

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

South England Conference Bible-Workers' Council

THE Bible-work is a vital part of God's last appeal to the world. Not an easy work, often a discouraging work, a lonely work, but ordained by God Himself.

We needed inspiration! Sympathetically sensing this, our president called the fifteen Bible-workers of the South England Conference to a council.

We in South England, aim to bring into the church, 500 souls before the dawn of 1943. The task seems stupendous, but compared with the fruitage of Pentecost these results would be meagre. Pentecost was a merely the early rain; the promise is that the latter rain shall be much more abundant.

What a responsible, solemn work is ours. We are BIBLE-workers and Brother Bartlett amplified what this conveys. We are links in the chain let down from God to draw men to eternal life. He gave the Word. The Word was Christ — a living Bible. That Word within the worker — through the worker — speaks eternal things to

man. She, too, should be a living Bible. Eternity knocks at the door through the Bible-worker.

We are called Bible-WORKERS. Paul in expressing the secret of the success of his work says, "I laboured more abundantly than they all," yet not I, but Christ in me. Individually we resolve that His method must be ours. The motive of Christ's life was exclusively the winning of souls. He was an opportunist. Every contact, social or otherwise, was used to plant the seed of

truth in men's hearts. We long to learn of Him more aptly.

Our experienced counsellor pointed out that *Personality* makes leaders: A worker with this quality is worth two without. Contact with Jesus gives the three essentials to magnetic personality — joy, love, zeal. The sinner, meeting these in the worker's life, will be compelled to look to the Saviour.

The problems and difficulties confronting the Bible-worker are innumerable. Many can only be met through experience, but "in the multitude of counsellors there is safety." We surely gained wisdom as we discussed the many-sided aspects of our task. We were impressed that many tried methods are still effective, but living as we are in "different" times, we must experiment in new ways of reaching souls.

Each Bible-worker presented a paper on how to make successful some vital part of the work. Discussion was free and helpful on all topics. We left the



South England Conference Bible-workers in council at Watford.
FRONT ROW (Left to right).—Miss E. Guntrip, E. R. Warland, H. W. Lowe, G. D. King, W. T. Bartlett, J. Harker, Miss E. Donaldson.
SECOND ROW.—A. W. Cook, Miss M. P. Graves, Miss M. John, Miss K. Mahon, Miss O. C. Davies, Miss W. Buckle, Miss M. Clements, Miss J. M. Hyde.
BACK ROW.—Miss V. M. Warren, Miss M. J. Keough, Miss M. L. Lane, Miss M. Dando, Miss E. M. Powell, Miss R. V. Foster, Miss N. Thompson.

Council feeling better equipped to turn door-step calls into visits in the home, these into Bible studies, to use the Word to bring decisions for Christ, to introduce and build into the church, strong new members.

The appalling loss of a very large percentage of our youth brought the discussion round to effective ways and means of catering for their spiritual and social needs. Each Bible-worker felt that she must do her part in planning meetings and recreation which will keep the young people in love with Christ and His church. If she can lead the church to show a loving, encouraging, understanding attitude to our young members, if she can keep their feet from straying along the inviting paths of vicious pleasures by providing interesting activities that God can bless, He will contend with the evil one on our

behalf and save our children.

Thanks are due to Pastors Lowe, Bartlett, and King as well as the various members of the Union and Conference staffs for their help in making the Council the source of real encouragement and blessing that it proved. We are also grateful to Brother Cook for securing for us comfortable accommodation.

We were glad that many opportunities were given for prayer, without which our meeting would have been in vain, and we sang with confidence our closing petition:

"Pour out Thy Spirit from on high;
Lord, Thine assembled servants bless;
Graces and gifts to each supply,
And clothe us with Thy righteousness.

K. MAHON.
M. M. JOHN.

Stanborough Secondary School

WE are glad to report that the new preparatory and secondary school project begun in faith just over a year ago is flourishing.

We have over 160 pupils in attendance, ranging from five to sixteen years old, so that we have exactly doubled our enrolment, and incidentally doubled our staff of teachers. Forty-five of the children are in the Secondary school department under two teachers; the rest are in the Junior school under four teachers.

The increase in enrolment in the past four terms has been so unexpectedly great, that in spite of taking extra accommodation for classrooms, we are still full to capacity. We need to consolidate now so that we can retain the fairly large proportion (approximately fifty-two per cent) of non-Adventist children in attendance. The majority of these, as may be expected are in the Junior school.

We are endeavouring to give the children an education commensurate with that offered in other secondary schools, but with an Adventist bias under conditions where Christian principles are recognized as holding first place. Our measure of success will be judged by our pupil's attainments in public examinations

and by their attitude to church life when they grow older.

It was encouraging to have three successes in the Junior Oxford examination last July, a small group, it is true, but the first of many future groups we hope. This summer we are planning to send a larger number, some for the Junior, and some for the School Certificate. With regard to the other aspect of education, it is even more gratifying to see the older unbaptized members of the school joining the Stanborough Park church baptismal class without being urged.

There is always more to be done in the school—and we shall expect this to be so—but it is a source of great encourage-

Notes from the Union President

RESTRICTION OF LITERATURE IMPORTS

OUR licence to import American denominational literature has been restricted to half the pre-war amount. This involves the elimination of practically all bound books, and it may mean the curtailment of other literature as well. We shall adopt the plan

ment to know that members in the different parts of the Union are remembering us in our arduous task. What a pleasant surprise it was to receive a gift of money from Scotland on Christmas Eve! This has been devoted to the Science department which we are building up as we are able. This department has also recently benefited by a gift of apparatus from the officers of the Young People's society of Stanborough Park for 1941. Unsolicited benefactions of this—and other kinds—are greatly appreciated by staff and students alike.

A number of the children at the school are studying music under the church choirmaster, W. Idris Owen. Nine of them now hold certificates of different grades from the Royal School of Music; four of these started their music in a beginner's class held at the school and now each hold two certificates. We hope that these will use their musical ability in later years to be of service to others.

Our autumn term ended by the performance of a pupils' programme to which the parents were invited. So great was the interest that the larger hall hired for the occasion was absolutely crowded. We hope that as well as influencing the children under our care, we may also be able to interest the non-Adventist parents in the special truths that we hold so dear.

We are of good courage and happy to have a part in God's work of training the youth. It is a real pleasure in doing a difficult task, to have such a loyal band of faithful co-workers whose hearts are in the work they are called upon to do. F. E. WHITE.

of giving preference to the *Review and Herald* and *Youth's Instructor*; *Lesson Pamphlets*, *Mission Quarterlies*, etc. Old subscriptions will naturally take preference, and we shall accept new subscriptions only on the understanding that they can be included on the import licence.

May we suggest that persons

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not now passing on used copies of their periodicals preserve them, as we may have to work out a scheme whereby they are circulated and passed on to members not now obtaining them.

PROPHECY AND PRESENT CONDITIONS

Those interested in the prophecies of the book of Revelation which relate to prohibitive ordinances in the last days will like to observe the following comments on the fate of the Protestant churches in Spain:

"In the great cities, the situation is bearable, thanks to the numerous foreign enterprises which sometimes help the Protestants: in the country, however, there are even peasants who are not able to sell their products because they are Protestants, not to speak of labourers and office workers who cannot find work and do not receive Government assistance if they are known to be Protestants. Any Spaniard who wishes to enter the civil service or to obtain the school-leaving certificate is obliged to submit to instruction in the Roman Catholic religion. Every soldier or officer on military service is obliged to attend mass. The same conditions apply to those in hospital. . . . In the country, the prohibition of the Bible was carried to the extent of confiscating the copies owned by individuals."—*International Christian Press and Information Service*, No. 1, January, 1942.

As far as Protestant churches are concerned no sign must be shown outside indicating that it is a church, no propaganda can be made, only members of the church are allowed to attend, and the authorities reserve the right to examine at any moment the passports of those in attendance at the church.

CHURCH UNITY

THE Roman Catholic Church held a Week of Christian Unity, January 18th to 25th and published a Call to Prayer from which the following paragraph is taken:

"Let us pray!—That the Holy Spirit may grant the Holy Father divine light and strength, so that he may awaken or stimulate among all the Christians entrusted to him, Catholic and non-Catholic, the acute suffering of separation,

a real penitence and amendment, an ardent and peace-making prayer."—*Ibid.*, No. 2, January, 1942.

It will be observed that the one basis upon which the Roman Catholic world envisages Christian unity is through the penitence of the Protestant world and its acceptance of the unchanging principles of Rome! This is further substantiated by an article entitled, "The Stone which the

Builders Reject" in the *Tablet* of March 21, 1942:

"It would make at once an immense difference if statesmen, in their public speeches and private acts could come to see the Catholic Church as the divinely appointed custodian of revealed truth, and as the proper authority to lay down the moral principles which must govern relations between States and the relations of States to their subjects."

H. W. LOWE.

SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

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Ipswich Makes History

IPSWICH could boast an ancient fame even before the son of one of its honest butchers astonished the inhabitants by becoming the Cardinal-Premier of England. But the magnificent Wolsey surely was never prouder of his many attainments than were three of this town's modern children—Cynthia Hammond, Edward Fox, and Ronald Hammond of their newly-acquired "Friend" badges.

Pastor E. R. Warland favoured the Ipswich church with a full week-end of inspiring and spiritual counsel. From his encouraging missionary lantern lecture on the Friday evening, to his earnest appeal when conducting the ordinances on the Sabbath afternoon, we felt that the Lord, indeed, was ministering to us through His servant.

The Ipswich Sabbath-school is small in numbers, but large in vision, and determined in purpose. Our enterprising superintendent, Brother Riches, was able to announce that we had passed our by no means meagre quarter's goal with yet two Sabbaths to go. Whereupon, Brother Warland was heard to remark, howbeit "sotto voce," with unerring departmental acumen, that he hoped our Ingathering performance would be equally satisfactory! We hope so, too!

The "high spot" of the week-end was, of course, the investing, on Sabbath morning of our three

Junior Missionary Volunteers, with the full and high dignity of "Friend." And as we saw their beaming faces, and their justifiable pride in accomplishment, we felt somehow as though we had all been decorated! Surely the church's richest treasure is her children.

After we had bidden a reluctant good-bye to Brother Warland, and were recalling the blessings of his visit, we could think of no better way of summing them all up than in the words of Scripture "that Sabbath was an high day." E. COX.

Wedding Bells

SHAW-MULLARKEY.—In glorious sunshine on March 8, 1942, Brother Leslie Shaw and Sister Gabrielle Mullarkey were united in marriage in the Wesleyan Chapel at Folkestone by the writer. Government restrictions prevented some relatives and friends from being able to come into the town for the occasion. There was, however, a goodly number present. Brother Shaw has spent several years in the Advent ministry and his bride has had considerable preparation in our Newbold College. In a short time they are to commence an evangelical campaign in the Bristol area. The Advent family not only wish them all happiness in their united lives but also much success for the Lord in their united labours.

W. W. ARMSTRONG.

NORTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

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Blessings in Bombed Birmingham

Now that the time has come for us to leave the Birmingham district, a retrospect of the Lord's blessings here will, we feel sure, be of interest.

It was toward the close of 1938 that we took up responsibilities in the greater Birmingham district, which then comprised the churches at Handsworth, South Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Bromsgrove. About a year ago a change was made, whereby Wolverhampton became attached to another district, and Worcester and Kidderminster were added to the greater Birmingham area.

We are happy to report that, as a result of our labours in this district, twenty-two souls have been added to the churches, and that six others are fully instructed, and awaiting baptism. This has been accomplished without budgets, and with the help of a Bible-worker for only a few months of the period under review.

Another cause for gratitude to God is the fact that the church at South Birmingham, after many years of wandering, has at last found a permanent meeting-place. This building was formerly a kindergarten school, and had been bombed. After preliminary repairs had been effected, many willing hands, both of members and friends, transformed what had been a dirty, draughty, and undesirable place, into an attractive and cosy place of worship.

Brother E. R. Wells and his family, who laboured many years in London, have rendered very acceptable service in the churches of the district, both in the taking of services, and also by their musical talents.

We would like to pay tribute to the loyal co-operation of all the churchmembers. Rarely have we worked more harmoniously anywhere. In the matter of attendances, we are told that, at Handsworth the attendances are the highest for twenty-five years.

Regarding finance, we are happy to report that the tithes and offerings from this church have, on several recent occasions, led the whole North England Conference, and the Harvest Ingathering total for 1931 was the highest for many years, the young people being specially active in this good work.

We are happy to leave the interest in the Birmingham district in the care of Pastor L. Murdoch, who expects to conduct strong evangelistic work. We believe much will yet be accomplished in this great city.

May we ask an interest in the prayers of all our members, for the Severn Valley district, to which we are now transferred, that God may bless the seed-sowing, and give us an abundant harvest.

HAROLD W. McCROW.

LITERATURE MINISTRY

Our Hour of Opportunity

JUDGING from the people with whom we associate when travelling, or in business or pleasure, there seems to be a greater interest for more reading these days. Men and women of every class, in uniform or out of it, are seen busy scanning newspapers, books, magazines, any and every kind of literature at their disposal.

Fire-watchers, A.R.P. personnel, tens of thousands of people who spend several hours a week or day "standing by" are reading more and more. Librarians are issuing books faster and to more people than at any time before.

We are told that the public demand is increasingly for non-fiction and the Government departments are asking for many of the more serious volumes to be widely circulated. Owing to the rationing of paper, the shortage of skilled labour for printing and bookbinding, publishers are finding it more and more difficult to

meet the ever-growing demands.

Surely this comes as a mighty challenge to colporteurs, conference workers, Seventh-Day Adventists everywhere. IT IS OUR HOUR OF OPPORTUNITY! Tracts in church cupboards, literature put by, old magazines, books and periodicals on shelves, could be wisely and prayerfully distributed now. Let them wing their way into every home within your territory. Loan some of those large books to your relatives, friends, or neighbours. There is a renewed interest to-day in the Bible. Let us go out and discover and arouse interest in those things that affect the multitudes and their eternal salvation; for "the day of the Lord is . . . nigh at hand."

A. W. COOK.

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SUCCESSFUL work for Christ depends not so much on numbers, or talent as upon pureness of purpose, the true simplicity of earnest, dependent faith.—"The Desire of Ages, page 370.

UNTIL THE DAY BREAK

HANCOCK.—Sister E. A. Hancock, who returned from Watford just over six months ago to her native city of Exeter, passed away on Tuesday, March 3, 1942, after a short illness. She was eighty years of age. It is about twenty-seven years since our sister first accepted this Advent message. Her faithfulness to the last leads us to believe that on the resurrection morn she will come forth with the redeemed. After a brief service in the home of her son, conducted by Pastor A. J. Mustard and assisted by the writer, she was laid to rest to await the voice of the Life-giver.

R. H. BAINBRIDGE.

Advertisements

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

WANTED, kind, capable, trustworthy person, to act as housekeeper to invalid lady. Nurse visits daily. Modern house. Comfortable home. £1 weekly. Adventist preferred. Write: 9 Garston Drive, Watford, Herts.

SUNSET CALENDAR

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Lon'n Not'm Car'ff Edin Bel't
April 17th 8.59 9.06 9.12 9.22 9.29
April 24th 9.10 9.18 9.22 9.36 9.43

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