

# Lessons from a Backward Look

AT a full meeting of the Union Committee recently, every phase of our work during 1940 was carefully reviewed. Pastor Read spent some time with us, and Pastor Bartlett the full time. Prayerfully and earnestly we faced the record of what was politically a bad old year. Impartially, and as courageously as we could, we faced up to our failures and praised God for His blessings.

Figures have already appeared in this paper, so it must suffice here to say that it was a cause of unusual gratitude to God that we could record:

- a. Gains in every single mission offering, except a small decrease of £13 in Missionary Volunteer offerings.
  - b. A record gain in tithe income.
- c. The "highest ever" sales of Granose products and the employment there of almost twice as much Adventist labour.
- d. The largest sales of Christian literature for about sixteen years this despite the loss of colporteurs on national service, etc.
- e. A normal college enrolment of English students, and the success of a new venture in our secondary

We were neither slow nor sparing in addressing ourselves to the serious problem of membership, which, for the first time showed a drop of fifty. Various factors contributed to this. It is a sad fact that our evangelistic efforts produced even less than hitherto. Congregations are harder to get and easier to lose. Then there was a very heavy loss by death (126)

By H. W. LOWE

and apostasy (224). Obviously heavy "cleaning up" of membership has been undertaken, especially in two fields.

It is interesting to observe that the membership gain for the four years 1932-35 was 615; while for the following four years 1936-39 it was 608. Baptisms amounted to 1,749 between 1932-35, and 1,923 between 1936-39. Both apostasies and deaths were much heavier during the past four years:

	Apostasies	Deaths
1932-35	831	329
1936-39	883	400

Analyse and excuse as we would, we all felt that God must change things—and that means chiefly, our own selves! Laymen and ministry alike must more and more realize the imperative need of winning souls for Jesus and His kingdom. Eventually we adopted the following statement, which we commend to our entire membership:

#### STATEMENT ON EVANGELISM

"A situation of unparalleled gravity confronts the Advent movement in all the world to-day. On every hand conditions exist which threaten God's work and, in some cases, His people. The liberty we have come to regard as essential for the proclamation of the Gospel is everywhere restricted, and in many lands it has

"Our own land is faced with altogether new conditions, and, humanly speaking, it would appear that our work, which has always moved for-

ward slowly in this Union, has entered upon a period that will call for deeper consecration, greater zeal, and an enduring faith. But God is greater than any of our human situations, and we have many evidences of His blessing since these emergency conditions came upon us.

"The greatest problem we face is that connected with our soul-winning work. Neither in our lay work nor in our public evangelism do we see the results that these times demand. We feel that we are living on the borderland of the eternal kingdom and that every energy of the church should be turned into the work of saving the lost. The love of soul winning has been set before us in these words:

"The conversion of souls to God is the greatest, the noblest work in which human beings can have a part. In this work are revealed God's power, His holiness, His forbearance, and His unbounded love. Every true conversion glorifies Him, and causes the angels to break forth into singing. — 'Testimonies,' Vol. 7, page 52.

"This work calls for much more consecrated, sacrificial energy than we

have yet demonstrated as a people. Again God's servant has pointed out to us:

"'We are nearing the end of this earth's history and the different lines of God's work are to be carried forward with much more self-sacrifice than is at present manifest. The work for these last days is in a special sense a missionary work. The presentation of present truth, from the first letter of its alphabet to the last, means missionary effort. The work to be done calls for sacrifice at every advance step. From this unselfish service the workers will come forth purified and refined as gold tried in the fire. The sight of souls perishing in sin should arouse us to put forth great effort to give the light of present truth to those who are in darkness. — Testimonies, Vol. 7, page 52.

"As a Union Committee we have

given prayerful thought to this great question of larger soul-winning and we earnestly urge it upon our entire membership for their most conscientious consideration. Therefore

"We recommend:

"1. That plans be laid immediately for the training of suitable laymen, who shall thus be able to conduct self-supporting evangelistic efforts, and that other plans be made for helping our church elders and other officers to care more effectively for our church work, thus enabling ministers to be released more fully for full time public evangelism. In this training scheme we should produce a course that will help the many talented young men and women in our

"2. That full use be made of all home missionary facilities such as systematic periodical and door-todoor tract work, which will take advantage of the present opportunity to visit the people in their homes and thus interest them in our message.

"3. That we take more fully upon our hearts the evangelistic efforts conducted by our preachers, that unceasing prayer and unsparing assistance be rendered in every possible way to make these campaigns fruitful in soul winning.

"4. That our evangelists and others with ability explore every personal contact method of soul winning.

"5. That an evangelistic section be started in Present Truth, wherein selected evangelists may present their subjects and appeals in print, and that inquiries received in this way be passed on to suitable workers for personal work.

"6. That the importance of and fruitage from lay evangelism be featured more frequently in THE Messenger, such features to be supplied by conference presidents and other qualified persons."

In our next issue we shall refer to plans to provide more helps for laymen and women. For the present, let us turn to God earnestly for the moving of His Spirit in our midst. We must be re-energized from on high if souls are to be evangelized for the kingdom. There are, as a great preacher recently said, "too many in the church who do not think enough of their religion to propagate it, either in their own families, or . . . on the grand scale in the world. Until these things are changed, we are only tinkering with evangelism."

By any and every means, let the change come! By preaching, by personal visitation, by printed page, by the consecrated energy of a lively church, by the all-consuming Spirit, let the work of God be finished in

a weary world!

## Notes from the Union President

**EDUCATION IN WAR-TIME** 

One good layman has written us about a burden on his heart to assist our students at the Secondary School and at Newbold in a larger way during these difficult war years. He makes certain suggestions regarding regular contributions by our members, and he feels that the Spirit of God is guiding him in this respect. We certainly appreciate this interest in a large and urgent matter. We have no desire to add to the burdens of our people, but we should like to point out one or two considerations to be kept in mind. In the first place it has been decided to take up an offering in our churches in aid of Newbold Students' Aid Fund on Education Day, June 7th. Due notice will be given, and the needs presented in detail as the time approaches, but it is not too early to keep this matter in mind, and to provide for a liberal offering out of our yearly budgets.

In the second place, there is a local fund in existence at Watford for helping certain needy students at the Secondary School, but it is of very limited proportions. There is quite a large need and we are ready to accept gifts for our Secondary School students. Care should be taken to indicate that offerings are for the Secondary School. This school is going ahead nicely, under the blessing of God, who certainly guided in its organization.

#### THE NEXT UNION SESSION

In harmony with the General Conference recommendation to our union organizations, it has been decided to postpone our next Union meeting until after the General Conference session. This probably means that we shall not hold the Union meeting until early in 1942.

The General Conference session is to convene in San Francisco, May 26th, and it has been decided that the Union President be authorized to attend as a delegate, the final decision being left with him in the light of certain circumstances.

Our hearts are with the brethren as they plan this world meeting, and we shall remember them prayerfully, though it does not seem likely that this Union will be represented.

#### ADVENTISTS IN MILITARY CAMPS

It was a great pleasure recently to visit a certain large centre where several groups of our young men were known to be. We soon succeeded in locating them all, and introducing them to each other, and it was a real joy to spend a few hours of the Sabbath with half-a-dozen of them who have been granted absolute freedom from duty on the Sabbath. This is a very good witness for the truth, and, together with the witness being borne at various tribunals throughout the land, should bear some good fruit.

#### LITERATURE WANTED

WE should like to keep in touch with some Adventist men in the army by sending copies of the Youths' Instructor, Review, etc. If you have clean copies that you can spare each week we should be glad to hear from you.

Copies of the Review from and including February 15th to September 19th, 1940 are also wanted in this office.

#### **EVANGELISM**

We hear good reports of certain openings to campaigns this month. Pastor S. G. Joyce is reported to have had about 550 adults present at Leicester with a good interest. "Home before Dark" is now the order of the day in public meetings. We no longer fear daylight saving! Let us pray for all these evangelistic workers who labour on unremittingly and courageously in days which are at once pregnant with immense possibilities and perils.

H. W. Lowe.

THE life spent on self is like the grain that is eaten. It disappears, but there is no increase. A man may gather all he can for self; he may live and think and plan for self; but his life passes away, and he has nothing. The law of selfserving is the law of self-destruction. -"The Desire of Ages," page 623.

## NEWBOLD COLLEGE

PASTOR G. W. BAIRD, who is in charge of the correspondence school, reports that thirty lesson papers are now being sent out every week. We believe this number will increase rapidly as our members sense the opportunity for home-study which the college is making available to them.

As a war-time contribution to the country's need, Miss Howard and Miss Russell, preceptress and English teacher respectively, have taken charge of the poultry. We congratulate them on the "eggcellent" results obtained.

THE 1941 graduation class bids fair to be the largest in the history of Newbold. Six young men and about twice as many young women expect to complete their course. The end of the dearth of Bible-workers is in sight.

DURING the winter the waste land at the side of the engineer's cottage has been cleared and three score sturdy young fruit trees have been planted where before only stingingnettles flourished.

OLD age is often mellow—but sometimes querulous and discordant. Newbold had long suffered from the latter—in the matter of the chapel organ. Now it has gone—but alas, there is none to take its place.

SUNDAY, February 23, 1941, saw a new record established in the sale of our small literature. Thirty-two students sold a total of £54. 13s. 3d. worth of books, an average of £1. 14s. 2d. per student.

During this school year, the leather department has sold a total of over £1,000 worth of goods. In addition, a dozen student salesmen have earned a good part of their fees.

UNDER the new ploughing-up campaign, the farm has turned over an extra twenty-five acres. Last year a magnificent crop of fifteen tons of oats was reaped from the one field across the lake.

In 1940 the garden produced, among other things, four and a half tons of tomatoes, two tons of runner-beans, 12,000 lettuces, and there is progress from year to year.

Not one student has had to abandon his training for the ministry because of military requirements. We are deeply appreciative of this, and pray for a blessing on the government which shows such consideration for the work of God.

In all things we give praise to God for His protection and for the blessings He so freely bestows.

A. J. RAITT.

Alone with God. In a personal letter to each one we assured them that they were constantly in our thoughts and prayers.

Our Dorcas members have been greatly encouraged by the stream of appreciative replies which came back. Here are extracts from a few of the letters received:

"I wish to thank you and the members of your Dorcas society for the parcel I have received. It was very thoughtful of you all, I am sure.

May God bless you all."

"It was a very pleasant surprise when I received your very welcome parcel. Will you please convey to all members of your church my very grateful and sincere thanks. . . . During the cold weather which we are now having I will always remember when wearing your woollen gifts the kindness of the Manchester people to a stranger."

"Accept my deepest gratitude for the most welcome parcel received yesterday on our arrival at base. Thank you for your thoughts in prayer and also for the small book on prayer en-

closed with my parcel."

"It is with great pleasure that I received your parcel of comforts kindly sent to me from the members of your Dorcas society for which I desire to express my sincere thanks... It is very comforting to know that in these times of war together with all its trying and anxious times .... there are people like yourselves who have the interest of others at heart."

We shall continue to pray for these men—husbands, sons, brothers, nephews, cousins, and friends—and indeed for all who have been drawn into the mælstrom of war. May the bright light of God's heaven pierce the dark cloud of human strife and give assurance to many of the eternal peace to come.

W. R. A. MADGWICK.

## NORTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

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Office Address: 22 Zulla Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham
Telephone: Nottingham 66312

#### Comforts for the Forces

LAST autumn it was our happy privilege to organize a Dorcas society in the Stretford church. Two of our members who, as church officers, have given many years of faithful service to God were elected as officers of the society: Mrs. Chapman as leader and Mrs. Chester as treasurer.

Week by week the members assembled first of all for a prayer meeting and then for an hour's knitting. Our thoughts and prayers at these gatherings mostly centred upon those whose names had been handed in—relatives and friends away from home in His Majesty's Forces.

By Christmas time most of the woollen comforts were finished. These we posted to all on our list with a copy of Steps to Christ or

# Temporary Shortage of Nut Foods

WE are asked by our friends at Granose Foods Ltd., to announce that, owing to the situation of the raw materials market with consequent serious restriction of supplies, there is a temporary shortage of supplies of canned nut foods. Every effort, however, is being made to obtain special allocations from the government department concerned. As soon as information is available it will be published. Meantime no orders should be sent in for direct supplies.

## Statement of Tithes and Offerings for British Union

SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

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## Conference for the Year ended Dec. 31, 1940

## WELSH MISSION

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## NORTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

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## UNION TOTALS

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## SCOTTISH MISSION

Superintendent: Pastor J. A. McMillan Address: 75 Durham Road, Portobello, Midlothian

Telephone: Portobello 82653

### Baptism at Glasgow

LATE in the spring of 1940 Pastor L. D. Vince, with Miss D. Brown assisting him, began a series of evangelistic meetings in the King's Cinema in one of Glasgow's main thoroughtares. Now, to begin this New Year of 1941, sixteen souls have been added to our church membership. This is the second year that Pastor Vince has held lectures in the same cinema, and we praise God for giving an increase of souls this year over last.

Toward the end of last summer Miss D. Brown was called away and this naturally impeded the progress of the work. A good interest, however, had been aroused, and in spite of blackout conditions the meetings were being regularly attended. These were all held at our church, and the members rallied around wonderfully, encouraging the interested people, both by visiting their homes with Present Truth and by encouraging them to attend the meetings.

After receiving a call to take up the work which Miss Brown laid down, it was a stirring experience taking up such a responsible task, and at such a time in the course of the campaign. Like a flash the words of the Graduation Class song of 1940 came ringing forth:

"Released from sin's strong chain, Bound by love's cords to Thee, Lord, we go forth in Thy blest name, To set the captives free."

As the weeks passed by, the interest was fostered, Bible studies continued, and then came the great thrill of seeing card after card signed with request for baptism. It was a great advantage to have the help of our little church whose members we love so much. Their influence did much in uniting our new people in loving fellowship with us. We wish to thank them for their willing service.

At last the great day came, everything was in readiness and the church was adequately decorated.

At 3.30 in the afternoon ten white-robed figures were seated in

the front row, and the service began. Pastor McMillan, the superintendent of the Scottish Mission, addressed the candidates in an inspiring manner and placed before the church their responsibility in caring for these dear souls.

When Pastor Vince descended into the water and the first sister was immersed what a thrill of joy and praise passed through our hearts.

Sister Morag Nisbet, a young Adventist from Newcastle, came to Glasgow some months back to train as a nurse in one of our largest hospitals. She could not conceal the light of truth which was shining in her heart, so she won a fellow nurse by her living example of faith and love for her Master. We earnestly trust that together they will gather many more jewels to lay at the Master's feet.

Another young sister, convicted of the Sabbath truth, approached her employer for Sabbath privileges. She was refused, so she sought for other employment. This was not found so easily in this highly religious city. Eventually our sister handed in her resignation. To her amazement the employer immediately granted her the Sabbath as a free day. We praise God for yet another evidence of His intervention on behalf of those who trust and obey Him implicitly.

One brother had a remarkable experience. Holding a very good situation in the city, he counted it as nothing compared to the Saviour's approval. He gave up this work, finding another immediately afterwards, so that he is now able to enjoy fellowship with us.

One dear sister away in the little coastal town of Saltcoats heard the Advent message from a faithful Bible-worker sixteen years ago! The years passed, but she could find no satisfaction to her soul save by reading old numbers of our magazines and studying the doctrines from Sabbath-school lesson pamphlets. At last she decided to unite with us in fellowship at Glasgow and witnessed to the joy in her heart by passing

through the waters with Jesus. She stands there alone in that small town, our only witness. May the light there become brighter and kindle into a flame one day soon.

Many other grand experiences are a rejoicing to our hearts. Particularly do we give thanks for the young hearts and lives surrendered so willingly to Jesus. There are many others who, we trust, will be one with us at another baptismal service to be held in a few months time.

Hamilton, a large country town about sixteen miles from Glasgow, is to be the centre of our next campaign, which is planned to begin on March 16th. We bespeak your earnest prayers that the Lord will be with us as we endeavour, in His Name, to raise up another standard IRIS A. HAPGOOD, there.

Bible-worker.

#### Aberdeen

During the past year the writer continued his labours in the granite city, but with a budget of only a few pounds our meetings were confined to the small Advent hall, in which we hold our church services. Although the work has gone very hard yet we praise God for what has been accomplished. Three precious souls have been added to our membership, several others are very interested, and we are hopeful that they will take their stand for the Advent message in the near future. We do most earnestly ask an interest in your prayers that this may be so.

We are also thankful to the Lord for our financial standing. Our tithes show an increase over the previous year of about thirty-five pounds. Sabbath-school offerings show an increase of over four pounds, and our harvest ingathering goal of sixty-four pounds was exceeded by about five pounds.

We rejoice for these evidences of the faithfulness of God's people, and earnestly pray that the Lord will continue to bless His church and work in this part of the field.

D. Morrison.

"Our love for God has a broken wing if it cannot fly across the ocean with the message of salvation for perishing souls."

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## LITERATURE MINISTRY

## "Letters from Mother Naomi"

Answers to questions girls ask.

COMMON sense and high ideals are here joined in a balance that is the result of the author's years of experience as teacher and counsellor of young women.

Free from cheap sentimentality, this little book gives a direct and honest answer to important questions that cannot afford to be neglected by those who are wise.

"When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee." Prov. 2:10, 11.

Price 5/-. Order through The Stanborough Press Ltd.

## Try This for "The Outlook"

Good morning! I am on quite a cheerful errand, (pause and smile)

We are letting everyone know that the outlook is very bright after all, and that is the good news the country is waiting for, isn't it? (Now show magazine but not before.)

This beautiful magazine is being much appreciated. We see that the Prince of Peace has the right answers to our various questions to-day such as "Can we know what is coming?" (Show frontispiece of Jesus and title of first article.)

You will understand how hopeful the outlook really is (if children in the home continue) and your children will thoroughly enjoy these three pages at the end.

It is such a bright change from the ordinary news and that is why so many are appreciating it. Complete in this one issue of course.

"O yes, how much?" Only sixpence. Thank you.

B. BELTON.

WE should do our best; then with perfect confidence leave the issue with God. And then the lines of the face will grow smooth again; the heavy heart light; the mind, beset with anxious calculations and forebodings of evil, will be buoyant and free.—A. H. K. Boyd.

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#### BIBLE and the OUTLOOK" "THE

TAKE IT TO THEM WHILE STOCKS LAST

## South England Conference

President: Pastor G. D. King
Office Address: 780 St. Albans Road,
Watford.

Telephone: Garston (Watford) 2213-4

### Baptism in West London

WE are pleased to report that a rally day was held at the Chiswick church on February 22. For this occasion the president of our conference, Pastor King, was present and also the Stanborough Male Choir.

In the morning Pastor King spoke to us warning us that the midnight hour was upon the world and that each believer must now prepare for the evil time.

In the afternoon, the service was preceded by a song service by the Stanborough Male Choir. This, together with the items rendered at each service, was indeed an inspiration to all and our thanks are due to the brethren who came.

Following this, Pastor King ordained Brethren Manning and Shaw to the office of elders in the churches at Chiswick and Harlesden respectively and Brethren May and Dawes were ordained as deacons to serve in the Chiswick and Ealing churches respectively.

After a timely address by Pastor King had been given to a crowded church on the subject of "Following Jesus," the writer conducted a baptism in which five of the Lord's children identified themselves with their Master and His church.

Four of these who passed through the watery grave were welcomed into the Ealing church. The writer has been conducting studies with them for the last six months.

The remaining candidate was a young brother from Wimbledon who has taken his stand for the truth at a time of difficulty for himself. We believe the stand he has taken will help him in finding strength to meet his problems.

Our prayers will continually be for these dear ones that they may become strong pillars in Christ's church. We regret that through sickness another sister was unable to be baptized at the same time.

W. W. Armstrong.

# "BRING YE ALL THE TITHE—'

Questions on Christian Benevolence Answered

Question: "Should tithe be paid on income tax deducted at source?"

Someone sends this question in view of the new legislation compelling deduction of tax by employers. It is a little difficult to see why the deduction at source should cause any difficulty, unless compulsion which denies one the actual handling of the money suggests that the individual does not therefore receive it as part of income. For about twenty-five years I have not handled my tithe money, because I have always authorized its deduction by the treasurer, but I certainly know I have paid it and that it was part of my income. While tax deduction by law is not quite parallel, it nevertheless would be wrong to say that income tax is not now a part of personal income. If you had to make a statutory de-

## At Rest

Heatley.—After only a week's severe illness, Sister Mary Frances Heatley, of the Dublin church, died in the Richmond Hospital on February 1, 1941. She was baptized by the late Pastor G. W. Bailey in May, 1933. Cousins in Ireland and England are left to mourn their loss. She had not been well for some considerable time, but she fought hard to keep going. She passed peacefully away a few days after being stricken down suddenly with a deadly disease. We laid her to rest, in the presence of a goodly number of relatives, members, and friends, in the Mount Jerome Cemetery, on the morning of Tuesday, February 4th. She sleeps awaiting the resurrection morn.

L. A. Watson.

Evans.—We regret to announce the death of Sister Sarah Ann Evans, who passed away on February 10, 1941, at her home at Plumstead, Woolwich, at the age of seventy-three years. Sister Evans had been ailing for some time, but no danger was anticipated when suddenly she was stricken down with influenza which in less than a week proved fatal. Since her baptism by the late Pastor A. E. Bacon fifteen years ago, Sister Evans was an active worker for the Lord, distributing literature and telling others of the message which meant so much to her. The church at Lewisham loses a faithful member, and husband and daughters a devoted wife and mother. However, we were all comforted, when laying her to rest in the Woolwich Cemetery, by the promise that reunion was certain and not far distant. Our deepest sympathies go out to sorrowing relatives and friends. R. T. BOLTON.

I wish to extend my thanks to those dear brethren and sisters who expressed sympathy in such kind and comforting words in the recent bereavement of my beloved wife, Margaret. Sister Drummond identifies herself with this message of thanks.

G. H. BARTLETT.

claration of income you would be legally and morally bound to count your income tax in the total amount.

All taxes should be regarded in the nature of an investment. We receive something in return for cash. The fact that the government decrees that we need more protection from aggression, may not fit in with our personal opinions, but it is none the less true that we receive the protection. I think we need it and should cheerfully pay our taxes under emergency conditions.

Some employers pay part of the employees' income tax for them. If you benefit in this way, here's a thoughtful question for you. Whatever portion is paid for you by your employer, you must count that as part of income and declare it to the government. If it is part of your income, do you tithe it? If that is driving the matter too far in one direction, we must be careful not to drive too far the other way.

Money is a queer thing, and we need to think calmly on all questions affecting its flow kingdomwards. "Nothing can fool men like money," so we must be careful and prayerful before coming to any decisions that may be easy on ourselves.

H. W. Lowe.

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

For sale. Deaf Aid Apparatus, complete with spare battery. Ardente brand. Cost twenty-one guineas. Proceeds to be devoted to missions. Donor suggests £5 or nearest offer. Write: J.H.P., 780 St. Albans Road, Watford, Herts.

#### SUNSET CALENDAR

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Mar. 21st 7.14 7.18 7.27 7.27 7.38 Mar. 28th 7.26 7.31 7.38 7.42 7.51

#### BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

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