autumn Week of Prayer, saw many earnest prayers definitely answered—in some cases while those prayers were yet proceeding.

We shall never forget the joy that filled our hearts as we saw remarkable responses to the calls to consecration. Young people who before had seemed somewhat indifferent to the claims of Christ, now renounced their own desires and joyfully accepted His service. Time after time, during the daily services, while we were praying silently for particular students, they rose and presented themselves before the chapel rostrum in token of their determination to be children of God. With gratitude to our Father we recalled His words through Isaiah: "Before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."

We were specially privileged in securing the godly and searching

ministrations of Pastor F. C. Gilbert. Although Brother Gilbert was obliged to return to America before our Week of Prayer was finished, he left behind many lasting evidences of his spirit-filled preaching. We shall not soon forget either the deep sincerity of his appeals, or the new beauties of the Sanctuary he so skilfully portrayed before us. In a masterly manner Brother Gilbert marshalled the distinctive truths which have built up the remnant church, and confirmed our faith in the divine origin and the ultimate triumph of this glorious message.

A fitting climax to an inspiring week was the Friday evening testimony meeting which lasted over two hours, over a hundred young people rising one after another, publicly to renew their consecration and to express their desire to be used more powerfully for God.

We feel that the Lord's rich blessing is over our college this year, and we would invite the support of your prayers that its good work may be carried forward with ever-increasing strength and widening scope, until the task is finished and Jesus comes.

E. COX.

Armstrong the choir, under the able leadership of Mr. M. Magnin, with Mr. G. Smith at the organ, and Mr. G. Annis at the piano, rendered Maunder's *Song of Thanksgiving*.

There was a splendid congregation, the church being well filled. Combined with our Harvest Festival service, the church bade farewell to Pastor Armstrong, who for over two years has worked faithfully in our midst. At the same time a hearty welcome was extended to Pastor A. E. Bacon, who is now in charge of the churches in the northern area.

After the service, the deaconesses distributed fruit, flowers, and vegetables to the sick and needy of the church and neighbourhood.

A. C. BATES, *Church Clerk*.

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Swindon

ON Sunday, November 8th, twenty minutes before the doors opened, a queue of over five hundred in orderly formation waited outside the Empire Theatre, Swindon. This hall is the finest of its kind here, with two circles, and seats 1,100.

Much diligent work had preceded the meeting, and plans were well laid. Each house had received a handbill. We had advertised in two local papers and had not omitted to pray that God would remind the people when meeting time arrived.

Swindon has never yet heard the third angel's message and our joy when we saw that 800 people had come out on a bitterly cold evening, may be well understood. Attention was keen throughout as Brother Vince, introducing his theme with an Armistice note, turned to the familiar prophecy of Daniel 2, and showed the coming kingdom of God. Two beautiful solos by Miss Frances Wilkins added to the interest of the service. The remarks that have come to us concerning Brother Vince's address are of a high order. Music was provided by the sound apparatus of the theatre and for the hymns a grand piano was used.

We had 120 inquiries for literature, and as we have met these

SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

President: Pastor R. S. Joyce
Office Address: Midland Bank Chambers, 506 Holloway Road,
 London, N.7
Telephone: Archway 1927

Holloway Church Harvest Festival

"All good gifts around us
 Are sent from heaven above;
 Then thank the Lord, oh, thank the
 Lord,
 For all His love!"

In the spirit of these lines the Holloway church, on October 4th, held its annual Harvest Thanks-

giving service. As usual a splendid display of fruits, flowers, and vegetables—gifts from the faithful members—was tastefully arranged in front of the platform.

How fitting that we should bring these gifts to the Lord's house year by year to express our humble gratitude to our bountiful Provider.

After a few brief remarks suitable to the occasion from Pastor

dear people our courage strengthens. They welcome clear speech when to-day so little is offered from the true Bread of life. We continually pray for our workers in the other towns and cities and we ask that all may reap a rich harvest this winter time. We are alone in Swindon and need the prayers of the Advent family.

L. D. VINCE, MISS V. WARREN,
PAUL CUMINGS.



Hove and Brighton Harvest Festival

ON October 24th and 25th, we met in the Hove and Brighton church to render to God thanks and praise for His manifold goodness to us and all mankind.

How beautiful the church looked with the gifts our dear folk had brought in and arranged so well to show the bounteous hand of the Giver of all.

Brother Tapping gave an inspiring address encouraging all to bear fruit for the great harvest of the Lord.

On Sunday evening we were favoured with a solo by Miss Doris Purser. On both occasions the church was well filled.

The deaconesses, after seeing our own sick had gifts, were able to send thirty parcels to patients of the Queens' Nurses, thus opening doors for future visits.

Brother Dean had a very interested visitor while tidying up the church. This lady lives next door and loves to hear our singing. He asked her to come and see how beautiful the church looked, which she did, and asked if she could have some gifts for a very needy family.

Brother Dean explained that we gave to our own sick members first, but he would mention her request. She generously gave ten shillings and has promised five shillings per month for the future. Brother Dean had secured her interest in *Present Truth* some time ago. So we look forward to the day when she, with many others, will join us in worship.

E. L. FRASER.



Sew and So!

WOMEN should "adorn themselves . . . with good works," said

Paul and, because certain of the sisters of the Plymouth church followed his admonition, we were given a unique evening on Thursday, November 19th.

The poster announced it as "a demonstration of Dorcas work," but when we gathered in the lecture hall of the church, we found more, much more than that. As the chairman, Mr. L. Hardinge remarked, here was "a monument of toil and love."

Over 420 garments were displayed, clothes of all sizes—coats and jumpers for mother, shirts and socks for father, strong, stout trousers for the boys, manly pyjamas for small brothers, and tiny dresses for baby sisters—in fact, no one was forgotten. On one table there were rows and rows of neatly-folded, wee white garments, a warm welcome to some little stranger who otherwise might have had a chilly reception. The masterpiece was a silk dress only sixteen inches long, which skilled and loving fingers had fashioned from no fewer than forty odd pieces!

Our hostess, Mrs. Stanton, the president of the Dorcas society, remembered everything for our happiness, and the programme included songs and recitations by the school children and talented churchmembers, as well as tasty things to eat in abundance.

We pray that our heavenly Father will bless each garment that every one of them may preach a sermon of His love to those who wear them.

F. BARR-HAMILTON.

Wedding Bells

LAMBETH-PARKER—On Sunday morning, November 22nd, at eleven o'clock, Alfred Lambeth and Violet Parker, two of our young people from the Wood Green church, were united in marriage. The ceremony took place in the Holloway church, in the presence of a number of relatives, friends, and churchmembers. We wish them every joy and happiness in this union, and pray that their united labours may be fruitful in the Lord's service.

ALFRED E. BACON.

SCOTTISH MISSION

Superintendent: Pastor L. Murdoch

Office Address: Saughton House, Midcalder Road,
Corstorphine, Edinburgh

Edinburgh

ON October 8th we had the pleasure of holding the first meeting of our Women's Welfare and Dorcas Society. The needs are great among the poor of this city, and we had long anticipated the privilege of doing something to relieve the distress.

From the inception of the idea, the Lord has blessed in a remarkable way. The mother of one dear sister saw a "Singer" sewing machine being sold for ten shillings, so she bought it at once, lest the opportunity be lost.

We have made contact with two local societies, the Social Service Society and the Personal Service League, and have had interviews with the representatives, who much appreciate our desire to help, and

have given us work to do for them. The secretary of the Social Service Society has offered to come to speak to us and explain their work and the needs of this city.

One parcel of clothing already sent to the Social Service Society received great praise for the way in which the work was done.

Miss Mason, who had accompanied the writer, said, "Isn't it wonderful how the Lord seems to put a special blessing on what is done by Seventh-Day Adventists."

We thank the Lord as we realize this is so when we purpose in our hearts to work for Him.

Another experience has come to us from a different source. A lady of the Methodist Church who has been connected with social work among the poor in London and Portsmouth as well as Edinburgh

has been reading *Present Truth* for some time, and has shown an interest in our work. She has a band of women who meet every week, and just a few days ago she called on me and told how she had asked them if they would work for us. They knew nothing about Seventh-Day Adventists, so she told them all she knew and asked them to pray about the matter.

A day or two later she received cards from two of them who said they would knit socks. The lady herself has given money to buy wool. Are not the Lord's ways wonderful?

Then we must not forget the others who have helped with

money, garments, and wool. Several parcels have been received from people who are not of our faith. Members of the church also have given all they can. One sister has given a large wardrobe to hold the clothing, but more clothing and more money is needed to assure ultimate success. We ask an interest in your prayers as we work, and would also appreciate gifts of clothing and money to foster the work that has been started. Gifts of money should be sent to Miss Thompson, 6 South Oxford Street, Edinburgh, and parcels to Mrs. Wilmshurst, 4 Mountcastle Terrace, Edinburgh, 8. MRS. I. R. WILMSHURST.

WE did hear that Brother J. Owen, of Mountain Ash, one of the many unemployed in our ranks, plodded on until his goal of £30 was reached. To do that in the stricken valleys is no mean achievement. Thank you, Brother Owen.

NEWS from Neath is encouraging. On the third Sunday, Brother Nicholson had between four and five hundred present. The quality of the audience was better on the third Sunday than on the first. Please remember Neath in your prayers.

BROTHER COOPER began last Sunday in the Memorial Hall, Barry. He had an interested audience two hundred strong.

BROTHER EDWARDS, who is doing evangelistic work in the Newport church, reports a more encouraging attendance.

HELPING these brethren are the following lady Bible-workers: Miss Anderson, Miss Seagrave, and Miss Buck. They are doing faithful work and encouraging the evangelists in every way possible.

It has been a real pleasure to meet still more of our dear people in the Welsh Mission. By the time these notes appear, we hope to have visited every group in the constituency.

WE are nearing the end of another year. What will 1937 bring forth? It will not matter very much, brethren and sisters, so long as we have Jesus. Let us all plan to give Him His rightful place in our lives, that the future days may be brighter and, spiritually, more fruitful.

As the treasurers would like to close their books in good time, will you send in your tithes and offerings, if at all possible, by December 30th? Thank you!

WE have been glad to welcome two visitors to our field during the Week of Prayer. Pastor G. D. King returned for the week-end, to the pleasure of those he was able to meet again, and our own treasurer, Brother Baldry, has also spent a few days, getting to know us all better, or, at least, as many as his limited time would allow.

S. G. HYDE.

IRISH MISSIONS

Superintendent: Pastor E. E. Craven

Office Address: 17 Chadwick Street, Lisburn Road, Belfast, North Ireland

Farewell to Ireland

THE afternoon service held in the Dublin church on the second Sabbath in October was one which will not easily be forgotten by those privileged to attend.

The first part of the meeting was a short dedication service. The infant daughter of Brother and Sister L. Anderson was brought in prayer to the heavenly Father that she might be blessed, and be a source of blessing in the years to come. Pastor J. Harker always shows a keen interest in the welfare and development of the children and young people. This impressive service, therefore, seemed most appropriate on the occasion of his last meeting with the Dublin believers be-

fore his departure for work in England.

In the testimony meeting which then followed, both young and old readily testified to the goodness of God in their lives, sometimes in facing important issues. Many spoke of their joy in the glorious Advent message. The desire of each one was to show a spirit of greater consecration to the service of the Master, and to keep faithful till He comes.

We in Ireland wish to convey to Pastor and Mrs. Harker our deep gratitude for their willing help and good counsel during their stay with us. Our sincere prayer is that God may richly bless them in their new sphere of labour.

E. W. LAYNG.

WELSH MISSION

Superintendent: Pastor S. George Hyde

Office Address: "Ventnor," Ty-Glas Road, Llanishen, Cardiff
Telephone: Llanishen 600

Notes from the Superintendent

WE are delighted that the Cardiff church has not only reached its Ingathering goal but gone some £35 over it. Congratulations!

THERE must have been some heroic work done by many, the details of which have not come to light. But, faithful Ingatherer, the Lord knows all about it!

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Field Missionary Department

Secretaries:

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

"After Many Days"

Nor always are we permitted to see the fruit of our labours in our service for God. Very often it is "after many days" that the harvest appears. Particularly is this so in the ministry of the printed page.

A week or so ago, one of our colporteur-evangelists here in the British Union, called upon a lady with the book, *Christ Our Saviour*. As the colporteur began to unfold the story of the book, the lady's eyes filled with tears and she exclaimed that she had been waiting for that book for a long time. Many years ago she had purchased the old edition of the book, but had since loaned it to a friend and it had never been returned.

This beautiful book, by Mrs. E. G. White, had been such a companion to her that she remarked that she "felt like someone haunted" since the book had been out of her home. The loss of it had been like the loss of a friend and now, "after many days," here was the colporteur bringing to her the very book for which she had been longing and waiting.

No wonder the colporteur wrote, "These experiences make one feel that the work is worth while." Of course, it is experiences like these that reveal it to be the very work

of God in searching out eager inquirers after truth.

A little while ago, one of our student-colporteurs from Newbold College, while selling *Present Truth*, was asked if he were a missionary. On replying that he was in training for such work the student was invited into the house and then he learned the following facts:

The night before, this man, who was a school teacher, had been studying with a friend a book entitled *Great Controversy*. It had gripped their interest and they were so thrilled that they were anxious to learn more of its message. Naturally, the student-colporteur explained that this thrilling book was one of our publications and that the local pastor would be glad to continue studies with them.

Undoubtedly the time has come when God's Spirit will work on the hearts of seriously-minded men and women to read the message-filled books which have been faithfully distributed through the years. The times in which we live demand an explanation and the only valid one that can be given is that contained in our own publications.

The conditions in the world present us with our greatest opportunity for the sowing of the seeds

of truth. The agitation and insecurity in international relationships prepare the people for the peace-giving truth committed to us as a church. "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest."

G. D. KING.

If I Had Not Gone!

"Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening." Psa. 104:23.

It was a great city and a great congregation. The large town hall was full to its capacity of 2,000 people.

And, by the way, probably not one of these had ever heard of the wonderful book, *Bible Readings*.

How could it be brought to their notice?

Ah! I remember one good field man at our institute who said, "If you cannot find a way, make one"

So I just had a peep inside the door.

There was the mayor with his chain of office, and his lady mayoress, also wearing her insignia, the town councillors, the resident minister, his predecessor, and many others. It was a gathering of the largest mission in the city and as we put our head inside the door, the kindly minister offered his welcome. "Come right in, sir. This way for the platform party."

"Well, thank you, I suppose that will suit me as well as anything else."

But who is that venerable looking old gentleman there?

Why, he is the chief speaker of the evening, Dr. ———.

Oh, yes, I have heard his name before. I wonder if we dare approach the mayor? We have had a measure of success in that direction before now.

Meanwhile the venerable old gentleman was speaking in low tones. He said he knew a little of the difficulty of financing, but he did not believe in economy at the expense of souls. Then he thundered out, "What we need is another great forward movement."

Of course, we could not remem-

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ber all the chief speakers of the evening, for our mind was engaged with the problem of "ways and means," and so before we were aware of it the resident minister was saying, "I thank you for your loyal support, for your confidence, and your expressions of good will, but I wish to say that our thanks must go out to Miss P——, who is carrying the burden of this work. . . ."

The next morning finds us at the centre of activities where this most talented lady receives us.

"I understand, Miss P——, that you are carrying a large responsibility and that a heavy burden rests upon your shoulders in caring for the work entailed in so large a mission as yours."

"Well, yes, we are always hedged about with difficulties of one sort or another, but what is it you want?"

"I want nothing but to show you the blessings which can be received in the study of such a work as mine."

"Kindly explain it, because I have so little time."

Ministry of the Literature

"Marching Through Georgia"

OVER in the state of Georgia, named after one of our English kings, our members have been carrying on a great campaign to reach the people with Gospel literature. Judge of their surprise when, as a result, they received a letter and money order from Lady Hayes, of Donegal, Ireland, asking for two copies of *Prophecy Speaks!* The way she addressed the letter showed that some of the literature from the Georgia churches had actually crossed the ocean (after Marching Through Georgia) and had aroused her interest in its stirring message.

Never become tired of using the literature. A.W.

In Cecil Rhodes's Birthplace

BROTHER W. SMITH has for many years been specializing in

"The work that you are doing, Miss P——, needs encouragement. I have a valuable volume here which offers that to a tired worker. It is finding a warm place in the hearts of many dear people."

"Well, my friend, I thank you for having explained the book to me. I am not in a position to give you more than a pound for one, because you see we held our anniversary yesterday and the day before, and that has been a costly business. But I will promise that the book shall be put into the library and it will no doubt help me also."

"I am sure, Miss P——." But just then the telephone bell went—and so did I!

But what if I had not gone to that meeting? F. J. KINMAN.

evangelistic literature for children, selling *Bedtime Stories* down in Devonshire and also on the east coast. Just lately he has been canvassing around Bishops Stortford, in Hertfordshire, the birthplace of Cecil Rhodes.

Cecil Rhodes was inspired by the reading of a book to do his great work in building South Africa. Perhaps other boys of Bishops Stortford will be inspired to some great work for the Lord Jesus Christ through reading the books that Brother Smith has scattered in that district. A.W.

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Mrs. G. BROWN and Miss E. WRIGHT sincerely thank all friends for the sympathy and help rendered to them in their sad bereavement occasioned by the death of their very dear sister, Mrs. PIEDNUE. They are also deeply grateful for the lovely floral tributes sent.

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PASTOR S. G. MAXWELL would be glad to receive used wall calendars and Sabbath-school memory verse cards for work among the young people in East Africa. Kindly address: "Glendale," Holland Gardens, Garston, Watford, Herts.

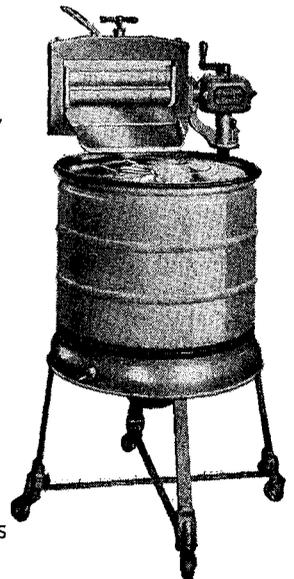
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Radio Evangelism in Australia

By W. G. TURNER

THE contract in connection with our Advent Radio Church has covered now approximately eighteen months. We commenced in April of last year and put a programme on the air from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. each Sunday. The programme consisted of hymns, prayer, Scripture reading, frequently one special musical item, and from fifteen to seventeen minutes' Bible study or address.

We found it very difficult to receive word from the majority of listeners, but did secure letters from some hundreds. On the usual basis of correspondence which the broadcasting station reckon on in their general work, it was estimated that we were speaking to between twenty and thirty thousand listeners each Sunday afternoon.

The results for the first six months were encouraging, and we felt that the effort really broke ground and established us among a reasonable percentage of the listening public. At the South New South Wales camp meeting held in October there were five adults on the ground who were directly brought into the truth through the Radio Church, while in different states of Australia others were studying with our workers through the contacts that they had made with us over the air.

The broadcasting out here costs us approximately £20 per session. The station was a good one and could be heard in every state in Australia, in New Zealand, and in some parts of the islands of the South Pacific.

The service rendered us was good, but we were not altogether satisfied with their relationship at times, for the controlling body in the station was the Theosophical Society. The man in charge happened to be a man whose father was a Seventh-Day Adventist in England, and who was brought up as a Seventh-Day Adventist boy. His father left the truth, however, later on, and the boy lost touch with our people. He was kindly disposed to us, naturally; but there always appeared to be just a little

undercurrent that was not, we felt, in our best interests. So we made further inquiry, visited other stations, and found ourselves in considerable favour because of the quality of the programmes that the other stations claimed we were putting over the air. We were, therefore, able to make a contract at a twenty-five per cent reduction with another broadcasting centre of equal power to the first station and with men who were decidedly favourable to us as a body—men who have done everything they could to advertise our services without any prejudice and with no qualifying clauses.

Our broadcasting is now costing us approximately £15 per week for a forty-five minute session. The broadcasting company do all our advertising without cost to us, and give us very good space indeed. The way we finance this is that our head office here gives two-fifths of the cost, the local conference in New South Wales where the station is located gives another two-fifths, while an adjoining conference makes available the remaining one-fifth. In this way all our costs are met.

The secretary of our Radio Church was with me just a few moments ago and had about twenty letters he had received in yesterday's mail from people all over the state and from other states, nearly all of whom are non-Adventists. The day before, we received thirty-five letters from different parts of the state, and are expecting to receive several score more before the week ends. These indicate that many are listening in, for the wireless folk tell us that usually about one in sixty to one hundred who listen think it worth while writing.

We propose to carry on this contract until the end of August, watching to see just what the response of the public is, when we shall later make an appeal for funds, and also how they respond as we reach out to endeavour to secure their attitude from the spiritual angle.

The subjects that we have taken

up are varied. We have kept away from the Sabbath, have taken up various prophecies of Daniel, the Second Coming of Christ, the Millennium, the State of the Dead, the Sanctuary Question, the Signs of the Times, and like features.

We have a picked choir of sixteen voices who practise each week and who constitute our choir for the Radio Church, while we have just a few speakers presenting the sermons.

We have discovered in our recent Appeal for Missions Campaign just completed in Australia, a large number of business men who have been listening to the services every Sunday afternoon. They have all spoken most appreciatively of the services put over, and it appears to be their opinion that the very best that is going over the air to-day under the direction of a religious body is from the Advent Radio Church.

W. G. TURNER.

WATTS-WARD.—Two well-known Adventist families of long standing, were recently united by the marriage of Miss Violet Ward and Mr. Tudor James Watts. They were married at the Salem Chapel, Cardiff, by Pastor S. G. Hyde, on Sunday, November 15th. Miss Ward originally belonged to the Cardiff church, though of recent years she has been engaged in the Bible work in Wales and London. Mr. Watts is a member of the Risca company.

This pretty wedding terminated with a delightful reception at the home of the bride, where the sentiment was expressed by the newly-married couple that their home should be another "Bethel." May it be so, and the blessing of God rest upon them at all times, is our prayer.

S. GEORGE HYDE

SUNSET CALENDAR

	Lon'n	Not'm	Car'ff	Edin	Bel't
Dec. 18th	3 51	3 48	4 04	3 37	3 58
Dec. 25th	3 55	3 52	4 08	3 41	4 02

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 17th
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