

BRITISH ADVENT

MESSENGER

Our New Year Needs

"TIME, like an ever-rolling stream," sweeps us remorsefully into the sombre portals of another new year. So sombre do the doors of 1946 appear in Europe, that one hesitates and thinks again before wishing others the traditional "Happy New Year."

Our standards of life have fallen lamentably under the merciless impact of six years of war. Food and clothing are less plentiful, as are many other things. Crime is on the increase—how could it be otherwise after training millions to kill and destroy all over the world. Liberty is still only a relative term. Nerves are strained, and, despite propaganda to the contrary, the health of the people has suffered. We are nationally and personally the poorer in an infinite variety of ways. And so we might extend these woeful facts, but perhaps this is enough to bring us to our purpose.

Is it possible to have a brighter and a happier year? What do we need that we may certainly have to the betterment of our lives? What can lift us and save us from the cynicism and disillusionment and depression of soul which the war has left?

Surely to the Christian there are brighter and better things within our reach in 1946. Otherwise faith is vain, and religion futile.

First of all, in this restless, discontented age, the believer must

By H. W. LOWE

get back to basic Christian living—and that means restfulness of spirit. Not a lazy abstraction, but a calm, balanced mind, and a serene strength of character in this degenerate age. "I will give you rest" is the best cure for worry and fretfulness. "A life in Christ is a life of restfulness. There may be no ecstasy of feeling, but there should be an abiding, peaceful trust."—*Steps to Christ*, page 55. (English edition.)

There are many among us, even ministers and prominent and mature lay leaders, who need a renewal of this inner peace. We can too easily imbibe the devious, stormy, and critical spirit of the age. "When Christ abides in the heart, the whole nature is transformed. Christ's spirit, His love, softens the heart, subdues the soul, and raises the thoughts and desires toward God and heaven."—*Idem*, page 57.

The age is selfish. An age of danger and scarcity produces abnormal selfishness, as also does an age of plenty, though the manifestation differs in form. Selfishness to-day is not only seen in the blatant, crude form of bad manners, and the desire to get more than the next man. It takes the form of undue thought for

self. Our woes, our work, our thwarted plans, our aches and pains, are all worse than our neighbours'. We have worked harder and endured more and done better than others. That is fatal thinking! "When the mind dwells upon self, it is turned away from Christ, the source of strength and life. Hence it is Satan's constant effort to keep the attention diverted from the Saviour, and thus prevent the union and communion of the soul with Christ. The pleasures of the world, life's cares and perplexities and sorrows, the faults of others, or your own faults and imperfections—to any or all of these he will seek to divert the mind."—*Idem*, page 55.

Good were it for all of us if that very small entity SELF occupied less and less of our thinking and talking during 1946! Who leads a Christ-dominated life can never be a self-centred person.

It is an age of doubt. Men doubt each other. Nations mistrust one another. This atmosphere of suspicion does not leave the church untouched. When you hear a professing Christian casting doubts abroad as to the genuineness of his or her fellow-believers, you may write it down as certain that that poor person has lost a good deal of faith in God. It is axiomatic that you cannot have an unalloyed faith in the Redeemer, and little or no faith in His redeemed people.

Doubt of our fellows is doubt in God and His truth, and we should, during 1946, eschew doubt as we would flee from the plague. "Doubts are abroad; make Thou these doubts to cease," we often sing, and that would make a good permanent prayer for each of us. Sister White has written: "Talk and think of Jesus. Let self be lost in Him. Put away all doubt; dismiss your fears. . . . Rest in God. . . . If you will leave yourself in His hands, He will bring you off more than conqueror through Him that has loved you." —"Steps to Christ," page 87.

It is not usual to associate rest with activity. Yet true spiritual rest in Christ is infallibly the cause of earnest witness for the Master whom we serve. There are thousands of churchmembers who, not enjoying a restful Christian experience, do nothing profitable to advance Christ's kingdom. Yet, since there is no such thing as doing nothing, these poor souls are busy saying and doing and bearing witness to the things that spread doubt and tear down the bulwarks of God's church. "The heart that rests most fully upon Christ will be most earnest and active in labour for Him." (*Idem*, page 86.) What a host of activities await the true believer in Christ! So legion are they, that there must be angelic amazement in heaven at the negative and destructively inactive lives led by so many of us.

Because we can think of nothing better, we wish that there may come to each believer during 1946, a deeper restfulness of spirit in Jesus, an intensified loyalty to each other, and a larger part in spiritual services for our Lord and Master.

Because the Lord is cutting short His appointed work through His church, we wish our dear people a year of spirit-filled witness, in the church, in the home, and in the community.

Because this old world is so sadly full of spite and suspicion, division and chaos, may God's people be utterly devoted to a message that unites our energies, and strengthens our loyalties.

Thus shall the New Year find us happy in Jesus and baptized in His Spirit.

Notes from the Union President

ANNUAL OFFERING

THE main problems of our people, as of the church, during the war have not been connected with money. For this reason almost all our church funds have greatly increased during the war. The one exception is that our plan to combine the Week of Sacrifice with the Annual Offering seems, at the moment, to have produced less than when these were two separate offerings. Perhaps the closing days of the year will remind those of us who may have forgotten this usually large and important offering to missions. Tremendous calls for rehabilitation are coming in, and the General Conference is once again launching a £250,000 missions rehabilitation campaign.

MISSIONARY SAILING

BROTHER E. E. HULBERT, who recently married Miss Ruth Dorland, is expecting to sail for Nigeria about December 22nd. His wife will remain here till shipping problems are easier. We wish these young missionaries Godspeed and much happiness in their service.

CONGRATULATIONS

MRS. B. J. KOHLER, of Newbold College, who came here from her home in Denmark some years ago, has obtained her English Bachelor of Arts degree. We are glad to hear of this success.

OUR PUBLISHING WORK

SINCE the early part of January this year, Brother Arthur Warren, manager of The Stanborough Press, has been very ill with a form of jaundice which has not yielded to treatment. We regret to say that after prolonged observation by skilled men, Brother Warren is still unable to carry the heavy duties of management, and it seems necessary with the New Year for him to retire from this responsibility. For over forty years Brother Warren has faithfully served the cause, and the publishing work here will miss him, as we have already missed

him from our councils during the past year.

Our prayers will be with Brother and Sister Warren and we trust that restoration to health may yet be granted to one whose Christian spirit and devotion we have learned to love.

MINISTERIAL READING COURSE 1946

WHILE it is not possible to supply the books of the Ministerial Reading Course to our laymen and colporteurs, it may be possible to supply a set to each conference office library. These books can then be borrowed on application to the respective conference offices.

There are other books available for borrowing by our laymen and colporteurs from the same sources.
H. W. LOWE.

South England Conference

President: Pastor G. D. King
Office Address: 780 St. Albans
Road Watford
Telephone Garston (Watford)
2213-4

Sunshine In Reading

SUNSHINE in December—with sunbeams, warm, bright, and cheerful as in June. We knew they were real, live Sunbeams, too, for their cheery smiles were only matched by the bright Sunbeam rosettes they all wore.

A good number of members and friends had gathered to hear this programme, and after brief preliminaries, one quite small Sunbeam said the opening piece, asking us not to "heed the little breaks," but there were hardly any to notice. The other items, recitations, duets, solos, and combined singing by all the Sunbeams, followed in quick succession. Everyone enjoyed the sweet singing and clear speaking, and special mention must be made of the almost military precision with which they marched on and off the platform to appropriate music. The message of the Sunbeams was passed on to us in twenty items, giving us the following advice if it is our wish to be Sunbeams too.

"If I were a Sunbeam," and

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

wish to "shine for Jesus"; I must "smile and be cheery," doing "little acts of love," not with the spirit of "Little Miss Selfish," but showing a willingness to "lend a hand," doing my best "with all my might." In such true, kind service there is great joy, the joy of "scattering sunshine" all around, and letting it in "to others who may be in need of such a ray of gladness." The play, "How Sunbeams Shine," and the poem, "Which one loved Mother best?" illustrated these ideals very well.

The Sunbeams were very pleased that "Auntie Ina" (the Sunbeam-in-Chief) was able to be present at their programme, and in the interval, just after the play, she spoke to us, telling of the aims and ideals of the thousands of Sunbeams in different parts of the world. A special appeal for the Hoxton Market Mission was made, and half the offering of £1. 4s. 6d. was donated to that good work.

Ninety minutes of cheerfulness concluded with the singing of the hymn, "Let our hearts be always cheerful," and the benediction.

The last lines of the play contain a moral for all to heed:

"We cannot all be heroes,
And thrill a hemisphere
With some great deed of daring,
Some deed that few would dare;
But we can fill a life-time,
With noble deeds, and true:
There's always noble service
For noble hearts to do."

N. BENWELL,
Y.P.S. Secretary.

Ministry of Literature

Reaching the Multitudes

SWINGS, roundabouts, dodgems, cockshies, etc! We are not particularly interested in these things now, but we certainly were when we were young. We even managed at that time to displace a few of the coco-nuts in spite of their being tightly wedged into iron rings.

But surely this must be the itinerant showman we knew in

our youthful days. We must pay him a visit for is not one of our themes for the coming Colporteurs' Council, "Reaching the Multitudes"?

"Good morning, sir!"

"Good morning! What can I do for you?"

"That is kind of you sir, but I wanted to do something for you. But first of all I want to look round your show ground, for I see you have established your headquarters here now."

"Yes, but tell me, what have you called about?"

"Since you are so busy, sir, I would like to ask you just how

you relate yourself to the Bible."

"Personally not a lot, but my sister is interested more than I am."

"That being so, you had better secure a copy of this volume for her and I take it that you would give her the best one?"

"Yes, I will if you can let me have it soon."

"You can trust me for that, sir. Good day."

And that is how we reach the multitudes. What a volume it would make if all my fellow-colporteurs were to tell how they are reaching the multitudes!

F. J. KINMAN.

Conscientious Objector Awarded Medal of Honour

[NOTE—Under the above title the Bureau of Public Relations of the War Department of the United States released, on October 8, 1945, the following news story regarding Corporal (a private first class at the time of his heroic deeds) Desmond T Doss.]

A CONSCIENTIOUS objector who was assigned to the Medical Corps, United States Army, Private First Class Desmond T. Doss, of Lynchburg, Virginia, displayed such outstanding bravery and unflinching determination in aiding his wounded comrades in the fierce Okinawa campaign that he has been awarded the Medal of Honour, it was announced to-day by the War Department. The nation's highest decoration goes to the twenty-six-year-old soldier, who, although not bearing arms, performed so many feats of heroism on the battlefields of Guam, Leyte, and Okinawa that his name became a symbol for outstanding gallantry throughout the 77th Infantry "Statue of Liberty" Division.

Private Doss' wife, Dorothy Pauline, lives at Route 9, Box 66, Richmond, Virginia; and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William T. Doss, reside at 1835 Easley Avenue, Lynchburg.

Private Doss, a member of the 307th Infantry Medical Detachment, 1st Battalion, received the unstinting praise of fighting men of the 77th Division from generals to privates.

Brigadier General Edwin H.

Randle, commanding general of the division, asserted, "This soldier, by his unflinching devotion to duty and his gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty, has gained the respect, admiration, and affection of the entire division.

"This is the more noteworthy as, on being inducted into the military service, Private Doss was, and still is, a conscientious objector. He refused to carry arms or even touch a weapon. His organization commander transferred him to the battalion medical detachment, where he was made company-aid man because he wanted to be forward with the men.

"In the Guam and Leyte campaigns Private Doss demonstrated the same qualities. No matter how heavy the fire, he remained and cared for wounded men regardless of danger."

Private Doss was awarded the Medal of Honour for specific acts of supreme heroism on Okinawa in the Ryukyu Islands between April 29 and May 21, 1945.

First Lieutenant Onless C. Brister, 245 Central Avenue, Winona, Mississippi, pointed out, "Private Doss' was at all times up with the front lines to care for injured men. In several instances he braved intense enemy small-arms and mortar fire to give aid

and to move men who were wounded”

First Lieutenant Cecil L. Gornto, of Live Oak, Florida, was 1st Platoon leader of Company B, to which Private Doss was attached from April 29th to May 8th.

“On the morning of April 29th,” Lieutenant Gornto related, “heavy mortar fire was falling in the area, and someone called for a medic. Private Doss left his hole and climbed to the top of the hill. He found the wounded man in total darkness and gave him first aid. As soon as it was light enough, I observed him lowering the wounded man over the cliff on a rope to evacuate him. This man had both his legs blown off.”

Another link in the Doss chain of sterling heroism was told by Second Lieutenant Kenneth L. Phillips, Route 3, Lexington, North Carolina.

“On May 5th, during an intense grenade battle in the vicinity of Kakazu,” Lieutenant Phillips said, “four men were badly wounded while trying to blow up a cave. They were lying under a vicious hail of grenade and mortar fire. With total disregard for his own personal safety, Private Doss went forth four times and pulled the wounded men to safety.”

Private First Class Carl B. Bentley, of Fulshear, Texas, spoke of an instance on May 2nd.

“Private Doss was told of a man out in the front lines between our line and the Japs. He went out and brought this man in under very heavy rifle and knee mortar fire.”

The climax in the Virginian’s amazing battle career as a male angel of mercy occurred on the night of May 21st, when he was badly injured, thereby winning an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Purple Heart he earned May 10th, when he was less seriously wounded. Technician Fifth Grade Ralph E. Baker, of the 1st Battalion Medics, tells the story:

“On May 21st, Private Doss was wounded by an enemy grenade. Instead of calling another aid man from the safety of his foxhole, Private Doss treated his own wounds and gave himself a shot of morphine when the pain became too great.

“Litter bearers reached him in the morning, almost six hours later. After they had carried him about fifty yards, the litter bearers were halted momentarily by bursts of mortar fire. Private Doss crawled off the litter and told the aid men to take more seriously wounded men in first.

“He was wounded a second time while he lay there. He bound a rifle stock to his shattered arm to form a splint and crawled to the aid station despite his wounds.”

Private Doss, who was born



TILL—On Monday, November 12, 1945, sister Kate Till, of Nottingham, passed peacefully to her rest after an illness lasting some months, at the age of eighty-two years. Our sister accepted the message during the ministry of Elder McCord in 1904. Her home was open to many of our workers during the years, and there are many who will remember her for her hospitality. She was a faithful member to the end. On November 15th she was laid to rest in the General Cemetery, following a service held in the Nottingham church conducted by Pastor W. J. Cannon. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her daughter, who was her constant companion to the end.

L. SKELHAM, Church Clerk

WATSON—Brother B. Watson was baptized by Pastor F. A. Spearing in 1934 at Southend. He later resided in Wembley, holding various offices in the church including those of treasurer and deacon. The last Sabbath of the Week of Prayer he gave his testimony, stating how good God had been to him, especially since he learned and accepted the Advent faith. On Sunday November 25th, he studied his Sabbath-school lesson in bed, had breakfast, and almost immediately after fell asleep in Jesus, aged eighty years. We shall miss his smile and hearty hand-shake, but not for long for soon “the day shall dawn, and the shadows flee away.” We extend our sympathy and condolences to his wife and three sons, and to his two sisters. He was laid to rest in Alpeton Cemetery to await Christ’s call.

JOHN G. BEVAN

NUTLEY—On November 30, 1945, Sister Emily Nutley fell asleep in Christ. Her illness was short, lasting about ten days. She was laid to rest in Lymington Cemetery on Tuesday, December 4th. A short service was held in the home and again at the graveside conducted by Brother R. H. Bainbridge. There were many beautiful floral tributes. Our sister was a very faithful member, having been baptized in the truth after the death of her son Hubert in 1940, who was also one of our faithful members. The Polkestone church will suffer a great loss in the death of our sister, but we know she looked for the blessed hope and will surely be found with the faithful ones at the coming of our Lord.

A. HOUGHTON, Church Clerk

February 7, 1919, in Lynchburg, entered the Army at Camp Lee, Virginia, on April 1, 1942. He was a ship joiner before his induction. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his meritorious service on Leyte in the Philippine Islands from December 7 to 21, 1944—*Review and Herald*.

[The Medal of Honour was presented to Private Doss, who, we are proud to mention, is a Seventh-Day Adventist, by President Truman at the White House on Friday, October 12th.]

Advertisements

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

NEWPORT Education Committee desire to board out S.D.A. girl, age 12, with Seventh-Day Adventist family. Reply in first instance to: Pastor F. S. Jackson, “Castleton,” Glaslwich Crescent, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, back numbers of *Our Little Friend* for children’s work. Write: Miss Druitt, Byways, The Close, Sway, Hants.

WANTED, a copy of *Friendly Talks* for translation purposes in a mission field. Write: C. H. Ancombe, 41 Hazel Gardens, Edgware, Middlesex.

REQUIRED by London Adventist firm, typist with knowledge of book-keeping and general office routine. Write, stating age, experience, and salary required, to: “J.C.C.,” The Stanborough Press, Watford, Herts.

WANTED — Journeymen - Compositors with knowledge of Intertype; Machine-minder; General Book-binder; also a boy of 15 years of age. Apply: The Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts.

Acknowledgments

THE treasurer of The Stanborough Press acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the Lord’s tithe £20, from “J.S.”

THE treasurer of the South England Conference acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the Lord’s tithe £4. 10s., from “Anonymous,” Stratford, E 15.

SUNSET CALENDAR

Reproduced from the *Nautical Almanac* by permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office

	Lon	n	Not	m	Car	f	Edin	Belt
Jan 4th	4 05	4 01	4 17	3 52	4 11			
Jan 11th	4 13	4 11	4 26	4 03	4 21			

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

Published fortnightly on Friday for the British Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists by The Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts.

Copy for next issue—January 2, 1946

EDITOR: W. L. EMMERSON

Vol 50, No. 26, December 28, 1945