

BRITISH ADVENT

MESSENGER

BRITISH UNION SURVEY.—1

Trials and Triumphs in "Southern England"

By G. D. KING

It is not the purpose of this survey to give historical background or statistical achievements, but rather to acquaint MESSENGER readers more intimately with our field from a personal point of view.

Our territory comprises the whole of Southern England, taking a line from the Wash to the Bristol Channel; thus the counties of Gloucester, Oxford, Buckingham, Bedford, Huntingdon, Cambridge, and Norfolk are our border counties. The Channel Isles also were South England territory and while we have no baptized members residing there, considerable interest in the message had been aroused by faithful colporteur ministry. We have often wondered how these interested persons have fared, and how their interest has developed during enemy occupation. These islands, being the only portion of the British Union territory to suffer enemy occupation, will take on an added glamour when the war closes. There are workers in South England who have a real burden to pioneer the way with strong evangelistic work in the Channel Isles. This might well be one of our post-war evangelistic objectives.

It will be readily realized that during the past five years, the war has been very near to the majority of our 3,200 members in South England. From the days of the "old fashioned" bombing to the recent flying bomb menace, our

membership has been subject to enemy attack, and our cities bear the proud scars of ruthless warfare. At the present time we estimate that about 2,000 of our members are within the "flying bomb area" and many of them have suffered severe damage to their homes. However, in spite of the upsetting influence of these war-time conditions, our work has been pressed forward with faith and vigour. We have 47 organized churches, 18 companies and 400 isolated members throughout our territory. In the recent Ingathering campaign, when our members raised £10,836 for missions in one month, every church and company reached its goal. The faithfulness and loyalty of our membership has been a source of continual inspiration. The total tithe income for 1943 was £27,807, while the total of our mission gifts, including Ingathering was £16,171. There has been a continuous increase in tithes and offerings during the war years, and it is fully expected that 1944 will close with a record income for home and overseas work.

It has been in the field of evangelism that we have experienced our greatest hindrances during war years. It would be folly to suppose that intense bombing and almost wholesale evacuation at

times, has not had an adverse effect upon public evangelism. Our evangelists and Bible-workers have been battling bravely against most discouraging circumstances, and not once, but many times, promising campaigns have been ruthlessly devastated through enemy action. It is bitterly disappointing to build up a large list of interested people throughout the first six to eight meetings, and then have those interests scattered almost overnight, due to enemy action.

Leaders who visit throughout the British Union have often spoken of the signs of what they call "war psychosis" among the population of South England, and considering the experiences of recent weeks, this is by no means surprising. However, our fifty-eight conference workers are all of strong courage and reveal a calm confidence as they press forward with their tasks and seek to gather a fruitage from the chaos of these days.

To turn the eyes and hearts of people to Jesus and His soon-coming is indeed a worthwhile task demanding a wholehearted and energetic consecration to the Lord and His cause. The workers in South England, along with the membership, are responding nobly to the demands of these tremendous times. The spirit of the working force is revealed in the following extracts taken from a young worker's letter recently received, written with no thought

of its being published (I trust he will forgive this liberty):

"Our greatest difficulty is that people evacuate wholesale now; some who used to attend our meetings every week have suddenly left, and in some cases we have been unable to trace their new addresses. Other people have had their homes either completely or partly destroyed and are now living with friends, and we are now doing our best to find these. By inquiring at hospitals we have found several of our interested people there suffering from injuries. We are now doing what we can to build up again and to encourage people to attend our services again.

"In spite of the difficulties, we have a 'faithful remnant' that comes to every meeting. One man and his wife have had their home partly destroyed three times in two weeks. They now live in the kitchen and the Anderson shelter, but they faithfully take their seats every Sabbath and Sunday.

"Of about fifteen homes Brother — visited, he only found one that had escaped blast altogether. Miss — tells me that of a visiting list of about 120, only twelve have their homes in perfect order. The same is true in my own case. Last Thursday I made about thirty-five visits, and I found only two homes that had escaped, and of a visiting list of about a hundred I find that only eight or nine have their homes in perfect order.

"In spite of the many difficulties, we carry on with the same spirit as we began, determined to see the job through. We all interpret these things as being just other signs of the rapidly approaching end."

We are glad that we have such workers in South England, and we here pay tribute to our loyal and courageous comrades who have not flinched through all the experiences of these war years. Particularly do our lady Bibleworkers deserve mention in this respect. There are great possibilities for such workers in the challenging task of progressive evangelism which will be ours as this present evil conflict draws to a close. London, with its teeming millions, is an "ever open door" for evangelism, with unentered

towns by the score within its borders. It is to this hopeful and, we trust, fruitful field that we constantly turn our eyes and hearts, believing that God has much greater things in store for us as we give ourselves unreservedly to Him and His service. We ask an interest in your prayers for the work here in London and Southern England.

Notes from the Union President

OUR SOLDIERS IN FRANCE

At the moment (August 29th) we have no news of contact between our soldiers and members in northern France. We hope for good news of our French believers in Paris now that the darkness is lifting from that city.

Some Adventist boys have been wounded in France but otherwise all our young men seem to be well.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN ENGLAND

MR. SIDNEY DARK, an Anglican with broad sympathies, has written a book entitled *Seven Archbishops*, in which he laments that there are "to-day far more First day relaxationists than Seventh-Day Adventists." He hopes that the bold and sagacious Archbishop Temple may correct this condition of affairs, to the mutual benefit of both Church and State.

DEATH OF PASTOR J. F. WRIGHT

We shall regret the passing of a former president of our Southern Africa Division, Pastor J. F. Wright, who during the past few years was one of the Field Secretaries of the General Conference. Pastor Wright was not well known in England, but was a comparatively young, and much respected, world leader. His death will be a sad loss to this cause.

SOUTH AMERICA

PASTOR EDGAR BROOKS, of the South American Publishing House, in a personal letter to his homeland, tells of the growth of our health food work under the

supervision of Brother George Norris, of Watford. The manufacture of Be-vita set this new venture on the road to success, but suddenly the largest brewery concern started to produce a similar product, much to our loss. Then the largest packing firm started to market wheat flakes under a fancy name, and contracted with our plant for their manufacture. The plant which Brother Norris started in temporary quarters is now growing into permanent buildings. We are glad to read of this good progress.

RETURNED MISSIONARIES

PASTOR F. L. STOKES and family have returned permanently to this country, and have been appointed to evangelistic work in South England as from October 1st.

Pastor L. Edmonds has just returned by air from Nigeria for furlough, Mrs. Edmonds having been in England during the past two years.

LOYALTY TO PRINCIPLE IN WAR-TIME

THESE days provide easy opportunity for a supine surrender of spiritual ideals, especially in the armed forces. Some of our churches have for weeks taken a prayerful interest in a group of four or five Adventist soldiers in a certain Allied army. More from local lack of understanding than from higher policy, these men had for weeks been in trouble over their Sabbath convictions. The worst a soldier could expect had been hanging over them repeatedly, and that is exceedingly trying to men who want to serve both God and country. Eventually, being satisfied that the men's attitude was reasonable, we felt the time had come for approaches to the highest authorities, and now this fine band of men have their permission to attend church regularly. Pastor Howard has done good work in this connection, and we all rejoice that God has in war-time honoured those who honour Him.

Even in our civilian life this observation holds good, and there, too, is the same need for the same soldierly loyalty to our Lord and Master.

CONGRATULATIONS
PASTOR W. R. A. MADGWICK informs us he has now obtained his B.D. (London) degree. Brother John Dunnett has also passed his Inter. Arts examination and both pieces of news are welcome to us.
H. W. LOWE.

Newbold College

The Fifth College Year Under War Conditions

THERE is good news of our College, which in a few days will be commencing its fifth year of operating under emergency conditions.

At times we have wondered how we could face another year's work with decreasing enrolment, high costs of operating, and hosts of other restrictive conditions. But we have moved forward in faith that God has honoured. The present prospects are that eighty-five young people will be enrolled this year—a truly remarkable situation as things are to-day.

We are quite unable to accept students who cannot provide a stipulated minimum amount of cash, and, as we have therefore, declined acceptance of certain cases, we hope our people will assist any worthy youth in financial need. All who can do so should provide full cash fees and not expect to be given too much work, which is hard to arrange in our present quarters.

Our College principal, with the manager and staff, has carried many burdens during these war years, but God's blessing has rested upon His work and post-war years will enable us to understand and evaluate the loyal services of our whole College family.

The year 1943-4 was satisfactory from the point of view of financial operating. A College never makes money, but it can quite easily lose a lot, and the essence of good management is to live within a planned budget, which we did last year.

The College farm, under Brother Tod Murdoch back at old Newbold, also had another good year, as did the market garden and

tomato houses under Brother Crocker. Both the garden and farm are being kept in good condition and improvements are being judiciously made in order to avoid heavy expenditures when we resume full College activities in our old quarters in the future. We hope that this is very near.
H. W. LOWE.

North England Conference

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Mapperley Park, Nottingham
Telephonic: Nottingham 66312

Notes from the President

NEW ARRIVALS

ON August 8th, Bernard Lindsay arrived in the home of Brother and Sister K. A. Elias, who are in charge of the Merseyside District.

ON August 13th, Vernetta Ann arrived in the home of Brother and Sister D. J. Handysides, who are in charge of the South Yorks District.

LITERATURE SALES

THE latest monthly tabular from the Stanborough Press shows a gain in literature sales in North England amounting to £426 when compared with the first seven months of last year.

WRITINGS OF MRS. E. G. WHITE

THE more we read these most valuable books, the more we are convinced that they are all inspired by God. We would encourage every church to obtain a full set for the library, at an early date. Send your orders via the home missionary secretary to the Stanborough Press. Copies can still be obtained in time. We also hope that all our members will buy and read these books as soon as they can. We all need to know their contents and to follow their advice in these momentous days when time is fast drawing to a close.

CENTENARY DATE

THE actual Centenary date of the Advent movement is October 22, 1944. In *Counsels to Teachers*, page 343, we read: "Would it not be well to observe holidays unto God, when we could revive

in our minds the memory of His dealing with us?" Why not hold a special service in your church on Sabbath, October 21st, to thank God for His blessings during the past hundred years, and to consecrate all our future energies to hasten the second advent?

We have prepared a set of slides showing the beginning and progress of the Seventh-Day Adventist denomination, which we plan to show in each district.

CAMPAIGNS

PASTOR B. F. KINMAN, who is assisted by M. B. Musgrave and Miss E. Taylor, had fifty-five non-members at his first Sabbath afternoon meeting in South Shields.

Brother K. A. Elias, who is assisted by Miss E. A. Buck, is keeping up his Sabbath attendances in Liverpool. Forty-three interested people were present last week.

We are continually receiving good reports from the evangelists (including the lay evangelists). Here is a typical extract from a layman who is assisting two evangelists in his free time: "We are having splendid attendances. The Spirit of God was definitely present yesterday when the Sabbath was presented. Our prayers for His power were truly answered."

FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS

ON the day you receive this issue of the MESSENGER, the first of the three days of fellowship will be in progress at Leeds.

The second will be held in The News Theatre, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle, on September 16th.

The third will be held in the Large Theatre in the Birmingham and Midland Institute, Paradise Street, Birmingham, on September 30th.

The programme for each place will be as follows:

Devotional	9.00 - 9.45 a.m.
Sabbath-school	10.00 - 11.00 a.m.
Divine Service	11.15 - 12.30 p.m.
Men's Meeting	2.00 - 2.45 p.m.
Preaching Service	3.00 - 4.15 p.m.

We hope all will attend for worship, inspiration, and to renew acquaintance with old friends. The isolated are especially invited.

We are counting on all the brethren attending the Men's Meetings.
R. S. JOYCE.

Welsh Mission

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

The Hereford Convention

THE gathering at Hereford, convened at the end of July, has passed into history, but it has left behind a very fragrant memory—the memory of a spiritual feast, of happy fellowship unmarred by even one jarring note.

It was a happy plan, the idea of having some kind of a large meeting in Hereford, for as far as we can learn, no conference or convention had ever met there during the long history of the Hereford church.

But even so, we did not have faith enough to believe that a Hereford Convention would prove to be the best meeting in the Welsh field during our eight years of association with it. Yes, in spite of war-time difficulties, more people came to Hereford than to our pre-war conferences in Cardiff! And how everybody enjoyed the occasion. It really did one good to hear the many unsolicited testimonies of the blessings received. Certainly the Lord answered prayer on behalf of the venture.

The meetings were held in the large Baptist church on the main road—a lovely building and admirably appointed in every way. How grateful we were to the minister and diaconate in placing its facilities at our disposal.

A large number came to stay a night or two and for all these a comfortable "home" was found in spite of the presence of many holiday-makers and evacuees. Brother C. D. Watson, our youngest worker, made an excellent "billeting officer," ably assisted by Brother A. E. Freeth, the church elder, and his fellow-members.

The opening meeting on Friday was surprisingly well attended and gave the Convention a good send-off. Pastor J. M. Howard spoke on "The Hour, The Call, The Need," and found a very responsive chord in the assembly. Later, on Sabbath afternoon, he spoke on a centenary

subject: One Hundred Years of Advent Witness: Retrospect and Prospect." On Sabbath morning, Dr. Edwin Essery, who is under appointment to the Arabic Union, spoke on the subject, "Modern Science and Philosophy," and through it brought timely warning of the subtle dangers of our day and called for consecration and revival—a call which found a ready response in the large audience before him. At the final meeting on Sabbath, Pastor S. G. Hyde was the preacher. This meeting was made a public one and the theme chosen accordingly was: "On the Eve of Dramatic Developments: A World Survey of the Signs which Indicate the Approaching Climax."

Of course, we had a Sabbath-school, led by Brother Humphries, beside prayer and song services directed by Pastor F. S. Jackson and Mr. J. R. Lewis. In fact, all our field workers had a share in some of the activities of the Convention. Pastor G. Baird, of the College, who has been "loaned" to the Welsh Mission for the summer and whose ministry has been so much appreciated, made the whole congregation his "class" in the Sabbath-school and made the appointed lesson live, to the delight of everybody.

The musical side was not neglected. The organ had Brother Llewellyn Meredith at the keyboard, and the congregation sang inspiringly, while special items were provided by Mrs. Evans, of Swansea (Contralto), Miss Doreen Hyde, of Cardiff (Soprano), and a mixed quartette from the Newport church.

Local sisters, under Miss E. Stanton, rose to the occasion and played the part of "host." The caretaker, too, was a great ally.

Some thirty American brethren of the U.S. army were able to be with us, including Major Wade, Lieutenant Hodgkin, and several other officers. They thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity of attending such a representative gathering which reminded them of the larger gatherings "back home."

Excellent offerings were received—£11 in Sabbath-school and £13 for expenses. It was with real regret that many turned

toward home at the end of the Sabbath.

Prior to the Convention, for nearly two days, the workers of Wales, along with Pastor J. M. Howard and Pastor G. Baird, spent a very happy and profitable time in study, prayer, and fellowship. It was a very informal affair, but that only increased its usefulness and effectiveness. Many aspects of the minister's work were considered, including that which is ever uppermost in the worker's mind and heart—how to win souls and prepare a "people for the Lord."

May the Lord's rich blessing at the Hereford Convention continue with us in coming days that we may see larger growth, both numerically and spiritually, in Wales.
S. G. HYDE.

Advertisements

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

PROMISE boxes. 180 promises 5/- each Apply: W. Long, 78 Queen Victoria Street, York.

WANTED by worker, copy of *The Great Second Advent Movement*. Write, stating price required, to: Mr E Bell, 25 Knockbreda Drive, Ormeau Road, Belfast.

Up to two dozen hymn books urgently needed by the Coventry church. Who will help us? Reasonable price given gladly. Write: E A Plummer, 18 Meriden Street, Coventry.

An active widowed sister would like to share home with another sister. Ready to share expenses or agree to other amicable arrangement. Apply in first instance to: Pastor S. G. Hyde, "Ventnor," Ty-Glas Road, Llanishen, Cardiff.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST farm tractor driver seeks situation with Adventist farmer or farm-contractor. Keen on mechanized agriculture. Health-reformer. Write: E. G. Belton, 157 Shenley Fields Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham.

Acknowledgment

THE treasurer of the South England Conference acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the Lord's tithe, £2 10s from "A.S."

SUNSET CALENDAR

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Sept 15th 8 16 8.21 8 28 8 32 8.41
Sept. 22nd 6.59 7.04 7 12 7 13 7 24

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