



Studies in the Life of the Church

GRANTED a body of worshippers who, as shown in our last study, gather to worship God "in spirit and in truth," it becomes essential, if worship is to be true service, to find the right leadership. Local church activities find a focal point in the elder. Assuming there is no conference minister, the elder directs, through the church board, the entire work of the church. He therefore must be chosen with care.

He may occupy an eminent position in the community, and he may be generally successful in life. These, however, are not the qualities for which he is selected as elder. Primarily, consecration of life and some gifts of leadership are required in him. (*General Conference Church Manual*, page 24).

Scripturally, the standard required for an elder is high. He "must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without." (See also *British Church Manual*, page 17).

Beyond education and the ability to preach and organize, an elder must be morally and spiritually free from reproach.

2. Selecting a Leader

By H. W. LOWE

Reproach may come from past actions even though God and the church may have forgiven a man. Therefore, no person of whom moral delinquency is known can ever make a strong church leader, either as an elder or in any other prominent position. It is better not to recommend for such positions persons whose efficiency in ministry and exhortation is likely to be limited by memory of the past.

Elders, like all other officers, are elected for one year only. After an elder is first elected, he is ordained to his office by the laying on of hands by an ordained minister. This ordination is done at the request of the conference committee, and no ordained minister should perform this service without conference consultation. If an elder is re-elected another year re-ordination is not necessary, but a local elder's ordination does not hold good for eldership in another church. If the need arises, another church, may, at the recommendation of the conference committee, elect a neighbouring church elder, but this procedure is not usual.

The church elder needs sound common sense and balanced judgment. Every department of church life demands his support and active help. He will be every member's friend and helper in

God, but partiality in friendship will be denied him if he is to be a strong leader.

He will see that business meetings, boards, and committees are held regularly as required; that specific plans and objectives are held before the church in every department of its life. The preaching services, whether conducted by himself or by men working with him, will have one objective only—the saving of souls through the Lord Jesus Christ. His whole programme must be fervently evangelical and contagiously enthusiastic, whether dealing with young or old.

Punctuality will be something of a pride with our ideal elder, and he will never forget that punctuality touches two parts of any meeting—the beginning and the ending! One hour is generally enough for local church services. Let down on that and your attendances will go down, too.

Where the conference locates a minister in a church area, the local elder will assist loyally in general plans, carrying much of the church responsibility, and these two should form a smooth-working, co-operative spiritual team to the glory of God—the minister responsible to the conference committee, and the elder to the local church and its board.

A local elder does not perform baptism, nor can he solemnize marriages. He presides at communion services if no ordained minister is present.

A good local leader is never the kind to shirk work in the

church, but he will know how to use every ounce of talent among the members and officers, and to delegate duties and responsibilities. He must be a student, above all, of the Word.

Lastly, every phase of our truth finds positive support in his life and words, and every denominational activity—evangelism, foreign missions, Sabbath-school, Young People, Home Missionary, children, etc.—finds a valiant friend and father in our loyal consecrated, energetic church elder. He certainly needs our prayers and support. May God bless men of his ilk the world over, for the church thrives or languishes in exactly the measure that its local leaders measure up to these Christian ideals. (See 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5; 2:1, 7, 8; 1 Peter 5:1, 2).

Notes from the Union President

ANOTHER BRITISH MISSIONARY APPOINTED

PASTOR STANLEY BULL has been granted travelling priority for the purpose of accepting the appointment as Headmaster of a large Secondary School in Kingston, Jamaica. We hope his family will join him later. This is an important appointment in which we are glad to have a British missionary. Our prayers and good wishes will certainly be with this worthy family.

AMERICAN SOLDIERS

SOME American soldiers still find difficulty in locating Adventist churches in this country, due perhaps to the fact that the central authorities in London do not always communicate with the small provincial places where there are American soldiers. It is suggested that the ministers in towns and cities where it is known there are American troops, should call at the American Red Cross leaving church addresses and times of meetings, with the assurance of a welcome to any Adventist soldiers in the area.

Incidentally, where there are a number of soldiers of any nationality attending our churches may we repeat the suggestion that the

officers should arrange a rota so that entertainment is shared among members able to offer it.

OPENING AND CLOSING DOORS

OUR members will not fail to notice the new trend toward recognition of religion in Russia. This liberal tendency is all to the good, and doubtless means that a land in which there are vast needs for the Advent message will be opened in God's providence. We should also note that the Russian Orthodox Church has strong links with the Anglican Church, and that there may therefore be some developments when the Reunion movement makes further progress.

The State Department at Washington has declined to issue passports for new workers wishing to travel to Central and South America. This is a blow to Protestant missionary organizations, our own included, who are protesting to the authorities.

It will be recalled that some time ago the Roman Catholic Church protested vigorously that Protestant missionaries were intruders in South America, where the Roman Catholic religion has almost universal sway. Rome once again shows that she claims every liberty to go where she wishes with her teachings, but is not prepared to grant the same facilities to Protestants.

We do not suggest that there is necessarily any connection between the passport difficulty and the Roman Catholic attitude in South America, but it looks rather ominous.

THE MODERN DISPERSION

THERE is a tendency to regard war as an unmixed evil, whereas the Lord always overrules to the end that good as well as evil comes upon the world in such times. When our youth are scattered all over the country and the world they should not think that they are beyond God's ken. Rather they should realize God has a purpose in their location and environment. If Christ is with us there is a purpose and a meaning to life and location. It is the man that matters and not his setting.

AGRICULTURAL NOTES

OUR Newbold College financial statement for the period June 1

to August 31, 1943, indicates satisfactory operating gains in all the departments with the exception of the Textile.

We are glad to know that the farm has had a bountiful harvest including the following:

60 tons of hay
60 tons of straw
20 tons of oats
50 tons of potatoes
60 tons of mangolds
10 tons of swedes

The Newbold garden has had a good year with its tomatoes and other market-garden produce. We are glad that the labours of Brethren Todd Murdoch, H. Crocker, and their assistants have been so blessed.

We also compliment our gardener, W. D. Proudley, at the Stanboroughs Hospital on winning some eleven awards in local agricultural exhibitions recently.

WHAT WAR DOES

A PRIVATE letter from the Home Missionary Department of the General Conference, contains the following paragraph:

"Just yesterday word was brought to us in the General Conference Committee that Elders Lake and Youngberg, though in prison camp in Borneo, are in fair health and trusting in God. The long list of over one hundred of our other missionaries, many of whom we do not hear from, we of course constantly remember in prayer."

The General Conference Home Missionary Report for March 31, 1943, indicates that the only Union able to report in Northern Europe is our own, which recorded the following interesting figures:

Bible Readings and Cottage meetings	2,000
Missionary Visits	5,500
Persons taken to Sabbath-school	600
Persons helped in various ways	9,800
Treatments given	1,400
Hours of Christian Help Work	8,400
Articles of Clothing distributed	991
Pieces of literature distributed	104,000
Missionary letters written	3,000

The only discouraging figure
BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

we had to report was that only thirty-one per cent of our members report in the Home Missionary meetings. H. W. LOWE.

North England Conference

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Telephone: Nottingham 66312

News from Grimsby

WE had a very inspiring and helpful service in Grimsby on Sabbath, September 18th, when five young folk consecrated their lives to the Master's service and were invested as "Friends."

Their contribution to the service proved to those who were privileged to listen, that they had been busy during the past months.

From Ulceby, where England's oldest Advent church is still a monument of beauty and service, Sylvia, Ted, and John Marshall gave of their best, reciting Psalm twenty-three and reading essays on "The Book I Like Best," which had gained one hundred per cent marks. June and Ray from the Grimsby company, recited the Ten Commandments and John fourteen.

These were not all the good things. Pastor Howard had another very happy ceremony to perform and our hearts rejoiced as we received into fellowship again, at her own wish, a former member who through great trials and hardship had slipped away for a time. Yes, it pays to keep in touch with those who wander, to help win them back.

Brother and Sister Anderson of Cleethorpes brought along their children and the youngest was dedicated to the Lord.

The previous week two of the young people had gone back to school and taken another with them to start his training. May their assurance remain undimmed as they work at their studies that He who has begun the work in them will also finish it if they are faithful.

Last summer one of these young folk canvassed *Bible Certainties* in a row of houses not far

from his home. As a result of an air raid five houses in that street were reduced to a heap of rubble. The occupants of the two middle houses of the five had each bought a copy of *Bible Certainties*. While all in the other three houses were killed, the inmates of these two, one of which got the direct hit, were safe. Some weeks afterward, we were able to contact one of these dear souls. She told us that nothing was saved of their furniture and clothes. One or two books torn to pieces had been found, but the *Bible Certainties*, so recently purchased was recovered not even soiled. We were very happy to know this and told her we were sure God had preserved this book because He wanted her to read it.

May this assure others that God is still using the printed page to show men His truth and encourage many of His servants to take them to the homes and follow up these contacts.

E. M. BAILDAM,
Church Clerk.

Wedding Bells

TOOLEY-HARLIN.—The Anglo-American alliance was further strengthened on Monday, September 20, 1943, when First-Class Private Herman Oliver Tooley and Miss Hylda Harlin were united in marriage. The ceremony was conducted by the writer in the Manchester Seventh-Day Adventist church in the presence of a large congregation of relatives, friends, and members.

Mr. Tooley is an Adventist hailing from Williams, Oregon, U.S.A., and now serving somewhere in England in a medical unit of the American Air Force. Miss Hylda Harlin is one of our esteemed members in Manchester engaged in Civil Nursing.

Nurse Mary Tweedie, one of our Stockport members, was bridesmaid, and Mr. James Shaw, a brother-in-law of the bride, was best man. Mr. Edgar Halstead, A.R.C.O., officiated at the organ.

We all tender our heartiest good wishes to the happy couple, praying especially that God will grant His loving protection to our brother so that when the shades of war are past he and his bride will be able to enter more fully into the joys of home-life and the blessings of united service for God. W. R. A. MADGWICK.

UNTIL THE DAY BREAK

WILSEN.—The Newcastle church has lost by death one of its oldest members, both in age and membership. Sister A. Wilsen fell asleep on Sabbath August 14, 1943, at the age of eighty-eight years. She accepted the truth as a result of the labours of Brother Dan Parsons and was baptized by Elder Andross in 1905. Our sister had remained faithful to the truth all those years, and although unable to come to church for some time she was always interested in its activities. Our sympathy goes out to Sister Brewis, who had attended faithfully to the needs of our sister so well. Pastor B. Kinman took the service when Sister Wilsen was laid to rest in the Heaton Cemetery in the presence of a good company of churchmembers. CHURCH CLERK.

WRIGHT.—Sister E. Wright fell asleep on Sunday, August 22, 1943. Our sister had been in very poor health for a long time, but she died trusting in her Saviour. Pastor B. Kinman and Brother M. Musgrave assisted in the last rites. They spoke words of comfort to the bereaved husband and daughter. Our late sister was laid to rest in the West Road Cemetery in the sure and certain hope of Jesus coming again. Sister Wright accepted present truth under the labours of Pastor Kinman, though she had earlier known of the truth from her mother, a faithful member of the Newcastle church. She was accepted into church fellowship by vote in December, 1942. CHURCH CLERK.

TOOLEY.—The South Birmingham church with deep regret announce the death of Sister Emily Topley who fell asleep in Jesus on August 27, 1943, at Allesley at the home of Adventist friends whom she loved. Sister Topley was seventy-eight years of age. She accepted the message under the labours of Pastor G. D. King and was baptized about twelve years ago. She was steadfast in her faith in the soon-coming Saviour whom she loved, and a faithful witness to Him. Sister Topley was laid to rest at Yardley Cemetery by Brother Edwards, assisted by the church elder, Brother E. R. Wells in the presence of her sister, two nieces, and friends, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy. Members of the Adventist church were also present. We look for the glad time when partings and death shall be no more and our dear sister will hear the call of the Life-giver. M. GOODALL, Church Clerk.

WEBB.—With deep regret we announce that our Sister Webb died quite suddenly on September 4, 1943, at the age of eighty-one, and was later laid to rest in the Edmonton Cemetery, where she awaits the call of her Master at His return. A good number of friends and relatives were present to pay their last respects to one so much loved and admired for her cheerfulness and faith. Sister Webb was baptized in 1912 by Pastor W. Maudsley at Tottenham, London, having been introduced to the Advent message by Sister Cawthorne. Our sincerest sympathy is extended to her sister and brothers, who particularly will miss her. R. A. VINCE.

Acknowledgments

The British Union Conference acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the Lord's tithe, £4. 13s. 0d., from "G.E."

THE Editor acknowledges with thanks the receipt of £8. 10s. 0d., "the Lord's tithe."

News from Packwood

WHEN war was declared four years ago, many feared that the College would be forced to close. While we could not at that time foresee the vicissitudes through which we were to pass, we can now look back and say with humble gratitude, "Thus far hath God led us." In this the fifth year of war, the enrolment of the College has exceeded our expectations and we have an earnest body of young people with us.

It is always a pleasure to welcome back to the College those teachers who have spent a busy summer in the field. This year we are especially glad to list among our number Pastor J. M. Howard. He is teaching the class in Evangelism and about twenty of the senior students have enrolled for this important subject. Brother Howard is also offering an advanced course on the influence of Christian literature through the centuries. Twenty-five pupils are benefiting from this study.

We are pleased that Pastor W. T. Bartlett is again with us. He is teaching four Bible classes: Homiletics, Christian Evidences, Systematic Theology, and Prophets.

We are thankful that God has answered our prayers on behalf of Brother Schuil and that his health is greatly improved. All are pleased to see him in the classroom again.

We are endeavouring to provide a well-balanced and efficient teaching programme. Students are being trained for the ministry, the Bible-work, and the teaching profession. The courses of study are so arranged that pupils are

prepared for examinations of the University of London.

It is an encouraging indication of our increasing interest in Christian education to see many students of secondary school age attend our own schools. For the benefit of younger students, classes are being offered in the early afternoon in addition to the morning session. This gives the secondary school students a more balanced programme of study and work. Realizing that an education is not complete unless it provides for the spiritual, mental, and physical wellbeing of the students, we have placed in our curriculum this year a course in Physical Training which is being entered into with enthusiasm.

The Wednesday morning chapel is set apart for prayer. During this hour, teachers and students lay aside their regular duties and spend the time in prayer and meditation. The two Friday evening testimony meetings thus far have been outstanding seasons of spiritual refreshing. We wish the parents of our young people could "listen in" and hear their boys and girls testifying to God's goodness and giving their lives in consecration—some for the first time.

Our own schools build sterling qualities into the young people, the results of which are seen in this life, but the greater results will not be apparent till we reach the other land. Knowing that our members are deeply interested in Newbold College, we here present a list of the students and places from which they have come.

W. G. MURDOCH.

A Fine Enrolment

Abbott, I.
Ashmore, B.
Ashley, A.
Atkins, J.
Baildam, D.
Bailey, R.
Baird, J.
Baird, E.
Barnes, E.
Benefield, V.
Browell, B.
Chase, O.
Chase, E.
Cooper, A.
Cooper, A. H.
Cooper, J.
Crutchfield, G.
Dabson, M.
Dabson, D.
Darbyshire, R.

Kettering
Birmingham
Barnsley
Bournemouth
Grimsby
Hutton (Essex)
Kyles of Bute
Kyles of Bute
Newcastle
Bournemouth
Newcastle
Lowestoft
Wallasey
Utterby
Utterby
Hawarden
London
Hastings
Hastings
London

Davidson, T.
Dawrant, W.
Dibble, A.
Dibble, O.
Dickinson, R.
Elias, A.
Ellis, I.
Emm, G.
Emm, C.
Freeman, J.
Fretten, B.
Gregory, E.
Gregory, J.
Hall, L.
Hardy, G.
Harrison, J.
Healey, R.
Hopson, D.
Hopson, I.
Howard, I.

Belfast
Stoke
Birmingham
Birmingham
Newcastle
Glasgow
Norwich
Andover
Andover
Llandysul
London
Tonbridge
Watford
Nottingham
Bedford
London
Rugby
London
Southampton

Howard, V.
Jacques, B.
Joyce, D.
Kinman, H.
Knowlson, C.
Lambert, P.
Larson, J.
Logan, H.
Logan, E.
Lowe, D.
Lowe, D.
Mason, E.
Mason, H.
McClements, P.
Morgan, J.
Musgrave, A.
Newell, R.
Norman, A.
Ogle, D.
Pearse, F.
Pickering, M.
Reynolds, J.
Rigby, J.
Roberts, E.
Robertson, B.
Robson, C.
Roe, M.
Roe, C.
Rosier, K.
Ruddick, A.
Savage, B.
Sharp, M.
Standen, L.
Stendall, M.
Sturgess, E.
SurrIDGE, D.
Sweet, P.
Timothy, A.
Trafford, A.
Tweedie, T.
Tyler, M.
Vigors, H.
Vine, K.
Weir, P.
Weston, P.
Whiting, J.
Wilkinson, P.
Wilkinson, L.
Williams, I.
Williams, M.
Willoughby, M.
West, J.
Wood, F.

Norwich
Watford
Huddersfield
Woking
Huntingdon
Leigh-on-Sea
Sheffield
Glasgow
Glasgow
Derby
Derby
London
Enfield
Daventry
Newcastle
Plymouth
Bournemouth
Bournemouth
Newcastle
Plymouth
Newcastle
Coventry
Watford
Manchester
Rugby
Newcastle
Leeds
Leeds
Birmingham
Barnsley
Huntingdon
Falkirk
Watford
Nottingham
Reading
Nottingham
Bristol
Gt. Yarmouth
Wallasey
Manchester
Shenfield
Middlesborough
Bournemouth
Belfast
Grimsby
Bournemouth
Grimsby
North Shields
Rhyl
Rhyl
Watford
London
Manchester

Advertisements

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

URGENTLY required, for campaign work: *Gospel in Song, Christ in Song*. Write stating prices to: E.P., "Cintra," Battledown Approach, Cheltenham.

To busy housewives: Rustless saucepan cleaners—sixpence each, post free, from: Mrs. Cashmore, 83 Linwood Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, 21.

WANTED, by old-age pensioner, quiet post in or near Watford. Hours 7 a.m. till 3 p.m. Full board and bed-sitting room in comfortable home. Wages 15/- per week. Sabbath free. Good cook, etc. Write in first place to Mrs. Windover, 2 Granville House, Granville Place, London, W. 1.

SUNSET CALENDAR

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	Lon'n	Not'm	Car'ff	Edin	Bel't
Oct. 15th	6.09	6.11	6.21	6.15	6.21
Oct. 22nd	5.54	5.56	6.07	5.58	6.11

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