

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

A New Interest in the Ivory Coast

SOME thirty years ago a man named Harris travelled through the Gold Coast and the Ivory Coast calling on the people to turn from their idols to serve the true God. Under his influence thousands turned from heathenism. Some of the converts joined established churches, others held themselves apart and degenerated through lack of proper instruction.

Several hundred of these people, living on the shores of the lagoons of the Ivory Coast, came under the influence of a godly trader named Goodman, who came from Sierra Leone. Apparently he did not know their language, but he taught them to sing and pray in English and to reverence the large pulpit Bible which was obtained for the church. Scripture lessons were read regularly from this, though scarcely a word was understood. Goodman also taught them of tithe paying and some other Bible truths, which, however, they did not put into practise.

Long after Goodman's death these people faithfully continued their worship. They built a neat church of concrete and tiles, and one of their number, Zechariah, was chosen to lead out in the church services. Various people visited them from time to time and preached to them, but when they saw that the preaching was not based on the large Bible, they did not accept it.

By J. Clifford

Superintendent of the Gold Coast Mission

A few months ago our members at Tiemelkro heard of these people, and sent our native worker, Felix Donkor, to visit them. They compared his French Bible with their English Bible and found that both taught the same, and that all Felix taught them was based on the Word of God. They remembered, too, that much of what he taught was similar to that taught by Goodman years before,

1944

Youth Camps

YOUTH camps will be held at Packwood on the following dates:
Seniors (15-30 years) August 4th to 11th
Juniors (10-14 years) August 11th to 18th

Young people desiring to enjoy this ideal holiday in Warwickshire should see their local M.V. society leader or write *immediately* to the Conference M.V. Secretary (South: Pastor E. R. Warland; North: Pastor B. E. Sparrow; Missions: Pastor J. M. Howard) for information and application forms.

Only a limited number of places are now available. *Delay may mean disappointment.*

and although the Sabbath was new to them, some forty accepted it and began to observe it.

It was the privilege of my wife and I to spend five days with these people during our recent visit to the Ivory Coast. We found them to be a quiet, humble, God-fearing people, anxious to learn the truth from God's Word. They put aside their regular work in order that they might use the time of our stay in studying the Scriptures, and it was a pleasure to open the Scriptures to them, even though in my case it meant using two interpreters to give them the message in their own language. My wife was more fortunate, in that one of their number spoke French, and she was able to speak to them through him.

We found that through the work of Felix, they had already accepted many of the principles of our faith. Already 325 francs had been paid to him as tithe. The Sabbath was carefully observed. They were concerned about former members who had not followed the new light, and anxious to help them understand the truth. We are sending them more literature so that the one who reads French can instruct them further, but they, with other of our members in the Ivory Coast, are anxiously awaiting the coming of a missionary who can live among them and help them to a better understanding of the Bible they love.

Notes from the Union President

LOOKING BACK ON INGATHERING

HAD our 1944 Missions Campaign come a month later it would, to all human appearances, have brought us great difficulty and smaller results. There are now considerably disturbed conditions under the terror raids, and our public meetings in the south are reflecting the situation in even lower attendances. It was altogether providential that we changed to an early campaign.

The devotion of many of our people is amazing. Our Ingathering is a fitting tribute to the remnant church which professes high standards of truth and service.

LITERATURE FOR SOLDIERS

WE supply all Allied soldiers with the following reading matter: *The Sabbath-school Lesson Quarterly*, *Good Health*, *Present Truth*, and a fortnightly letter. When paper permits we send a copy of the *Progressive Volunteer*, but we have never had enough to send them our church paper, *THE MESSENGER*. We recently applied for paper enough to send them the last-mentioned, but were refused.

If our churches have spare or used copies, it would be helpful to offer a *MESSENGER* to any of these men and women attending our churches.

NEW HYMNBOOK

OUR recent notice that a new hymnbook is to be prepared was intended to invite suggestions, not inquiries as to prices and bindings. This work will take at least eighteen months. If you know of hymns or poems which have beauty of form and soundness of doctrine, pass your suggestions over to Pastor W. L. Emmerson.

CHURCH BUILDING PROGRAMME

UNDER war conditions the denomination has not pursued any campaign for erecting or purchasing church buildings. Prices are high for worthwhile buildings, and great care is necessary to insure against the purchase of old, too large, and expensive proper-

ties. Despite these things we have purchased several good buildings throughout the country, and the Union Committee recently agreed to make available this year a certain sum for Cardiff, and for North England, subject to the request of the respective church and field committees under the terms of our church building policy.

POST-WAR PLANNING

OUR members will be glad to know that plans for post-war development are being carefully studied. For example, it has already been agreed that the old College building at Watford shall be taken over as a boarding secondary school or academy. Also the Sanitarium will re-function as soon as the property is returned to us, and the Granose Factory and the Press are co-operating in helping this institution and in co-ordinating plans for post-war health work of various kinds. We also plan to start our Maternity home again. These matters of institutional rehabilitation, not forgetting our College, should be matters for prayer, as much as the more public soul-winning phases of our work. Much wisdom and ample funds will be called for in these matters.

H. W. LOWE.

South England Conference

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Road, Watford
Telephone: Garston (Watford)
2213-4.

Notes from the President

RADIO listeners and newspaper readers are now becoming familiar with the term, "Southern England." The Government has defined the area as "being that part of England south of a line running roughly from the Wash to the Bristol Channel." Interestingly enough, that line is the boundary line of the South England Conference.

Once again many of our believers in South England, along with the rest of the population in the area, are passing through terrifying experiences. Some have

lost their homes in the new "terror raids." This is a time when in the midst of "the terror by night" and "the arrow that flieth by day" we need a calm, quiet confidence in God. We know that our believers throughout the whole Union will be remembering in prayer their brethren and sisters who are called upon to live and work in the more vulnerable areas of our land. Our people reveal remarkable courage and fortitude in the midst of calamity. "His truth" is a great "shield and buckler" — perhaps not shielding *from* the battle, but shielding and sustaining *in* the battle.

EVANGELISM IN SOUTHERN ENGLAND

It would be foolish to suppose that public services go on unaffected by recent events. They are indeed a most disturbing factor in our endeavour to keep a full programme of evangelism in progress throughout our territory. We have been most encouraged with the progress of some promising campaigns. At one recent Sabbath afternoon service seventy-five non-members were in attendance, but most unfortunately this area has been greatly disturbed by enemy activity.

At this time I am designedly refraining from using any place names or names of evangelists. Readers will understand the reason for this. However, here are one or two extracts from evangelists' letters received this week.

One writes: "The past few days, and particularly nights, have more or less called a halt. We are getting used to it now, and we shall have to work hard visiting to keep in touch with the people. Although we have received a check, we have good hopes of a rally as people settle down to it again." This evangelist reports twenty-seven non-members attending on Sabbath, and fifty on Sunday.

Another writes: "The new bomb is making people timid. Our meetings on Sabbath, and also last night, were quite thin." He then goes on to relate a personal experience in connection with a bomb explosion which really must have been quite terri-

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fying, and then concludes: "We hope for a good day this next Sabbath and trust conditions will not prevent the people coming." (A baptism is to be conducted on Sabbath.)

Another evangelist who has been courageously carrying on his work in probably the most affected area of England describes how last Sabbath his service was continued amid the noise of terrific gunfire and flying bombs, and then he adds: "We had a blessed time together in spite of all this, and much else," and later in his letter: "I mention all this not to squeal at all, as we are not perturbed at this move [new flying bombs]. I know that you are interested in the conditions which we are facing. I believe that others will be having it worse than we are."

It is this high standard of morale among our workers and members that has kept our work moving forward in "Southern England" in face of almost insuperable odds. It is a privilege to be associated with workers who continue uncomplainingly in places where the strain must often be at breaking point. Again we would thank God for His guiding and guarding hand and ask you to pray earnestly that even in the midst of this tumult His message will be proclaimed with power and that in "Southern England" this year there will be a good harvest of souls from the faithful labours of His courageous servants.
G. D. KING.

North England Conference

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Notes from the President

TWENTY years ago, Mrs. Mayes of Leicester bought the book, *Daniel and the Revelation*, by Uriah Smith, from Colporteur D. Davies. About two years ago, she accepted the truth and was baptized by Pastor S. G. Joyce. This year, she collected the large sum of £73 in the Ingathering Campaign.

STUDENT COLPORTEURS

THIS summer, ten students are selling our literature in North England to enable them to return to Packwood to continue their training for future service. The following is the experience of one of the young men:

"The day was a hot one. The farm seemed to be asleep. The large house windows were all screened by heavy curtains. It was pleasant to stand in the shade of the porch while giving the quick, expectant knock.

"But three doors were knocked at and no one came in reply. The milk-parlour door was the last resort. A window opened somewhere at the house-top. The student colporteur was asked to wait a few moments. This gave time for a short prayer. How God answered that prayer!

"Once inside the house, the introduction to *The Bible Speaks* brought a query from the lady, who was housekeeping for her brother. She had done this since their parents' recent death.

"The loss of these loved ones had been such a blow that worship had ceased in the home. The lady risked ordering the book in spite of the disapproval she feared from her brother.

"It was delivered one afternoon a little later. The lady began to study it immediately. So engrossed was she that time meant nothing and she was surprised when her brother entered the room, having come in for his supper. The book was put down hastily. Left as it was on the dining-room table, the brother began to study it. He read as he ate his meal, continued all the evening, and was still reading when his sister retired.

"On coming down in the morning, she found he was still poring over *The Bible Speaks*. He had spent the night in study and prayer!

"As the sister set the breakfast table, he told her of his consecration and asked if she would like to resume their morning worship. The silver strand was taken up again!

"God guided me to that home! He answered prayer! May God continue to guide and lead every

colporteur this year. May the good books be studied, their message accepted, and the great 'D' day of Christ's return hastened."

CAMPAIGNS

PASTOR B. F. KINMAN, assisted by Brother M. B. Musgrave and Miss E. Taylor, started his campaign in Shields last Sunday. Three hundred listened to his opening address and forty-three requested literature to read in their homes.

Pastor H. K. Munson, assisted by Miss J. A. Handysides, is co-operating with Colporteur J. W. Laws in conducting an evangelistic campaign in the colliery community of Trimdon. This is in addition to his Middlesbrough campaign.

The lay preachers are courageously continuing their evangelistic campaigns. Now that Ingathering has finished, more lay campaigns will be starting.

CHRIST'S PRAYER FOR THIS GENERATION

"THE glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them; . . . that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me."

In *Testimonies*, Vol. 5, page 242 we read:

"We should seek for true goodness rather than greatness. Those who possess the mind of Christ will have humble views of themselves. They will labour for the purity and prosperity of the church, and be ready to sacrifice their own interests and desires rather than to cause dissension among their brethren."

Let us continue to work for unity, sacrificing our own apparent interests, to gain for North England the blessings promised to a people united in Christ.

R. S. JOYCE.

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Welsh Mission

Superintendent: Pastor S. G. Hyde
Office Address: "Ventnor," Ty-
glas Road, Llanishen, Cardiff
Telephone: Llanishen 600

Superintendent's Notes

ON Sabbath, June 17th, a large gathering of members and friends assembled in The Tabernacle, Cardiff, to witness the baptism of those who had accepted Jesus as their Saviour, and had decided that "henceforth they should not serve sin."

With two who were received "by vote of the church" eleven were thus added to our Welsh constituency. This ingathering of souls has brought much joy and inspiration to us all, members and workers alike.

Our evangelistic efforts have, of necessity, been on a small scale. What with the administrative side of a Superintendent's life, together with the pastoring of local churches, one's opportunities of doing public work are restricted. Nevertheless, evangelism must have priority, otherwise the church will perish.

Souls are "hardly wooed and won!" How true this is! Much labour has been expended, much prayer offered. Churchmembers have helped in many ways, and fellow-labourers, Sister Phyllis Standen and Brother Charles Watson, graduates in their first year of field experience, have shared to the full in this prayerful labour.

Two of the eleven new members will join with the Porth church in the Rhondda, while the remaining nine will join our local churches, Cardiff and Barry.

There are other prospective members coming along. The work goes on. Heaven's invitation will continue to be made known. May the responses increase in this "last, last hour."

NEWPORT, MON.

PASTOR F. S. JACKSON has now obtained a house in Newport and is by now fairly well settled and ready for service. We look forward to an early opening whereby a much-needed vigorous public campaign will be successfully

undertaken in this important centre.

INGATHERING

THE last word on the 1944 Campaign cannot be said here. But Wales has set the pace for the fields in Britain this year, and instead of getting £1,000 has obtained over £2,000! That means we have possibly reached the Centenary figure of £5 per member for the whole of Wales. We hope to be able to announce this in the next issue.

Meanwhile here are the names of our "star" collectors:

Mrs. Vernon, Rhyl, nearly £108
Mr. A. W. Howard, Newport, £92
Miss M. L. Cooper £82
Mr. Rees, Newport, £81
Mrs. F. E. Powell, Swansea, over £60

Sister Vernon is a veteran in years. Her heart is in the mission field, where her daughter is serving the Lord along with her husband, Pastor J. Clifford. Hers is a noble achievement. Brother A. W. Howard is a busy colporteur, who was so blessed and helped in his regular task, that he was enabled to serve as the local agent of the Newport church and personally gather over £92! Brother Rees, now feeling the strain of years, was anxious to obtain £1 for every one of his eighty-one years. And he did it!

Our two youngest workers, Sister Standen and Brother Watson, did remarkably well, as did our energetic sister, Mrs. F. E. Powell. There may be one or two others with over £50 but as full reports have not come in, we must await the next issue when further details can be supplied.

WELSH MEETING

PLANS are being laid for a large meeting of Welsh members (and any others who care to join us at that time) in the lovely old town of Hereford. Originally we thought of having a meeting for the churches of Hereford, Shrewsbury, Newport, and nearby groups. But members in Cardiff, Barry, and other places have expressed a desire to attend. And so it looks as though we might have a meeting of conference dimensions over the week-end, July 28th to 30th. Hereford will be scoured for bedrooms so that

all who want to make a week-end of this event, may do so. Further word will be given later, but we give you this early notice so that you can book the date and plan to attend.

By the courtesy of the minister and deacons of the Baptist Church, Hereford, we shall have the use of their church for the occasion.

Begin now to send your request for accommodation. Send to us at Cardiff for the time being. Pray for this meeting that it may prove to be a blessing and an inspiration to all who attend.

S. G. HYDE.

Wedding Bells

WELLS-MULLINER—On Whit-Monday, May 29, 1944, in the Congregational Church, Sparkhill, Birmingham, Frank Wells and Barbara Irene Mulliner were united in marriage. A number of members from the South Birmingham church and many friends were present.

We pray that the choicest blessings of God will go with them as they walk life's pathway together.

J. M. HOWARD

Advertisements

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

FARM-WORKER or husband and wife required to help single young farmer. Adventists preferred. Apply: R. Clarke, "Wood Farm," Denton, Harleston, Norfolk.

YOUNG Adventist couple require two unfurnished rooms, with cooking facilities, London, from August. First write to: Pastor E. R. Warland, 780 St. Albans Road, Watford.

THE treasurer of the South England Conference acknowledges with thanks the receipt of £26 tithes and offerings from Culpton Rock, Lowestoft, per Mr. W. B. Fisher; also £50, tithe and offerings, from XYZ.

SUNSET CALENDAR

Reproduced from the *Nautical Almanac* by permission of the Controller of H. M. Stationery Office.

Lon'n Not'm Car'ff Edin Bel't
July 14th 10.12 10.25 10.25 10.50 10.53
July 7th 10.17 10.30 10.30 10.57 11.00

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