

BRITISH ADVENT

# MESSENGER

## The Philosophy of Trial

SOME may ask, "What has philosophy or a philosopher to do with trials?" I might answer, "Much every way."

Webster defines "philosopher" as "one who lives according to the rules of practical wisdom; one who meets or regards all vicissitudes with calmness."

He defines philosophy as "practical wisdom, calmness of temper."

Nearly all, if not all, trials are experiences which test calmness, wisdom, judgment, and ability to act wisely. To illustrate, I once heard a mother exclaim to her child, "Oh dear! How you do try my patience!"

That child, without intending or realizing what she had done, had been testing her mother's ability to be patient.

Trial means anything that tries or tests, ability to reveal wisdom or calmness, even in small matters.

As we compare our trials with those of others all around us, we are able to grasp the truthfulness of the poet's words:

"The world is full of sighs,  
Full of sad and weeping eyes."

If we will listen and remember the Master's words, "Whatever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them," it will help us to heed the poet's further counsel:

"Help your fallen brother rise  
While the days are going by."

As we heed it we shall know the truism: "Burdens shared are burdens lightened." And this is

By A. E. PLACE

fulfilling the law of Christ. (See Gal. 6:2.)

From among Webster's definitions of trials and kindred words I have selected the following: "The state or fact of being tried by suffering; especially, a test of one's virtue, faith, patience, etc., by being subjected to affliction or temptation."

Let us remember that this has been a universal law from the beginning. "To Adam He [God] said, Because thou hast . . . eaten of the tree: . . . cursed is the ground . . . ; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee."

The Creator saw that thorns, thistles, and sorrow—which represent trials—would be not only a result but a necessity. Do you ask why? Did you notice that I left out three vitally important words which give the answer? They are "for thy sake." Note: "Cursed is the ground for thy sake." I wish to say to you, my brethren, I am seeking, by His grace, to see my trials in that light.

But how often many of us fail and, like Jacob of old, cry, "All these things are against me!" But our best Friend replies, "No, My child, they are for your good."

One of the strongest lessons on trials, as tests of loyalty, is given in Malachi 3:3: "He shall sit as

a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering of righteousness."

I have seen gold purified. My friend, a jeweller, said, "I need some pure gold. All the dross must be burned out." He put some pieces of gold into a crucible and put the crucible into the furnace of fire. He watched the process carefully. Gradually the dross came to the top and was burned; then that instant he removed the crucible, and his face was reflected in the bright molten mass.

Spiritually speaking, God wants pure gold. He has a crucible, and we are in it. His furnace is the furnace of experience. Trials of various degrees surrounding us day by day represent the fire that must burn the dross.

Our assayer, Jesus Christ, is most carefully watching the process. As the dross is burned, the heat is removed, and the instant His face is reflected in us the work is finished and we are ready for His eternal kingdom.

I love the words of the poet touching this precious truth:

"When through fiery trials thy  
pathway shall lie,  
My grace all-sufficient shall be thy  
supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I  
only design  
Thy dross to consume and thy  
gold to refine."

But, brethren, that is not all. The climax seems to be in the thrilling promise—

"The soul that on Jesus doth lean for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

O my dear brethren, with these soul-thrilling facts before us, why do we not more often "rejoice in tribulation"?

## Notes from the Union President

### OUR WEST AFRICAN MISSIONS

HERE is an interesting report just received from the leader of our work in West Africa:

"Just a few words of greetings from West Africa which we hope will find you and your family quite well. I am sure you people in England are feeling a great relief since the V-2 bombs have ceased coming over, and now the black-out is going to be lifted. What a relief that will be to you all. No doubt many of our people have suffered much during these years, but we trust that the bombing is all over, and that soon things may return to more normal conditions. The news is excellent these days and it looks as though Hitler will not have many more birthdays!

"We are very happy to report the arrival of Brother and Sister Stearman in the Gold Coast. I understand they are already on their station at Agona, and I hope to be seeing them before long. We are very grateful indeed for these fresh recruits and are looking forward to the arrival of more in the not distant future.

"Brother Walton is back in Nigeria, and has been made superintendent of the East Nigerian Field. His health is not too good because of his low blood-count, and we feel somewhat anxious as to whether he will be able to stay long in the field. We sincerely hope that the Lord may spare him for service in Ibo country.

"Brother W. J. Newman was ordained to the ministry at our recent camp meeting at Aba. We had excellent camps this year in the Ibo country and 320 people were baptized. By the way, that reminds me of a baptism I witnessed over in the Cameroons when eight people, crippled from leprosy, were baptized by Pastor Fridlin. It was a very touching sight to see these poor people being helped down to the river and to witness Brother Fridlin's joy in performing this service for them. There is a Government leper camp near the Mission at Nanga-Eboko in which we have a small Adventist village, and from time to time there are baptisms there, though the church does not grow much on account of the deaths taking place from that loathsome disease.

"Pastor and Mrs. J. J. Hyde are overdue for furlough, but we have no overseas worker to relieve them in Sierra Leone and Pastor Wilson, the man appointed to take over from Mr. Hyde, is sick. Things are in a very critical condition in that field."

### OUR COLLEGE WORK

Graduation exercises at Packwood will be held over the weekend of May 25th to 27th. A small graduating class will be available for field work this year.

The future of our College is a little uncertain so far as de-requisition of our Newbold building is concerned. It is still held by the Government, but, of course, our College work will go on either in our temporary or permanent quarters.

Brother R. Scar, of our College staff, has obtained his L.R.A.M.

### THIS GREAT VICTORY

SERVICES of Thanksgiving were held in many of our churches on Victory Day. We share with the nation at large, an immense sense of relief as the shadow of a great terror recedes. We should pray that we may be worthy of this deliverance, that the lessons of the past six years may be well learned, and that we, as a church, may press on with God's work with an added consciousness that time is desperately short.

H. W. LOWE.

## South England Conference

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### Hastening the Coming

WE greatly appreciate the continued support of our mission work, which is evidenced by the liberality of our people in their Sabbath-school offerings. With a total of £1,647. 6s. 4d. for the first quarter of the year, South England has once again passed the suggested minimum goal of 9d. per week per churchmember. This has been largely due to the splendid offerings of those Sabbath-schools which, sometimes aided by visiting overseas brethren, have aimed to reach over 1/- per week per churchmember, including Thirteenth Sabbath offering, Birthday gifts, and Investment money.

No less than twenty-seven groups have passed this higher figure and we give them below for the interest and encouragement of our membership, with their individual weekly per member figures:

	s.	d.
Swindon . . . . .	3	3
Weston/Winscombe . . . . .	2	9
Sittingbourne . . . . .	2	6
St. Mabyn . . . . .	2	5
Edgware . . . . .	2	3
High Wycombe . . . . .	2	3
Salisbury . . . . .	2	3
Winslow . . . . .	1	10
Walthamstow . . . . .	1	9
Chelmsford . . . . .	1	8
Medstead . . . . .	1	7
Rye . . . . .	1	7
Cheltenham . . . . .	1	6½
Knaphill . . . . .	1	6
St Austell . . . . .	1	6
Luton . . . . .	1	5
Huntingdon . . . . .	1	4½
Slough . . . . .	1	4½
Bedford . . . . .	1	4
Torquay . . . . .	1	2
Southstoke . . . . .	1	1½
Reading . . . . .	1	1
Richmond . . . . .	1	1
Southampton . . . . .	1	0
Exeter . . . . .	1	0
Gillingham . . . . .	1	0
Norwich . . . . .	1	0

In addition to the above, Bath, Bournemouth, Bristol, Dereham, Enham, Gloucester, Leatherhead, Plymouth, Stanborough Park, Watford, and Wimbledon have all passed the 9d. per member mark.

We would take this opportunity of thanking all our Sabbath-school members for their liberal

gifts which we believe will be continued throughout the year which promises to provide opportunities for strengthening our world-wide mission work.

E. R. WARLAND.

### Carlton Sunday-School

SINCE the destruction of the Carlton Colville Advent church by a flying bomb in late November, we have been faced with a difficult problem to find accommodation for the Sunday-school which has come to be a permanent institution. Brother and Sister Bolton had worked very hard to get the school established and we were loath to let it go without making some efforts to find another room. Finally, through the kindness of the educational authorities, we were granted the use of a classroom in the local council school for a limited period of thirteen weeks from January 1st. Since then we have been granted a further extension of eight weeks.

On March 11th, it was a great sight to see more than fifty children, of ages ranging from four to fifteen, troop into the classroom for their weekly lesson in spiritual things. For weeks the children had looked forward with eager anticipation to the proposed visit of Pastor E. R. Warland.

After the preliminaries, Pastor Warland held the attention of the children with the story "Bad Lodgers Put Out." They were more than pleased to have a part by making suggestions as to the "bad lodgers" to be found in childish hearts—hands were rising everywhere. The cards held by both boys and girls illustrated the points emphatically and enabled Pastor Warland to bring out clearly to the young minds the need of the grace of God to turn out the "bad lodgers" and bring in those good lodgers which would make them lovable and kind. We appreciated this visit of Pastor Warland very much.

The work at Carlton is very promising. Sister E. M. Powell is giving to the task all her abounding enthusiasm, a bly assisted by Sister Strouger, and

the children who are giving her good support. Only two of these children are of Adventist families so that wonderful opportunities are presented to us in this work.

Recently a new vicar was appointed to the Carlton parish church, and we felt that our changed circumstances plus his determination to organize a strong Sunday-school, might cause a drop in the attendance, for the children had a mile farther to walk since the destruction of our church and the journey lies past the parish church. We lost one boy who now attends the church, but we have found six other new ones.

We realize that the work at Carlton will not show immediate results, we cannot expect a baptism in six months or even a year, but by the grace of God we will put a stamp on the minds and characters of these children which, in years to come, will yield a harvest in the kingdom of God. We feel our insufficiency for the task as we seek to press home the truths of the Gospel on fifty or sixty serious, earnest, childish minds, who live in conditions which are not always helpful, but we constantly look to Him who had time and care for the lambs. The people of the village, mothers and fathers of the children are very appreciative of our work and are ready to give us their support.

In our present accommodation we are working under a handicap in that we have only one room and must therefore have the tiny tots in with the older ones, which means that the younger children often go away hungry. We are hopeful that we shall soon have permission to erect a temporary building within the ruins of the wrecked church, and have been promised help for this work. Alternatively we are seeking to purchase a portable hut large enough for our needs which would enable us to conduct two classes. We would solicit an interest in your prayers for the work at Carlton that God will lead us to make wise decisions and will give us richly of His grace in our work for Him among the children.

W. G. NICHOLSON.

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## North England Conference

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### Work in Birmingham District

IN the summer of 1943 the call came to us to connect with the work in the Midlands, I was to join Pastor L. Murdoch in a campaign in the town of Walsall and also to care for the four churches then comprising the Greater Birmingham District.

I have thus had the joy of associating in soul-winning work in both Walsall and Birmingham, and have had the happy experience of sharing the fruits of baptisms in both these places. Unfortunately I was not able to be present at the Walsall baptism, as it came on the same day—March 31st—as the Birmingham baptism. This was very ably conducted by Pastor E. B. Phillips, in our own church at Handsworth.

It was very encouraging to see this church, which seats about 200 people, with hardly an empty seat. The occasion was a very happy and inspiring one, at which the presence of God's Spirit was most marked. Eight souls were welcomed into fellowship, six by baptism and two by vote.

This baptism is of peculiar interest because it is, in a special way, a result of the combined efforts of lay and conference workers. The ground was prepared just over a year ago in the launching of an enterprising but unpretentious laymen's campaign in the Co-operative Hall, Handsworth. The seed was faithfully sown in meetings that were conducted Sunday by Sunday, rain or shine, by a layman who had to travel by cycle a distance of eighteen miles. He was loyally supported by other laymen who have taken services in the campaign on several occasions, and by sisters who have helped in various ways. As a result of the

meetings a good interest was aroused in the neighbourhood, several contacts were made, and studies given to a number of people in their homes.

It has been a source of great joy to the members of the Handsworth church, and indeed to members of the other churches in the district to see some dear souls take their stand with God's remnant people as a result of the earnest and untiring efforts put forth, and the prayers offered; and to see others, too, who were first contacted by lay people, and passed over to me for instruction in the message, come forward for baptism.

One of these, a young lady, had the blessed experience of becoming a soul-winner before her baptism. It is almost a year since she first began to keep the Sabbath, and requested her employers—one of the largest firms in the city—to grant her the Sabbath. Her faith was rewarded, and earnest prayers on her behalf were answered in a marvellous way. Since that time, week by week, she has taken her place in the Handsworth Sabbath-school, eagerly drinking in the truths of God's Word. As the winter came on, the question of leaving off work early on Friday evening had again to be brought to the attention of her employers. At first, it seemed that the matter would prove difficult, but eventually the firm agreed to grant her request on condition that she would lose the whole of Friday afternoon. This she was very willing to do, and rejoiced, although it meant a further decrease in her income, that once again the Lord had wonderfully intervened on her behalf.

Some weeks prior to this second test, our young friend had begun to bear witness to her workmates, and as a result one of these became interested and

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soon joined her in receiving instruction in the truths we hold so dear. This young lady, too, was soon keeping the Sabbath, having been granted the same privilege as her friend. Together week by week, they have drunk in the truths of God's Word and fully accepted them all. Together they went down into the waters of baptism and were accepted into fellowship with God's people, the soul-winner and her first-fruits.

It is such experiences as these that make all the strenuous efforts put forth seem well worth while, and enable us to bear the bitter disappointments which are often the lot of the soul-winner.

Work is still being done with other interested souls in Handsworth whom we hope to see take their stand in the near future. We solicit your prayers on behalf of this great city of over a million souls.

F. EDWARDS.

### Wedding Bells

PARRY-WURR — Surgeon Lt. Roland Parry, R.N., and Miss Vera S. Wurr were united in marriage in the Stanborough Park church on Sunday, May 6, 1945, before a good company of relations and friends. We were delighted to see these Adventist young people facing life together, and we wish them an abundance of happiness and divine blessing in years to come. H. W. LOWE.



LENNOX.—Sister Lennox of Glasgow has received notification from the Admiralty that all hope has been abandoned concerning the fate of her son, John. John served on the H.M.S. Kashmir as Temporary-surgeon Lieutenant, R.N.V.R. This destroyer was sunk off Crete on February 23, 1941. To Sister Lennox, who hoped against hope, Pastor W. Lennox of Stoke, and Mrs. Lewis of Winslow, mother, brother, and sister of Dr. John Lennox we offer our most sincere condolences. May the hour soon arrive when reunion shall take place, with no more heartaches, no more partings. J. A. MCMILLAN.

SEGE.—It is with deep regret we announce the passing after much suffering of Sister Elizabeth Sege. Baptized by Pastor W. Lennox in Hull, our sister became a faithful member radiating her own deep conviction to this truth to the members of her family, so that soon she had the joy of seeing Sister Hall, her daughter, also baptized. Then two years later her grandson, Peter

Hall, and his friend, Roy Pettitt, embraced the truth, Roy having learned of it while an evacuee in the home of Mrs. Hall. We shall miss Sister Sege, whose quiet confidence and energetic missionary activity was an asset in church life. But we sorrow not as others with no hope, for she rests in sure and certain hope of a glorious resurrection. The funeral took place at Enfield and was conducted by the writer L. D. VINCE

CLEWS.—At the advanced age of eighty-two years, Sister Clews passed peacefully away on April 1, 1945, at the home of her son, with whom she had lived for a number of years. Our sister accepted the truth over thirty years ago through the work of a colporteur and remained faithful to the end. Sister Clews had been unable to enjoy church fellowship because of ill-health, but we look forward to renewing our fellowship with her when Jesus makes all things new. E. M. BARBER.

GAINES.—Another faithful member of the Bournmouth church has passed to her rest. Sister Elizabeth Pease Gaines died in a nursing home on Wednesday, April 25, 1945, at the age of sixty-nine years. She first became interested in present truth through the influence of the late Sister Blunt during the ministry of Pastor G. Bell, and was baptized about eight years ago by Pastor G. D. King. Sister Gaines was one of the war victims. She received a shock through the blitz of 1943, from which she did not recover. We miss her very much at the church. Not only was she present at all the services but, blessed with a good voice, she was a great help to the church choir. Our sister suffered much, but she died trusting in her Lord for full salvation. Three sisters and other relatives, and many friends mourn their loss. She was laid to rest by the writer in the grounds of the ancient and picturesque parish church of Kinson, on the outskirts of Bournmouth. F. A. SPEARING.

LOVESAY.—We regret to record the death of Miss Florence Lovesay of Margate owing to the after effects of a flying bomb incident. Our good sister passed away on May 2, 1945, at the age of fifty-two years. With her sister she was baptized by Pastor J. Mustard in 1939. This loss is felt very deeply by the sister as they have lived and worked together all their lives. The darkness of such an experience is lightened by the hope of the resurrection and the uniting of all those who, like Miss Lovesay, love the Lord. C. R. BONNEY.

### Advertisements

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

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A VACANCY for nurse in Nursing Home Good Salary. Please state full details of experience, etc. Sabbath privileges shared with other Adventist nurses. Write: The Principal, Upper Quabrook, Coleman's Hatch, Sussex.

### SUNSET CALENDAR

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Lon'n Not'm Car'ff Edin Bel't  
 May 25th 9.59 10.10 10.11 10.35 10.38  
 June 1st 10.06 10.19 10.19 10.46 10.48