

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

ORGAN OF THE BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

By Air to East Africa

By C. T. BANNISTER

WHEN we rose early on the last Monday morning in November, the stars were exceptionally clear and bright. I was to report at the Airways terminal in London at 6.50 a.m., and our good friends who had arranged to "run us up" from Watford got us there on time.

What a busy place it was at that early hour! Scores of people were having their luggage weighed in the various "bays," their tickets, passports, and certificates examined, and the special Airways coaches were hurrying off to the air-ports. The lady in front of me seemed to think nothing of it when told that her excess baggage would cost her more than £16. I had made sure of taking just about my full allowance, but nothing over. The loudspeakers announced a departure for Kisumu—the very place I wanted to get to. Had I been going on that machine I would have been there next morning, but the best booking I had been able to get was on a plane for South Africa which would get me to Nairobi in three or four days, leaving me to proceed to Kisumu by train. I said "Good-bye" to my wife and friends and boarded the coach for Croydon with fifteen other passengers. After passing the Customs and currency officers we boarded the aircraft, which was an ex-military "Dakota" converted for passenger carrying.

It was obvious from the start that this was going to be a free-and-easy, friendly kind of affair. There were no uniforms nor anything impressive, but a congenial

atmosphere which the passengers appreciated and extended among themselves. After fifteen minutes flying we crossed the English coast and soon were over France. I happened to be occupying a front seat and was the first to be invited to go in with the pilot for a while. Looking down I saw the winding River Seine, and a few miles away in the east Paris could be identified by the Eiffel Tower. After that we rode above clouds for some hundreds of miles, seeing only the tops of the distant Juras until we reached the Rhone valley. The pilot remarked that it had been the most perfect taking-off weather he had ever experienced at Croydon, but that high winds were reported at Marseilles. We got there ahead of schedule and came down to land, but after we had circled the airfield several times the pilot was instructed to proceed to Nice instead because of the tremendous gale blowing at Marseilles. We passed over the famous Chateau d'If, and it was interesting to me to see again (but from a different viewpoint) the various landmarks—especially the conspicuous Church of Our Lady of Mariners—which my wife and I had visited on our way out to East Africa in 1940.

How different is the south of France from England! Yes, it was warm there at Nice that November mid-day, but the kind of scenery we English most appreciate seemed lacking as I

viewed the country from the air. No doubt it has a beauty of its own to which one becomes accustomed.

A TALK ABOUT THE MESSAGE

While the plane was being refuelled I somehow got into conversation with the lady of the excess baggage. She was going to visit at the home of Lord — in Kenya. Regarding myself she said: "A Seventh-Day Adventist missionary, how interesting! I've heard of them. Do tell me . . ." After a bit: "But surely whether you eventually go to heaven or elsewhere doesn't depend on what day you keep?" Then: "Yes, I'd like to read that book you have about Adventists. It won't convert me. I'm a Catholic." Well, the little book may not have converted her, but it told her of a people commissioned of God to proclaim a message in these last days; and, incidentally, how the apostate church to which she belongs has thought to "change times and laws" as the prophet Daniel foretold. "Most interesting," she remarked as she handed it back the next day; and she remained just as friendly in her dignified way.

Over Corsica, over Sicily, over the Mediterranean—but seeing little of them because of the layer of cloud below us. A glorious sunset, then quickly gathering darkness; and we had to get down through that gloom and mist to land on the island of Malta. I imagine it was just a routine procedure to the pilot, but I asked the Lord to guide him just the

same. Suddenly there were the lights of Valetta spread out below us. We had to circle the island several times as another aircraft was just ahead of us, but soon the Airways coach was taking us through the narrow, twisting streets to the hotel where we were to spend our first night. As we were called at four o'clock next morning and took off just at dawn we really saw very little of Malta—not nearly as much as Paul did nineteen hundred years ago.

BATTLEFIELDS OF WORLD WAR II

Our machine circled Tobruk in North Africa, and what a scene of desolation was presented—the harbour littered with sunken vessels and the battlefield around strewn with the debris of war. The entrenchments are still clearly visible, as are the marks made by tanks and other vehicles as they raced over the desert—or came to destruction there. We landed a few miles away at El Adem, an Air Force and Airways re-fueling depot, then took off for Wadi Halfa on the Nile in the Sudan. This took us over hundreds of miles of desert, but I will not attempt to describe it. "Horrible" and "awesome" were among the adjectives I heard used, but one gentleman told me that his young wife, out from home for the first time, thought it was "magnificent." So much depends on the way we look at things, doesn't it?

From up aloft the Nile looked muddy and uninviting, but when the ancient cars had taken us in to the Sudan Railways Hotel we found we were on the banks of a fine river. The Nile, without which life would be impossible in the greater part of those vast territories, Sudan and Egypt. The Nile which had borne the baby Moses in his little ark! A year before I had seen the source of the Nile, where it flows out from Lake Victoria at Jinja in Uganda. Some of our missionaries have travelled by this 4,000-mile river route from East Africa to the Mediterranean on their way back to Europe. Some of the new ones have come out that way. There are regular steamer, train, and air services up and down the Nile valley.

I asked one of the hotel "boys" if there were any Christians in Wadi Halfa. His reply was to the effect that all Sudanese are "Mahomedi," but I think this is not altogether correct. I hope not, anyway. That night I shared a fine room with two of my travelling companions. Mr. — told me that a cousin of his is the wife of one of our mission doctors whose name he mentioned. Did I know him? Of course I did—by name at least. His friend was complaining that drinking, even in moderation, seemed to upset him. I suggested the possibility of getting along without intoxicants altogether.

Khartoum appeared to be quite a fine city in its way. We landed on the air-field there at about ten o'clock on the Wednesday morning, and after that we had before us a six and a half hours run to Entebbe in Uganda. It was thrilling to watch the country gradually change as we proceeded from barren desert to a land where occasional signs of cultivation could be seen. Then native villages appeared, and I recalled that it must be somewhere in this vicinity that we started a work several years ago among the Nilotic people of this region who are very similar to the Luos of Kenya. Soon we were flying over vast areas of Uganda swamps, and at last I saw what I had been looking for—a glimpse of Lake Victoria on the horizon. Everyone was glad to alight as soon as the plane had come to a standstill and the routine spraying had been carried out. I also began to feel somewhat "at home," for this was not the first time I had landed at Entebbe air-port. And, anyway, I was back in East Africa again!

The Airways coach took us from the very prettily situated township along a newly constructed highway to the city of Kampala twenty-four miles away. Some of the travellers were amazed to learn that Kampala boasts two fine cathedrals (one Anglican and the other Roman Catholic) as well as a famous college for Africans; and that a shrine marks the place where the first African converts to Christianity in Uganda were martyred at the stake by their heathen king

—not so very long ago. Now our Adventist message is spreading far and wide in Uganda; and at this present time we have two doctors taking further studies in London in preparation for the medical work which we hope to open up in Western Uganda in a few months from now.

The young wife who had thought the desert looked magnificent was astonished when she read the notice in the hotel reception room about "Food Coupons." "But I thought we had left all that sort of thing behind," she said.

ACROSS UGANDA TO KENYA COLONY

On Thursday morning we were not called until six o'clock, just as it was getting light. The coach took us back to Entebbe, and shortly after eight we were in the air again heading for Nairobi. I was called in to the pilot's quarters and handed a chart with the course marked on it. We were then over a part of Lake Victoria which my wife and I have traversed by steamer several times; and once we travelled by tugboat calling at out-of-the-way places. I had seen it from the air eighteen months before when returning from Entebbe to Kisumu, but this morning we are on a different course. We are flying at a height of 12,000 feet above sea level, which is about 8,000 feet above the lake. A few minutes ago I had a grand view of Mount Elgon rising to 14,000 feet some forty or fifty miles away to the north. Below are the islands of Mfangamu and Rusinga, and over to the south lie the Gwasi hills. Now we are skirting Homa Bay, and I know that a few miles away on my left are Kendu Hospital and Gendia Mission, although I must confess I did not actually make them out. And right at the end of the Kavirondo Gulf is Kisumu, my destination! The train will take eighteen hours to get me there from Nairobi.

Suddenly I realize I am looking right down on Kisii, and there is our Nyanchnwa Mission as plain as can be. That ridge of hill with the rocky face must be the Manga escarpment—yes, there is Sengera church on the top of it. The Kisii hills, then the extensive

tea plantations of Kericho, and after that some rather wild country becoming mountainous, until I realize I am looking right into the vegetation-filled crater of Longonot—an active volcano just a few years back. Soon the Great Rift Valley is crossed, and then how beautiful the green cultivated Kikuyu country looks. Away to the right are the Ngong Hills—well-known landmark—and ere long the spacious suburbs of Nairobi are spread out below. I recognize Government House, the European Schools, the Cathedral of the Highlands—and Crauford Road where our Kenya Mission Field headquarters are situated—and then we are down. Soon I find myself saying “good-bye” to my erstwhile companions of the air, and I am having my passport inspected, etc. An airways car takes me to the station, where I find the message I sent the previous evening from Kampala has resulted in my having a place reserved on the train which is due to leave in a few minutes’ time.

Several of my mission colleagues have been trying to contact me, and two of them come dashing up to bid me welcome and to have a chat. Yuda Odongo one of our African colporteurs, happens to be engaged in his good work on the station this morning, and he must come to shake hands and ask for “the news of England,” not forgetting to inquire after Bwana Carey, Bwana Armstrong, and others.

On the train my companion is a young soldier who is being flown home to England from Kisumu on compassionate leave and who expects to be there on Saturday. He readily consents to take a letter to post to my wife on his arrival in England. Next morning I tumble out of my sleeping berth and into my clothes at 5.30 a.m., just as the train is about to pull into Kisumu station. Elder Sparrow is there to meet me with his car.

After breakfast I go over to my house just across the road (how fortunate we are to have a house to come back to when houses are so hard to get—here as elsewhere) and greet the new boy who has been engaged to look after the premises. It is Friday, and there is much to be done before even-

ing. First I must make a list of necessities and then go and get them. Mr. and Mrs. Sparrow cordially invite me to have my meals with them until my wife can join me. The car starts up without any fuss—it has travelled 5,000 miles on mission business during the time we have been away, but it has been idle for a month now. I am just going off to town when who should appear but our house-boy Owano. How clean and nice he looks, and so pleased to see his bwana back again! Better than anyone else he will be able to help me get the house in order, for he will remember just the way the Memsahib arranged things! All our goods have been stored in the back room during our absence, while the rest of the house has been occupied by a new mission family who arrived soon after we went on furlough. Mr. Andrews did his best to find another house either in Kisumu or in Nairobi, but without success, and eventually they moved to a newly-constructed mission house 200 miles away, in Uganda, until that also will be needed for its intended purpose.

EAST AFRICA HAS RATIONING, TOO!

In town I realize I cannot get bread or sugar without a ration book—and that will not be issued without production of my passport! At last all is fixed up, and shopping proceeds. Eggs are rather scarce just now, and potatoes entirely unobtainable in town. The bananas, however, are pretty good, and I’m sure I shall enjoy the pawpaw, although the oranges are disappointing. By the way, if we take the whole of our “starch” ration in the form of bread, it amounts to three one pound loaves per person weekly.

We hope to have electricity laid on in Kisumu early this year, but meanwhile the pressure lamp works when time comes to light up. I’ve met quite a number of friends around town during the day, and made a start at house-keeping. But the lamp will not be kept on long. It is time to say a sincere “Thank you” to the Lord for all His goodness and tender mercies, and then to bed with no intention of early rising.

On Sunday morning I had occasion to go down to the Kisumu

air-port. The big machine from England came in promptly at ten o’clock. I asked a disembarking passenger when he left London. “Yesterday morning,” he replied. And you must reckon the “day” as being only twenty-one hours, because we are that much east of Greenwich.

My wife is on her way now. The boat is scheduled to arrive at Mombasa on Christmas Day. That’s Thursday. I’m wondering how soon after that she will reach Kisumu. You see, if she misses the train on from Nairobi on Friday, there’s not another until Monday!

Meanwhile, the purpose of my earlier departure and more rapid means of transit is being served. Elder Sparrow has left to attend the annual meetings of the Mission Board at Cape Town, and I am daily handling the work in the office with our committee meetings next month in view.

Kisumu, Kenya.

North England Conference

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Notes from the President

MANY of our evangelists were not able to commence their public work in the autumn through lack of staff, suitable halls, and changes of location. Twelve efforts are to begin in the first weeks of this new year. We invite the continued intercession of the MESSENGER family on behalf of our evangelistic campaigns.

In 1946 the book work in North England showed a gain of £4,000, the total sales being £21,782. When the official figures are made up for 1947 it will be evident that in spite of the worst winter in memory and consequent loss of time this gain will not only be maintained but passed by several hundred pounds. Four workers each sold literature to the value of more than £1,000. We thank God

for our faithful band of colporteur evangelists.

During the first week in August there is to be held at Watford a Congress for senior youth, followed by a camp. We are to have the presence of Brother E. W. Dunbar, youth leader from the General Conference. All our senior youth should plan to attend this important gathering. There will be no senior north camp in 1948, but the juniors will be favoured with the last fortnight of August on the old camp ground at Cayton Bay.

"We are living in the time of the end. The fast fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is at hand." Let us resolve that we shall obtain a deeper Christian experience, a closer fellowship with God and each other as the end approaches. Let us be faithful in tithes and offerings, in healthful living, and by God's grace gain the victory over every wrong word and action. We thank you for your faithfulness. There is every indication that we shall make a gain in tithe of over £1,500 for the year 1947. This should bring our total tithe close to £20,000.

O. M. DORLAND.

Sabbath-School and M.V. Plans

THROUGHOUT our churches many new officers have been appointed in the Sabbath-school and Missionary Volunteer departments. Some of these have held similar offices successfully in the past; others are new to such duties. Upon them rest important responsibilities. Much will depend upon their leadership during the year.

The Sabbath-school, in feeding the whole flock of God with spiritual food, strengthens the faith of the believers in the message. The Missionary Volunteer societies deepen the consecration of our children and youth, guiding them in service for Christ. The spiritual life and experience of the churchmembers will depend in no small degree upon the inspiration and help which comes through these two divinely appointed channels. Pray for them and for their leaders. Give

them all your very best support.

Livingstone said he was prepared to go "anywhere, if forward." We are planning forward moves in 1948. To bring these to the responsible officers the following special conventions are planned for the first quarter of the year.

January 10th at Coventry
Sabbath-school Convention for West Midlands

January 17th at Leeds
Convention of M.V. officers in Yorkshire, Humber, and Northern Counties areas.

January 24th at Manchester.
Convention of M.V. officers in Lancashire.

February 28th at Nottingham
Convention of M.V. Officers in East and West Midlands

March 13th at Liverpool.
Sabbath-school Convention for Lancashire

March 20th at Grimsby.
M.V. and S.S. Convention for Humber area.

At each of these we shall have the help of a special visitor. Pastor G. D. King will be with us at Manchester and Nottingham, Pastor E. L. Minchin at Liverpool and Grimsby, Pastor O. M. Dorland at Leeds and, by special arrangement, Pastor A. C. Vine at Coventry.

Pastor Minchin, whose ministry for the youth was so much appreciated in Yorkshire last year, will be with us for a "Youth for Christ" week in the East Midlands from January 30th to February 7th. While this campaign will centre chiefly around Nottingham and Derby, we are planning to hold meetings during the week at several other places as well. This special week will close with a Youth Rally and youth baptism at Nottingham on February 7th.

Your prayers and support are earnestly solicited on behalf of these conventions and special services.

E. R. WARLAND.

The Cradle Roll

WHAT a great occasion is the birth of a child, particularly to Adventist parents who receive such a gift and blessing from God!

The Sabbath-school wants to record each such happy event on

its Cradle Roll and to present the parents with the special card of enrolment.

The beautiful Roll we have in the North Conference office records the names and birthdays of about one hundred tiny tots, but we fear it is far from complete. Surely every "lamb" should be within the Sabbath-school fold. Besides, we like to send a little cheerful greetings card to the children on their birthdays, which we cannot do unless we know when these occur.

Mothers of North England, if you do not have a Sabbath-school Cradle Roll card for your little one, will you please send to me at the Conference office a post card giving the child's full name, address, and birthday date? We will then add the name to our record and see that an individual card for the child is sent to you.

E. R. WARLAND.

Young Life Week in Sheffield

WE, in Sheffield, had a very happy week-end from Friday evening, November 28th, to Tuesday evening, December 2nd. Pastor E. L. Minchin conducted the services Sabbath evening, morning, and afternoon, our brethren and sisters from Rotherham, Barnsley, and Killamarsh churches joining with us for these meetings. Pastor E. R. Warland spoke on Sunday afternoon and Tuesday evening. We all had a very happy and helpful time together.

B. PATTEN,
Church Clerk.

Sheffield Baptism

ON Sabbath afternoon, November 15th, the members of the Sheffield church wended their way to the Hillsbro' Baptist church to witness a baptismal service, when two sisters and a brother went down with their Saviour into the watery grave and rose to newness of life. One other young lady was received into the church by vote, thus making an addition of four new members to our church. Our late minister, Pastor R. D. Vine, came from Watford to conduct this service.

B. PATTEN.

South England Conference

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The New Year

THIS message is being written on the first day of the New Year, but it will not be read until two weeks have passed. The wish that I send to you all is none the less warm, however, because of the slight delay. For Adventists, time is not measured primarily by the calendar, but by the fact of our rapid approach to the climax of the ages in the personal coming of the blessed Redeemer. The anticipation of this event buoys up our spirits in a depressing world and prompts quicker action to bodies that might otherwise grow weary. It is the incentive to deeper service in a cause that is genuine and that is sure to triumph. Such thoughts are bound to colour the wish I have for you as we begin a New Year. In a personal way I wish every individual in our conference a deeper connection with Heaven, bringing gladness, peace, and a measure of prosperity as God shall see fit.

As churches I wish you strong spiritual leadership so that all the splendid gifts within our borders shall be fully and effectively united in the grand task of warning and saving the lost.

As administrators we ask for your continued prayers so that the plans we lay for progress may be from God. In the next month we hope to decide on matters which will not only provide a progressive plan for 1948, but will also be a starting point for a more comprehensive programme in the years to follow. We know not what changes time may bring to the work and we must stand ready to adjust ourselves to the need of the hour. But we believe the counsel, "Occupy till I come," indicates that the Master expects the long vision inspired

by faith. Heartfelt good wishes to one and all.

W. W. ARMSTRONG.

Medical Ministry

Why a Seventh-Day Adventist Medical College?

IN spite of one of the highest tuition rates in the United States, medical students at the Seventh-Day Adventists' Medical College pay less than half of their training cost; the Seventh-Day Adventist denomination pays the rest. Why?

The College of Medical Evangelists was founded to make more effective the ministry of Seventh-Day Adventists. Christ approached the spiritual needs of His people by healing their diseases, and the church to-day believes that mankind will be more receptive to its message if it is accompanied by a strong, Christian medical work.

The aim of the College of Medical Evangelists is to train doctors, nurses, and medical technicians who will exemplify the Christian life before their patients. Some graduates enter denominational work directly, staffing sanitariums and hospitals all over the world. Others advance the church's work by living a Christian life and ministering to the needs of their communities in private practice.

That is why Seventh-Day Adventists strongly support the College of Medical Evangelists.

FORWARD-LOOKING PLANS

THE Board of Trustees of the College of Medical Evangelists, the Seventh-Day Adventists' medical college, is composed of medical men and laymen with educational and administrative experience. On the Board are officers and leaders in the General and Union Conferences of Seventh-Day Adventists, directors of other Adventist medical institutions, as well as the administrators of the College of Medical Evangelists. The spiritual leadership

Leigham Manor

*In silence now the stately mansion stands,
Around its walls the wind just softly sighs,
The sun shines down on lawn and pond alike—
And all is peaceful 'neath the winter skies.*

*The hills no longer echo to the call;
The woods resound not to the voice of praise,
And e'en the birds seem strangely silent now,
For gone are all the happy camping days.*

*Upon the roads sound not the tramp of feet;
The camp's bright fire no more lights up the night
The very countryside seems incomplete,
And trees look down upon the vacant sight.*

*Not so with memory There lingers still
The vision of the youth who rallied there,
And happy laughter yet resounds on hill
And in imagination their joys we share.*

*The air seems full of choruses of praise,
With words that lift and consciously inspire;
And lo, the youth, with vision for new days,
Fade out of sight as did the old camp fire*

*But lo, we find them scattered far and near
Back in the world they sing the songs of truth,
The song, "We're on the homeward trail," we hear
And earnestly we pray—GOD BLESS OUR YOUTH.*

S. COMBRIDGE.

of these men has never been questioned, and their foresight and progressive spirit is illustrated by recent actions.

The Board has voted to expand the facilities at Los Angeles with a new hospital, a clinic, and an educational plant on a campus large enough to accommodate all necessary facilities.

A School of Tropical and Preventive Medicine is being planned. This will be of special benefit to graduates going to mission fields. Other lay missionaries will be invited to take certain courses as preparation for missionary service.

Plans have been approved for the Newton Evans Foundation, an independent corporation supported by certain Alumni and approved by General Conference leaders. This Foundation will establish a private patient clinic which will assist in training graduate physicians in special fields and will contribute thousands of dollars to the support of the College of Medical Evangelists.

Yes, the College of Medical Evangelists has strong leadership!

JERRY L. PETTIS,
General Manager,
Alumni Association.



Sorrow Turned to Joy

"I HAVE learned more from *The Bible Speaks* than I did in all the years of my going to church," writes a purchaser of that excellent book.

You will no doubt be interested to learn the full story behind this letter, for we have here another evidence of the power of the literature ministry.

Some time ago Colporteur Horace D. Howard was successful in placing *The Bible Speaks* in many homes in the Wakefield district. Later it was my pleasure, as field missionary secretary in the north, to test the same territory with the book *God's Way Out* for the purpose of starting another worker there.

While I was in the act of booking an order at one home a relative of the customer entered and soon joined in the conversation. She told how her sister-in-law who lived about a mile away had been praising the book she had bought from Mr. Howard. She revealed that shortly after the purchase was made the husband was fatally injured at his place of work. In her overwhelming sorrow the young wife resorted to her book time and again, and

gradually the God of all comfort spoke peace and hope to her through its pages. It brought to my mind that inspired promise:

"The time will come when these books will be sought for and read. . . . Misfortune may enter the home, and through the truth contained in the books, God sends to troubled hearts peace and hope and rest."—"*Colporteur Evangelist*," page 6.

Soon I was at the bungalow of the sorrowing widow, to be kindly received and admitted. The shock of the tragedy had been very great, but I could see that a new-found hope was softening the blow. She had never known till now the real value of the Bible. It was an inspiration to learn how her study of the Scriptures through the plan offered in *The Bible Speaks* was imparting a certainty of God's love hitherto never experienced. Gladly she ordered *God's Way Out*, and after a brief study I had prayer with her and her young daughter.

Further studies followed in due course, also most helpful visits by Brother and Sister Austin from the Wakefield church. And all the time the books she had bought have been doing their appointed

work. Now, in her letter just to hand, she says:

"I often think how grand it would be if everyone could read the great truths in these two books. They have been sent to help us, and explain much that I wanted to know. . . . I am now trying to keep the Sabbath. Pastor West is visiting every fortnight for studies, and I am going to be baptized when I have learned more of the truth."

As we think of this happy result of the book work, we too feel how good it would be if everyone could read our literature. But that surely brings home to us the God-assigned task of our colporteur evangelists and churchmembers. Under His blessing it is imperative that through this means we give the opportunity to as many souls as possible in our Union territory. B. BELTON.

The "Ministry"

NEARLY all of our denominational periodicals have found it necessary to raise their prices due to the war and rising costs. In spite of all this, the subscription price of the workers' own journal of interchange, *The Ministry*, has remained unchanged. Now, however, we are obliged to increase the price from \$2.00 to \$2.50 (12/6) a year.

One of the outstanding features of *The Ministry* for 1948 is a series of articles prepared by Arthur L. White, grandson of Ellen G. White, setting forth the human interest side of Mrs. White's life and experience. These articles are based on Mrs. White's handwritten diaries, letters, etc. Here you will meet her as a homemaker, a neighbour, a speaker, a writer, and as the messenger of the Lord. Since her death, a whole new generation of Seventh-Day Adventists have come upon the scene, and *The Ministry* is particularly fortunate in being able to arrange for this series of articles.

The studies on other denominations and "isms," which began in 1945 has been a feature of special interest which has been included in every issue during 1947, except January, and will run on into 1948. So far, the following

churches and beliefs have been covered: Presbyterian, Anglo-Israelite, Christadelphian, Pentecostal, Lutheran, Protestant Episcopal, Congregational, Disciples, Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), Baptists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Roman Catholic, Christian Science, Unity or Fillmoreism, Eastern Orthodox, Unitarian, Buchmanism (Oxford Group Movement), Dukhobors, Assemblies of God (Pentecostal). Back numbers are available at 20 cents (1/-) a copy.

Other studies in hand, which will be published as soon as possible are: Dutch Reformed, Seventh-Day Baptist, Jews, the Yoga system of philosophy, and the Bahai faith.

Although *The Ministry* is primarily for Gospel workers, a miscellaneous group of lay preachers, church elders, and other missionary-minded church members are also receiving its monthly visits. **THE MINISTRY MAGAZINE,**
General Conference Office,
Takoma Park, 12, D.C.
U.S.A.

WEDDING BELLS

WEIR-REYNOLDS.—On Monday, December 22, 1947, in the Hull church before a good number of relations and friends, Brother Norton Weir, a medical student from North Ireland, and Sister Joan Reynolds, a Bible instructor of the North England Conference, were united in marriage. Following the service a reception was held in the home of relations of the bride. We wish the happy couple every blessing of Heaven as they journey life's road together. Pastor H. W. McCrow assisted the writer in conducting the service.

O. M. DORLAND.

Until the Day Break

BRAILSFORD.—We regret to announce the death of Brother Joseph Brailsford on October 23, 1947, at the age of eighty-two years. Brother Brailsford was brought to a knowledge of the truth and baptized by Pastor J. D. Gillatt in 1920, since when he has been a quiet but faithful member of the remnant church. During the air raids on London he suffered injury when his house was bombed, which resulted in his becoming blind. Although he continued to work for a number of years it was with failing strength and eventually he became ill and spent a year in hospital where, very happily, his daughter Gladys

was nursing and able to attend him until he died. He died in the sure and certain hope of having a part in the first resurrection and was laid to rest in the Chelmsford Cemetery by the writer on October 28th. We extend our sincere sympathies to Mrs. Brailsford and her family and pray that the Lord will give them grace so to live that they will meet their loved one again in the earth made new. A C VINE

WILLIAMS.—It is with regret that we record the death of another member of the Southampton church, Sister Williams, who fell asleep on Tuesday, November 4, 1947, aged eighty years. Sister Williams accepted the message under the ministry of Pastor A. K. Armstrong and was baptized in June, 1938. Our sister was laid to rest in Hollybrook Cemetery, Pastor Lane conducting the funeral service. CHURCH CLERK.

COOKE.—On November 10, 1947, the Sheffield church lost another of its members in the falling asleep of Sister Cooke. It was in 1936 that our sister was baptized. She was interred in the Morton Cemetery in the presence of relatives and many friends. B PATTEN, *Church Clerk*

WILLIAMS.—It is with deep regret that we record the death, on November 16, 1947, of our dearly loved brother, Matthew Emmanuel Williams, who for the past thirty-six years has been a loyal member of the Cardiff church. It was during Pastor A. K. Armstrong's term as superintendent of the Welsh Mission that Brother Williams accepted the truth, and with sustained enthusiasm did our brother bear his witness. During his years of service in the cause he has been a winner of souls and an example in missionary activity. He will be sorely missed by our Cardiff church membership. The funeral service was conducted by the writer on Thursday, November 20th, at the home of Sister Williams, in the presence of a large number of relatives, friends, and churchmembers, and afterwards at the graveside, when words of hope and comfort from the Scriptures were spoken. We extend our deepest sympathy to Sister Williams and family in their sorrow. May the Lord help us all to be faithful a little longer when we shall meet our beloved brother at "daybreak." F S. JACKSON.

HOPWOOD.—After much suffering, patiently borne, our dear Sister Hopwood fell asleep on Monday, November 17, 1947, at the age of fifty-two years, and was laid to rest in the Witton Lodge Cemetery, Birmingham. Sister Hopwood came to know this wonderful message through the labours of Pastor A. F. Bird. She was baptized on February 6, 1934, and received into the South Birmingham church. Although in ill health for two years before her death, our sister gathered in a considerable amount toward the church goal in the Ingathering Campaign. She leaves to mourn their loss her husband, a son, and two daughters. Services were held in the home and also at the cemetery by Pastor F. Edwards and Brother S. H. Parkin, who spoke words of comfort to the bereaved. Our hope is in the promises of God who never fails those who trust Him. N. MULLINER, *Church Clerk*.

SMALE.—We deeply regret to report the passing of our dear Brother Smale on December 4, 1947, after a long and painful illness, patiently borne. He learned the Advent message from his devoted wife and daughter and was received into church fellowship at Newport, Mon., a few weeks before he died. The funeral service was held at the home in the presence of a large number of relatives and friends, words of assurance and guidance from the Scriptures

being spoken by the writer. At the graveside, Brother Jacques, our Newport church elder, in a moving and heartfelt prayer commended the mourners to the God of all comfort, who comforteth us in all our affliction. Our deceased brother rests until the call of Jesus at the resurrection of the just. We beg to offer our deep sympathy to Sister Smale and all the members of her family in their great loss.

F. S. JACKSON.

BARKER.—The Worcester church has sustained another loss within three months. Sister May Gertrude Barker, who was one of its charter members, accepted the Advent message after a tent effort conducted by Pastors A. S. Rodd and J. West. She was our first Sabbath-school secretary. Our dear sister passed peacefully to rest on November 27, 1947, after a very long period of weakness and ill health. She lies in the Astwood Road Cemetery until the resurrection day dawns.

M. J. BARNES, *Church Clerk*

ATKINSON.—Florence Ellen Atkinson, formerly Curtiss, accepted the truth under the labours of Pastor F. S. Jackson many years ago. Most of her experience has been with the Hull church, but for a few years she was located at Scarborough, only recently returning to Hull, where she passed away, after a brief illness, on December 7, 1947, at the age of sixty-three years. She leaves a son and daughter to mourn their loss, also several grandchildren. The services at the cemetery chapel and at the graveside were shared by the writer with the Methodist minister, the Rev. T. S. East. Interment was at the Northern Cemetery, Hull, on December 11th. We look forward to the happy reunion on the resurrection morning.

H. W. McCrow.

MORRIS.—Our dear sister, Mary Ann Morris, a faithful member of Barry church, fell asleep in Jesus quite suddenly, early in December, 1947, aged seventy-six years, and was laid to rest on Thursday, December 11th. Sister Morris loved the Advent message and loyally bore her witness to the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. After prayers at her home, the funeral service was conducted in our Barry Seventh-Day Adventist church, which was filled to capacity with relatives, friends, and churchmembers, to whom the writer spoke of Christ's near coming and the resurrection day when Sister Morris will rise from the grave to meet her Lord. We extend our deepest sympathy to Mr. Morris and all the members of the family in their great loss.

F. S. JACKSON.

GODDARD.—The first loss sustained by the Swindon company since its inception in 1936 has been occasioned by the passing of Sister Louisa J. Goddard. Attracted by the evangelistic campaign conducted by Pastor L. D. Vince, and later by the Bible studies presented by Sister E. Guntrip, our late sister was received into fellowship in 1938. Recently she had been unable to attend the meetings regularly owing to indifferent health, but her death on Tuesday, December 9, 1947, at the age of sixty-two years, was unexpected. In accordance with her expressed desire the funeral service was conducted by Pastor J. Harker, who paid a tribute to her cheerfulness and faithfulness. The sad news came as a shock to all alike, but we rest in the confidence that the Almighty never makes a mistake when such a call is made. In the presence of relatives and friends she was laid to rest on Sabbath, December 13th. With them we look forward to the resurrection morning.

P. BEECHY, *Church Clerk*.

Finding Spirit-Filled Men for Difficult Tasks

By L. K. DICKSON

EVERY conference president in this movement to-day knows that one of our greatest problems now is to find men and women for difficult and exacting tasks of grave responsibility. More difficult than the finding of means with which to finance the work is the finding of men of large faith, of courageous and sacrificial, well-trained capacity to meet the urgency and opportunities of the present hour. We are convinced and continually forced to the conclusion that there is still just as great an opportunity as ever in the history of the church for zealous and well-equipped men and women of superior achievement and spirit. The problem is to find key men for key positions of leadership and action.

Something must come to the church membership now to galvanize the dormant strength within it, so that it can be used for God. A renewal of the spirit and vision of the apostles of old and the more modern pioneers of this message is needed.

There is no dearth of opportunity, but there is a dearth of vision and courage born of faith on the part of some who lead and some who are trained.

Certain it is that God sees those in the church whom He can trust with such a situation as the needs and opportunities that the work now presents around the world. He sees latent capacities for vision, leadership, adventure, heroism, devotion, sacrifice, and consecration necessary for this present hour. There is no want of material: but appalling are the lack of faith and courage, and the absence of sacrificial spirit and personal consecration with which to face the exigencies of the present moment.

There needs to be a new understanding of the urgency facing us in measuring up to the problem of finishing the work in this hour of our visitation. The tramp of armies is heard on every national border. Widely and swiftly Satan is spreading a miasma of corrupt

influences that is destined speedily to close doors of opportunities which are now flung wide open to God's faithful servants. The vastness and the temporary nature of present opportunities need to fix themselves in our minds to a degree we have never known before, until the church is willing to give itself in utter and complete abandon to God and to our task.

These are the days which are to call forth from within the church strong lives who are striving for partnership with Christ. Leaders in spiritual devotion, prayerfulness, surrender, and soul winning are needed now on every front in this last hour of the conflict. There needs to be seen a new intensity in seeking and a more certain experience in finding Him who must now possess fully our souls and bodies. Our prayer must be not only "What can I get from God?" but, "What can I give to God?" Our prayer now is to be not so much for peace as for power. We need to recapture the mighty impulses of the hearts of Livingstone, Carey, Paton, Luther, Wesley, Andrews, that we too may become adventurers of faith, heralds of God, battlers for the truth, and exemplars of Christ.

In this cause counsel and action born of fear and trembling cannot meet the issues of this hour. God's army must cease clinging passively to the cross and grasp it passionately, and carry on for God in whatever situation we may find ourselves. To do this we must determine to live spiritually fit lives, and to give up everything that weakens the will and saps the vitality of our faith. Our lives must be kept free of and away from everything that will retard or make impossible our persevering on the straight and narrow way.

In the atmosphere of prayer and true faith in the great and precious promises of God's Word

we must subdue our evil thoughts, mean judgments, ignoble purposes, insane jealousies and prejudices, malicious practices, and tyrannical passions. We must force them all into God's holy presence, and there watch His ineffable light fade them away from our lives. There are many things which look enormous to us until we place them in the presence of Christ.

This is the day when we need to reap in our lives the practical spiritual fulfilment of the promises, "Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet." "I give unto you power to tread on serpents." It is in the field of prayer that these critical battles of our lives are fought and won. Let us know now the personal triumphs and victories which alone can fit us for the task before us and for the glory that will follow its finishing.

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Acknowledgments

THE treasurer of the South England Conference acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the Lord's tithe, £1 from T.T.G.

THE treasurer of the North England Conference acknowledges with thanks the receipt of £1. 17s 0d from M.B.H., and £5. 14s 6d. and £1. 10s 0d. from A.B.Z.

THE editor acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the Lord's tithe, £2, Anonymous, £1 from Wallasey, and £10 from S.F.N., Wallasey.

SUNSET CALENDAR

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Lon'n Car'ff Edin Not'm Bel't
Jan 23rd 4 31 4.44 4.24 4 30 4 42
Jan 30th 4.44 4.57 4.39 4 43 4 56

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 21st
EDITOR: W. L. EMMERSON

Vol. 53 No 2. January 16, 1948