

BRITISH ADVENT
MESSENGER
 ORGAN OF THE BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

The Voice of Prophecy

OUR request for Bibles to supply continental students of the Voice of Prophecy has met with a ready response. We wish to thank all who have donated their spare copies to this worthy cause. We have received one large pulpit Bible—but ordinarily would prefer Bibles that can be handled and sent through the post. If any member has a spare Bible in fairly good condition, please send it to: The Voice of Prophecy, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.

Here is an appreciative letter that tells its own story:

"On January 5th I received from you a very agreeable and satisfying surprise—a parcel containing a fine copy of the Holy Bible. Thank you sincerely. This enabled me to read the texts and full chapters connected with the lessons I have been studying" L—, France

You will be glad to know that our total enrolment of students at the end of 1947 was 4,366; 97 had finished the first course of eighteen lessons, 23 had completed the first and advanced courses, and 14 had been baptized. Six of these had contacted us through our Press publications and the other seven had sent in their names by means of the folders and leaflets. We look forward to an ever-increasing enrolment in the current year, with a corresponding increase in interests and baptisms. We desire to thank every worker and member who has contributed to our present success.

By J. A. McMILLAN

Please pray for the students as they read their way into the truth. These students come from all walks of life and are affiliated with all the various shades of religious opinion. Sister White has truly said: "There is hard work to be done in dislodging error and false doctrine from the head, that Bible truth and Bible religion may find a place in the heart."—*Gospel Workers,* page 81.

Join our fellowship of prayer that the Holy Spirit may "turn the hearts of men as the rivers of waters are turned."

Here is a testimony we wish to see duplicated many times in 1948: "I cannot express on

paper just how much my life is changed. I see the world through different eyes and thank God for helping me and guiding me to read the Voice of Prophecy."

The close relationship existing between the Voice of Prophecy and our publishing work is illustrated in the following incident. We have a member in Canada who for years has sought to interest her English father in the truth, but without apparent success. Recently he sent her a present from England—a religious book. She read the book cautiously, expecting to find its teachings contrary to the Advent faith, especially as her father had praised it so highly. To her surprise, no error appeared, and she understood why when she



Pastors A. R. Mitchell and W. A. Townsend, with one of the office secretaries, look over a large consignment of New Zealand food parcels for Britain.

came on a page advertising the Voice of Prophecy. The book was *God's Way Out* by our late Voice of Prophecy secretary, Arthur Warren. These silent messengers are doing a potent work for the Lord—Are you?

South England Conference

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Plans Foreshadowed

TIME is short. A great work has yet to be done and this within our own Conference.

These two facts compel us to think comprehensively and to act boldly. The success of the past is no measure for the present or the future. The life of every believer in the Advent movement must be reorganized and re-vitalized so as to become a greater producer for Christ. "Production" is the key word for the church no less than for industry. It is not sufficient to put forth full effort. All effort must be applied to methods which in themselves are the most efficient.

It is of little value expending energy and money on that which no longer attracts the public. We have to study the public's taste in evangelism. One thing the public has lost taste for is second-rate halls, usually of small capacity, dingy and wooden. The larger halls which are popular still attract when good programmes are properly advertised. Public evangelism must be mainly conducted in this type of hall.

As all men have not the qualifications for this kind of evangelism it follows that a choice of workers to lead out in this work must be made and it requires that at least two ministers shall work together as far as conditions permit. The Lord provided the evangelistic mould for all ages when He sent out His disciples "two by two." There is no method that has no risks attached to it, but the Lord's way reduces

risks to a minimum and provides a potential for maximum fruit. The men available for this type of evangelism may still be few in number. The cities that call for larger-scale campaigns are many. While hoping our worker force will gradually grow, we must go ahead with the workers we have and pass from city to city, as Paul did in his day, until the circuit of our task is completed. The housing situation will make such a plan difficult to work, but it can and must be done. The expense involved will have to be regarded as part of the evangelistic programme. We must depend more and more on our members to care for themselves and we must educate local leaders to do this work. The Spirit of prophecy is very clear on this point.

One thinks of the many small towns and villages in our Conference. These have possibly all been visited by the faithful colporteur, but nothing further has been done to gather the fruit. Has not the Voice of Prophecy School arisen to meet this lack? Some workers who perhaps would find the larger campaign somewhat of a problem to conduct could go into some of the smaller towns and conduct strong services for three or four Sunday evenings arousing an interest in world conditions and their meaning. As a follow-up every house could be visited with the enrolment card of the Voice of Prophecy School. It does not require graduates to do this follow-up work. A number of small towns and villages could be worked by a minister and a helper during a year and would ultimately provide a number of cottage meetings within a workable distance from his home.

We must plan to cover our territory with the message of the coming Lord as quickly and as thoroughly as possible, relying on the Lord to bless our plans and augment the means by which His work can be done.

W. W. ARMSTRONG.



Hastings

A VISIT to Hastings on the Sabbath of January 10th brought

much encouragement to me. Pastor D. A. Conroy presented the Sabbath truth about a month ago and commenced meetings on the Sabbath afternoon in the Central Hall. A good attendance has been experienced and on the afternoon I was present 105 non-members listened very attentively to the story of Pilgrims' Progress as it was shown on the screen. The service was made further attractive by suitable Gospel musical items being sung by the talent of the church and the minister's wife. A spirit of co-operation and hope exists in the hearts of the believers there and we join with them in prayer believing the Lord is going to give them a splendid harvest of souls this year. W. W. ARMSTRONG.



"Feed My Lambs"

THE Christian church all through the ages has only truly prospered as she has courageously acted upon the Saviour's forthright charge to Peter. Neglect of her children has always involved a neglect of her best interests, and a consequent weakening of her witness to the world.

Thus it was fitting that the Saviour's command should be prominently displayed as the Wimbledon members gathered on Sabbath, January 17th, for the dedication of our church school. This Sabbath morning brought to glad fruition the hopes and prayers and plans of many years. More than one heart was full, and more than one eye dimmed, as together we praised God for His opening providences and sustaining strength in allowing us to realize the desire of our hearts for our children.

Brother G. V. Hall, one of our local elders, who, for many years, has constantly urged the need of a school, introduced the theme of the day by a brief review of our responsibilities toward our children. Pastor G. Roper, making a special return visit from Exeter, also spoke feelingly of by-gone days during his Wimbledon ministry, when the first definite steps could at last be taken toward the realization of our hopes. Sister G. Thomas, who at personal sacrifice leaves State employ

to take up the duties of our head teacher, in an earnest and thoughtful talk, reminded us of the supreme necessity of saving our children to-day.

We could not have contemplated this occasion without the friendly presence and inspiring counsel of Pastor H. T. Johnson, our Conference Educational Secretary, who has worked so untiringly to make our new venture possible.

He directed our attention to Jesus, the perfect Example not only of manhood, but also of childhood and youth. As Jesus "increased in wisdom and stature," He grew also "in favour with God and man." Worldly education to-day courts the favour of man, but tragically dispenses with the favour of God. We owe it to our God-given children that they should enjoy a balanced mental and spiritual development such as Jesus had. To deny them this, if we are at all able to provide it, is surely to evince a selfish lack of concern for our children's spiritual welfare, and amounts to a blatant disregard of the Saviour's command to His church—"Feed My lambs."

The climax of our service was reached when Pastor T. J. Bradley, our district leader and evangelist, led us in a fervent and very moving dedicatory prayer. Surely the church's first duty is to commend her children to God, and then to work, and, if need be, to sacrifice, that their eternal salvation may be assured. After the prayer, we took up an offering as a "birthday present" to the new school, which amounted to almost twenty pounds.

Our regular school work, under the direction of Miss Thomas and Miss J. Spencer, began on Tuesday, January 20th in premises at the rear of our present meeting place, which have been suitably altered and re-decorated for the purpose.

We most earnestly invite your prayers that this, our new venture for God and for our children, may grow and prosper in readiness for that glorious day when the "sheep" and the "lambs" together will enter their eternal fold. E. COX.

The Spirit of Evangelism

How often it is the spectacular that appeals to us all as the more valuable part of our work!

Here in Bournemouth, however, we have not had a large campaign but the results have been good, the Lord adding to the church steadily throughout the year.

Every heart rejoiced at our last business meeting when it was reported that our tithes and offerings for the year 1947 just exceeded eleven hundred pounds! Some of our members expressed their amazement at this figure but it is not so surprising because a real conviction has laid hold of the church that the coming of the Lord is very, very near.

I am recording this incident as treasurer of the church because surely such a report makes us realize afresh that God is behind this movement and that we are going on to victory.

MRS. N. A. ADAMS,

Treasurer.

North England Conference

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West Midlands Christmas Fellowship Meetings

"FEAR not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

These inspiring and lovely words, spoken by the angel of the Lord, and dear to the heart of every true Christian, give the key to the West Midlands Christmas Fellowship Meeting held at Coventry on Sabbath, December 27, 1947.

William Lennox, Jnr., who prepared this symposium to the glory of God, followed Christ's example in searching the Scriptures, linking prophecy with fulfilment, then interspersing with it sacred music and song in hon-

our of our everlasting Lord and Saviour.

About 130 voices, from Coventry, Birmingham (South, Central, and Handsworth churches), Wolverhampton, and even from Stoke-on-Trent and Liverpool joined in the opening hymn, "O, come all ye faithful." They were accompanied by Peggy Appleyard at the piano, William Lennox with the trumpet and David Mansfield at the organ. Pastor L. Murdoch asked God's blessing on our gathering.

Introducing the theme of the gathering, Brother S. Howard Parkin recalled the creation of this earth in its perfection, mankind's temptation and fall, and Christ's promise of redemption. "Brightest and best," was then heartily sung by the congregation.

Then the dear old story, old yet ever new, was re-told, with William Lennox, as the narrator, his father, Pastor W. M. Lennox, reading the prophecies, and Betty Blundell reading their fulfilments.

Pastor F. Edwards beautifully rendered a solo, "The race that once in darkness pined, Has seen a glorious light." An unexpected burst of song, "O little town of Bethlehem," then came from a radiogram, operated by David Mansfield, and followed by a lovely melody, "Silent Night," sung by Mrs. Lennox and Elsie Cowley. Recorded music again filled the hall with the good news, "Unto us a Child is born."

Youthful and children's praising voices are always dear to Christ, and so must have been "Away in a manager," sung by Patricia Compton, Alison Risk, and Janet Lennox.

How God loves sincere seekers of His truth, however humble, was recalled in the carol, "While shepherds watched," sung by Robert Wells, Barbara Goldsmith, and Mrs. Ruth Gwinnett. A record took up the wondrous story with Handel's "There were shepherds abiding in the fields."

"In the gleaming starlight," was a lovely poem about the first Christmas recited to us by Janet Lennox.

Three earnest Gentile wise men came seeking the Saviour, and remembering their God-guided pilgrimage, Geoffrey and Paul Belton and Peter Martin sang,

"We three kings of Orient are."

More young voices eagerly sang of their loving Saviour's birth, in "The first Noël." The singers were Joan Lewis, Noreen Young, and Janet Beavon.

We paused to meditate on the "Good tidings of great joy," while Peggy Appleyard, who had accompanied these items, played to us Gounod's "Nazareth."

Our hearts then echoed the angelic chorus, "Glory to God in the highest." "As with gladness," concluded our songs of praise and Pastor Lennox closed the meeting with prayer.

Our happy association together continued in a social evening. We enjoyed plenty of fun, as usual, with Pastor Murdoch as master of ceremonies.

At last it was time to say farewell to our Coventry hosts and to go home. Gospel choruses brightened our homeward journey, and we looked forward to our next meeting together.

GEOFFREY BELTON,

Young People's Leader, Birmingham Central Church.

Welsh Mission

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South Wales Sabbath-School and M.V. Rally

SABBATH, January 10th, was indeed a high day for the members of the South Wales churches, especially the young people. Pastor E. L. Minchin together with our superintendent were with us in Cardiff and a great blessing was received by all.

On arriving at the proposed place of meeting many were greeted by a notice directing them to a nearby chapel. This was due to a last-minute breakdown with the heating system. We were most fortunate in being able to secure the alternative building late on the Friday afternoon!

The day began by a short devotional period conducted by Pastor F. S. Jackson, followed by

the Sabbath-school. This was led by the Cardiff officers and a most inspiring time was had by all. Brethren G. Emm and J. Freeman, gave the review and lesson respectively. A bright missions appeal with some wonderfully inspiring stories was rendered by Pastor Minchin. We were favoured here, as we were throughout the day, with a beautiful solo from Mrs. Lively.

Later in the morning Pastor Minchin spoke to us on the subject of "How to be a Successful Christian." He emphasized how futile it was for us to attend church, pay tithe, and subscribe to all the other doctrines of our faith, if we only did it formally because it was the right thing to do. If we cannot do it from a sincere love for Christ and His saving power, it is useless to expect the plan of salvation to enable us to overcome sin. He took as his text Matthew 7:22, 23. It was indeed a most thought-provoking service and we all searched our hearts and decided to renew our Christian experience as we stood in response to Pastor Minchin's appeal.

In the afternoon we were happy to listen to our Youth Leader once more. He dwelt on some of the virtuous characteristics of true Christian young men and women as outlined in the Bible. We were given many great truths to think over as we returned to our various parts of South Wales.

The Sabbath-school and M.V. officers were met privately by Pastor Minchin and given much helpful counsel and a new vision of what these two fine organizations can do to win more souls for God. At the same time a rousing song service was being most ably conducted by Pastor J. M. Howard. We really enjoyed singing the songs from the new Gospel Melodies song book. By way of variation Miss Pat King sang a beautiful solo to us.

Following a most enjoyable tea provided by some of the sisters of the Cardiff church our social needs were catered for by films and games. We used our new talkie cine projector to show several fine educational films. Some were highly amusing, especially "Washing Time at the

Zoo." The games which followed were heartily enjoyed by all, especially by the young people.

So ended a most profitable and inspiring day of fellowship, and we returned to our homes feeling that it had truly been good to have been in the house of the Lord. It is good when our membership is so small and scattered to get together in meetings of this type. There can be no doubt that there is inspiration in numbers.

G. A. JACKSON.

Until the Day Break

MARSH—Our dear sister, Nellie Marsh, passed to her rest on Sabbath, December 6, 1947, at the age of seventy-three years, after a long period of ill health. Our sister was better known at Watford, where she worked for many years. She was baptized at the early age of thirteen years. Our sympathy goes out to Jessie, left to mourn for her sister whom she faithfully and tenderly cared for, but we believe it will not be long before they will be re-united again, for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Pastor R. H. Smith conducted the burial service, speaking words of hope and comfort to all present.

MRS. HILLS,
Church Clerk.

Advertisements

WANTED, unfurnished rooms, in or near Watford, by ex-service man, wife, and boy of twelve. S.D.A.'s. Write: Clay, I. Clarke way, Leavesden Green, Watford.

CAN any S.D.A. farmer in England or Wales, employ a young Adventist brother aged 22 years? Conscientious and willing worker. Experienced. Please reply to: Miss E. Cowley, 129 Broadgreen Road, Old Swan, Liverpool, 13.

Acknowledgments

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SUNSET CALENDAR

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	Lon'n	Car'ff	Edin	Not'm	Bel't
Feb. 6th	4 57	5 09	4 54	4 57	5 10
Feb 13th	5 09	5 22	5 10	5 10	5 25

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

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