

# BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

## “Behold, He Cometh!”

“At the time appointed the end shall be.” Daniel 8:19.

ONE day in July, 1944, we were travelling along the border of Vermont and New York State, seeking the grave of William Miller, that great Advent preacher of the 1840's. One member of our party was sure it was to our right; another, that it was on our left. At last, having completely lost our bearings, we stopped the car and, seeing a woman working in a hayfield, decided to make inquiry.

“Do you happen to know the way to William Miller's grave?”

“Indeed I do,” she said. “I am William Miller's great-granddaughter! And there's Father, coming up the highway with a team of horses.”

Of a sudden it seemed to us that William Miller, his life and witness, were not so far away after all. For here before our eyes were his own close relatives. His own grandson. His own great-granddaughter.

His grandson, Mr. Willis J. Bartholomew, is seventy-three years of age, but amazingly energetic for his years, and with a mind and memory as keen as any we ever had the pleasure to meet. Mr. Bartholomew did not, of course, remember his grandfather, but he knew of his grandfather's godly life and fervent preaching of the Advent message.

After spending an hour together, we asked him: “After all these years, do you still believe in the coming of the Lord as did your grandfather in 1844?”

By A. S. MAXWELL

“Yes, indeed,” he said, “we still hold the faith.”

He then told us where William Miller is buried. Soon we were at the grave, where we realized that, though he is dead, he yet speaks, preaching his message even from the texts upon his tombstone.

It has been thought by some that William Miller gave up his belief in the second advent when the Lord did not return during his lifetime. But no one can retain any such erroneous impression after standing by this time-worn tombstone.

At the top of the stone are carved the stirring words of Daniel 8:19: “At the time appointed the end shall be.” Below, recorded on the open pages of a book, are two other texts from which Miller preached so frequently. On the left, verse 14: “And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” On the right, Daniel 12:12: “Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.”

Below these texts follow the words of verse 13: “Go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.”

No, William Miller did not

give up his faith. He carried it with him to his grave.

Not far from this country cemetery stands William Miller's home. And nearby, too, is the little church which he built in 1848. Its chief significance lies in the fact that it was erected by William Miller four years after his great disappointment, and still carries the message penned on the wall behind the pulpit: “At the time appointed the end shall be.”

It seemed to us, as we stood in this church, as though Miller were saying to us, even in this day, “I do not know why the Lord did not come in my lifetime; but never mind—perhaps I erred in my interpretation; but He cannot err. He has appointed a time for His coming, and ‘at the time appointed the end shall be.’”

That same evening we visited Mrs. Ella Adams, of Rutland, Vermont, the only surviving granddaughter of William Miller. As bright-eyed and clear-minded as her brother, she talked freely of the days of her youth, and of her memories of her mother. She also related to us stories that her mother had told of the Advent movement in the 1840's.

At the close of the interview we asked her the same question as we had asked her aged brother: “Do you still believe in the coming of the Lord as did your grandfather?”

“Indeed!” she said with emphasis, “we still hold the faith.”

Then to our surprise, this

grand old lady launched out upon a description of the signs of the times, pointing out how the stupendous events of our day serve to prove, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that her grandfather's teachings were correct. "Look at this, look at that," she said; "there never were such events as these! Surely they prove that Jesus is near, even at the doors."

We could not but reflect that there must be something in a man's preaching when it is accepted not only by his ten children—which William Miller had—but by all his grandchildren, and again by his great-grandchildren. In this connection we quote this striking testimony of William Miller's, published by him shortly before his death:

"I am persuaded that I cannot be far out of the way, and I believe that God will still justify my preaching to the world.

"With respect to other features of my views, I can see no reason to change my belief. We are living under the last form of the divided fourth kingdom, which brings us to the end. The prophecies which were to be fulfilled previous to the end, have been so far fulfilled that I find nothing in them to delay the Lord's coming. The signs of the times thicken on every hand; and the prophetic period, I think, must certainly have brought us into the neighbourhood of the event"

Most touching of all, however, is the following message, which he wrote on his deathbed to an old friend. Though blind and sick and rapidly approaching the end of his earthly journey, he took up his pen once more. In large, wavering letters he wrote:

"Dear Brother, I cannot refrain from writing you a word or two, although I cannot see. All is well. The Bridegroom (Christ) is coming; no mistake. . . . The King must come. Lift up your head, be of good cheer, be not faithless but believing. We shall soon see Him for whom we have looked and waited."

What a testimony! Looking back over the one hundred years which have elapsed since the birth of the Advent movement, we are impressed to say: William Miller, we honour your memory. With the limitations with which you were surrounded, you may

have misunderstood what was to happen in 1844. You may have been mistaken as to the time of Christ's actual coming to this earth, but you were not mistaken in your insistence upon the certainty, the reality, and the imminence of that sublime event. Your preaching is now fully and abundantly justified. Every tragic happening of our time testifies that you were right. What you failed to perceive was that your message, so vehemently preached by you and your followers in New England, was intended in God's good providence to be preached in all the world, as a witness to all nations. Now—to-day—500,000 Adventists, among every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, proclaim the same glorious tidings. To-day, in every land, by radio, by printing press, by every modern method of communication, the blessed news is flashed to all mankind: Behold, He cometh!

Yes, William Miller, you were right! Christ is coming, and coming soon. If you could hear us in your dusty bed below that ancient tombstone, we would say to you with all fervency: "We hold the faith"! One hundred years in the sight of God is "but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night." Though He tarry, we will wait for Him. We trust His promise: "At the time appointed the end shall be."

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## Notes from the Union President

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PASTOR C. H. WATSON

BRITISH Union believers will remember Pastor Watson's visit to this field some years ago, and also his valued services, as president of the General Conference, for a number of years. Word has come to hand this morning that on urgent medical advice Pastor Watson is to retire from all active service. Our sympathies and prayers will be with Brother Watson in his retirement, and we trust the Lord may be gracious to him in days to come. Pastor E. B. Rudge succeeds to the office of Vice President for the Australasian Division.

### GREETINGS FROM AUSTRALIA

PASTOR A. W. ANDERSON, one of the veterans of our work in Australasia, in commenting on the flying bomb menace in England, sends this paragraph of greeting:

"I will be glad, Brother Lowe, if you would pass on from me personally, to our churchmembers in the London area who have suffered through this wicked effort of the Nazis, my Christian sympathy and condolences with them in their sufferings. If there is one place on earth that I would like to revisit it is London."

### AT THE TURN OF THE ROAD

THE close of another year is upon us, and should give us pause for thought.

Inevitably time marches forward and ultimately "bears all its sons away." The believer always keeps this in mind, and, while thanking God for continuance of life, ever remembers the probationary nature of his existence. May we suggest some end-of-the-year thoughts in this connection?

1. Have I used my time to God's honour?

The Lord's servant tells us that time is often wasted on unimportant things. (*Testimonies to Ministers*, page 194). It is also wasted on criticism (*Testimonies*, Vol. 8, page 83), in frivolity, (*Testimonies*, Vol. 4, page 450), in gloomy thinking (*Testimonies*, Vol. 3, page 337), in empty reading (*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, page 294), on petty differences (*Testimonies*, Vol. 1, page 261).

2. Have I given sufficient service to the church work?

"If every churchmember had sought to enlighten others, thousands upon thousands would today stand with God's commandment-keeping people." — (*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, page 296).

3. Have I faithfully honoured God's cause with tithes and offerings?

There are two fallacies to watch here. Firstly, these times have witnessed much ill-gotten gains. Any Christian foolish enough to dabble in this sort of thing cannot expect to "placate the Deity" by offering liberally of such spoils. Secondly, we can-

not expect full blessing from partial faithfulness in tithes and offerings. And here let us remember we pay our dues to God because we love to obey Him and His truth—and for no other reason.

Perhaps this is enough to suggest some New Year revolutions, and maybe it will bring a heap of joy and blessing to the faithful people of God.

To one and all—*A Blessed and Better New Year with the Master!*  
H. W. LOWE.

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### Stanborough Park M.V. Rally

OUR last Youth Rally of the year was held at the Stanborough Park church on Sabbath, November 18th. On Friday evening our president, Pastor G. D. King, on behalf of the headquarters church, welcomed the Rally and introduced to us Elder Roy L. Benton, the General Conference Camp Pastor now visiting Adventist youth in the American and Allied Forces in Europe. Following the singing of a selection from "Elijah" by a young people's quartette and the recitation of a consecration prayer by Miss M. Goodall, Pastor H. W. Lowe, the Union president, brought us a message from God's Word based on Daniel 3:20, 25. The world is as full of idols to-day, he said, as it was in the time of the three Hebrew young men or when a temple to Diana stood on the site of St. Paul's Cathedral. We must give no homage to money, ambition, pleasure, or pride. "To stand in defence of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test." (*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, page 136.) We were reminded that we are largely responsible for our weaknesses, but that by faithfulness in prayer we can maintain a strong Christian

experience. We, too, must expect "fiery trials" (1 Peter 4:12), but if in the time of testing we are found true to God "the form of the fourth, . . . the Son of God" will be with us also.

The Sabbath-school was well attended, visitors arriving from several London churches and places as far away as Slough, Luton, and Chelmsford. After the missions appeal by Pastor W. L. Emmerson, the prophecy of Micah was reviewed by Brother L. Brooks, one of our young people, and Pastor J. M. Howard, the Union M.V. Leader, took the lesson on Nahum. To conclude the Sabbath-school the Male Choir sang that beautiful hymn, "Only a Sinner Saved by Grace."

Seldom have so many churches been represented in a gathering of five hundred people at the headquarters' church as was the case that Sabbath morning, for our overseas visitors came from all parts of Canada and the U.S.A., and there was at least one brother in the uniform of the Netherlands. Following the anthem, "O Taste and See," rendered by the church choir, Elder Roy L. Benton brought us greetings from the General Conference and assured us of the continued prayers of our fellow-members in the States during the trying ordeals through which many in our conference have passed in recent years. Commencing with Peter's assertion in support of the prophetic gift of Joel (Acts 2:16) Brother Benton showed the importance of treasuring God's revelations (Amos 3:7; Deut. 29:29); the place of John as the Messiah's forerunner (John 1:19; Matt. 11:2-10), and the high honour and responsibility of the Advent people in direct fulfilment of Revelation 14:6-12. His inspiring address was illustrated with personal experiences in American Army camps which greatly encouraged all present, particularly those in the services.

There was also an unusually large attendance at the children's Sabbath-school and service held in the Stanborough Press chapel. Miss M. Craven, the Junior M.V. leader, called upon various children to review some of the year's work before the writer gave a talk on *Pilgrim's Progress* illustrated with coloured lantern slides.

One of the most memorable sights of the day was at Granose Foods Ltd., where nearly fifty men and women in uniform had lunch with Pastor Benton. Normally scattered in camps in several counties of our conference it was to them indeed a pleasure to sit at one table with so many of the same faith. After lunch a special service was held in the church for our overseas brethren and sisters when Brethren Benton, Howard, and Cook spoke to these uniformed soldiers of Christ.

The closing service of the day, at 3.30 p.m., found the church filled once again. Elder Benton told us of the growing realization by the General Conference of the value of youth to the Advent cause. Our young people, he said, are the greatest asset we have and plans now being made for the future extension of God's work depend largely for their fulfilment upon the consecrated service of the youth, Captain Martinsen, one of our American doctors, called for the singing of that good hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers," the singing of which by so large a congregation of young people was thrilling to hear. The need for a church hall at headquarters was presented and we are very happy to report an offering of £20 toward the Missionary Volunteer fund for this project.

Our Union M.V. Leader's message, based on John 10:9, was the abundant life of the true Christian. Pastor Howard gave us many examples of faithful witness that our young people both in and out of uniform were giving and urged all to fit themselves for a fuller life by the Progressive Courses of study which develop body, mind, and spirit. The hymn, "The Lord is King," announced by Brother Konigsfeld, one of our Canadian soldiers, was followed by the conference M.V. secretary calling attention to a chart which showed the total gains and losses in society membership during the past four years. He appealed for stronger work for our children and youth in every church. Juniors who had recently completed Progressive Courses then recited some of their Scripture passages. A very repre-

sentative Investiture followed, nine Helpers, four Friends, two Companions, one Comrade, and two Master Comrades receiving their badges from Pastor Benton, himself a Master Comrade. The Male Choir, which had already rendered "Face to Face," closed our service with that prayerful hymn, "Abide with Me."

Some of the visiting young people were able to stay to participate in the social arrangements which had been made for the evening. Some enjoyed nature and travel films at the Press Assembly Hall and others games in the Stanborough School Hall, where the Stanborough Park Youth Club holds its weekly meetings. Thus a most enjoyable and profitable Youth Rally came to an end and we now look forward to others in the new year, the first being at Bournemouth on January 6th.

E. R. WARLAND.

### Combined Baptism at Chiswick

AN afternoon of blessing and joy was spent at the Chiswick Advent church on Sabbath, November 11th, when eleven souls went forward in baptism. Six of these were added to the churches in the Wimbledon area, being the fruitage of the labours of Brother G. Roper and Sister M. Clements. Five were added to the West London churches. In the morning another two names were added to the church at Reading, these having recently moved from Ealing and so were voted direct into their new church. These seven souls formed the second addition to the church this year from the labours of the writer and Miss K. Mahon, loyally assisted in all ways by the members of the Ealing church.

We were privileged to have the president of our conference, Pastor G. D. King, with us, who presented some helpful thoughts to the candidates as to what was involved in "Following the Lamb." It was an inspiring afternoon for all, and the presence of the Lord was truly felt. The church building was full to overflowing and many testified that the Spirit of God had moved in no uncertain

way. We believe those who passed through the waters received an unction which will gladden and strengthen them in their new walk of faith. We shall pray that this joy will be an increasing one until the journey is accomplished.

The service was made more beautiful and reverent by well chosen and well rendered musical items. Brethren F. Archer, G. Baldry, A. W. Lethbridge, and Brother E. Watson and wife and Sister Selby came from Stanborough Park to give special music before the immersion and after the rite had been administered. The members of the Chiswick church had made the baptistery look very pleasing by the addition of palms, flowers, and evergreens.

As we look back upon the disturbing months of this year and review the many ways the enemy has sought to hinder God's work, we can only give praise to our Saviour for the increase He has given. Having received the assurance of His ministry at all times "we faint not," but move forward into the hope of the future.

W. W. ARMSTRONG.

## North England Conference

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### Baptism in Central Yorks District

THE Leeds Advent church was very well filled for the occasion of our baptism on Sabbath, November 4th, when twelve souls were welcomed into the fellowship of Jesus and His remnant people.

All present were greatly blessed under the ministry of our president, Pastor R. S. Joyce, who was with us to care for this sacred and happy occasion.

We had begun our public work some thirty weeks before in the town of Wakefield, then being quite alone in the campaign and the care of three churches. After ten weeks, when the Sabbath had been presented, and many were exercised by the truth, Miss

Jean Mitchell came to us as Bible-worker.

Coming as she did at this critical time in the campaign, Miss Mitchell was full of courage as she laid hold of the visiting, which Miss Joan Sheard had so valiantly helped to care for in her spare time.

Many thanks are also due to the Wakefield members, who so willingly and gladly carried the burden of the distribution of many thousands of handbills and were so faithful in attending the meetings.

We trust that you will pray with us for others who should come forward in baptism before the close of the year.

DENNIS A. CONROY.

## Advertisements

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A VACANCY in the near future for the post of sister in a General Nursing Home, situated on Sussex-Surrey borders. Must be S.R.N. and have had experience in staff management. Salary £150 rising to £180. Resident post Sabbath privileges, with excellent hours and holidays. Apply with full details of qualifications and experience to: The Principal, Upper Quabrook, Coleman's Hatch, Sussex.

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WANTED, to purchase or have on loan, copy of *The Sanctuary and Its Services* by W. L. Andreason. Write: G.R., 18 Erridge Road, Merton Park, S.W. 19.

TO SABBATH-SCHOOL OFFICERS. An attractive chart will make your Sabbath-school more interesting. Order from S. Riches, 109 Belvedere Road, Ipswich. Price 4/6. Carriage paid.

## SUNSET CALENDAR

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Lon'n Not'm Car'ff Edin Bel't  
Dec. 22nd 4.54 4.50 5.06 4.40 5.00  
Dec. 29th 4.59 4.55 5.11 4.45 5.05

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