

BRITISH ADVENT

# MESSENGER

## Overcoming Irreverence

### In Our Churches

How often we hear this question: "What can we do to make our people more reverent?" Irreverence must be overcome if we are to lead men and women to truly worship God. To accomplish this, certain principles must be recognized.

People are irreverent, not because they are bad, but because they lack understanding. Our whole message is a call to worship. The prophecy of Revelation fourteen which identifies this time as "the hour of God's judgment" is only preliminary. Our real work is to lead men and women to "worship Him that made heaven and earth." And when people, or even children, really worship, they cease to be irreverent.

It is the responsibility of the leader to inspire the spirit of true worship in his congregation. He must create an atmosphere of worship. Many years ago the Lord's messenger gave this instruction to the remnant church: "Our meetings should be made intensely interesting. They should be pervaded with the very atmosphere of heaven."—*Review and Herald*, November 30, 1886. That expression "atmosphere" is arresting. It is not easy to define, for it embraces a number of things. Physical organisms demand atmosphere in order to live. It is in atmosphere that we live

and move and have our being. What atmosphere is to land-dwelling creatures, water is to creatures of the sea. Applying the term to spiritual life, atmosphere is the surmounting element in which our spiritual nature is nourished, without which there can be no spiritual growth.

People cannot be coerced or scolded into worship. Long dissertations on the sin of irreverence are equally powerless. But create the atmosphere of worship, and irreverence will disappear. The effect will be almost instantaneous. To rediscover the purpose and power of real worship; to know how to bring people to the altars of the Eternal; to enable them to catch the inspiration and then set their feet free in the highways of unselfish service—this is the high privilege of the ministry in this crisis hour of human history.

"God calls upon His people to arise, and come out of the chilling, frosty atmosphere in which they have been living, to shake off the impressions and ideas that have frozen up the impulses of love, and held them in selfish inactivity. He bids them come up from their low, earthly level, and breathe in the clear, sunny atmosphere of heaven."—*Testimonies*, Vol 5, page 607.

By R. A. ANDERSON

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A chilly, frosty atmosphere can produce no spiritual growth. The impulses of love are frozen in the hearts of too many of our members. It is the worship leader's privilege to lead souls on to the uplands of God where they can breathe the atmosphere of heaven. This is true worship. Attendance at church, singing hymns, saying prayers, reading or listening to the Word of God—these all have their place, but in themselves are not necessarily worship. In fact any or all of them, if carried out in the wrong way, can be the very means of destroying worship.

Worship may express itself through forms, but it is more than a form—it is an experience. True worship uncovers the heavens and makes God real to man. But it also uncovers the soul of man and makes him real to himself. Our hopes and habits need adjusting. We must escape from artificial poses, that we may recover the basic patterns of life. This is the purpose of worship. To enter into this experience, we must have the spirit of worship. Jesus said, "God is a spirit: and they that worship Him must wor-

ship Him in spirit and in truth."

Of all people we surely seek to worship God in truth. That is why we hallow the Sabbath. But are we as particular about the spirit of worship, as we are about the day of worship? It is possible to be tremendously concerned about the identity of the Sabbath, and yet not enter into the spirit of real worship. That was the trouble with the Samaritan woman. "Our fathers worshipped in this mountain," she said, but "Ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Her whole emphasis was on the place of worship. The Lord's reply is both revealing and challenging. He showed that the spirit of worship is more important than the place of worship. That is just as true to-day.

Representative church buildings where the architecture blends with the spirit of worship can do much to inspire reverence, but to

attend a service in a beautiful building "where every prospect pleases," and then for the leader of the worship to go through the motions of worship, singing, praying, and admonishing, while apparently neither he nor the congregation senses the presence of God, is a pathetic disgrace. A congregation may spend immense sums of money on a church building and then not know the joy of a genuine worship experience. As leaders of worship we need to study how to lead the congregation into the presence of God. "The evil of formal worship cannot be too strongly depicted, but no words can properly set forth the deep blessedness of genuine worship."—*Ibid.*, Vol. 9, page 143. "There is nothing more needed in the work than the practical results of communion with God."—*Ibid.*, Vol. 6, page 46.

(To be continued.)

are being taken to investigate possible relief measures.

#### WINTER EVANGELISM

PLANS are now beginning to operate for the winter evangelistic campaigns. While our trials appear minor in comparison with those facing our work in some lands, let us remember that our evangelistic workers are facing great problems. War does not bring about religious revivals. There was none after the first World War; there is none now.

People are hardened, facilities are few, and our preachers and Bible-workers must be borne up in prayer as never before. Perhaps more than any other class of worker, they are subject to intense strain wherever they work faithfully for God. We should pray constantly for these workers, and support them in every possible way.

#### A GOOD ADVENTIST WAR STORY

THE following will be of interest in a land where Adventists are often misunderstood in the matter of war service:

##### "Hero Medic"

"Seventy-five men wounded on Okinawa owed their lives last week to the bravery of an Army medical aid—a conscientious objector who refused to bear arms. The non-fighting hero of Okinawa is Pfc. Desmond T. Doss of Norfolk, Va.

"The only medical aid to accompany an assault group which attempted to scale a cliff held by the Japs, Doss did not retreat with the fighting men when mortars and grenades drove them back with heavy casualties. Twenty minutes later he was seen on a ledge signalling for ropes to lower the wounded. Ordered down, he refused, though the fire was intense. Not until he had evacuated the seventy-five did he descend.

"Later the cliff was taken and Doss returned to his tent and his Sabbath Bible reading. The day: Saturday, May 5th. Doss' religion: Seventh-Day Adventist."—*"Newsweek,"* May 21, 1945

H. W. LOWE.



"If there was ever a time when sacrifices should be made, it is Now. Those who have money should understand that Now IS THE TIME to use it for God."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. 6, page 450.

BRITISH ADVENT MESSANGER

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## Notes from the Union President

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#### THE UNFOLDING STORY

MANY reports are now coming in from Central Europe, and, as was to be expected, they make up a story which is a mixture of loyalty and defection. It was so in New Testament times. It will be so to the end.

In Nazi Germany many a church is still functioning fully and a host of loyal Adventists have come triumphantly, if not altogether unscathed, through a veritable Gethsemane.

The large Hamburg publishing house was destroyed with the exception of a considerable amount of plant. At least one hospital near Berlin is still functioning, though the shortage of Adventist staff has necessitated the employment of other help.

In other parts we hear that "S.D.A. members were forced and did work on the Sabbath, even the pastor was employed in factory work at L—. Also they were forbidden to spread the message by word, literature, or any other means on pain of being sent to a concentration camp. . . .

No meetings could be announced. They were rigidly suppressed. . . ."

It is well for us to remember that wars of this kind never leave the church untouched. The message which fills us with faith and courage is not an insurance against difficulties. It is rather the guiding principle which governs our lives when oppression and apostasy are rampant; it is a sure compass in the raging storm; it is the Christ within, when all without is terror and violence.

Let us withhold the voice of judgment on brethren to whom has come something far more terrible than anything we know; let us voice our gratitude to God that in the holocaust there were not wanting loyal souls, and perhaps some who "loved not their lives unto death."

In Vienna, Adventists are sharing the common suffering due to intense food shortages. It is estimated that 300,000 people will perish there this winter. Steps

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### Lancashire's Day of Fellowship

THE long-looked-for day had dawned at last. For many who had come from the outlying districts of Lancashire it had truly been the break of dawn that had witnessed their early rising. They were making their way to Manchester, to the well-chosen, commodious hall situated in the heart of the city. Surrounded by the busy, noisy stream of traffic, we who had the privilege of attending the Lancashire Regional Meeting held communion with our God. It became a refuge from distraction.

By nine o'clock, a goodly number of worshippers had assembled in the minor hall, where after a talk by our president, Pastor R. S. Joyce, we were invited to importune the throne of God for His blessing upon the day's meetings. "The powerhouse of the church is to be found in the active prayer room," we were told. And surely there was none so conceited spiritually that he did not feel the need for improvement. The prayers that followed removed all shadow of doubt. We sensed our own great need.

The children had their own special meetings in the morning and afternoon.

Pastor B. E. Sparrow, during the Sabbath-school held in the large hall, expressed the wish that it might be the ideal one. The missions appeal was given by Brother F. D. Buckle who reminded us of the squalid conditions of the Indian native workers. Our own needs were dwarfed beside the great needs of our dear coloured brethren. After a brief but concise review by Brother B. Belton came the lesson for the hour, "A Knowledge of God." Pastor J. M. Howard arrested our attention from the start by the probing

question, "Do you know God or have you only heard about Him?" As the lesson developed we realized afresh that our measure of success in the Christian warfare is the measure of our knowledge of God.

For divine service we were privileged to have the principal of the College, Pastor W. G. C. Murdoch, to address us. The theme for the hour was, "Ye must be born again." The need for the constant revival of the Christian graces in the heart was emphasized. The heart is deceitful, a veritable Jacob's heart, and we need a heart like the heart of Jesus in order to triumph over evil, the evil that is not always thought to be sin. All who listened to his inspiring message could not but feel the urgency for the soul's vigilance. The searching home questions were indeed timely. At this point, a solo illustrating the address was very effectively rendered by Pastor H. W. McCrow. Finally the congregation stood in response to an appeal for reconsecration while our president prayed for us all.

During the recess our physical needs were well cared for by the stewardesses, well organized for their various duties. It was not long before it was time for the men's meeting, which by now has become a well-known institution. The brethren were addressed by the president.

Soon the time arrived for the afternoon service. The speaker for the hour was Pastor J. M. Howard, the Union Field Missionary Secretary and Missionary Volunteer Leader. From his wealth of experiences gained during his contact with young people, he read extracts from various letters that illustrated his address on "Cross-bearing." "Wherever we look in the Word, we find the mould of the cross," he said, and then went on to show that the paradoxical Christian doctrine of death before life was the sum and substance of the Bible. It was interesting to learn that Christ's mission was to inspect God's people in order to relieve them. The meaning of the text, "the Dayspring from on high hath visited us," was thus explained. Once more the sermon was punctuated by the rendering

of a chorus, "I slipped my hand in the pierced hand of the Man of Calvary." We were glad to realize again that although the portion of God's children would be cross-bearing, yet power would be granted to bear all burdens: the power of the pierced Hand would give us the victory as the cross itself was a victory for the whole universe of God.

One feature of the Fellowship Meetings that was enjoyed by all was the Manchester ladies' choir under the direction of Brother Halstead. Two lovely anthems were sung in a very spirited manner.

The day of fellowship had ended, but not its blessings. The congregation that had gathered had been spiritually charged. This meeting was but a foretaste of joys to come in the form of greater gatherings. The travellers on the way to Zion must be refreshed and one short, sweet day seemed all too short for such pilgrims. However, it will not be long now before that blessed day arrives when the great multitude, which no man can number, will stand upon the sea of glass, bearing the emblems of victory. May that day soon dawn.

J. C. FRENCH.

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## South England Conference

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### Plymouth Day of Fellowship

SABBATH, September 8th, will be a day long remembered by all who were privileged to attend the Fellowship meetings held in the Plymouth church. Members came from Torquay and Exeter and from the companies and isolated membership located in Cornwall. These, with the local church and a sprinkling of members from more distant parts of the conference, gathered to enjoy a feast of good things. They were not disappointed!

About ninety persons had gathered when the Sabbath-

school opened under the direction of Pastor E. R. Warland and Brethren Musgrave and Mills. Happily they joined in singing the opening hymn, "Praise, my soul, the King of heaven." Heads were reverently bowed and there were fervent "amens" as Pastor Warland led all to the throne of grace.

The lesson, "A Knowledge of God," took on a new and richer meaning as Pastor W. T. Bartlett dealt with the sources from which a knowledge of God is obtained. Our confidence in God and His Word was confirmed, and we determined, by God's grace, that we would not cast away that confidence, but continue to believe to the saving of the soul.

A solo, "I know my heavenly Father knows," rendered by Mrs. Wilmshurst, was greatly appreciated.

Pastor F. L. Stokes made a stirring missions appeal and the offering which was taken up showed that the appeal had touched many hearts. The Plymouth total alone amounted to £7. 10s.

By the time the devotional hour arrived there were fully 125 adults gathered in the church, leaving scarcely a vacant seat. Pastor G. D. King, the South England Conference president, gave a powerful address based upon Philippians 3: 13, 14. Dwelling on three points: Forgetting the past, reaching forth, and pressing on, his words made a searching appeal to all who listened. There was a ready response to the appeal to seek a deeper experience and to reconsecrate the life to the service of Christ.

Brother C. Youlden delighted all with his deep bass voice in a powerful rendering of the anthem, "The Lord is my Light."

Provision had also been made for the physical needs of the visitors and those who stayed for lunch in the lecture hall found hot and cold drinks being served by Sister Donaldson and the local deaconesses. There were ample light refreshments, too, for those who had not provided.

The Bible address which followed the luncheon hour was given by Pastor W. T. Bartlett, the British Union Field Secretary.

Taking passages from Isaiah fifty-one and fifty-two he showed that, while the nations, confronted with perils and perplexities, were crying, in effect, "Awake, Awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord;" the Lord Himself was challenging His people with the call to awake, saying, "Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem."

Before this address, the anthem, "Sanctuary of the Heart," was sympathetically rendered by Brother J. C. Collins.

In the closing service, Pastor E. R. Warland was the speaker. His topic, "The Church and its Youth," was full of challenge, provoking sober thought. We pray, indeed, that the church will attend to the safety of its most precious possession. Three supporting items by children from Torquay and Cornwall revealed unusual talent, which showed that our children are rich with promise.

Special meetings throughout the day were arranged for the twenty or so children who attended. These were in the capable hands of Pastor E. R. Warland, Brother Hearne of Torquay, and the local Missionary Volunteer leaders.

F. J. WILMSHURST.

## Welsh Mission

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### Superintendent's Notes

SINCE our last notes appeared, visits have been made in the northern parts of our territory and happy fellowship experienced with both workers and members alike. At Rhyl we had the happy experience of baptizing the first-fruits of Brother Butters' public ministry—another Brother Lewis. This brother was warmly received into the fellowship of the Rhyl church and will be a valuable and added asset to the cause of God in the north.

At Shrewsbury, Brother and Sister Lewis are working hard to build up the work. An early bap-

tism is planned, when it is hoped that some five or six new members will be added. Miss Alice Hartland is assisting in the work there, and is steadily growing into a valuable worker.

### CONGRATULATIONS

M I S S T H E L M A R O S E M A Y  
CARTER, of the Barry church, and Miss Mary Elizabeth Maggs, of the Newport church, recently had conferred upon them the nurses' S.R.N. degree. Our hearty congratulations! Subsequently, Nurse Maggs qualified matrimonially when she married Brother Hugh Williams of Watford.

S. G. HYDE.

## Advertisements

PRINTING.—C. Russell, Newton Street, Macclesfield

REQUIRED at the North Devon Convalescent Children's Home School, Lynton, S.R.N. assistant nurses, children's attendants, wardmaids, cook, kitchenmaid, housemaids, gardener. Salary 5 per cent above scale. Priority granted by Ministry of Labour. Any age. Restaffing with S.D.A.s if obtainable. Apply: Principal

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THE treasurer of the South England Conference acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the Lord's tithe £1, anonymous, Guildford, Surrey.

THE treasurer of the Stanborough Press acknowledges with thanks the receipt of £5 for missions, anonymous.

### SUNSET CALENDAR

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Oct. 12th 6 15 6 17 6 27 6 21 6 34  
Oct. 19th 6 00 6 02 6 12 6 04 6 17

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