



## Churchmembers and Soul-Winning Work During 1942

WHEN the goal for souls was set by the conference workers at the recent Ministerial Institute referred to by the Union President in the last issue of the MESSENGER, every conference official, minister, and Bible-worker had definitely in mind the part that would be played by the rank and file of our church membership. In a very literal sense, each one of the 120 hands that were raised in support of the motion represented fifty of our lay folk—6,000 in all. What an army of potential soul-winners!

We are confident that none of the laity will feel that the idea of including the entire church membership in this soul-winning objective was not the proper thing to do. All Adventists understand God's plan for work and witness. Every churchmember, young and old, is included. Even the children are not excused.

Perhaps it should be stated that it is not intended that laymen should think of the work of soul-winning as including everything that needs to be done for a soul from the first contact with the message right through to baptism and church membership. What is wanted is a mighty army of "scattered" witnesses as in Acts 8, who, like Philip, will get the work well going and then give place to the Peters and Johns who are always on hand to give further counsel and bind off the

By J. HARKER

work. This kind of ministry was well spoken of by workers at the institute. Our lay folk have not too insignificant a share in the total baptisms of 1941.

But all are anxious for larger results. The solemn times in which we find ourselves demand that much more study and effort be put into that which is the sole business of the church.

How shall we set about it, someone may ask. It is a large subject and no one can claim superior knowledge, at least as things are at present. On the other hand, we are persuaded there are no "secrets" connected with the work God would have laymen undertake. Let us think of two or three things that the Bible makes very clear.

First, we must give time and interest to the work of reaching souls. This applies to every one of the departments in our churches as well as to the individual members. Let church officers ask themselves: How much time is there devoted in the course of a year in my church to an earnest businesslike consideration of this vital subject? Am I, as the Home Missionary leader or secretary; the Sabbath-school superintendent or secretary; the Missionary Volunteer leader or

secretary putting soul-winning in the forefront where it should be?

We repeat, soul-winning work calls for time and interest. The individual member must ask the same question. These are days when adequate time for the work of God seems to be ruthlessly pushed aside. God alone can solve the problem for us. He has admonished us in statements such as the following:

"We must turn away from a thousand topics that invite attention. There are matters that consume time and arouse inquiry, but end in nothing. The highest interests demand the close attention and energy that are too often given to comparatively insignificant things." — *"Testimonies," Vol. 8, page 316.*

"If every moment were valued and rightly employed, we should have time for everything that we need to do for ourselves or for the world." — *"Ministry of Healing," page 288.*

Along with this essential of putting the interests of the kingdom of God first, there are the factors of personal preparation and fitness to be thought of. These are usually regarded as being concerned chiefly with one's ability to understand Bible doctrine and present it in a clear forceful way. But is this in harmony with experience and the teachings of the Scriptures? No. What God wants is a clean consecrated channel, a

heart and mind in touch with the divine Spirit. It is contact with life that dead souls need. Living testimony is better than dead doctrine. The advent hope must thrill the soul of the speaker, then its power will be felt by those who hear.

For this heart preparation, and for a heaven-born love for the needy multitudes about us, the church should be continually praying. There must be the closest possible co-operation between the human instrument and the Source of power. Of the disciples and the success which attended their witness, it is said:

"How closely they stood by the side of God and bound their personal honour to His throne. Jehovah was their God. His honour was their honour. His truth was their truth. . . . Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, was the theme of every discourse. As they proclaimed the completeness of Christ their words moved hearts, and men and women were won to the Gospel. Multitudes . . . confessed themselves disciples of the Crucified."—*Acts of the Apostles,* page 594.

May God lead us into an earnest seeking for the kind of experience that will make every one of our churches the centres of

light and comfort for souls they should be, and make every churchmember a constant, living witness to the truth for these last days.

### ◆ ◆ ◆ The True Evangelistic Method

PROFESSOR ERIC WATERHOUSE, D.D., M.A., spent the first portion of his life in the Non-conformist ministry and the second as a university professor of psychology. In a book on that subject as it applies in pastoral work, he has this to say on a revival of evangelism:

"No great movement has ever been built up out of crowds. The motive power of every great religious and social change has always been the work of an extensively trained group. The churches generally attach too much importance to the number of their adherents. Influence is far more effectively exerted through the personal contacts of a group."

If we are to win 1,000 souls for Christ during 1942 we must have devoted, highly-trained individuals organized into groups, bands, and churches for effective soul-winning service.

H. W. LOWE.

## Notes from the Union President

### SERVICE EXPERIENCES

SEVERAL of our young men have recently had very encouraging experiences in different branches of national service when their peculiar Sabbath problems have arisen. In one case a young man had been so helpful to his seniors during the week preceding his first Sabbath in the service, that when the Sabbath question was mentioned toward the close of the week he was informed that he had given them so much help, even beyond what they had expected him to do, that they would certainly be glad to accommodate him on the Sabbath. He is doing a dangerous job, but a useful one, and doubtless his manner of life will bring its own witness and reward.

So far we have had only about two cases of real difficulty. Wherever men and women are true to

their convictions in a reasonable way there really should be little difficulty. We must be careful not to adopt unreasonable attitudes, and certainly not be deceived into thinking that it is a part of one's religion to fight the powers that be.

### REGISTRATION MATTERS.

OUR members should be careful about the use of terms which are not strictly accurate when it comes to military and industrial conscription registration. For instance, a man who is doing part-time colporteur work should not describe himself as a "colporteur," nor should a layman, taking certain evangelistic meetings, describe himself as an "evangelist" or "lay-evangelist." The term used in registration implies full-time employment, and we are not able to substantiate from this of-

fice the inaccurate descriptions referred to above.

### THE NEW BOOK

*The Bible Speaks* is the title of a new book prepared by W. L. Emerson, and now in the hands of our colporteurs. It is a large book that deals with every phase of the message in the form of studies that contain hundreds of quotations that have never appeared in Adventist books before.

It seems that the paper shortage will materially decrease the number of small books we can produce, and that it will also bring increasing difficulty in the production of our magazines. On the other hand the paper that will be made available can be most economically used in the form of larger books, and we are hoping that more and more of our colporteurs will give all their time to this type of work. It is also more profitable to them.

### EVANGELISM

MAY we remind all our members once more of the great need for continued prayer in respect to all forms of evangelistic endeavour during this year. We want every member a praying member and every member a working and a witnessing member. When evangelism is really coursing through our spiritual bloodstream we shall have more than a thousand members as a result of a year's work.

When, too, we get evangelism into our bones and into our prayer-life we shall also get out those little brown boxes and demonstrate that prayer is accompanied by practical support. The Spirit of God always operates along the lines of spiritual devotion and practical work.

### MISSION OFFERINGS

WE have received an anonymous offering to missions upon certain conditions, and we are asked to acknowledge the same with these words, "Thanks for thirty, send some more."

We are glad for the continued interest shown by all our people in the cause of missions, and we are grateful for this gift.

H. W. LOWE.

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

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# SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

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## NEW CHURCHES

DURING the year 1941 we have had the joy of organizing five churches in South England. They are listed below with the dates of organization and also the names of the associated workers.

Cheltenham	June 14th
R. A. Vince	
Miss M. M. John	
Wembley	July 19th
J. H. Bayliss	
Miss K. Mahon	
Chelmsford	August 9th
F. C. Bailey	
Miss M. Clements	
J. P. West	
Taunton	December 20th
L. G. Hardinge	
Miss O. C. Davies	
J. D. Maffey	
Slough	December 27th
C. R. Bonney	
Miss E. M. Powell	

We are truly grateful to the Lord that in a year of perplexity these new beacons have been set up to witness for the message. In each of these churches local officers have been elected, and full departmental church life is in operation.

Owing to the fact that no conference session has been held this year, the executive committee has voted that these churches, in response to their request, be accepted into the sisterhood of churches within the South England Conference. This committee action will be ratified at the next conference session. Remember these new churches and their officers in your prayers that they may grow in strength and service year by year.

## ORDINATIONS TO THE MINISTRY

ON Sabbath afternoon, January 3rd, at Stanborough Park, in the presence of a full church, Brethren J. H. Bayliss and A. C. Vine were solemnly set apart to the Gospel ministry by ordination in accordance with our church procedure. Both these brethren have rendered fruitful service in soul-winning ministry.

The local conference committee and the Union committee were unanimous in their vote that this seal of the church be set upon their call to preach the Word. Pastor W. T. Bartlett preached the ordination address, and we were glad to have Pastor H. W. Lowe present to give the charge. May the Lord richly bless these brethren in their ministry during coming days.

## TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE year 1941 has closed with record figures in tithes and offerings. Complete returns are not yet available, but God has blessed His people and His cause as faithfulness and loyalty have been manifest in our midst. He will continue to bless the means thus dedicated to service, and will use our united faithful stewardship for the finishing of His work in the earth.

G. D. KING.



## Slough Organization

AFTER meeting together in regular weekly services for some time now it is hard to realize that before we came here there was not a member in the town of Slough or its surroundings.

As a partial result of our pioneer work we were able to welcome Pastor H. W. Lowe and Pastor G. D. King on December 27th, to organize our members into a church.

For twelve months we had been functioning as an organized company so that our special day commenced with a thirteenth Sabbath programme run chiefly by the young people and children. In the service that followed Pastor Lowe inspired and encouraged the members by speaking on the theme of "Spiritual Growth" in the individual and the church. Never have we to be satisfied with our attainments, but have continually to press on to

higher standards and greater victories.

Pastor King took charge of the details of the organization. It was certainly a thrill to see the church membership grow as each was voted in individually, beginning with the chosen nucleus of three, until there were twenty-three charter members.

It is only at organizations that churches grow so easily and quickly, for preceeding this experience much hard work and prayer have to play their part.

All present, including some friends from the sister churches of the district, Reading and High Wycombe, felt the inspiration of the service, as one of our deaconesses from Reading has since written: "I was stirred by the Slough church organization, not so much by the necessary routine, but by the thought—a new sister church. I envied those who signed as charter members."

The missionary zeal of our new church has already been shown in its being the first in the British Union to reach the Ingathering goal in the past two campaigns, and finally reaching £4 per member—and this without the workers' help.

Since being in the North-Western district, as it is called by the conference, we have held campaigns in Reading, High Wycombe, and Slough, and have had the privilege and joy of receiving fifty-eight members into fellowship. We have had associated with us in this work Miss M. John and then Miss E. Powell as Bible-workers. Their faithfulness and untiring energies have always been a source of encouragement.

The expenditure of these campaigns, as in all evangelistic work, has been an investment, shown not only in the souls won, but also by the faithfulness of the new members who have far more than covered the budgets used by returning unto the Lord that which belongs to Him.

For all this we give God the glory and invite you to pray with us as we enter the new town of Staines to establish another light of truth, while still caring for work already accomplished.

C. R. BONNEY.

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## WELSH MISSION

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A HAPPY New Year to all our friends in the Welsh Mission! When we say "happy" we mean it, for even under war conditions the child of the Lord can find happiness through service to God and man. May we each find happiness this year as we consecrate ourselves to Him who loved us even unto death.

### EVANGELISM

OUR Union President has spoken to us all about the plan for winning a thousand souls for Christ during 1942. The standard set is high—purposely so. For world conditions indicate a hastening of the day of God, and the task set for us must be done before it dawns. The time has come to "expect great things of God." And that means we must "attempt great things." Evangelists, pastors, and Bible-workers, will join together in a grand endeavour. But you, dear lay-worker, are invited to have a share. What can you do? Well, you can pray—not as before but as never before! You can also share the tasks of evangelism, where campaigns are being conducted in your vicinity. But more still, you can become a personal soul-winner. Far too many have not yet enjoyed the thrill of

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### SUNSET CALENDAR

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	Lon'n	Not'm	Car'ff	Edin	Bel't
Jan. 23rd	5.32	5.30	5.45	5.25	5.43
Jan. 30th	5.45	5.43	5.58	5.40	5.57

### BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

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winning a soul for the kingdom. Many have done so, and many are doing so every year. But oh, for the kindling of a flame that will bring about a revival in soul-winning endeavour. Under the power of the Spirit, this will be. May we see something of it in Wales even in 1942!

### NEWCOMERS RECEIVE A WELCOME

BRETHREN Humphries and Lewis have arrived and now are settled. The former in Newport and the latter in Barry. Both these brethren have been warmly welcomed wherever they have ministered and we are sure that all who will share their ministry in coming days, will uphold and strengthen their hands. Brother Lewis is stationed at Barry, only because he was unable to secure a foothold in Aberdare. Later in the year, if the way opens, he will change his location.

### WORKERS' RESOLVE

EACH of the workers in Wales has resolved, by the grace of God, to make this year the best in his soul-winning history. Will you pray for us, for we need all the help and encouragement that can be given. What a joy it will be for us to see our prayers and efforts rewarded as we come to the end of 1942.

### WEEK OF PRAYER

WE came to the end of 1941 sounding a note of courage. The Week of Prayer brought much blessing and much searching of heart. We were privileged to have a quartette of visiting ministers—Brethren J. Harker, W. H. Meredith, J. C. Craven, and J. J. Hyde. Their ministry was greatly appreciated. It was a great privilege to have Pastor Meredith visit his old home and field of labour. In Cardiff he reminded us of very early days—before the turn of the century—and when in Cardiff the very first young people's society was established in Great Britain. It was good to peer with him into those pioneering days and to

realize something of the past and the leadings of the Lord which have made the present possible.

### THANKSGIVING

IN all the correspondence received, mention has been made of the goodness of God. To receive these testimonies from you, has been a real tonic. For God has been good, and after the constant attention of the Luftwaffe to South Wales and North Wales, we hardly expected to get through the second half of 1941 so quietly and peacefully. I know that each of us wishes to show our appreciation for all the blessings of the past year by living even more closely to God, and serving Him in whatever way He reveals is best.

### THE SABBATH-SCHOOL

One of the regrets now being expressed by religious leaders is the decline in Sunday-school attendance. It is felt that that fanaticism now manifested in Central Europe, depriving the new generation of divine influences, is likely to reveal itself in our own land, unless we give attention to our religious institutions. If the non-Adventist leaders feel that way, how much more should we feel concern if the great blessings of the Sabbath-school are to be lost to many of our dear people. Our Sabbath-school hardly resembles the ordinary Sunday-school, for we all have a part and a share in ours. May we appeal to all our members to make every effort and sacrifice so as to share in the Sabbath-school and its study. Our great goal is: "Every churchmember a member of the Sabbath-school." Will you, brother, or sister, help us to reach that goal this year?

### FINANCES

JUST one little word about the financial side. It only needs a little word, for where the hearts of God's children are rightly related to Him, financial matters are also regulated by Him. But I did want to say "Thank you" for the faithfulness and devotion most of you have shown throughout 1941. When the figures are ready, I feel sure we shall have a good story to tell and we shall feel like shouting our "Hallelujahs."

S. G. HYDE.