

# BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

Organ of the Seventh-Day  
Adventist Church in  
Britain.

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## Choosing Church Officers

By J. HARKER

MORE than a thousand men and women selected from the Adventist membership of the British Union are needed to fill the various positions of responsibility in our church and group organizations for the coming year. This vital work should be undertaken now. It is unfair, both to the general body of believers and to those who are called to act as their leaders, to leave the annual election until the year has almost closed. An early election means a good beginning. What can we think of that would be more conducive to success in the new year's work than to have the entire force of church officers fully prepared and standing at their posts of duty on Sabbath, January 3, 1942?

If these incoming officers are to know the duties they must undertake early enough to make proper preparation for a good start, the election should be over by the second week in December, at the latest. This will give the new officers time to confer with those who are relinquishing their positions of responsibility.

It should be noted, however, that the term of office for those who are now serving does not expire before December 31st. Church treasurers, clerks, and secretaries of all departments must close up their books, send in their reports, and have everything checked up on the last quarter's work, before handing over to their successors. A good "close up" in December will help the good beginning aimed at in January.

### CHOOSING THE BURDEN BEARERS

The first step to be taken in the annual election of officers is for each church to appoint a nominating committee. The usual procedure is to request the church board to select five or seven members who are in good and regular standing, and bring their names to the church for their vote of acceptance. The person who is to act as chairman should be clearly indicated. No group of persons can function as a nominating committee without the vote of the church.

Having received the church's authority to act, the committee should get to work as early as possible. The work to be done calls for calm, sanctified judgment. Counsel given in the Word of God and the *Testimonies* provide principles that can safely be trusted. Impartiality, love for the cause, and the best possible distribution of all the available talent should mark the suggestions decided upon. Here is a selected extract that sets forth the character and qualities of all who are worthy of office in a general way:

"The choosing of officers is of great importance since the work of the church is a very sacred work.

"All bearing responsibility should be in perfect harmony with those holy principles for which the church stands. They should be persons 'of good report,' having the respect of all men for their consistent Christian lives. They should be faithful in all the requirements of God, such as

tithe paying and regular attendance at Sabbath-school and church services. To do efficient work in the church they must be men and women who do not pattern after the pleasures, follies, and fashions of the world. They should be above question as to their loyalty to the teachings of the Scriptures and the Spirit of prophecy.

"Every officer in the church, in the Sabbath-school, and the Missionary Volunteer society should be a church-member and be living a consistent Christ life. If this is not the case, he brings reproach upon the cause of God and often does irreparable damage."—*"Church Officers' Gazette," November, 1937.*

A fully organized church should be provided with the following officers: Elders, deacons, deaconesses, church clerk, tithe treasurer, treasurer of local funds, local agent for In-gathering, Sabbath-school superintendent and assistant, Sabbath-school secretary and assistant, Missionary Volunteer leader and assistant, Missionary Volunteer secretary and assistant, Home Missionary leader, Home Missionary secretary, Dorcas Society leader, organist for church services and Sabbath-school, librarian, and caretaker.

Churches vary in size. There is also a dearth of talent in certain places. It may be necessary in some cases to ask one person to fill two positions. If the church is agreed, it is better to do this than to leave important interests uncared for.

If the membership is not large, one person may act as treasurer for local funds as well as the tithe and offerings. The same person may also take on the work of local agent for

Ingathering. It is important that this last mentioned office shall not be left unfilled until the time of the campaign.

#### REPORTING TO THE CHURCH

Having finished its work the committee should then pass on its report to the church through the chairman. The entire list of suggestions should be read through without comment. If the report is accepted, action should then be taken on each name separately.

As stated in the *Church Manual*: "It is the right of any member to

raise an objection to any name presented in the nominating committee's report." It may not be wise, however, to state publicly *why* the objection is raised. It is usually better to have the name referred back to the committee, where the matter can be fully discussed after the objector has stated his case. Where churchmembers are living together in a spirit of friendliness and goodwill, and if the whole procedure of electing officers for the year is conducted in the proper manner, the occasion is bound to be one of great blessing to all concerned. J. HARKER.

## Notes from the Union President

#### ADVENTIST MISSIONARIES IN CHINA

SEVERAL religious journals have recently carried articles relating to missionary experiences in China in which the work of Adventist missionaries is referred to. The *Christian World* of October 30th referred to experiences mentioned in a letter written by a lady missionary, Miss Moody, and which took three months to reach this country by air mail. She reached China toward the end of July having taken as long on the journey as Robert Morrison took 135 years ago! She travelled along the famous Burma Road to Lashier in a convoy of nine lorries and a station wagon, all in charge of Seventh-Day Adventist missionaries to whom six of the lorries belonged. The story records hair-raising experiences of overturned and bogged lorries, of drenching rains, mechanical breakdowns, etc.

It is good to know that our missionaries have not all left their fields of labour, but are carrying on amid the most appalling conditions prayerfully and courageously. Those are the people to whom a current radio speaker from China is making reference when he mentions the admiration expressed for Christian missionaries by General and Madame Chiang Kai-shek. Christians are coming into their own in China, but it has taken the most appalling war conditions and dangers to show what the Christian religion is worth.

#### ADVENTIST MISSION PROPERTY DESTROYED

AMONG the news reports of a heavy raid at Chungking by 135

Japanese planes, is a report that the Seventh-Day Adventist Mission there was destroyed and six Chinese killed in a dug-out. Again we see a part of the tragic story of the present war, but such stories will in the future be transformed from tragedy into the glory of deeds done for Christ. Thus the work of the church ever goes forward despite its temporary set-backs and sufferings.

#### COLLEGE AFFAIRS

THE situation regarding requisition of our College is still of such a serious nature that earnest prayer is requested. It appears as though we may be forced to find and pay for other accommodation ourselves without recompense for our loss. But God is at the helm and His work will go on somehow.

#### INGATHERING THANKS

LETTERS from E. D. Dick, our General Conference Secretary, and R. G. Strickland, the new Home Missionary Secretary of the General Conference, pass on their thanks for our 1941 Ingathering efforts. One of them wrote: "Your most inspiring cablegram has brought more cheer to us than any message received in many days."

Since our message to Washington the total Ingathering figure has risen to £13,100. By every token, this is the most successful missions campaign we have ever held. God be praised.

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEES

THE year end committees which study the matter of church officers for 1942 should now be appointed,

and they should endeavour to complete their work before the Week of Prayer is over.

The appointment of these committees should be recommended by the church officers after careful study. Then, when these nominating committees study the requirements of the church offices, they should give the most serious consideration to finding the best possible persons to fill them.

Nothing is more important than consecrated, able leadership in our churches.

#### WEEK OF PRAYER

DECEMBER 6th to 13th is our annual Week of Prayer throughout the world. Can there ever have been a time when prayer was more needed? Despite war conditions we must have these seasons of special prayer in every church. For the world, for the church, for our homes, for our children, and for our own souls, we must pray as never before. All else seems futile except prayer that brings God into our lives.

#### FAT RATION

THE Ministry of Food, in answer to our inquiry, has passed a ruling to local Food Offices that "all consumers who for any reason desire to buy vegetarian/Kosher margarine instead of fats" may do so, provided that they surrender their bacon coupons.

Application should be made to the local Food Office. H. W. LOWE.



"TRUTH will not shelter us from the rough edge of life. Religion is not an umbrella that we put up to keep off the rain."

#### "BROKEN GRANOSE"

In view of the serious shortage of Dispatch Packing Materials, it is regretted that no further mail orders for "Broken Granose" can be accepted until further notice.

#### GRANOSE FOODS LIMITED

Stanborough Park,  
Watford, Herts.

## SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

President: Pastor G. D. King

Office Address: 780 St. Albans Road, Watford

Telephone: Garston (Watford) 2213-4

### Notes from the President

#### LOYALTY AND FAITHFULNESS

THESE qualities have been markedly manifest in our midst during the past nine months of this year. Members and conference workers have rallied to the calls that have come to them, and as a result tithe and mission offering returns are larger than ever before experienced. For this we praise God, and take courage.

#### EVANGELISM

THE one purpose of the church is the salvation of souls, and the privilege of evangelism belongs to every member. The programme of public evangelism is not confined to one method or one class of men. Constantly conditions impress the fact that we must harness all our church resources and all our personal energy to evangelism. Laymen as well as ministers can preach the message and every member can conduct a personal evangelistic campaign in witnessing and speaking for the truth.

Lay evangelism should more and more receive our support and engage our energies. Colporteur A. Lacey, as previously announced, has been conducting public services on Sunday at Ealing. These meetings are now transferred to our own church meeting-place, and a good interest is being maintained. Other laymen in the conference are giving themselves enthusiastically to such preaching, and a good harvest of souls from such campaigns can be expected.

Encouraging results are beginning to materialize from the inquiry card plan. Here is an extract from a letter received from a young evangelist who is conducting public services on Sunday in one of our own church buildings. During the past four weeks the non-member attendance has been between forty and fifty each Sunday:

"Several little things have conspired to make us feel that God is going to bless the work we have started. From among those to whom I have been taking the literature in

connection with the inquiry cards I have had several acknowledgments. A chaplain at the City Hospital here sent 5/- as an offering, as he could not attend the special meetings, having duties of his own. I was able to use a letter he sent at the second meeting to obtain quite a good number of names for literature. Since then I have had 2/6, 2/-, and on Sunday a 10/- note. To-day another lady gave me £1. This seems remarkable from non-members. We have twelve people coming along as a result of the card work. The others are still being encouraged."

By the time these notes appear, the new two-colour inquiry card will be in use, and good results are anticipated from the 100,000 to be distributed.

#### CHANGES IN PERSONNEL

ALREADY some reference has been made to transfers of workers from South England to other parts of the Union. We shall reluctantly bid farewell to:

- L. G. Hardinge (to Scotland)
- H. Humphries (to Wales)
- A. C. Vine (to Ireland)

These workers with their wives and families are leaving the South to make a contribution to the work in their new fields of labour. Our loss will be gain to the missions attached to the Union, and because of this we wish them every blessing and success. Erelong we expect to welcome into our midst:

- L. D. Vince (from Scotland)
- P. O. Cumings (from Wales)
- W. G. Nicholson (from Ireland)

and we know that they will bring

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### WEEK OF PRAYER READINGS

THE special number of the *Review and Herald*, containing the Week of Prayer Readings is now available. Copies can be ordered through your Home Missionary Secretary from:

THE STANBOROUGH PRESS LTD.

Price 4d.

enthusiastic and loyal service as they come. We bid them welcome. Several changes in the location of workers have been made, and others will take place as the year closes. Only such moves as the executive committee felt necessary to the strengthening and progress of the work of evangelism have been voted.

#### COMMITTEE PERSONNEL

PASTORS W. W. ARMSTRONG and A. J. Mustard were recently appointed members of the executive committee to replace Pastors C. A. Reeves and L. G. Hardinge. These are days when wise counsel and loyal support are called for, and we are confident that these brethren, along with the other members of the committee, will make that contribution,

G. D. KING.

## Welsh Mission

Superintendent: Pastor S. G. Hyde  
Office Address: "Ventnor," Ty-glas  
Road, Llanishen, Cardiff  
Telephone: Llanishen 600

### Wales Excels Herself!

WE had hoped that in spite of the welter of war, Wales would manage to reach the figure of £1,000 for missions in the 1941 Ingathering for the sixth year. We dared to hope that we might reach last year's figure of £1,160. But to our great pleasure—and surprise—we have done more and beaten the record by more than £100!

The actual figure was £1,271, one hundred and eleven pounds better than last year. For this remarkable achievement we thank God.

Well, dear fellow-members and workers, I know you will be happy to get this news. You will be proud of the Welsh Mission's accomplishment and you will rejoice to know, that by your efforts you gathered such a goodly sum for the great task of world-wide evangelism.

For 1941's accomplishment, we thank every participator very sincerely and pray that your labour of love will have been extended to include more than soliciting for money, and that in the future kingdom you will meet some saints who owe their presence—in part at least—to your self-sacrificing labours.

S. G. HYDE.



## North England Conference

President: Pastor R. S. Joyce  
Office Address: 22 Zulla Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham.  
Telephone: Nottingham 66312

### Rochdale

LEAVING Rochdale! How hard it is to say goodbye to friends and members that we have learned to love deeply. We can now understand how the apostle Paul felt when he said he had "begotten" the Corinthians in Christ.

How unsurmountable the barriers seemed when we came. Could we ever overcome that prejudice on the one hand and on the other hand in those not prejudiced that awful indifference. Preaching seemed but little good. So following the apostolic method, we found our way into the homes, visiting the sick, helping with their daily problems, and trying to live the Christ-life in practical ways. Gradually the fruit began to appear. After our first baptism we organized a company. Two baptisms have since taken place, the second on Sabbath, September 13th, and from that baptism five men were added to the Rochdale company, making the membership up to a score.

Such changes have taken place since those earlier days, that one of the most prominent Baptist churches not only loaned to us the baptistery and church for the occasion, but told us they were most happy to do it. We number among our firmest friends a Justice of the Peace, and

prominent local officials are telling us of their regrets that we are leaving the town and sending best wishes for our future.

To hear those testimonies on Tuesday evening, September 9th, more than repaid for any hardness of the way during our sojourn there. Some told of the blessed hope now shining in hearts that once were desolate, others of having learned to love Jesus for the first time, still others of finding their way again after having lost it for a while. What a privilege we have in labouring in His vineyard.

Our last meeting was held on Sunday afternoon, September 14th. As we looked over that goodly assembly we could only feel that although in times past they were not a people, now indeed here "were the people of God." The lamp of the Adventist truth was well lighted in hitherto unentered Rochdale.

W. J. CANNON.

## Irish Mission

Superintendent: Pastor E. E. Craven  
Office Address: 16 Knockbreda Gardens, Ormeau Road, Belfast

It is some time since we reported to the MESSENGER family. We are not at all anxious that you should forget that Ireland is on the map. We are still pegging away. The advance is hard and slow. The war has proved a great hindrance to us all as workers.

During 1941 so far we have lost three of our most faithful members: Sisters Shaw, Lauriston, and McVey.

This has been a sad blow. In a small mission faithful members are a great loss. During the year our members have responded well with their tithes and offerings. The "blitz" produced conditions which made our Ingathering work very difficult and has made us a month behind. However, it does seem as if we shall raise £400 this year, which will be £50 more than our goal of £350. Never has Florenceville responded so well. The workers themselves, including our veteran lady colporteur, Miss Logan, did remarkably well. How grateful we are for this magnificent response.

The writer has just commenced a series of meetings in the vicinity of the church. We were more than overjoyed to see 200 people present in the Ballynafeigh Orange Hall. Two experiences have come to the writer which have been encouraging.

First a major from the British Army is studying the prophecies with the writer. Then while in the Belfast telegraph office, an official came up to me with the question, "Excuse me, are you not Pastor Craven?" "Yes," I replied. Then he went on, "Pastor, will you help me to understand the 'seventy weeks' of Daniel?" I was naturally delighted.

During last summer we scattered 50,000 tracts. People, it is true, are indifferent, yet they are wondering what is going to happen. In two meetings we have received 100 requests for literature.

Will you all pray for the work in Ireland? We always remember you.  
E. E. CRAVEN.

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

LANTERN slides of Dr. Peter Chamberlen's tomb at Woodham Mortimer, Essex, illustrated on page 77 of *Bible Certainties*, may be obtained from P. Cumings, "Springfield," Wenvoe, nr. Cardiff, price, 1/3, post free.

### SUNSET CALENDAR

Reproduced from the *Nautical Almanac* by permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.

	Lon'n	Not'm	Car'ff	Edin	Bel't
Nov. 28th	4.57	4.54	5.10	4.38	5.06
Dec. 5th	4.53	4.49	5.06	4.41	5.00

### BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

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EDITOR: W. L. EMMERSON



Members of the Rochdale company.