

BRITISH UNION MESSENGER

BRITISH UNION SURVEY.—2

Past, Present and Future in North England

TWENTY million people live within the borders of the North England Conference. There are 2,037 members, or one to every 10,000 of the population. Pioneer A. A. John was the first evangelist to enter this field sixty-two years ago in 1882. To-day, including the office staff, there are forty-seven full-time workers, or one to every 425,000 of the population. There are also 146 lay preachers. The members have been organized into thirty-six churches and twenty companies. There are 212 living in isolation. We own eleven houses of worship, which total in value £7,204. The conference was organized forty years ago in 1904. The British Union Missionary Training College is situated within our borders.

During the five years of the global war, many of our towns have suffered severely from aerial bombardment. Nevertheless, God has wonderfully watched over our members and their homes, church buildings, and other places of worship.

We are told that "while angels hold the four winds, *we are to work* with all our capabilities." (*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, page 21.) We have been amazed to see how the war has failed to hinder the advancement of the message wherever workers, church officers, and members have obeyed that command, "We are to work." There have been obstacles; there have been inconveniences to evangelism.

By R. S. JOYCE

But we thank God that we can report more members, more workers, more churches, added houses of worship, greater literature sales, a wonderful record figure in money and time for Ingathering, and a larger income than at the beginning of the war.

During the fifth year of war all records of evangelistic meetings have been broken. In some places, night after night, 900 people have listened to the evangelist, and as many as 250 interested people have attended the Sabbath services in heretofore unentered towns.

In their experiments with times of service and evangelistic methods, our workers and lay preachers have realized the truth of what Edmund Burke once said: "It is our business rather to run the risk of falling into faults in a course which leads us to act with effect and energy, than to loiter out our days without blame and without use. He trespasses against his duty who sleeps upon his watch, as well as he who goes over to the enemy."

The work of the lay preachers has been given added impetus throughout the conference by a series of lay preachers' classes, which have been conducted by the District Leaders. We have direct contact with every lay preacher by a monthly bulletin, *The Lay Preacher*.

We read a lot about the post-war world and post-war plans. What are some of our plans in North England?

1. To deepen spirituality through personal prayer and Bible study, that we "may put difference between holy and unholy." Moses told the people: "Thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have." We are called upon every day to make decisions based on our measurement of men, circumstances, and things. Our failures are usually due to badly adjusted spiritual weights and measures. We want to have them perfected by God's Spirit and the only way to do this is to know His Word and how to use the key of prayer.

2. To enrol every churchmember in the Sabbath-school. This will be a result of our first objective. "The Sabbath-school work is important, and ALL who are interested in the truth should endeavour to make it prosperous."—"*Testimonies*," Vol. 5, page 127.

3. To encourage every member to become an energetic home missionary worker. "Truth that is not lived, that is, not imparted, loses its life-giving power, its healing virtue."—"*Acts of the Apostles*," page 206.

Most of us have every qualification but one, as illustrated by the letter of recommendation a man wrote of his gardener. He said that the gardener had an excellent knowledge of both orna-

mental and kitchen gardens, and to the end of the page he listed things he could do. Over the page, however, were these words: "But he won't exert himself."

There are many men and women in our churches who could revolutionize the districts in which they live, but they are like that gardener! As in Nehemiah's time, we must have "a mind to work."

4. To place the responsibility of caring for the flock more fully on the hearts of the lay preachers, and thus *release the ministry for the unentered towns*. The lay preachers realize: "We must not enter into the Lord's work haphazard and expect success. God wants right-thinking and intelligent men to do the great work necessary to the salvation of souls."—"*Testimonies*," Vol. 4, page 67.

We plan to continue to give them all the help possible.

5. To add to the number of colporteurs. One faithful full-timer has written:

"It's grand to be a colporteur, to meet each trite objection,

To visit countless, sin-cursed homes and aid in their redemption;

To see some join our happy throng, bound for that home so fair,

To feel the thrill of a fight well fought 'gainst sin and dark despair"

6. To establish church schools wherever possible, to hold our children for the cause.

7. To strengthen greatly and to enlarge the scope of the Junior and Senior M.V. Society services.

8. To secure a dedicated house of worship wherever we have an organized church, and, in the meantime, vastly to improve the halls we are using.

9. To obtain a full set of the writings of the Spirit of prophecy for each church library, and to encourage all our members to become familiar with the counsel to be found in these most valuable books.

10. To hold health lectures in every church and company, so that all our members may learn the full health message and accept the instruction the Lord has given on this vital asset to spirituality.

"Since the laws of nature are the laws of God it is plainly our

duty to give these laws careful study. We should study their requirements in regard to our own bodies and conform to them. Ignorance in these things is sin."—"*Testimonies*," Vol. 6, page 369

11. To organize Dorcas Societies and other welfare works, so that we can fulfil the instruction of Isaiah 58:7.

12. To live and work so that the unconverted members of our families may be won for Christ.

"When the baskets of fragments were collected, the people thought of their friends at home. They wanted them to share in the bread that Christ had blessed. The contents of the baskets were distributed among the eager throng and were carried away into all the region round about. So those who were at the feast were to give to others the bread that comes down from heaven, to satisfy the hunger of the soul. They were to repeat what they had learned of the wonderful things of God. Nothing was to be lost. Not one word that concerned their eternal salvation was to fall useless to the ground. In Christ's act of supplying the temporal necessities of a hungry multitude, is wrapped up a deep spiritual lesson for all His workers. Christ received from the Father; He imparted to the disciples; they imparted to the multitude; and the people to one another. So all who are united in Christ will receive from Him the bread of life, the heavenly food, and impart it to others."—"*Desire of Ages*," page 368

We must carry out these plans, these purposes, for, "purposes, like eggs, unless they be hatched into action, will run into decay."

Our first quotation said: "We are to work *with all our capabilities*." Few of us could conscientiously admit that we have done this. "Satan delights in war; for he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of God." — "*Great Controversy*," page 589.

Have you found this so in the rush of these war years, with the hours wasted in queues, or on railway stations, in "making do" with meagre facilities? Then give yourself wholly to God and His service *now*, by putting first things first. Abraham Lincoln said, in the midst of the American Civil War: "The occasion is piled high with difficulty. We must rise

with the occasion. Fellow-citizens, we cannot escape history." That spirit won then. It will win again —NOW.

Notes from the Union President

NEWS OF OUR WORK IN FRANCE

PASTOR CHARPIOT, who has for years been a leader in our work in the Southern European Division, has been contacted by one of our American doctors who has worshipped at various churches here during the past two years. He also met Pastor Oscar Meyer, who has also served as an administrator for years in the Franco-Belgian Union. The report indicates that interference with our work has not been too bad, except that in eastern France our churches have been confiscated for other purposes. Our members found food allowances meagre and they did not like the regime imposed upon them. No reports are available as to casualties among our people, but from now on more news should come through.

WELCOME LITERATURE

PASTOR MAXWELL informs us that he now sends 900 copies of the *Signs* to different evangelists here. This is a much appreciated service in these days when we are hard put to find literature for our public work.

VOICE OF PROPHECY PLAN

IT is not possible to operate this plan in its entirety here, but we have recently tried a small experiment along these lines. Every copy of one of our new books sold by our colporteurs carries an application form at the end and enrolments are coming in for the series of lessons we have prepared.

Incidentally, South Africa, where the Voice of Prophecy operates strongly, says our lessons are so well prepared they would like 20,000 sets. After the war, when paper is available and newspaper space can be purchased, we should launch this plan strongly here.

COLLEGE OPENING

OUR college opened on the 13th with an enrolment of ninety. This

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is excellent, and we hope a good scholastic year lies ahead in this sixth year of the war.

H. W. LOWE.

Newbold College

Are You Planning to Come?

CHRISTIAN education is one of the cardinal doctrines of Seventh-Day Adventists and should therefore be of interest to every member of the church. Much timely instruction has come to us as a people on this important subject. The Lord's servant has said:

"While we should put forth earnest efforts for the masses of the people around us and push the work into foreign fields, no amount of labour in this line can excuse us for neglecting the education of our children and youth. They are to be trained to become workers for God."—*"Counsels to Teachers,"* page 165.

Youth is the golden age, the richest time of life, the time for making investments in the building of noble Christian characters which will endure when all earthly things have crumbled. During this formative period a few short years devoted to study and preparation may make all the difference between a life of large and fruitful service and one that is cast in a rigid and narrow groove.

What the man or woman will become in maturity is largely determined by the training and environment of the youth before the age of eighteen. In other words, the attitudes and mode of thinking become more or less fixed in the adolescence.

The Lord has a plan and purpose for every youth in the Advent movement. There is a place for all who are willing to consecrate themselves, body and soul and spirit, to the last great cause of saving men and women for the kingdom of God.

Many have not yet discovered the Lord's plan for their life, but if they will respond to the present call to duty and will follow the opening providences, the Lord will indicate the path which they

should choose. Many, too, who have come to our College with no particular plan for their life, have here caught a vision of service, and have been definitely guided into paths of usefulness.

It is a recognized fact that most people make use of only a small part of their physical and mental resources. We will, however, be held responsible not only for what we have done but for what we might have done.

True education is the harmonious development of the powers with which we have been endowed. Unlike many philosophical systems of the day, Christian education is not a search for ultimate reality, it begins with God and is a series of fascinating discoveries of the mysterious, wonder-working power of this omnipotent Being. It is the exploring of vast unentered territories with a guide who knows the way and who does not leave His followers to flounder or guess.

The Bible comes to us as a letter from heaven. It touches on every phase of learning and leads us to discern more clearly in the study of each subject of the curriculum the infinite greatness and yet tender compassion of the Trinity. In the study of history we see the definite plan being worked out in the rise and fall of nations. The laws of science depict to us more clearly the fact that there must have been a direct act of creation by an infinite God and that nothing is left to chance.

Students should leave our school with a conviction born of a religious faith, with a hope that is bright and buoyant, and a courage that fails not in the hour of danger, with a heart that is sympathetic, a mind trained and keen, and a vision that is large and clear. All our youth should have an education in our schools.

"The church is asleep, and does not realize the magnitude of this matter of educating the children and youth. 'Why,' one says, 'what is the need of being so particular to educate our youth thoroughly? It seems to me that if you take a few who have decided to follow a literary calling or some other calling that requires a certain discipline, and give due attention to them, that is all that is necessary. It is not required that the whole mass of our youth be so well

trained. Will not this answer every essential requirement?"

"I answer, No, decidedly not. . . Who can determine which one of a family will prove to be efficient in the work of God? There should be a general education of all its members, and all our youth should be permitted to have the blessings and privileges of an education at our schools, that they may be inspired to become labourers together with God"—*"Counsels to Teachers,"* pages 43, 44.

We hope that all our young people are making plans to obtain this necessary education that will prepare them to take their places in the closing work of God.

W. G. MURDOCH.

South England Conference

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Bristol Day of Fellowship

CLOSE on four hundred people from the West of England churches, including over fifty of our American boys, met together at Arley Hill Congregational church, for the special Day of Fellowship meetings at Bristol on Sabbath, August 26th.

Words fail to express the blessings received at the Lord's hand. All who came expecting great things from God were not disappointed.

The children under the leadership of Brethren Warland, Hulbert, and Walklet enjoyed a wonderful day, long to remain in their memories.

Brethren Smith and Bevan led out in Sabbath-school. Both in the review and lesson study a wealth of matter was presented. Over £20 was collected following Brother McGougan's missions appeal.

Pastor H. W. Lowe dealt with the subject of the "Time of Trouble." He showed that wherever the "time of trouble" or the "great tribulation" is mentioned in the Bible, God always follows

it with the deliverance of His people. "God's grace is sufficient for every need, every perplexity, every calamity." "No condition can arise in the life, but God is there to meet it." "Without Christ we are helpless and hopeless—there is not one good thing in us, but God's grace is sufficient."

Pastor Lowe mentioned that D. L. Moody was once asked if he had the grace to die a martyr. He replied without hesitation, "No!" Asked if he would pray for it, again he replied "No!" Then he added, "I have three days to preach in this city, I need grace for that." God grant us grace to faithfully fulfil the little duties of every day; then if we are called to bear greater responsibilities, or heavier trials, or even to face death itself—God's grace will be sufficient.

Pastor Bartlett, in a quiet, penetrating way proved the truthfulness of the precious promise, "All things work together for good to them that love God." How vividly we saw this divine principle working in the life of Mordecai as he realistically pictured Haman swinging on the gallows, a type of the destruction of the enemies of God, with the deliverance of His people. Oh, for grace to follow the God of Mordecai and to experience deliverance—eternal deliverance.

"Victory!" was Pastor G. D. King's subject. He pointed out that Jesus gives no false terms. "In the world . . . tribulation, be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." "That was the faith of Jesus through the darkness which led to Calvary and to the throne." "There is a struggle, a battle to be fought before victory; we all want a part in the final victory." "The greatest victory is in the heart, 'Sin shall not have dominion over you.'" "The victorious armies to enter through the gates into the city are those who *do* God's commandments."

Six words would summarize Pastor O. M. Dorland's address: "The just shall live by faith." Here are a few gems of thought: "The life of Jesus was the living out of the ten commandments—Love." "God calls us to restore the image of Jesus in us." "God sees in us, not our deformity, but

the purity of the Saviour." "There are many against us, but none of any account." "Let the mind constantly dwell on Jesus. On self—defeat. On Jesus—Victory."

So ended another Sabbath, a feast day, a high day, a glorious day.

Pastor King gave special thanks to the Bristol Young People's Choir for the message of song so ably rendered. Choir pieces, solos, and a quartette, were a great power to fasten the truth firmly into every heart.

STANLEY COMBRIDGE.

Thy Will Be Done

A Prayer after the Bristol Fellowship Meeting

Father, I long to follow Thy will in all my ways, to prove to all I've heard Thy call to serve Thee all my days, but lo, so oft I grieve Thee and turn away in shame, and then bewail how much I fail to glorify Thy name. And then my resolutions are just "like ropes of sand," my weakened will is weaker still to follow Thy command—so take it, Lord, and make it after Thine own sweet will

Father, because I love Thee I give my all to Thee—my hands, my feet, my life complete, Thine only, Lord, to be These feet of mine I offer to walk in ways not mine, these hands to do the right and true and guided, Lord, by Thine My intellect, my every power I dedicate to Thee this hour, a channel, Lord, I long to be, that I might serve Thee perfectly.

STANLEY COMBRIDGE.

From Internment Camp to Advent Faith

THIS is the story of an English governess in the family of the Countess de Gironde. It is also the story of the overruling providence and mercy of God in leading this lady through many severe physical and spiritual trials in France and Germany through Sweden to a haven in England and in the remnant church.

The story begins in the fateful year of 1940, when the German armies swept across Western Europe to the Atlantic coast. Our English governess, with the family of the Countess, was in Biarritz, in south-western France. Life remained pleasant and peaceful for them, even after the Germans ar-

rived, until the month of October. Then came a few days of internment, with some small discomforts, in a Biarritz hotel. That was all. With an early release there came the hope that she might retain her freedom after all.

But on December 5, 1940, five German soldiers came to arrest her and take her to Bayonne. There followed a long, painful train journey, under terrible conditions, to Besançon in eastern France. There the internees met deep snow and biting cold, though they were without winter clothes. There hadn't been time to pack them. In Besançon they were interned for five months. Camp conditions could hardly have been worse. Dirt abounded, food was almost uneatable, washing and sanitation facilities were bad. Five hundred internees died. Many more lost their reason. Our governess, in very poor health, worked in the camp post office to keep her mind from contemplating her depressing and terrifying environment.

Then in May, 1941, she was given another long and weary rail journey, with great hardships, to Vittel, where she was interned for three years. It was here that, under the stress of physical suffering and by contact with devoted Christians among her fellow-internees, she was led into a vital Christian experience. She herself says that she had been a "sleepy Christian." In the camp she was awakened to the reality of God's salvation. The internees began to arrange meetings and services among themselves. The authorities did not interfere, but were always represented in the meetings. There were discussion groups, praise and prayer meetings, church services, Bible study groups. Our governess, who possessed a Psalter, led the choir.

The zealous ones were not without persecution and opposition. Antagonistic elements, notably Roman Catholics, among the internees objected to the Bible study groups and prayer meetings. They tried to influence the camp authorities against their fellows, but without success. God was found of those who sought Him with all their hearts. His presence hallowed even the hated camp.

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At last, in October, 1943, the good news came that our governess could go home. A fortnight later she reached the shores of England. She went to live with a friend in Southend. While at Vittel, she and a few others prayed that God would guide them, on their release, to a Christian group where the rich experience found in camp might be continued. Now that she had arrived home, she pressed this petition to the mercy-seat. Various visiting places and churches were visited, but did not satisfy.

Very soon a handbill appeared through the door, inviting attendance at Pastor Bayliss's meetings. "Here's an answer to my prayer," said our governess. "I'm going to this meeting." She heard the Advent message, recognized the call of God, and humbly obeyed. Soon she obtained a post as a child's nurse in a London home. Here it has been the writer's privilege to continue the work begun by Pastor Bayliss. The Lord, who sustained her through the privations and trials of three and a half years' internment, now blessed her with a glad and ready acceptance of His last-day message. How thankfully she drank in the truth, and how happy she was when, on July 15th of this year, she arose from the waters of baptism in the Holloway church. And how glad we are to receive her into the Advent fellowship.

The Master's promise, "Lo, I am with you always," was a constant source of strength and comfort to her during her great trial. We pray that His presence shall guide and sustain her until He returns in glory to gather her, with all His people, into the everlasting home. A. J. MUSTARD.

"Hard"—But Victorious!

"SOUTHEND is a hard place for evangelism!" was the considered judgment of a longstanding Adventist resident. What a chilly prospect for an evangelist! But what a challenge!

Thanks to a small but vigilant, praying group, which trusted our heavenly Father's promise, "Is there anything too hard for Me?" in God's own good time and way the apparently insuperable problems of war-time evangelism

were solved. An evangelistic campaign of modest proportions was started late in October, 1943. It has since been our joy to witness for the truth before three consistently well-attended meetings each week over a period of several months.

Our labours, in public and in the homes, were rewarded, when, on July 22nd, ten souls were added to the ranks of the remnant church by baptism and vote. We were truly privileged to have the services of Pastor G. D. King for the occasion. He greatly impressed a church crowded with members and friends upon the necessity of entering into full consecration with our Lord in these tense times.

We earnestly request the prayers of the Advent family for the work in Southend. For, given reasonable freedom from enemy attention and the continued blessing of God, we hope to add a further number to the church before the centenary year closes.

JOHN H. BAYLISS.

Torquay Investment Fund

THOSE Seventh-Day Adventists who were fortunate enough to spend their Bank Holiday in Torquay and who attended Sabbath-school at Warren Road, on August 5th, found that a special service had been arranged. It was Torquay's first Investment Sabbath!

About six weeks before Christmas, 1943, someone had the idea of making Christmas presents and asking the local shops to buy them, as everyone remembers what a poor selection the shops had to offer. Accordingly the shops were canvassed by the leaders of the Young People's society with the result that orders were taken for a variety of articles. Then began the race against time to get them made and sold before Christmas.

The schoolroom was a hive of industry every Sunday afternoon with the juniors, their leaders, and one or two older young people busily preparing jars to fill with brightly coloured bath salts. Very handsome these looked with an original design painted on each one. Some made leather book-marks or padded coathangers and covered them with pieces of silk.

Workbags were searched for balls of wool to be made into knitted animals, precious pieces of crinkled paper were made into calendars, even the tinies helping by making mats in a method we used to call "corking."

I say nothing of the countless hours put in by the leaders, but the result of this united effort, after all expenses had been paid, and the churchmembers had been allowed to buy some articles at a sale in the schoolroom, was the sum of £6. 10s. handed to the treasurer for the end of the year report.

This good beginning inspired further efforts, and when the days lengthened and work indoors became irksome, another idea was born. Why not take an allotment and sell the produce for the Investment Fund? So a search began for a suitable piece of land. "Search" is the right word, for suitable pieces of land seemed few and far between, but finally one was found and our stalwart American soldier friends put in quite a lot of time turning over the ground to give us a start.

We had quite a number of setbacks; what gardeners do not? The sun sometimes shone when showers would have been acceptable, and the east wind seemed particularly spiteful to our precious seedlings, but after much toil we reaped the harvest. God surely blessed that allotment in the amount of peas, etc., it produced.

Some members gave the proceeds from a row of vegetables in their gardens to swell the fund. One junior planted a row of sweet peas and after much seeming reluctance to come up, they kept the vases in one home gay with colour—at a price. The fortunate possessor of a peach tree handed over some of the luscious—and expensive—fruit to be sold. In fact we could go on for a long time telling of individual efforts, but suffice it to say that all, even the smallest juniors, did something to help, and so came Investment Sabbath.

The Sabbath-school was well filled and the most prominent feature to be seen was a large freight-carrying aeroplane made by a junior to hold the money realized in the various ways men-

tioned, and the visitors were allowed to help, of course! Never was an aeroplane so overladen as when the assistant Sabbath-school secretary carried it round to every seat, to the sweet strains from many voices of, "For Jesus' sake only." The good sum of £7. 10s. was found in the aeroplane on examination and this is by no means the end of the story. There are beans and tomatoes still to sell from the allotment, and baskets of apples have been promised when ripe, so we hope that the total Investment Fund will not be far short of £20 for the year's work.

May God bless all such efforts to raise the means for spreading the Gospel to the four corners of the earth and so hasten the glad return of the Master C.M.B.

North England Conference

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Notes from the President

A SAD LOSS

YOU will be sorry to learn that our brother and fellow-worker, Pastor A. F. Bird, after conducting the morning and afternoon services on Sabbath, September 2nd, died in his sleep during the same night. He had just returned from his annual holiday. Thus another has been added to the lengthening list of faithful standard bearers who have fallen at their post of duty. As perhaps you know, Brother Bird had been unwell for some time, and his condition had given cause for concern. We invite your prayers on behalf of the bereaved. We look forward to meeting him before long on the glad resurrection morning. A more detailed report appears in this issue.

CENTENARY FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS

THE first of the special District Meetings has been held in Leeds. It was a great success. The spirit of the meetings was excellent. The attendance passed our most optimistic expectations. A full report

will be published in a later issue.
 CONGRATULATIONS

ON September 3rd, a daughter arrived in the home of Brother and Sister D. A. Conroy, who are in charge of the Yorks Central District.

SABBATH-SCHOOL

WE are glad that the recent Sabbath-school promotion has aroused such an interest. What a wonderfully good thing it would be if all our members were enrolled in the Sabbath-school this year. The secret of a good Sabbath-school is a well-run teachers' meeting. There, teachers "will increase their talent by exercise and make improvement on what has already been attained."—"Counsels on Sabbath-School Work," page 122. We hope that a teachers' meeting will soon be held in every school. The following is the advice from the General Conference this year:

"Probably the weakest link in Sabbath-school work is the teachers' meeting. . . . Our senior and junior colleges have long considered a regular faculty meeting as absolutely essential to the successful operation of a college and it is required that every member of the faculty be present at such meetings. Sabbath-school workers of long experience are convinced that it is of equal importance that teachers be present at teachers' meeting. *When teachers are appointed at the beginning of the year, the Sabbath-school committee should make attendance at the teachers' meeting a necessary requirement for teaching in any division of the Sabbath-school.*

"The teacher needs the help to be received at a properly conducted teachers' meeting. He will weaken his teaching by absenting himself from this meeting. If the Sabbath-school committee will make careful preparation for the leadership of such meetings, they will be profitable to every teacher. The success of the school as a whole will be seriously hindered if teachers fail to attend the teachers' meeting, and the meeting will lose some of its strength if a teacher is not present to contribute his share in the suggestions and discussions. *Regular attendance at the teachers' meeting should be one of the 'must' items listed on the personal weekly programme of every teacher.*"

CAMPAIGNS

RECENTLY I had the privilege

of meeting the newly interested people in Walsall. Twenty-three attended the afternoon meeting. Pastor L. Murdoch, assisted by F. Edwards and L. C. Elias, has secured a permanent hall. These evangelists have worked exceedingly hard to prepare it as a place of worship. The interest is steadily growing.

Now that the holiday season is ending, the attendance at all the services throughout the conference should improve.

HOME MISSIONS

How much home missionary work did you do for the Master last week to hasten His kingdom? You will readily agree that it is not sufficient for us only to take an interest in the home missionary department during the Ingathering month. We appeal for your continual help.

R. S. JOYCE.

Welsh Mission

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Superintendent's Notes

MANY friends in Wales will be shocked by the tragic news of the passing of Pastor A. F. Bird, who ministered so successfully in such centres as Rhyl, Shrewsbury, and Newport some thirteen or fourteen years ago.

We had just concluded a few happy days vacation in North Wales with Pastor Bird and his family, when, shortly after his return home, his life's work ended. We in Wales mourn sincerely the passing of a brother and shepherd whose character and quality of life and service has been an inspiration to so many. We extend to Mrs. Bird and her daughters our sincere sympathy.

WELSH REPRESENTATIVES AT THE COLLEGE

YOUNG people from Wales now attending College number seven. Three of these are "old" students—Maureen and Irene Williams and Joy Cooper; while four are new—Ben Freeman and his niece from Carmarthenshire, Audrey Smith from Cardiff, and Gerald Heath from Shrewsbury. We

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wish them all much success in their preparation for service.

BAPTISM AT SHREWSBURY

BROTHER J. R. LEWIS and Miss Alice Hartland have been encouraged in their evangelism by a first baptism in Shrewsbury on August 26th. By this baptism the church in Shrewsbury gladly received four new members into their fellowship. We look forward to a return visit to Shrewsbury for a similar purpose before the end of the year.

NEW CAMPAIGN IN PONTYPRIDD

ON September 3rd, Brother Charles Watson opened up work in the town of Pontypridd, "gateway" to the Rhondda and other valleys. Here many years ago was a good-sized church, but time has taken its toll as death and transfer and other factors removed all but two. At the time of writing two "after-church" meetings have been held when the message was faithfully proclaimed to an attentive congregation of some eighty non-members. This represents a most encouraging beginning, more especially as this is Brother Watson's first campaign. Please pray for this effort on the part of our young brother to re-establish the church in Pontypridd.

DEATH OF ANOTHER VETERAN

AT the ripe age of seventy-five, Brother A. Thomas, of Cardiff, has recently passed away. Our brother, in his younger days was one of the leading lay officers of the church in Wales and rendered unsparing service. We extend to Sister Thomas our sincere sympathy in this her loss and sorrow. An obituary notice will appear elsewhere.

WEEK OF SACRIFICE

IF any of my readers, members of the Welsh Mission, have not received notification of the annual Week of Sacrifice (the first week in September) may we invite you to share with us (even yet) in this annual experience. All of God's saints learn to know the blessing of sacrifice and we in Wales, through this "Week of Sacrifice" wish to forward a generous gift to the treasury. Send your gift

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along with your tithes this month either to your church treasurer, to the office in Cardiff, or to W. G. Baldry, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.

CAERPHILLY COMPANY BEREAVED

WE extend to Brother Nash sincere sympathy in the sorrow occasioned by the death of his wife, and to Brother and Sister Dicks by the tragic passing of their little son, William. Both these families are connected with the Caerphilly company.

THE LORD'S TITHE

THE end of the month and the end of the quarter is upon us. Let us bring "all the tithes into the storehouse" even as the Lord invites. None can afford to miss the blessings of "Heaven's open window."

S. G. HYDE.

Scottish Mission

Superintendent: Pastor J. A. McMillan

Address: 15 Rowallan Gardens, Broomhill, Glasgow, W.1.

Telephone: Western 6350

Superintendent's Notes

CENTENARY SERVICES

OUR Union Missionary Volunteer Department leader, Pastor J. M. Howard, is planning a special Sabbath of Centenary Services in Edinburgh on Sabbath, September 30th. While these meetings have a special appeal for the youth of the Mission, we trust that as many of our members as possible will plan to attend. We are also anxious that those serving in the U.S. Forces should avail themselves of this opportunity of meeting with the Scottish believers. The services will be as follows: Sabbath-school, 10 a.m.; Preaching service, 11.15 a.m.; Closing meeting, 3 p.m.

The address of the Edinburgh church is Bristo Place, which is very near to the Royal Infirmary. Street cars passing along George IV Bridge bring one almost to the door of the church. In addition to the ministry of Pastor Howard, other ministers will be in attendance.

CAMPAIGNS

PASTOR H. T. JOHNSON, who has been unable to locate in the

Kilmarnock area, has started another campaign in Aberdeen. He will be assisted in this latest effort by Brother K. H. Rosier. Here in Glasgow, we start another effort in the King's Cinema on September 17th, assisted by Brother A. H. Watson and Miss E. M. Hanna. Brother Vigors, who is canvassing in Fife, hopes to start a small effort in Kirkcaldy. Remember these campaigns, together with those already under way, in your prayers.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

ON September 16th we are holding a baptismal service in Glasgow. Fruitage from the small campaign at Coatbridge will be gathered in at this time.

Three young ladies have left the mission to take up their training at Newbold College. We wish them success in their studies, as they prepare for larger service in the cause of God.

This month the Centenary Week of Sacrifice Offering is being taken up. We invite our members to join with the workers in this necessary sacrifice that the work of God may be finished in all the world.

J. A. McMILLAN.

Mexican Government Provides a Printing Establishment for Adventists

OUR work in Mexico has had a chequered career and the outlook sometimes seemed very dark. But now this is changed. According to a letter from C. L. Torrey, the government officials in Mexico—including the president and the governors of the various states—have shown a very deep interest in our work, not only in a moral way, but financially as well. The president of the Mexican Republic himself dedicated our Mexican Union training school some months ago. The government has now provided a complete printing establishment for this training school, and they have promised to provide fifty per cent of the cost of educational and medical institutions which we may establish in the future in that republic.

A.W.

UNTIL THE DAY BREAK

BIRD—A grievous loss has befallen the cause in the British Union in the sudden death, through heart failure, of Pastor Alfred F. Bird. He had preached as usual on Sabbath, September 2, 1944, and was to continue his campaign in Derby on the following day, but during the night the call came and he passed away in his sleep. His wife had gone to the help of her mother, worn out in attendance on her dying husband, William Baldwin, in Kettering. Medical counsel had warned our brother of his grave danger but, rejoicing in a Saviour's love and devoted to His service, Brother Bird spent his strength without reserve. He leaves his faithful wife and two daughters to cherish a blessed memory till they meet again. Many relatives were present at the funeral service, conducted in the Kettering church which was filled. Some of our ministers came in honour of a valiant comrade. The service was conducted by the writer, assisted by Brethren H. W. Lowe and R. S. Joyce.

W. T. BARTLETT

GOULD—We regret to announce the death of Brother George H. Gould, N.A.M.H., M.N.S.N.T.P. & S., for over twenty years a member of the Coventry church, and a qualified herbal practitioner in this city. Brother Gould accepted the message, and was baptized by Pastor Hall, in 1923. Having devoted his life to the service of others he will be greatly missed by many. Our brother laid down the burdens of this

life on June 14, 1944, and was interred in the London Road Cemetery, the service being conducted by the writer.

K. LACEY

NASH.—On June 19, 1944, after a short illness, Brother George Nash fell peacefully to sleep in Jesus in his ninety-third year. For many years he nursed his sick wife. After her death he came to church and was baptized by Pastor Cannon on July 1, 1939, and was a regular attender at the services. His cheerful smile and handshake will be missed by all. Pastor McCrow held a service at his home, where he spoke words of comfort to the relatives. Our brother was laid to rest in the quiet graveyard in Irlam.

H. THOMSON, Church Clerk

ALLEN—Brother John Allen, of the Heullan company in West Wales, died suddenly after a difficult surgical operation, on July 13, 1944, and was laid to rest on July 17th at Capel Wig, Caediganshire. H. Humphries, the district leader, conducted the service at the home in the presence of a large company, including the widow, three sons, a daughter, brothers and sisters, neighbours and churchmembers. Brother Allen, although isolated, was a well-known figure at all conferences and special gatherings. He accepted the message some thirty-five years ago through the labours of Pastor Penrose. Pastor Penrose was the minister of the Baptist church, of which Brother Allen was a member. Both found greater light. We know that our brother rests from his labours and that he will share in the glad day of resurrection. Our sincere sympathies are extended to Sister Allen and the members of Brother Allen's family.

S. G. HYDE

"The Lord Hath Taken Away"

I CANNOT recall a funeral service that I felt as keenly as that of our late Pastor A. F. Bird, recorded elsewhere in this issue.

In 1916 he came out to France as one of a group of sixteen Adventist young men, and for eighteen months I knew him in the intimate and not always easy life of a soldier. I saw his courage and faith tried to the uttermost. Some of this, to me, select band of men have left the faith we love, and the remainder have been scattered. Brother Bird returned to England toward the end of the first world war, and spent some time in our Granose factory and in our College. Since then, for over twenty years, he has laboured in the ministry. He was always conscientious and hard-working.

Now at the early age of forty-seven he has laid aside the armour which we had hoped he would wear till the Lord came. We can ill afford, in this land where our work is small and moves so slowly, to lose a godly minister in the prime of life. So, as we gathered in the little Kettering church, we could with full hearts and perplexed minds sing, "Dear Lord, take up the tangled strands. . ."

Brother Bird and his wife were

products of the Kettering church, and to every member there and elsewhere this loss brings many a lesson. Our beloved brother knew he would face a sudden end, yet he laboured on to the last for God. That is the true spirit of men who believe in an imminent second advent of Christ.

Pastor Bird is known to have said shortly before his decease that he was not afraid to die, but he was grieved at the thought of leaving his loved ones. That is the statement of a man who knew his God and loved his family.

In a number of places there are to-day souls won to the truth through the labours of our brother. They will remain as trophies of grace, and with our own personal and fragrant memories, they will speak eloquently of a faithful minister and brother in Christ.

One day the tangled strands and broken cords will be taken up by a divine hand, and the pattern of things will become clear and beautiful in the true life of the resurrection. Till then we can but trust in God and labour faithfully as did he whom now we mourn.

Our hearts' sympathy is prayerfully with those who mourn in hope.

H. W. LOWE.

Wedding Bells

RIGBY-MORRIS — On Thursday, August 10, 1944, at the Stanborough Park church, John Rigby and Hester Mavis Morris were united in marriage. Following the ceremony a large company of friends gathered in the Granose Foods Assembly Hall for a delightful and happy reception. Members of the Park church, and a wide circle of friends elsewhere, will wish these young people happiness and success in their future service together.

G. D. KING

DUNNETT - HOWLETT — Miss Mabel Howlett was united in marriage to Douglas John Dunnett on August 9, 1944. The ceremony took place at the Methodist church at Earl Shilton, the home of the bride.

Both Mr and Mrs. Dunnett are recent graduates of Newbold Missionary College and we are sure that their joint efforts will be blessed in the work for God.

After the very pleasant reception, attended by a large number of relations and friends, the bridal couple left for Morecambe. They will return to London where Brother Dunnett continues his work in the ministry. We surely wish these consecrated young people every joy and happiness as they walk life's way together. Their home address is: 31 Cranley Gardens, London, N.W.

W. G. MURDOCH

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

REQUIRED immediately, strong person for farm work, also housekeeper. Live with family. Sabbath privileges. Good wages. Write in first instance to: C.G.M., Stanborough Press, Watford, Herts.

WANTED, copy of *British-Israelism* by W. J. Young. Also *The World's Quest* by A. Warren. Full price paid. Send to: The Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts.

THE treasurer of the South England Conference acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the Lord's tithe, £5 and offerings £1 from "O.K."

SUNSET CALENDAR

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	Lon'n	Not'm	Car'ff	Edin	Bel't
Sept 29th	6.44	6.48	6.57	6.55	7.06
Oct 6th	6.27	6.31	6.40	6.36	6.48

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

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