

BRITISH ADVENT

MESSENGER

The Coming General Conference Session

THE thoughts of the believers in every part of the world are turned these days to Washington, where there will soon be held a General Conference session. This will be no ordinary session, not just another meeting of the brethren. It has been five years since delegates from all the world field have met to elect officers, to lay broad plans for the future, and to renew the bonds of friendship and fellowship in the cause. Normally these sessions are held every four years. But the time has been extended to five years because of the war. This meeting will be notable in several ways.

It is the first post-war meeting of the world leadership of the Advent movement. This is another way of saying it is the first opportunity to survey the world field and to appraise the damage that has been done to our institutions and to our organized programme by the war. Up to this time we have had only partial reports as a result of visits made by our brethren from Washington or by leaders coming in from abroad. Though the Advent movement is not of this world, it is most certainly in this world. Thus we must suffer as other organizations suffer in wartime. The war did not end for us on V-J day. We shall be conscious of the war for years to come! We shall pay for the war for years to come! And that pay-

By F. D. NICHOLL

ing must include not only taxes to the government, but contributions into the treasury of the Lord to repair the war damages done.

OPPORTUNITY TO PLAN FOR MISSIONS

This General Conference session provides the first real oppor-

COLLEGE GRADUATION DAY

SUNDAY, JUNE 9th

OUR last notice in the MESSENGER needs amendment. Graduation Day is Sunday, June 9th, and the Graduation Service will be held at 3 p.m.

There will be available an ample supply of refreshments: rissoles, roll-sandwiches, cakes, drinks, and a good quantity of ice-cream.

Bring rugs to sit on. Chairs are few, and most of our guests will have to make the lawns do. So far, we have not succeeded in making arrangements for loud speakers but are still trying.

The grounds are beautiful now. Come and have a good time. Remember it will be Sunday, and we are surrounded by houses. There is a church just across the road. There is, however, plenty of room in the rear of the College.

W. T. BARTLETT.

tunity to plan for a large advance in missions since the day when the barriers on travel were erected by war in September, 1939. True, the mission work has not stopped during these past six years. Thank God for that. But it is a simple statement of fact that we have not been able to do what we would have liked to do in foreign mission expansion. Now comes a General Conference session in the relative calm after the battle, with censorship lifted and travel into increasing numbers of lands not too difficult. This very fact alone is sufficient to make the coming session large with possibilities.

This session is not only the first one since the great war; it is also the first one since the Advent movement passed the century mark. We passed that mark on October 22, 1944. We are more than one hundred years old. This is no minor fact of arithmetic, for when figures are connected with prophecy, they take on a very great and important meaning. We have been in the world too long. This is the first and the most evident truth that ought to solemnize our hearts as we approach this world conference. It is high time that our task was completed. This challenging statement is not made in an attempt to be sensational and certainly not in an attempt to pose as an oracle. The statement is made because of the emphatic declara-

tion of the messenger of the Lord. Listen to these words:

"If all who had laboured unitedly in the work in 1844, had received the third angel's message and proclaimed it in the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord would have wrought mightily with their efforts. A flood of light would have been shed upon the world. Years ago the inhabitants of the earth would have been warned, the closing work completed, and Christ would have come for the redemption of His people."—*"The Great Controversy,"* page 458.

"Had the purpose of God been carried out by His people in giving to the world the message of mercy, Christ would ere this, have come to the earth, and the saints would have received their welcome into the city of God."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol 6, page 450.

"Ye churches of the living God, study this promise, and consider how your lack of faith, of spirituality, of divine power, is hindering the coming of the kingdom of God. If you would go forth to do Christ's work, angels of God would open the way before you, preparing hearts to receive the Gospel. Were every one of you a living missionary, the message for this time would speedily be proclaimed in all countries, to every people and nation and tongue. This is the work that must be done before Christ shall come in power and great glory."—*Ibid,* page 438.

"LIVING ON BORROWED TIME"

We found these quotations in an editorial entitled, "Living on Borrowed Time," which was published in the *Review and Herald*, October 1, 1901. That editorial very properly concludes, on the strength of the inspired quotations, "that we might now be in the enjoyment of the indescribable felicities of heaven but for our own failures and shortcomings."

If that was a valid conclusion in 1901—and who will doubt that it was not in view of the explicit statements by Mrs. White—how much more true is it to-day that we are living on borrowed time. What a setting in which to hold a world conference of the Advent movement—the setting of borrowed time! Joshua is dead and also the elders that outlived Joshua! And here we are past the century mark. Some among

us have given earnest attention to adjusting the word "generation"—in Christ's prophecy about this generation's not passing away—to fit the changing picture of the lengthening years. We think it far more important earnestly to adjust the tempo of the Advent movement to fit the prophecy. We know we are in the last of the last days. Of that we are certain by many infallible proofs. We are living on borrowed time. Of that we are also certain. A combination of these solemn facts should burn itself into the hearts of all of us as we approach the first General Conference session to be held beyond the centenary.

PIONEERS AND ATOMIC AGE

No, the Advent pioneers never expected that one hundred years later this movement would still be in this sorrowful world holding a great conference of the second advent believers. Neither did any of us expect even a short while ago that we would see what we now see—an atomic age. This General Conference session is the first meeting of its kind that we have held in the atomic age. That is simply another way of describing the new, explosive kind of world into which we have moved. It is this explosive age that provides us with a stronger basis than ever for our belief that our interpretation of prophecy is right, that we are indeed in the last hours of earth's history. If the pioneers were awakened from their graves they would find no reason to doubt the truth of the Advent preaching simply because a century had passed. They would see in the explosive quality of our present world full ground for believing that the day of the Lord is near and hastening greatly.

What a setting in which to hold a world conference of men and women who believe that they are the preachers of the hopeful truth that God has prepared a better world for them that love Him. Just behind us lies a second great world war. Just ahead lies all the uncertainty of an atomic age. And in between stands this world conference. If a setting like that is not sufficient to quicken our faith, stir our blood, and lead us into a more fervent crusade than

ever before, then pray tell what would stir us into action? True, there are more sensational events yet to take place. The mountains are to be moved into the sea in a final convulsion, and the heavens themselves are to open. But when those events occur, it is too late for us to crusade for God. The task is finished. The judgments of God, unmingled with mercy, are then descending upon men.

We repeat, what a time in which to hold a world conference! May God give us the vision, the clarity of mind, and the spiritual sensitiveness to appreciate the hour in which we hold this great meeting. It is no small thing to stand between a world war and an atomic explosion, with the one message that can bring hope to men. This is precisely the position in which we as Seventh-Day Adventists find ourselves to-day. Never in a century has the setting been so dramatic, so auspicious, so freighted with tremendous possibilities for God and man. This should be by far the greatest conference in our history. It must be or we shall dismally fail to live up to the possibilities that God has set before us in this calamitous hour.

Notes from the Union President

(By air-mail from America)

NEWS has just come to hand of the excellent opening of the Ingathering campaign in Britain. Here in America the campaign comes in April and it seems to have been another great success. Our British Union attainments, however, so far as per capita are concerned, are second to none, and I wish our good people to know that their work is appreciated around the world. I hope 1946, despite its post-war unsettlements, may set a new high level of attainment in our love of missions.

AMERICA, I find, shows some distinct signs of change under

the impact of war. It is not only that certain commodities are scarce or unobtainable. There seem to be certain changes and unsettlements in the people's approach to world problems. Most marked of all, I note over a period of eleven or twelve years, a most militant and clever Roman Catholic propaganda. Rome is gaining ground here. Unquestionably the prophecy of Revelation thirteen is the key to future vital and rapid events.

THIS amazing land is torn with severe labour troubles that threaten to bring many industries and public services almost to a standstill. James five is also a prophecy of keen interest over here.

THE General Conference (June 5th to 15th) is to be held on a restricted scale due to lack of accommodation, but our work throughout the world is in such need that no previous session can have been as vitally important as this. Never was corporate and private prayer so much needed for all the meetings and changes around the world field this year. All this means that the coming of the Lord is near, and our personal readiness for that superlative event is the one really important thing to remember.

H. W. LOWE.

South England Conference

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Telephone: Garston (Watford) 2213-4

Music in North London

"MUSIC . . . rightly employed, . . . is a precious gift of God, designed to uplift the thoughts to high and noble themes, to inspire and elevate the soul."—*"Education,"* page 167.

With whole-hearted belief in this inspired statement, members from the North-east London churches—Holloway, Wood Green, Edmonton, and Waltham-

stow—eagerly joined forces at the beginning of 1946 to form a new united choir.

Many assiduous practices at length bore fruitage when on Good Friday, Maunder's cantata "Olivet to Calvary" was rendered to the glory of God before a large congregation in the Holloway church. The rendition was repeated to another appreciative audience in the Walthamstow church on Easter Sunday. Thus through the ministry of music, the wonderful life-giving theme of the cross was vividly brought anew before souls for whom Christ died.

The soloists were Miss M. Wynne, Brethren T. B. Wynne and M. Guenin, all of whose singing was greatly enjoyed. Much credit is due to Brethren M. Maguin and S. Smith for their hard work as conductor and organist respectively. It was through Brother Maguin's unflagging effort and enthusiasm that this new choir has been successfully organized and started on its career.

We trust that more performances in the future as well as visits by groups of singers to sick members and shut-ins will bring sacred inspiration and joy to many weary hearts.

D. J. DUNNETT.

Newbold College

Faith Works

WITH a church membership of 104, Newbold Missionary College, on Friday, May 3rd, wholeheartedly answered the call of missions and laid all other activities aside to give of their best to a three day "Ingathering" drive.

Much preparation had been carried out by Brethren Phillips, Kohler, Benefield, and the writer. Propaganda played its significant part in the displaying of appropriate posters. Travelling facilities were completed for all and a group of enthusiasts had on Thursday, left the home base for the Midlands—all awaited the word "Go."

Out flashed the signal unaccompanied by either caution or stop, and all, with the exception of those whose work necessitated their staying at home, threw their "fresh glowing ardour" into the Ingathering "battle." A battle it was, for many difficulties had to be negotiated. There were the obstacles which new territory and a non-central location presented. But, thanks to God, no stumbling block proved insurmountable, and it was with weary, happy feet at the end of three days faithful working, that we could mark on the Ingathering scoreboard of 1946 the grand total of £725.

Faith, enthusiasm and co-operation on the part of all concerned were the keynotes of what we believe to have been a successful campaign.

May God bless the work which was so willingly done for the helping of our fellow-men.

HERBERT LOGAN.



AUFRANC.—Mrs. Annie Aufranc passed away peacefully at her home in London in her eightieth year and was laid to rest on April 24, 1946, in the Great Finchley Cemetery.

Our aged sister was a daughter of father and mother Armstrong who came into the truth at Ulceby in the year 1883, and, accepting the truth at the age of seventeen, remained faithful to the end of her days. She was one of the very few left from those early days of the work in Ulceby. The Armstrong family is well known to the work in Britain and in other parts of the world. Four of the sons became ministers and two still remain in the service of the Master. Douglas, who left England years ago, is now in California. Pastor A. K. Armstrong is still here with us in charge of the Bedford and Luton districts.

Mrs. Aufranc started in the work in the early days as a colporteur, then connected with the Bible-work in London, and through all of her sixty-three years in the truth she laboured to help others gain a knowledge of the Word of God, being a teacher in Sabbath-school at Holloway church right up to the time of her last illness. She is already missed in her place in the church, but the church and her loved ones do not sorrow without hope. She fell asleep in Jesus to await the great resurrection day, when her Lord and Master will call her forth to be with Him in His kingdom. Her only son, Dr. Aufranc, his wife and son, her sister, Mrs. Nickels of Watford, her brothers and all their families with other relatives and friends now look forward to the day when Christ will return and there will be no parting.

W. H. MEREDITH.

British Union Conference Session APARTMENTS

OWING to the difficulty of obtaining apartments in the Watford area for the forthcoming Union Session it is hoped that all members living in the London area will travel each day to the meetings wherever possible.

All delegates and conference workers should send in applications for accommodation unless private arrangements have been made.

We urgently appeal to all Adventists living in the Watford and London area to let us know if they can possibly help us in accommodating one or two members for the Union Session. We will gladly call for an interview.

Those who are planning to attend should fill in the Apartments Application Form immediately, stating clearly the names and addresses of all members of

the family and friends for whom they are requesting accommodation.

Will those who have accommodation to offer kindly fill in the Offer of Accommodation Form and send at once to A. W. Cook, 780 St. Albans Road, Watford.

Please note that it will be quite impossible to provide accommodation at the last minute for any who come to Watford without having made advance arrangements. You must know where you are staying before leaving home.
A. W. Cook.

British Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists 1946 Session, August 1st to 10th

APARTMENTS APPLICATION FORM (Bed and Breakfast)

Name in full (BLOCK LETTERS) Mr.
Mrs.
Miss

Address (BLOCK LETTERS)

for period inclusive

Please secure for me the following accommodation:

..... single bedrooms double bedrooms

NOTE.—Names and addresses of all persons for whom you are requesting accommodation should be included with this application.

Fill up this form, cut out, and send at once to A. W. Cook, 780 St. Albans Road, Watford.

OFFER OF ACCOMMODATION FORM

I have available for the period of the Conference Session the following accommodation:

..... single bedrooms double bedrooms

I am willing to provide:

Room only	}	Cross out what is not applicable.
Bed and Breakfast		
Full Board		

Name (BLOCK LETTERS)

Address (BLOCK LETTERS)

Fill up this form, cut out, and send at once to A. W. Cook, 780 St. Albans Road, Watford.



AMONG the peculiarities which should distinguish God's people from the world in these last days is their humility and meekness.—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. 4, page 226.

Advertisements

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

YOUNG married couple seek accommodation with vegetarian diet for ten days, starting June 29th. Near sea or in country Write: Kelly, Hawkesbury Upton, Badminton, Glos

HOLIDAY accommodation Lovely country. Near buses to all parts of the island. Particulars: Mrs Jackson, Hill Top, Rookley, IO W

TO LET, furnished, to elderly couple, bedroom and sitting-room, bath-room, etc Quiet house Country surroundings Large garden. £1 per week. Coach to Saffron Walden stops at gate Apply: J.H.P., 780 St Albans Road, Watford, Herts

HOUSEKEEPER wanted to look after widower and two sons Good wages and home. Sabbaths free Write: H Gould, 2 Piccadilly, Hullavington, Nr Chippingham, Wilts. (Recommendation from Colporteur W. H. Nicholls, Frampton Cotterell, Bristol.)

IDEAL country holiday resort near beautiful Dunstable downs Home comforts Garage. Terms moderate. 4 Ivinghoe Way, Edlesborough, Nr Dunstable, Beds

SUNSET CALENDAR

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

	Lon'n	Not'm	Car'ff	Edin	Bel't
June 7th	9.12	9.25	9.25	9.52	9.55
June 14th	9.18	9.31	9.31	9.59	10.01

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

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