

# BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

## Assurance in Days of Uncertainty

LIFE is uncertain at best. No one knows what awaits on the morrow in his experience. But the times in which we live make life more uncertain than usual. The world has witnessed great and significant changes during the past three decades.

As the nations stood on the threshold of 1914 they little realized that that year would mark the beginning of a great world conflict—a conflict that was to bring death to millions of men, destruction to populous cities and beautiful architecture, and desolation to many thousands of homes, laying waste thousands of fertile fields. The nations of men were robbed of their choicest manhood. And an insignificant incident precipitated this great conflict.

The experiences of the first World War are being repeated and magnified in this second World War, this global war, as it is now being termed.

How should we relate ourselves to the present period of suspense and anxiety, to the fear and forebodings of millions of minds? Shall we permit ourselves to be carried away with this spirit of fear? Nay, verily. This is a time for calm, self-possessed minds and for abiding trust in Christ and in the assurance of His divine promises.

There are certain requisites for us to possess at the present time. We must think calmly. We must decide carefully every question of life. We cannot afford to-day to make false or wrong moves in our religious experience, in our social

By F. M. Wilcox

life, in our business affairs. We should seek daily for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We may counsel with others if we are not well settled as to the course we should take. And above all, we should seek Heaven for divine guidance.

We should keep our consciences void of offence, walking in all the ways of the Lord blameless. With this experience, with no dimming veil of sin between us and the Lord, we can come to Him with confidence, knowing that we are His children and believing that He will do for us that which He sees in His great love and wisdom is for our best good.

But if our own heart condemns us, if we are carrying about some burden of sin, if we are conscious of wrongdoing from day to day, these conditions of heart and mind will rob us of assurance as

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1945

**Ingathering Campaign**

**RALLY DAY**

Sabbath, April 21st

**FIRST COLLECTING DAY**

Sunday, April 29th

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we approach the throne of grace.

The divine promise is, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee." Isa 26:3. And then there is given the divine exhortation, "Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength." This heritage is ours. It is ours to trust when distrust fills the hearts of those around us. It is ours to enjoy the peace of Heaven when our unbelieving friends and neighbours are fearful and doubting. It is our blessed privilege to go to our rest at night with our sins forgiven, with peace between us and the Lord, and with the assurance of divine acceptance filling our hearts.

And so let us not, in the present state of affairs in the world, forget the source of our strength. Speaking prophetically of the days in which we live, the psalmist exhorts, "Be still, and know that I am God." We need to cultivate stillness, quietness, silence. There is much idle talk in the world around us—most wicked, impure talk. Many are cursing God, defying Him to His face.

Many are careless and indifferent in their ways. Their one objective is seeking worldly pleasure and anything else that will contribute to personal aggrandizement.

Let us not be caught in the world's great whirl. Let us be slow to speak but quick to com-

mit to the Lord the keeping of our souls every moment of our existence. This is our privilege, and the exercise of this privilege will bring to us joy and peace even in the midst of the world's present-day strife and commotion.

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## Notes from the Union President

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### GOOD NEWS FROM MANILA

A CABLE announces that Brother and Sister A. G. Rodgers and their little son have been liberated by the American army in Manila. Presumably this means that the considerable number of Adventist missionaries interned there are free. We certainly rejoice in this good news.

### JOY IN THE WORD

OUR believers in Madagascar were cut off by the war and eventually found themselves without Bibles, of which they use French, English, and Malagasy. The work went forward, but new believers and no Bibles were a severe handicap for a people like ours. Eventually word came through to us and the British and Foreign Bible Society kindly forwarded a consignment of mixed Bibles as a gift from the British Union. This word of thanks comes from the treasurer of our mission in Tananarive (Brother Eardman is a native of Alsace):

"Last Friday we received a sending from the British Bible Society and you can imagine our deep joy when we saw the good old Book in our hands. It was indeed a fine inspiration for Sabbath eve. We are so glad and thankful and I wish to express to you our deep appreciation for the help you have given us for obtaining the Bibles. Thank you so much for all you have done. May God bless you abundantly, and the work you are doing for Him.

"We are all keeping well here I also had news from my family in Alsace. They had much to suffer, had no liberty to speak, no religious liberty, and could have no church assemblies since the Germans overran France. They

had twice to leave their home, but are still alive and courageous and confident in the Lord. They experienced very often that the Lord is a good Shepherd. I had all this news from my sister who is working in our Division office in Berne. Many of our brethren and sisters had much to suffer from war in Europe and you know all about that in England."

### INGATHERING AGAIN

APRIL 21st is our Ingathering Rally Day. Our official permit is granted for 1945 and it looks as though all will be ready for the campaign to commence in earnest on April 29th.

May we urge once again the necessity of strict adherence to the regulations governing these house-to-house collections? For instance, children under sixteen must not collect (under eighteen in the London area) alone, permits must be carried by all collectors, and boxes must not be opened except by the regular local agents. Whenever there is any query or suspicion regarding these matters we always give the authorities all the information they require. Only in this way can we safeguard our good name.

It is a great privilege in the sixth year of war to be able to help the cause of missions in this way. We trust every church will make thorough and prayerful preparation, and that all members will rally to this good cause. May many among the public become interested in our work as they are visited by our people this year.

### FINLAND

PASTOR LINDSAY writes from Sweden to say that he recently spent two weeks in Finland, where God has wonderfully blessed our work under great hardship. He cites the case of a young soldier who brought twenty-seven souls to the truth, and a young Bible-worker who brought in thirty persons through meetings she held in a small town.

Pastor Magi, of Estonia, known to some of us in England, is in Sweden as a refugee, with his wife and two younger sons. Their eldest son and wife are lost. Another Estonian minister, Elder Kana, once at our English College, is also in Sweden.

We pass on Pastor Lindsay's greetings to old friends here.

### AUSTRALASIA

SOME interesting items have come to hand regarding our work in Australia and her island fields. Pastor Dyason, principal of the Fulton Missionary School, Fiji, has hundreds of applications for entry to his school which is rapidly growing in prestige as an educational centre. Last year the school was awarded the silver cup for having the highest average in the local School Leaving Examination, presented by the Director of Education.

The Ingathering appeal is on in Australia and great enthusiasm prevails. The famous Solomon Island chief Ragoso has organized squads of Adventist life-savers and they have rescued seventy-seven Allied airmen from certain death. This has proven to be a great appeal in the Ingathering campaign.

Medical missionaries and others are returning to many of the islands, Malaita, New Guinea, Fiji, Tahiti, and the New Hebrides.

One of our mission babies in Raratonga won the Aysen Cup awarded to the champion baby each year in the Cook Group Islands. Also one of our mission families won the championship award for the best native home, points being awarded for build, cleanliness, and appointments. The Chief Medical Officer highly commended the mission for its example in hygiene and healthful living.

H. W. LOWE.

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## South England Conference

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### Plymouth Convention

PLYMOUTH, centre of West country life, was chosen as a meeting-place at which our West country Sabbath-school folk could gather for a well-planned convention held in our local Advent church. Seldom in its long history have more members joined

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

together in worship and fellowship than on February 20th.

We had with us members from Exeter, Torquay, Paignton, Newton Abbot, Ivybridge, Ilfracombe, Liskeard, Redruth, St. Austell, Launceston, and from isolated places.

A special young people's meeting was arranged for Friday evening, at which Pastor Warland reminded us of "Our Father's Riches and our Present Inheritance," taking illustrations from Mother Nature, and encouraging the members to study the Progressive Volunteer Course.

The Sabbath-school began at ten o'clock on Sabbath morning. Our superintendent was Brother W. H. Musgrave. The mission appeal was vividly brought to our notice by Pastor F. L. Stokes, recently home from West Africa. This was followed by the review by Pastor J. G. Bevan, dealing with the "Remnant Church and the Second Angel's Message." Pastor F. J. Wilmshurst conducted the lesson study on "The Remnant Church and the Third Angel's Message."

One of the big surprises in store for us was the presence of Elder Benton, from the General Conference, who addressed us during divine service. He took for his text Psalm 133, expressing his great confidence in the unity of the brethren, and that this is the convincing evidence to the world that this truth is God's message. The Plymouth church choir ably rendered the anthem, "Lead kindly light."

Arrangements were made for the members from long distances to have their lunch in the upper lecture hall.

The afternoon services started with a round table hour, discussions being led by Sister F. Bevan, Pastor F. L. Stokes, and Brother W. J. Sanders.

At 3.30 p.m. we had our Study Hour, when Pastor G. D. King spoke to us. The subject he chose was "A Bulwark in Times of Peril." Following this were two brief Bible studies, one by Pastor Bevan on "The Teacher—the Keystone of a Successful Sabbath-School," and the other by Pastor E. R. Warland on "Our Children in the Sabbath-School."

At 4.35 p.m. another Round

Table Hour commenced. Brother W. H. Musgrave opened a discussion topic, "Every Churchmember in the Sabbath-school." Following this Pastor Warland answered many questions sent in regarding our Sabbath-school work. When these had been dealt with Pastor F. J. Wilmshurst gave his closing message, urging us to continue in the fellowship we had enjoyed together during this memorable convention.

For those who could remain, a social evening programme was arranged, commencing at seven o'clock, when all present joined in the games and enjoyed the concert. Light refreshments were provided.

We look forward to the time when another such local gathering can be arranged, and from thence to that grander and more glorious reunion when all the faithful shall be gathered up, and all flesh shall worship together from one Sabbath to another.

EILEEN T. BUNKER.

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## North England Conference

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### Notes from the President

PASTOR H. W. McCROW began a self-supporting campaign in Manchester on February 25th; ninety non-members were present on the first night and twenty-two asked for further information.

ON March 25th, Brother K. Lacey, assisted by Miss J. Handysides, launched the work in the heretofore unentered conservative town of Rugby. He has found it most difficult to secure halls, but we believe that a church will result, under God's blessing.

THE evangelists are doing their utmost to continue to spread the message although faced with almost insurmountable house and hall difficulties. Pray for their success. "There is nothing more precious in the sight of God than His ministers, who go forth into the waste places of the earth to sow the seeds of truth, looking

forward to the harvest."—"Acts of the Apostles," pages 369-370.

### CONGRATULATIONS

OVER fifty years ago, in 1892 Pastor J. E. Bell became a colporteur. In 1909 he began work as a minister and has faithfully served in the North England Conference ever since. Last year he started a self-supporting evangelistic campaign, and a few weeks ago four people were baptized as a result. He is now retiring from "active service," but is determined to continue studying with others, to win them for the church. His wife, who has very indifferent health, has been his firm support.

### HOUSE OF WORSHIP

THE very many friends of the North England Conference will rejoice to know that after years of waiting and some disappointments a church building has been secured in the central area of Nottingham. Pastor W. J. Cannon successfully carried through the preliminary negotiations. The building is now being prepared for dedication. Details will be published in due course.

### WEST AFRICA

BROTHER and Sister Peter Stearman, who accepted a call to West Africa, received a three-and-a-half hours' notice to sail after months of anxious waiting for transport. The members in the Severn Valley district were very sorry to lose their services. We wish them great success in their future labours.

R. S. JOYCE.



BRADLEY.—Sister Hannah Bradley fell asleep on March 12, 1945, at the age of eighty years. She was baptized in 1898 at Duncombe Hall, London, and has been a faithful member ever since. Although deaf when she joined the church, and so unable to do much to spread the truth, she made rugs industriously to help the mission cause. Her eight children revere her memory. Three of them are in the church. Recently Sister Bradley was afflicted with blindness, and it was a sore trial to her that she could no longer read her Bible. We laid her to rest in St. Albans Cemetery. A large number of relatives were present at the service to honour a much loved, sincerely Christian mother.

W. T. BARTLETT.

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## Ministry of Literature

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### Different

"THERE is a different touch," said a minister of another denomination in high appreciation of the writings of Mrs. E. G. White. He was right. They are different.

Now it should be stated that we Adventists greatly value the helpful matter found in books and commentaries by other religious authors. It must be in the providence of God that great and good men have devoted themselves to the preparation and furnishing of material on every phase of the Christian Gospel. In the books that abound is this knowledge stored and we are surely grateful for such help so ready to hand.

Our preachers especially will often turn to Matthew Henry, Barnes, Conybeare and Howson, Edersheim, etc., in their devotional studies and sermon preparation and be much enriched thereby.

But in the last analysis it is from the volumes of the Spirit of prophecy that the most practical instruction and the clearest light is obtained. B. BELTON.

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### Other Papers Copy "Straws"

THAT the feature, "Straws in the Wind" in our missionary magazine, *Present Truth*, is appreciated by other Protestant editors is indicated by the fact that in the March, 1945, issue of *The Catholic* four "Straws" were reproduced from *Present Truth*, and credit was duly given to their source of origin.

Then in the *English Churchman* dated March 22, 1945, the same four "Straws" were copied entire, probably from *The Catholic*, and again credited to *Present Truth*.

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### Do You Believe in Prayer?

SINCE I have been a colporteur I have learned the power of prayer. Prayer is the secret of the Christian life. Jesus was a man of prayer and faith. Jacob gained

victory and power to overcome through prayer.

In these days of darkness we as colporteurs depend on prayer and guidance in our work, we meet all kinds of religions in the different classes of people whose homes we visit. Sometimes we wonder just how to approach certain people with our message of truth. We often stop and wonder just how we can convince these people that we have the truth for this time. The approach we make may be favourable, the book (the prospect thinks) has the look of truth and genuineness, but this alone does not effect a sale. No! what we need is to trust more in the power of the Spirit to move hearts to seek after this truth.

Recently I had been canvassing hard all morning and only had but little success in sales. I was talking to a lady at her door and before I had a chance to get into my canvass she said, "How much is this book?" and took it out of my hand and disappeared into the house. Oh, I thought, what is happening now? I must pray hard for God's Spirit to move the heart of the husband or others in this home. I was offering a prayer in faith that the book might get in even under these apparently unfavourable circumstances, when, to my surprise, three ladies came to the door saying, "We will have one each in the best binding."

This cheered my heart and as I went joyfully to the next door, I thought to myself, "This work is of the Lord; I am going to say a prayer before knocking at every door."

I prayed that the Lord would bless me with ten orders that morning. He did, thank God, and each morning that week I did the same. Surely prayer was answered powerfully and wonderfully.

There are great opportunities these days both for canvassing and evangelistic efforts. My work as colporteur evangelist has given me many an opportunity for Bible studies and I have seen souls take their stand and be baptized into this truth.

Who will join us in this great and wonderful work of leading souls to Jesus?

STANLEY MONTGOMERY.

### A Veteran Literature Worker

I HAVE been engaged in the work for a good number of years now, and have had the joy and privilege of visiting thousands of homes with the printed page. In many instances I have been able to give a word of cheer to many a soul and point the way of salvation through Christ our Saviour. I have endeavoured to put all my spare time into the work and many thousands have purchased books, magazines, etc., from me, and are having an opportunity of studying the truth for themselves. The printed page has a great influence on the mind, and people often remark upon the book or magazine they have bought. One gentleman after many years of contact is enjoying an experience which he never had before and is now an active worker for the truth. So I am confident that the canvassing work is ordained of God and hope that many more, if time lasts, will take up this grand work for God.

I am now in my seventy-third year, and of course not so active at that age, but I am still plodding on for the Master as long as I have health and strength. I am rededicating my life to the finishing of His work.

P. B. NOBLE.

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### Advertisements

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

FOLKESTONE: Board-residence or apartments. Comfortable home. Near sea and S.D.A. church. Moderate terms. Write: "Wharfedale," 82 Cheriton Road, Folkestone.

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### Acknowledgment

THE Editor acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the Lord's tithe, £6, anonymously.

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### SUNSET CALENDAR

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Apr. 13th 8.52 8.59 9.05 9.14 9.22  
Apr. 20th 9.04 9.12 9.16 9.29 9.36

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