

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

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Greetings from the Fall Council

Battle Creek, Michigan

By G. E. NORD

It is a source of great inspiration to review the progress the work of God has made not only in this great land, but in all the world fields during the past twenty or thirty years, especially the crisis year 1940.

When the General Conference was organized in Battle Creek in 1863, seventy-eight years ago, this work was conducted in two countries only, the United States and Canada. Going back to this small beginning, we had then a membership of 3,500 comprising 135 churches and six conferences. The total number of workers was thirty, preaching the message in one language, and with less than £2,000 to balance the budget.

Eleven years later, in 1874, work was begun in Switzerland. By 1876 France and Germany were added, and in 1877 Denmark was entered. Norway was added to the list in 1878 and England in 1879. In 1880 Sweden was reached, making a total of nine countries, with a total membership outside of America of just 718. At that time there were 26,509 members in America.

The first conference organized outside of this country (U.S.A.) was in Denmark on May 30, 1880, only sixty-one years ago. At the close of 1940 we were working in 412 countries, islands, and island groups, preaching in more than 826 languages, and a membership of more than half a million, or to be exact, 504,752, more than 300,000 of them

being outside of the United States. "What hath God wrought!"

Eighty years ago we had no Sabbath-schools or Sabbath-school offerings. Now there are 14,817 Sabbath-schools, with a membership of 618,601. There was an increase of 800 Sabbath-schools last year. The Sabbath-school offerings in 1940 amounted to £353,000, a gain of £9,400 over the previous year. What a blessing these Sabbath-schools are

in every way! They furnish 46.1 per cent of the entire contributions for our world missions.

And as we now lift up our eyes, we behold them coming, some from the north, many from the south, east and west, and the ends of the earth—gathered "one by one." O! a truth "the Lord hath done that which He had devised, He hath fulfilled His word that He had commanded in the days of old." "A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the Lord will hasten it in His time" (Isa. 60:22) as the following statistics and finan-

Seventh-Day Adventist Denomination— General Summary

	1910	1920	1930	1940
Countries	33	108	140	*412
Total languages oral and printed	71	175	417	824
Languages printed	67	99	146	202
Value of one copy of each publication	£105	£175	£363	£531
Churches	2,769	4,541	6,741	8,924
Membership	90,808	185,450	314,253	504,752
Evangelistic workers	4,346	6,955	10,988	13,579
Institutional workers	3,918	6,126	10,473	16,237
Total workers	8,264	13,081	21,461	29,816
Tithes	£267,700	£1,439,100	£1,246,000	£1,614,300
Foreign Mission offerings	£91,800	£650,300	£804,000	£765,500
Home Missionary offerings	£84,200	£83,600	£372,300	£465,400
Tithes and offerings total	£2,444,800	£2,370,900	£2,405,600	£2,845,300
Church buildings	1,256	1,717	2,768	4,434
Value of church buildings	£344,200	£888,800	£1,853,200	£2,256,600
Seating capacity of church buildings	201,121	271,121	456,979	664,838
Primary schools	594	928	1,977	2,626
Intermediate schools, academies, colleges,	86	97	201	251
Total enrolment of all schools	33,021	82,367	110,779
Total number of institutions	188	183	399	521
Value of institutional property	£1,187,500	£2,855,400	£4,412,000	£4,898,300
Denominational investment	£2,017,300	£6,139,900	£10,823,100	£12,940,900
Denominational income	£5,449,900	£10,372,400	£8,938,600
Number of Sabbath-schools	4,151	6,151	9,966	14,817
Sabbath-school membership	101,161	195,653	382,743	618,507
Book and periodical sales	£312,100	£1,136,600	£943,200	£865,000

Grand total tithes and offerings since 1863 £58,764,400
Grand total book and periodical sales since 1863... £25,401,200

*Including islands and island groups.

cial summary of the past thirty years shows.

I am glad to be connected again with the work that we left when we went to Europe twenty-two years ago, as associate secretary of the Bureau of Home Missions in the United States and Canada, and as secretary of the Scandinavian Departments as well as the Russian, Ukrainian, Finnish, and Baltics, most of whom were in our former Northern European Division. More than £19,000 was appropriated to this

work for 1942, and the largest budget was voted for missions for 1942 in the history of our work—more than £1,080,000.

We feel we shall be quite at home over here again even though conditions have changed in many ways in twenty years.

We remember our dear people over in England and the African missions, and pray for the work and workers over there, and wish to be remembered with our work over here in your earnest prayers.

become the scene of destruction, conflict, and disillusionment such as prophecy has foretold of the last days.

We really have much to be thankful for in the Old Country, and I hope this will find adequate expression in the annual thankoffering which by this time will have been taken up in all our churches. Those who feel they failed when the date came (December 13th) still have an opportunity to express their thankfulness in something more tangible than words.

This also applies to other matters such as mission offerings and our tithes, which should all be put in order before the end of this year passes. The date which separates us from the New Year is, of course, a mechanical arrangement, but it is not devoid of meaning. It presents us with an opportunity to put right many things in our dealings with God and our fellowmen before time passes into history.

Notes from the Union President

OUR COLLEGE

THE news about our College is much better than it has been for some time. It seems certain that the building will be requisitioned, but there will be acceptance of financial responsibility in acquiring alternative accommodation for us. Details have not yet been confirmed in writing, but we pass on this information to our members who will be glad to know that the indications are that our programme of Christian education will not be too seriously interfered with by the change over. A fuller statement will be published when final arrangements are ratified.

With regard to the newspaper attacks on us, they evidently arose through an unfortunate leakage of information for which regret has been expressed. The editor of one paper has written in answer to our call at his office, followed by a letter, stating that he is inserting a paragraph in his issue of December 13, which he trusts will meet with our approval. In a difficult situation it has been an unassailable argument that our desire to help the Government is shown by our early and voluntary offers of property here in Britain and throughout the empire.

MISSIONARIES IN TRANSIT

THE world conflagration has thrown great problems on to our mission board. Doubtless numbers of missionaries will be caught in transit by the Pacific situation, and among them is at least one British missionary. We have just received a letter from Brother A. G. Rodgers who, with his family, was to have reached Honolulu on November 16th. He was on his way to his post in the Arabic Union (Palestine), by

way of the Hawaiian Islands, the Phillipines, Hongkong, Penang, Colombo, and Bombay. We hope he was past the danger point, and that he will reach his destination in safety. We shall remember all our missionaries and mission boards at this most critical hour in our whole history of missions.

THANKFULNESS

It seems as though the war situation has come very close to all our people, even to those who seemed to be geographically remote. Our believers in America, particularly on the Pacific Coast, will be passing through those deep emotions which came to us toward the close of 1939. It does the children of God good to remember that after all their trust should be in the Lord, and it binds us all together in a great family in prayer as we see the whole world

SPECIAL DAYS

1942

January 3rd	The Christian Home
February 7th	Church Standards
February 28th	"Messenger" Offering
March 7th-14th	Missionary Volunteer Week
March 28th	Thirteenth Sabbath
April 4th	Missions Extension Appeal
April 18th	Missions Extension Offering
May 23rd	Harvest Ingathering Organization and Rally
June 27th	Thirteenth Sabbath
August 1st	Education
August 8th	Education Offering
September 5th	Week of Sacrifice
September 12th	Week of Sacrifice Offering
September 26th	Thirteenth Sabbath
October 3rd	Evangelism
November 7th	Literature
December 4th-12th	Week of Prayer
December 26th	Thirteenth Sabbath

THE NEW YEAR

WHAT we should think about as the New Year creeps upon us is that the Lord is sending to us new opportunities to live the kind of life that He desires for all His children. We talk a lot about heaven, and we fall into the error of wishing to go to a place for which we are totally unprepared. Heaven is not so much a change of location as it is a change of heart. Therefore let us seek a new experience with God, and let us wish each other, at this season of the year, a new experience with our Maker. Presents, cards, good wishes—all these mechanical things mean little to us unless we are much in prayer for each other, and unless we are living and working for the coming of the King. May we be ever ready to meet Him.

A WRONG IMPRESSION

NEWS cuttings from New Zealand bring an interesting but unfortunate case of a man who said before an appeal board that the constitution of his church required that he should not serve under the military. The leader of his conference was thereby forced to write immediately to the board denying the statement. No such thing can be found in the constitution or beliefs of this church.

The leader added that with the military service regulations permitting such as desired to serve in a non-combatant capacity, to do so the majority of the young men of this denomination were "only too happy to serve their King and country in this perilous hour." He added in a report to our churches, "I am happy . . . that wherever our boys are serving at the present time whether it be in military camps in New Zealand or overseas, they are being treated wonderfully well, and have no difficulty whatsoever . . . in connection with the observance of the . . . Sabbath."

Our men are found in almost all branches of military and national service, and freedom of conscience is granted to every member in their war situations. Church membership is not conditional upon any particular view on the question of warfare, and individuals with contrary views should be honourable enough to state before boards and tribunals that such views are personal and not dictated by the church. The church would, of course, stand by such men in matters as spiritual support, fellowship, and membership. That is the attitude of most Christian bodies.
H. W. LOWE.

a first-aid class, sports, picnics, a needlework class, and a Christmas party coming. Yes! the Stanborough Park J.M.V's are a busy group!
"ONLOOKER."



Baptism at Stanborough Park

A GOOD attendance of members from the Watford and Wembley districts assembled at Stanborough Park church on Sabbath afternoon, November 29th, to witness the baptism of nine precious souls.

The presence and power of the Holy Spirit gripped our hearts as Pastor King, who conducted the baptism, addressed words of encouragement and hope to the candidates. His message of counsel—an acrostic upon the word "Baptism"—"Buried and planted together I surrender myself"—made an indelible impression upon all present.

After the solemn administration of the rite, opportunity was given the congregation to offer their testimony of consecration in communal song—each choosing a verse or two from a favourite hymn.

A beautiful and inspiring service concluded with the reception of the newly-baptized into the fellowship of the Advent family.

JOHN H. BAYLISS.



West London District

SINCE the beginning of September there have been two efforts carried on in the West London district. One has been conducted at Ealing by Brother A. Lacey, who has voluntarily given of his services, supported by the Ealing church. A large room was found in a local cinema holding 200 people and a series of lectures was arranged there for ten Sundays. For a number of weeks the room was well filled and over fifty names were received for free literature. As Brother Lacey was not able to deal with these names himself, it was decided that Miss Mahon should give part time to this effort as Bible-worker. Later we were pleased to learn she was being released for full-time work at Ealing. Sunday and mid-week meetings are now being conducted in our own hall and some fifteen non-members are attending. Miss Mahon is able to report a number more interested in the message. Four

SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

President: Pastor G. D. King
Office Address: 780 St. Albans Road, Watford
Telephone: Garston (Watford) 2213-4

Stanborough Park J.M.V's

THE Stanborough Park Junior Missionary Volunteer society is nearly one year old! But before we celebrate our first birthday we are glad to send a few notes to the other juniors in the Union to tell them some of the "high-lights" of the year.

On November 21st, we held our first Investiture service when thirteen of the juniors were invested as Friends.

Would you like to know about our service, juniors?

Try to imagine a camp fire and a tent. (The "camp-fire" is really an electric "coal fire"!.) The lights are out, and from the glow of the fire a tent can be seen in the distance and seated around the fire are thirteen happy Friends. In the dim background we can see one Master Comrade who has just been invested, and the first little "Helper" from our society (she is eight years old) to receive the Primary Reading Course certificate.

All the juniors are wearing their Friend badges for they have already recited the Pledge, Law, and Scripture portions and Pastor Warland has invested them.

Listen! they are singing around the "camp fire" well-known choruses they have sung in their J.M.V. services and on their nature walks.

We hope that many more juniors

and seniors will join the "Progressive Band" and be invested at the next Investiture, which, judging by the enthusiasm of the thirteen "Friends" will be at a not very distant date.

In October the J.M.V's gave a programme for the senior Young People's society at the church. We will tell you a little about it.

At 7 p.m. one of the J.M.V. leaders strikes the opening chord of the hymn "We are children of a King" and from the two main doors of the church a procession of juniors carrying J.M.V. flags starts and they march to the platform singing. After singing several choruses they begin the service with prayer and the opening hymn. Then follows a programme consisting of recitations, quartettes, a dialogue; a Bible alphabet, given by seven juniors who had been perfect in attendance at the J.M.V. service for twenty-six consecutive weeks; a distribution of Reading Course certificates by Pastor Warland; a recipe for a cake from ingredients found in the Bible, and a mission appeal dialogue by two of the juniors who were born in India. These two, dressed in Indian costume, joined a Chinese, a Mohammedan, a Japanese and a Persian to take the offering for missions. An excellent programme. Well done, juniors!

Nature walks, a library, swimming,

to six regularly attend on the Sabbath afternoon and there are signs that a good few more will accept the truth.

The writer has conducted a series of meetings in our own church at Chiswick. The initial attendance was small due to the fact that this area has been well evangelized of late, but a gradual growth was experienced reaching a maximum of forty-seven non-members one Sunday. A drop in attendance was noticed when the change to the afternoon had to be made. The Sabbath was presented on the ninth week to twenty-four visitors and for the past five weeks different phases of the Sabbath have been given. This past month eighteen to twenty non-members have regularly attended and four have decided to keep the Sabbath. Others are convinced of its truth. Three others are keeping the Sabbath as a result of Bible studies in their homes and are preparing for baptism.

Our hope is in God that He will give a good fruitage from these efforts. W. W. ARMSTRONG.



A Second Baptism at Reading

ON December 6th we conducted the second baptism of the year in the Reading, Slough, and High Wycombe district. Seven new souls entered into fellowship with us, five by baptism, and two by vote.

Though the weather outside was rough and cloudy, inside our little church at Reading songs of praise and gratitude went up to God as we saw Pastor C. R. Bonney take these candidates through the watery grave with their Saviour.

Having been freed from their sins may God keep His children as faithful servants of righteousness until His coming.

JOHN P. WEST.

Change of Address

ON and after December 27th all meetings of the Leicester church will be held in the Assembly Hall, Foresters' Institute, St. Nicholas Street, Leicester. Sabbath-school, 10 a.m.; preaching services, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.; Sunday and Thursday, 3 p.m. during winter.

S. G. JOYCE.

Scottish Mission

Superintendent:

Pastor J. A. McMillan
Address: 15 Rowallan Gardens,
Broomhill, Glasgow, W.1

Glasgow Retrospect

THE year 1941 is rapidly drawing to a close, and it is customary to take stock of the passing year.

My retrospect, however, goes back to some four years ago. It was about that time that it was decided to leave the Glasgow church for a while without a minister, greater responsibilities being placed upon the local leaders. At the time we felt this would prove tragic to the life of the church but it did not prove so. The Harvest Ingathering Campaign that year produced twice the amount collected the previous year and twice the number of collectors. The other campaigns, too, showed an increase.

When the new minister came toward the end of that year we began, among other things, to turn our attention to our church structure, and as one of our local elders recently said, "The fact that our minister was a plumber, painter and joiner had saved the church pounds." A new pulpit was made, organ pipes were cleaned and repainted. Movable doors were repaired, plaster was applied to bare patches on the walls and a hundred and one jobs needing to be done were done by or under the supervision of the minister, with the loyal support of the members of the church.

For the past three years in succession we have obtained our goal in the Harvest Ingathering, this present year constituting a record. The Sabbath-school offerings last year also reached a record figure and we have pleasure in here recording that that figure has already been broken this year.

There have been many heartaches and disappointments for our workers. Souls are not easily "wooed and won" and the choicest gifts are often "wet with tears," but around thirty members have been added during the period covered by this retrospect.

In an Adventist church there are many personal problems and perplexities to be met, but we always found in Pastor Vince a sympathetic

listener and helpful adviser. Sister Hapgood, his associate worker during the past year, has left us to go to Wales, and now we must part with Pastor Vince, but their influence will always remain and we wish them "God's speed" in the work to which they have proven God has called them.

E. HART.

Church Clerk.

Wedding Bells

DORSCHLER-REED.—On Tuesday, December 2, 1941, Egon Dorschler and Winnifred Reed were united in marriage. The civil ceremony took place in the office of the Registrar at Rugby, followed by a beautiful little service held at the future home of the young couple at Brinklow, at which Pastor B. Phillips officiated, while Pastor G. Baird invoked a blessing for their future lives.

Sister Reed has been in the Bible-work since graduating from Newbold College in 1939, while Brother Dorschler came to this country from Holland five years ago as a student, and is now doing work of national importance.

Their many friends wish them every happiness and God's blessing as they journey together to their heavenly home. B. J. KOHLER.

PRINTING.—C. Russell, Newton Street, Macclesfield.

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SUNSET CALENDAR

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	Lon'n	Not'm	Car'ff	Edin	Bel't
Dec. 26th	4.56	4.51	5.08	4.43	5.02
Jan. 2nd	5.02	4.58	5.15	4.50	5.09

PLEASE NOTE!

Will contributors to the columns of the MESSENGER kindly note that commencing with the next issue the closing date for copy will be Wednesday instead of Thursday. The publication date will remain unchanged. Ed.

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