



## Studies in the Life of the Church

WHEN Jesus asked the erstwhile blind man, "Dost thou believe on the Son of God?" (John 9:35), He was answering affirmatively another question—"Does it matter what a man believes?" A knowledge of Christ and of God is the beginning of belief, and from that point we are bound to proceed to a statement of our doctrinal beliefs.

Every officer and member subscribes to certain beliefs which are necessarily held as the basis of church membership. Such beliefs are found opposite the numbers below. They are mainly taken from our *Baptismal Manual*, supplied to every person at baptism.

The comments under the numbers represent amplifications which, in some cases may not constitute tests of membership, but they are nevertheless the denominational beliefs held by every strong Adventist.

The measure of our allegiance to these teachings will be the measure of the church's and the individual's blessing during 1944.

### 1. God is Our Creator.

*Comment.* This means to us that creation was miraculous and in literal twenty-four hour days; hence no Adventist can be either an evolutionist or a modernist; and certainly this teaching forever forbids atheism.

### 2. Jesus Christ is Our Only Saviour.

*Comment.* Jesus is not just a great Teacher to us. He is our divine Redeemer.

### 3. The Holy Spirit is Our Comforter.

## No. 8. The Beliefs of the Church

By H. W. LOWE

### 4. Salvation is by Grace through Faith.

*Comment.* Grace is the helping hand of God, undeserved by man. Faith is the act of a sinful man, whereby he accepts God's forgiveness, is justified and sanctified in Christ's righteousness.

### 5. The Bible is our Rule of Faith.

*Comment.* In the Word all our beliefs are found and proved, and here our life is built upon the solid rock of Christian principles. The prophetic portions of this Word reveal clearly that the second coming of Christ is near at hand, and this doctrine is a purifying hope to every believer.

### 6. Our Standard of Conduct is the Ten Commandments and the Example of Jesus.

*Comment.* No one command is more important than any other. They were all for all men, they sum up our complete duty to God and man, and were fully exemplified in the life of our Lord. Only a person saved by the grace of Christ can truly observe God's law.

### 7. The Fourth Commandment refers to God's Sabbath from Sunset Friday to Sunset Saturday.

*Comment.* Under all conditions a loyal Adventist will refrain from all secular work on the Sabbath.

True Sabbath-keeping also means a continual rest from sin, and the enjoyment of peace with God.

### 8. The Holy Spirit provides Gifts for the Work of God's Church.

*Comment.* These "spiritual gifts" are referred to in 1 Corinthians 12:1, and are named in verses 8-10. The work of Mrs. White was due to the gift of prophecy—the same spirit that worked in all God's prophets. This gift, like all others, is neither an addition to nor a supplanting of God's Word, but is given to exalt, to explain and to glorify that Word in the life of the church.

### 9. Our Bodies are God's Temple and it is Important to Glorify God in all our Physical, Mental, and Spiritual Life.

*Comment.* The Bible teaches that unclean foods were forbidden, and clean foods permitted to man after the flood. (Lev. 11.) But the original ideal diet was non-carnivorous. (Gen. 1:29.) Adventists never use alcohol or tobacco, nor are they drug addicts. They avoid the habit of using stimulating foods and drinks (such as condiments, tea, and coffee), though they do not seek to standardize diet throughout the world, nor do they force their opinions on others.

True health reform includes a love of fresh air, cleanliness of mind and body, regular exercise and sleep, and a generally constructive and spiritual attitude to life.

10. *Man is Mortal and after the Second Advent of Christ will be raised either to Immortal Life, or to a Judgment of Annihilation.*

*Comment.* We do not believe that man is conscious after death. He sleeps in unconsciousness, awaiting Christ's return to reward men according to their works. There will be no such thing as everlasting torment.

11. *Baptism is by Immersion.*

*Comment.* Public, not private, baptism by immersion, is the practice among us, and a strict profession of faith and conformity in life is required prior to this act.

12. *The Communion Service comprises both the Supper and the Ordinances of Humility as recorded in John 13:1-17.*

*Comment.* Participation in this service implies unity among Christians. The act of feet washing, like baptism, is devoid of virtue in itself, and must betoken a humble, Christlike spirit, devoid of all pride.

13. *The Tithing Principle and Free-will Offerings are God's Method of Supporting His Work on Earth.*

*Comment.* Every good Adventist gives one-tenth of his income to the Lord for the support of the ministry. Beyond this we give free-will offerings as the Lord prospers us. These practices insure unselfishness, love of humanity, remembrance of God's missionary programme and our service therein.

14. *Worldly Deportment, Dress, and Recreation are unbecoming in Christian People.*

*Comment.* While we do not believe in being old-fashioned, we do not follow the habits of an unbelieving world in dress, manners, conversation. Our words should be pure and our motives clean. Nor do we dare go where Christ would not go. If He were here to-day, He would not be found in dance halls, cabarets, theatres, nor would He enjoy questionable company.

15. *Loyalty to Dogma implies Loyalty to Our Organization.*

*Comment.* What we believe about religion finds expression in our personal and church loyalty. A man does not believe in Christ if he perjures himself, or back-

bites, or criticizes his fellow believers. The fearful penalty for these things is set forth in 1 Cor. 11:29.

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## Notes from the Union President

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### CONGRATULATIONS!

WE are glad to hear that Dr. F. G. Strong, now in private practice in Lincolnshire, has obtained his M.B., B.S. degree.

E. E. White, the Headmaster of our Stanboroughs Secondary School, has passed Part 1 (theory) of his M.Sc. degree, which, in addition to his heavy load in founding the new Secondary School, and acting as church elder, is a creditable performance.

We are always glad when our members can obtain higher education, and at the same time maintain their fundamental allegiance to the Advent message, and we hope for a larger number of this type of worker as the days go by.

### INCREASING DIFFICULTIES

WE are sometimes apt to think that our difficulties are greater than those confronted elsewhere in the proclamation of the Advent message. The following paragraph from one of the senior General Conference leaders indicates that what we are encountering here in our public evangelism is slowly seizing hold of other parts of the world:

"The problems in America are now more perplexing than heretofore. Some of our ablest evangelists are finding it increasingly difficult because of the war pressure, staggered hours, and the intensity of the times that make it impossible to conduct our evangelistic efforts as in former times."

These things should bind us together in a greater loyalty and determination to press on with God's work, as the servant of the Lord has told us, under increasing difficulties and multiplying problems.

### FIFTY-TWO WEEKS OF PRAYER

WE have just concluded what seems to have been a good Week of Prayer everywhere. We must

now be sure that the spirit of prayer remains with us and is accompanied by the spirit of service during 1944. It is not much good having one special day or week of prayer if such occasions do not leave us permanently better in life, and more fruitful in service.

In *Desire of Ages*, pages 20, 21, we read that service is the law of life, and it also is the law of Christ's kingdom (pages 550 and 551). Service is also stated to bring a great blessing upon the believer (page 339).

A people who have spent a week in special prayer will find multitudes of opportunities during the coming year to pray more and to serve better. Let us not think in the terms of one special occasion of prayer and service, but of a constantly prayerful attitude of life, and of the joy in abundant service for our Master.

### A WONDERFUL SHIP-LOAD

THE now famous ship *Gripsholm* recently made her second voyage to the Orient to bring out American and Canadian citizens who were stranded there when the war started. Among these people was quite a large number of our missionaries who had been for long in internment. A complete list of names is not yet available and we do not know who from the Philippine Islands will be on board. It is rather a wonderful ship-load to cross the Pacific back to liberty and freedom again.

### MINISTERIAL READING COURSE

THE following books have been selected for our 1944 Ministerial Reading Course, and we urge our workers to place their orders with their conference office in the usual way (numbers are somewhat limited). Such books are exceedingly difficult to obtain to-day, and they are offered under the usual advantageous terms to all our workers:

*The Parables and Metaphors of our Lord*, by Campbell Morgan.

*Jericho's Judgment*, by W. J. Beazley.

*Roman Dogma and Scriptural Truth*, by Alexander Stewart.

Electives—Either *An Introduction to Astronomy*, by R. H. Barker, or a book, or books, to the same value (12/6.)

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

#### ACCIDENTAL DEATH

WE regret to hear the news that Lucy Delhove who was travelling by motor car with her father Elder D. E. Delhove and her mother, was killed when their car fell over a steep embankment en route for Songa Mission. Apparently Elder and Mrs. Delhove, known to many in this country, are in hospital in the Belgian Congo, suffering from injuries. Our prayerful sympathy will be with this good pioneer missionary family.

#### INCOME TAX AND TITHE

ONCE or twice during the war we have been asked what our practice in regard to tithing is in the light of the now heavy compulsorily deducted income tax. We have taken fairly wide counsel among leaders of experience, and the General Conference Committee has studied the matter. As a result the following recommendation has been passed out to our people as the counsel of the denomination:

"WHEREAS, The Lord says that His people are to bring all the tithe into the storehouse and receive from Him a blessing, and,

"WHEREAS, Throughout our history the visible blessing of the Lord has rested upon this people as a result of their faithfulness in recognizing God's ownership by the payment of tithe, and,

"WHEREAS, it is our understanding that government taxes on earnings of salary whether withheld at the source or otherwise, should not in any way diminish that portion of the income which we recognize as being the Lord's, therefore,

"We ADVISE all our believers that according to our best knowledge we should adhere to the principle under which this denomination has carried forward its work from the early days, and not permit income tax or any other expense from the salary to affect that portion reserved by God for Himself. This would mean the paying of the tithe on the full salary and earnings before any deduction and payment has been made by way of income taxes."

#### DEATH OF DR. J. H. KELLOGG

THE *Daily Telegraph* of December 16th carried the following obituary notice:

"Dr. John Harvey Kellogg. At Battle Creek, Michigan, aged 91.

'Cereal king' and health food manufacturer; established Battle Creek Sanatorium; invented or improved much medical and surgical apparatus."

So ends a long story of professional brilliance, clouded at times by rather sad relationship to the Advent message. Our sympathies are with the bereaved relatives.

H. W. LOWE.

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## North England Conference

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

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### Barnsley Church Dedication

SABBATH, November 20th, was a great day in the history of our work in Yorkshire, for this particular Sabbath heralded the setting up in that county of yet another memorial to the truth, the lighting of another lamp which, by God's grace, should light many a straying and sin-sick traveller to the path of righteousness.

Happy indeed were all who gathered in a certain building in Barnsley on this long-looked-for day, on which we were going to give back to God in dedication that with which He has so graciously blessed us—a church building of our own.

We were glad to have with us on this happy occasion Pastor R. S. Joyce and Mr. A. Carey. Brethren and sisters from neighbouring towns, as well as a few from farther afield had also come to share with us the joy and blessing which we knew this day would bring. How much there was to fill our hearts with gladness as we sat quietly and surveyed the results of many months' labours—as we meditated upon the way in which we had been blessed with willing helpers, yes, and with funds with which to make this building our very own.

The day began with a prayer service, and as first one and then another evoked the blessing of God upon all that should take place that day, we had the assurance that His presence was already in our midst. Sabbath-

school followed and then the Dedicatory service. Brother Carey, in his address, presented to us a picture of the world mission field as compared with a walled city of biblical times, likening our churches to the watch towers of old, and stressing the important part played by the watchmen within. The chain of watch towers, he went on to tell us, which must stretch to all parts of the world, is gradually becoming more and more complete, and today we were gathered to witness the setting up of another link in that chain.

Pastor Joyce, before offering the dedication prayer, called for the renewed consecration of those present, and then as we stood to our feet, he offered to God these lives together with the building which would unitedly form the church here in Barnsley.

In the afternoon the church was filled to capacity as we gathered for the organization service. Each item played its part in increasing the spirit of praise and thanksgiving with which our hearts were so full. Pastor Joyce reviewed the tenets of our faith before proceeding with the building up of the membership into an organized church. The report of the nominating committee was read and dealt with, and our elder voiced the request that this newly formed church might be received into the sisterhood of churches.

We were sorry to see the shadow of sunset heralding the approaching close of Sabbath as we prayerfully sang the closing hymn, "Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord." Yes, this day to which we had been looking forward so long was almost at an end. But were not we witnessing the dawn of another day, an even more wonderful day—the laying of the foundations of a work for God in this town which should cause the Sun of righteousness to rise in many a heart? Already we had evidence of such blessed results, for in the course of the day, three dear souls had signified their desire to be admitted into fellowship.

Let us place ourselves unreservedly at His service and pray earnestly that He will energize us that we may accomplish much for Him. M. LETITIA ASHLEY.



Master Cordwainer Robert Jacques and his Court after the service in the Newport church.

## Civic Honour for Newport Church Elder

FOR well over a quarter of a century Mr. Robert Jacques has been in business in Newport and, like William Carey, while he mended and sold boots and shoes for a livelihood, he also served as the elder of the local Seventh-Day Adventist church.

The qualities one expects to find in an Adventist and particularly in a church elder, soon manifested themselves to the trading community and the public in general. Honesty and integrity, humility, readiness for service to God and man, all these and others were noted by a discerning public.

How our hearts warmed within us, as we heard testimony after testimony rendered by men in different walks of life in Mr. Jacques' own church on a recent Sunday afternoon.

It came about this way. This year Mr. Jacques was elected to the very high and distinguished position of Master Cordwainer of the Guild of Cordwainers, a shoemakers' guild which is a revival of the medieval guilds which stood for excellence of craftsmanship and integrity in every phase of business dealing.

It is a custom with the Cordwainers' Guild that the "master" for the year shall not only be "installed" at a fitting installation ceremony in London but also be honoured with a religious service in his own church. Accordingly

representations were made to the Newport church and a service provided for at which Mr. Jacques read his oration (delivered in London first), and the Court of Guildwainers, with representatives of many trades attended.

So the S.D.A. church in Newport was the scene of no little activity and of considerable ceremony and regalia. For the Mayor and Mayoress of Newport paid an official visit and gave a civic welcome to the Master Cordwainer and his Court. Mr. Jacques, attired in his gorgeous robe and golden chain of office, and the Court of Cordwainers, also in their robes, marched from Mr. Jacques' shop to the church, there to meet His Worship the Mayor.

The Lesson was read by the Clerk of the Court and the minister of the church (Mr. H. Humphries) served as chairman for the auspicious occasion.

The church was filled with "connected" people from London, Cardiff, Swansea, Birmingham, and many other places. And honour was given—justly given—to a faithful servant of the Lord Jesus of whose life and service the people in the world had come to bear witness. We were proud of Brother Jacques and of his good wife as they stood on that church platform surrounded by civic and other dignitaries.

One of the young people (Mrs.

Williams) rendered a solo which earned the commendation of Councillor G. W. Armstead, because of its "beautiful message."

Past-Master W. B. Noble asked the visitors to give a generous collection on behalf of the church's funds and this they did—nearly £9 being received. Later, the sisters of the church regaled the visitors, including the Mayor and Mayoress, with very liberal refreshments, bringing to a close a unique occasion and a simple yet reverent ceremonial service. The Lord was honoured that day and the humble Adventist church greatly exalted.

But this does not end the story. The B.B.C., learning of the Cordwainers' new Master, invited Mr. Jacques to tell the world the meaning of the Guild and the essential features of the Guild's purpose, character, and history. And so a double honour—local and national, befell church-elder Jacques, a humble and devout Seventh-Day Adventist.

S. G. HYDE.

### Church Services

ON and after January 1, 1944, the Romford church will meet as follows:

Sabbath, at St. Edward's School, Mercury Gardens, Market Place: Sabbath-school, 2.30 p.m., Preaching Service, 3.30 p.m.

Sundays, at 29 Poplar Street: 3.30 p.m. K. I. SARGANT, Church Clerk.

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

WANTED, young girls for light work. Sabbath privileges. Apply A. L. Huguenin, 96 Hatton Garden, London, E.C.1., or phone: Holborn 4663.

### SUNSET CALENDAR

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	Lon'n	Not'm	Car'ff	Edin	Bel't
Jan. 7th	5.07	5.05	5.20	4.56	5.15
Jan. 14th	5.17	5.15	5.30	5.07	5.25

### BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

Published fortnightly on Friday for the British Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists by the Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts.

Copy for next issue.—January 5th.

EDITOR: W. L. EMMERSON

Vol 48. No. 27. December 31, 1943