

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

“Set the Trumpet to Thy Mouth”

WITH these words the prophet Hosea (chap. 8:1) refers to a message which was to be given against the conditions and the wicked of his time. He lived in an age which was prosperous but idolatrous (see 2 Kings 14:23-29). Anarchy, murder, bloodshed, wickedness, were common. (1 Kings 21:19.)

His whole message was composed of (1) warning against and condemnation of sinfulness in every form, and (2) an indication of God's way out of the awful conditions of the times. Notwithstanding the prevalent wickedness, God would remember His promise to Abraham. (Hosea 1:4, 11; 2:1. See margin for meaning of names.)

That is the true evangelistic message.

We are to set the trumpet to our lips in order to warn men of impending judgment, and in order to point them to Jesus as God's way out of it all.

The blowing of trumpets, in Scripture, generally indicates the giving of a divine message. It may be a warning of doom or deliverance; it may be a declaration of God's will, a call to His people to undertake special tasks or to move forward—but whenever the Lord or His church is represented as sounding the trumpet, God is about to do something.

Isaiah speaks of the blowing of the trumpet, meaning doubtless the proclamation of the Gospel good news. That has always been understood by Adventists, who, of all people, have been able to

By H. W. LOWE

sing meaningfully: “Watchman, blow the Gospel trumpet!”

One wonders if we can still sing those words with the abandoned joy that was so characteristic of our people in the early years. Too many of us are just church-goers without being witnesses and soul-seekers. We cannot zestfully sing what we do not feel in our souls. And if we do not feel the joys of salvation, we obviously cannot set the trumpet to our lips.

Surely in this pagan, unspiritual age, God is calling His people to a new consideration of this great subject of soul-winning. It is absolutely certain that any man who feels no urge to win others for Christ, is on the way to spiritual death, if not there already. A minister who has no burden to win souls is an unprofitable servant.

When the silver trumpets were sounded the churchmembers were to gather at the door of the tabernacle. (Num. 10:3) To-day we are called to assemble together

in the presence of our divine Master who said, “I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”

Could you conceive of a man's entering through the doorway into the circle of Christ's companionship, and remaining quite unconcerned about the welfare of men's souls all around him? Could you look at a church which year after year fails to win souls for Christ, and conclude that it still knows Christ vitally and intimately? Could a minister go on year after year winning no one for Christ and still be called to the ministry?

We come to Jesus from whom flows light (John 1:9), and love, and power (John 15:5), and we are bound to exert henceforth magnetic, dynamic influences that exalt the Saviour and lead men to Him.

When the trumpets were sounded Israel must move forward. (Num. 10:5, 6.) No one can come to Christ and stand still. No one can live in His presence and do nothing. We must march on!

“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.” Isa. 60:1.

We must move forward in our prayer life or we shall die. We must move forward in our study of the Book and in our devotional practices. We must move forward in the habits that govern our relations with our fellows—our speech, our influence, our friendships. Above

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**The Greatest Aim of
the Church—One
Thousand Souls for
Christ.**

all we must move forward in our testimony for Jesus. It is imperative that all these things be brought to perfection in us.

We are dead if we set not the trumpet to our lips, sounding it long and loud to call sinners to repentance.

In *Testimonies*, Vol. 7, page 18 and onward, are some solemn words on "Work for Church-members." One cannot read those lines without feeling that something is wrong with the church in many ways and places to-day. The habit of requiring sermons every Sabbath as the main part of our religious life is condemned. Emphasis is strong on the duty of every believer to exercise his or

her energies for Christ. "Those who have united with the Lord in the covenant of service are under bonds to unite with Him in the great, grand work of soul-winning. . . . When God's people see the great need of working as Christ worked for the conversion of sinners, the testimonies borne by them in the Sabbath service will be filled with power."—*Page 19.*

If we are to win one thousand souls for Christ during 1942 we must certainly recapture the zeal of the Lord of hosts, and we must set the trumpet to our lips, sounding forth the silvery notes of God's evangel with altogether new and compelling power.

Notes from the Union President

NEWS FROM RUSSIA

WE recently received a letter addressed to W. J. Fitzgerald, who was in charge of this field twenty-five years ago. We were informed that we could communicate with our people in Russia, and we have sent them a message of greetings. Apparently Elder Loeb sack, known to some of us as the leader of our work in the Soviets has passed away and a new leader is making this contact with the outside world after a long silence. This greeting from our membership in the U.S.S.R. will be appreciated here, and is as follows:

"Though I know you not personally, none the less I have decided to write to you as to our fellow-warrior in the field of God.

"My aim in this decision of writing this letter is to set up, hereby, a beginning to a regular connection between us in our mutual work, and the more so because since the death of our president Brother G. I. Loeb sack, we lost every connection with our foreign brethren.

"Please present greetings from us all to all our English brothers and sisters.

"Likewise hereby I wish to express the great satisfaction of all of us Russian brothers and sisters, occasioned by this alliance of two so great empires as Great Britain and Soviet Russia, manfully struggling against the general enemy of the whole of progressive

humanity—Hitler and Fascism.

"Notwithstanding the temporary military successes of the enemy we are convinced that ultimately he will be destroyed and that justice will triumph.

"Here in Soviet Russia we all trust to the will of the Most High, who has so wonderfully protected us unto the present hour.

"I earnestly entreat you, Brother Fitzgerald, to answer this letter, and to give us a detailed account of your work in God's field.

"May the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Peace and of Love abide on your all. (John 14:27.)

"In eager anticipation of your reply,

I am,
(Signed) G. A. G."

We shall remember these dear people in prayer.

NEWBOLD MISSIONARY COLLEGE,
PACKWOOD HAUGH, HOCKLEY
HEATH, WARWICKSHIRE

THIS is our new college address to which all correspondence should now go. The removal is completed and the College should re-open probably about February 17th. Students will be notified by post of the exact date.

Difficulties have, of course, been legion in getting the College functioning in its new location under wartime conditions. Much grace will be called for on the part of students and teachers during the

period of readjustment, but we believe the good work of training young men and women for God's service will go on. Things we do not understand must not be allowed to prevent our moving forward. What we cannot explain we should not be unduly worried about. Faith transcends the things that are obscure and keeps us moving God-wards.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

IT needs re-emphasis that persons appearing before tribunals must have up-to-date membership cards. A case was recently postponed because the applicant had neither a card nor a representative with him. This is carelessness that causes trouble. Cards are obtainable from this office, valid for six months, if you send this information:

- (a) Your full name and address.
- (b) Age.
- (c) Date of baptism and place of membership.
- (d) Present occupation.

Women of conscription age have the same tribunal rights as men, and where exercised, the same certificate of membership is helpful.

1941—GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

DESPITE war conditions good reports cover our work during 1941. Tithe income increased by seven thousand pounds, and mission offerings by £3,500, including Ingathering. Our membership figures show a slight gain which is gratifying compared with the previous year's decrease. Our main work is to multiply that gain of forty by twenty-five! Even then we should bring to God only one-third of the number of souls which a small band of early Christians brought to their Lord in one city in one day!

SPIRITUAL TOTALITARIANISM

MR. CRISTOPHER DAWSON toward the close of 1941 wrote trenchantly on this subject, and his words were published in *The Christian News Letter* of November 21st. Inter alia, he said:

"There is, moreover, the danger of yet another alternative—a Christian totalitarianism which is liable to deceive the very elect and to confuse the issue still further. The evil of totalitarianism is not in the least exorcised by transfer-

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ring totalitarianism to the religious level. On the contrary, the threat to spiritual freedom is even greater, when totalitarianism assumes a religious form or appeals to religious sanctions. I doubt whether Christians are alive to these dangers and this is not surprising since the actual menace of secular totalitarianism is so much greater. . . ."

Christians interested in the prophecy of Revelation thirteen will watch the development of spiritual totalitarianism which will arise in an acute form from now on.

TRIBUTE TO MISSIONS IN CHINA

"AN important development is the new appreciation of missionaries: *The China Critic*, an organ of intellectuals often severely hostile toward missions in the past, has represented a host of Chinese in the following statement: 'One of the many things that have come out of the present war has

been the realization that, whatever doubts may have existed in the past, the Christian missions in China fully and indispensably justify their existence. . . . How, without a moment's hesitation, they faced the test and were not found wanting, will remain one of the most dramatic and epoch-making pages in the history of Christian missions throughout the world. To-day, after two years of hostilities, the Christian missions in China have built themselves a record of which they may be justly proud. They have preached the Gospel not with words but by a practical demonstration of the love of God and the brotherhood of man. They have definitely found their place in the life of the nation, fulfilling great human needs in its hour of travail.'"—*Quoted in "International Christian Press Information Service," Geneva, No. 4, page 6.* H. W. LOWE.

confidence to believe that greater things are yet in store for us as we co-operate in the up-building of God's kingdom.

The year 1942 must be a great one in soul-winning endeavour. "Every Member a Missionary" is our slogan, and it must be a fact. Let us use every means at our disposal to witness for the Master and His message.

G. D. KING.

Campers' Reunion at Bournemouth

THE week-end, December 27, 28, 1941, was the crowning one of the year, for the Bournemouth young people and children. Once again Pastor and Mrs. G. R. Bell allowed their home to become Liberty Hall for the reunion of as many as possible of the summer campers, at a social evening for the older ones, on Saturday December 27th, followed by a party for the children on Sunday afternoon.

There were sixteen guests on Saturday and in the words of one of them, "The refreshments were marvellous. There was not one moment when enthusiasm flagged, and it was perfectly organized!" Could host and hostess ask for higher tribute?

Pastor Bell's elastic-sided car delivered the long-distance guests home at a late hour. Most people would have thought Sunday necessary for "recovery" and more preparation, but when at 3 p.m. fourteen children of assorted sizes knocked at the door, they found everything prepared once again—including a tea table which was a delight to the eye, and an object lesson as to what can be achieved in war time by artistic fingers, willing to bestow both time and labour. "Parties," and, "what shall we have to eat?" always go together in children's minds. Crackers and a Christmas Tree were the high lights, the tree being laden with a present for each child. Balloons occupied some time in the "blowing up" and were "deflated" later to travel home. The Twins looked on wide-eyed, and joined in some of our games. The magic lantern was only part of a magic three hours.

The only sad part was saying

SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

President: Pastor G. D. King
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Telephone: Garston (Watford) 2213-4

President's Notes

WE are now able to give the complete picture of the faithfulness of our membership in tithes and offerings as revealed by the financial figures for 1941.

The total tithe income for South England was £21,866. This is, of course, the largest tithe income ever realized in the field and represents a gain of £3,260 over 1940, and a budget gain of £3,394. This figure is brought to your attention as an indication of the Lord's blessing upon the loyalty and sacrifice of His faithful people. There are further revelations of increased faithfulness as we view the contributions to mission funds—that is, for fields overseas—made by the conference membership during last year.

The goal set us by the Union for mission offerings was £9,220. That figure includes our In-gathering goal, Sabbath-school, Annual Offering, Big Week, Week of Sacrifice and Missionary

Volunteer contributions. The actual total received from these sources was £11,277, giving us an overflow on our total goal of £2,057. This again is the largest contribution to missions our members have ever made. Surely, in a year of problems and perplexities, we can praise God for this magnificent manifestation of the spirit of willing sacrifice and service in our midst, and know that the Lord's hand is guiding His cause to victory.

We can never realize what personal faithfulness lies at the back of these total figures. You know your own contribution to them, and the Lord knows. No faithful act escapes His notice, nor will it escape His reward. To every faithful member we now express our own appreciation and assurance that your continual loyalty is a constant source of encouragement and strength. We now press forward into 1942 with this achievement of the past supporting us, and giving us con-

"Good-bye." We thank Pastor and Mrs. Bell for the many happy times we have had together, and wish them God-speed.

I. F. WHITING.

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Mission News from Iran

NEWS from the mission lands involved in the spreading war is always eagerly read. We are sure, therefore, that all who know Dr. H. E. Hargreaves, of Tabriz, Iran, will be interested in this extract from a recent letter to a relative at home:

"Although a considerable amount of damage was done during the tumult of August, not one of our members received any bodily hurt or loss due to any act of war. Here in Azerbaijan, under

the Soviet occupation, we have perfect freedom of religious worship, and, so far, I can move about the country without any hindrance; which considering that I am the only European member of the mission staff remaining, is a blessing. . . . Fortunately my car remains in my possession while most others were requisitioned by the military: otherwise visiting our churches and isolated companies would have been out of the question.

"We have ample supplies of all foodstuffs, except sugar, which is being rationed. Ours is the only family complete with children left in Tabriz.

My work has suffered no reverse, the clinic being closed only two days while the Soviet forces were restoring order in the city.

There is a patient lying at this moment whose cataract we removed two days ago, seemingly satisfactorily."

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Wedding Bells

STURGESS—HANNINGTON.—The Reading church was the scene of a very happy occasion when on January 21, 1942, Brother H. Sturges was united in marriage to Miss May Hannington.

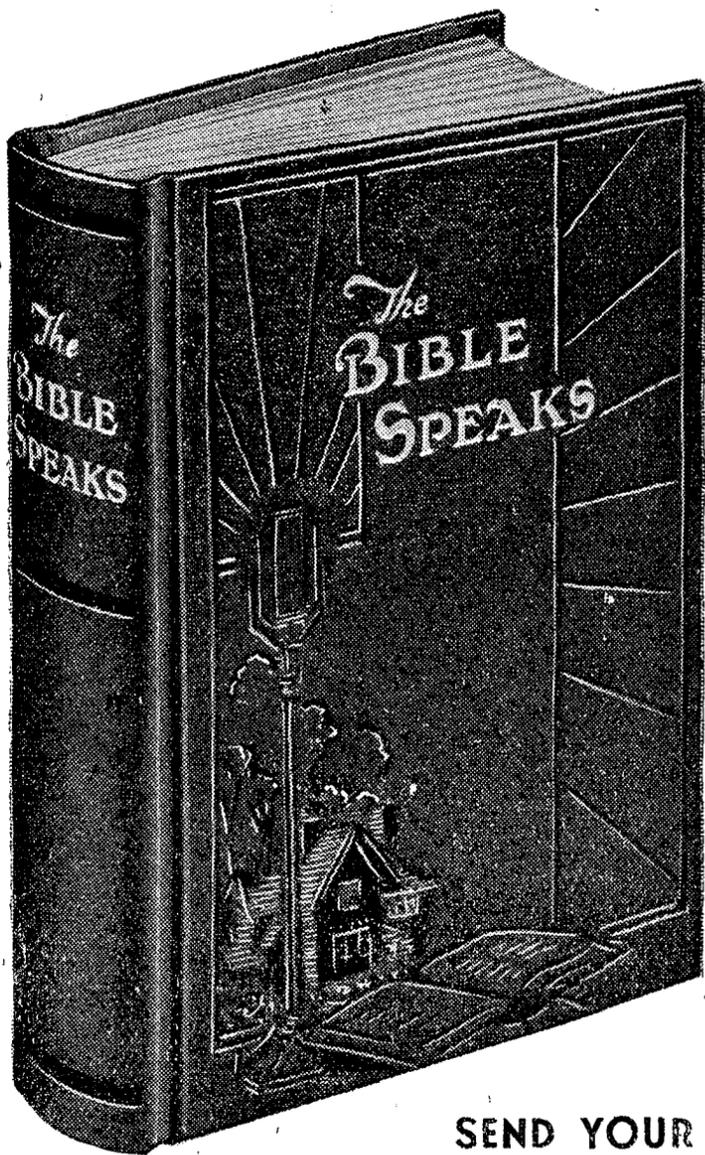
For many years Brother Sturges has served the Reading church in various important offices, while Sister Hannington comes from the church at Hove.

We know that the members and friends of both churches wish them God's blessing as unitedly they set up a home that will be in service for God and the church.

C. R. BONNEY.

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THE editor acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following: Lord's tithe, £5., A.R.; £1, "Let not thy left hand know;" £2., Anon.; £9., "Gwent." Free literature, £2., "Let not thy left hand know."

THE South England Conference acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the Lord's tithe, £10 from Anon.

SUNSET CALENDAR

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Feb. 20th	6.23	6.24	6.36	6.26	6.40
Feb. 27th	6.36	6.37	6.48	6.41	6.54

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