

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

ORGAN OF THE BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

The South England Conference

THE South England Conference opened in the congenial atmosphere of the Stanborough Park Church on Friday evening, July 29th. A short session was taken to organize the conference and seat the delegates. A happy feature of this session was the acceptance of the Edgware church into the conference fellowship of churches.

Pastor W. W. Armstrong in his address reviewed world conditions and the relation of the church to them. The time had come, he said, for the church to declare boldly for God and to proclaim with courage His message for these last days.

Pastor A. K. Armstrong conducted a prayer meeting in the Stanborough Park church at 8.30 a.m. on Sabbath morning, and thus commenced the good things of a memorable Sabbath. The remainder of the conference meetings were held in the Watford Town Hall, and to these the Sabbath-school at 9.45 was a fitting introduction. Pastor A. C. Vine, our conference Sabbath-school leader, had a good programme in hand. Pastor W. L. Emmerson reviewed the previous week's lesson, Pastor J. A. McMillan taught the lesson for the day, and Brother H. Pearce, home from Nigeria, gave us the missions appeal. The offering for missions reached a total of £76.

The morning preaching service was taken by Pastor H. M. Blunden, a Field Secretary of the General Conference. His audience of about fifteen hundred

By F. L. Stokes

people listened intently as he brought home to us some of the implications of the Laodicean message. There is great anxiety abroad to-day, he told us. This is a time of world emergency. Everything that we have been taught to look upon as stable is collapsing. Everything that can be shaken, will be shaken. Jesus, therefore, counsels His people, "Be zealous and repent." The time of purifying is at hand, and none but those dressed in the garments of Christ's righteousness will stand in the testing hour. We are to learn that His righteousness is a principle that transforms the character and controls the conduct.

The Stanborough Male Choir, under Brother I. Owen, greatly added to the inspiration of the service by their beautiful renderings of "The Holy City," and "Wonderful Peace."

Sabbath afternoon brought us a message from our Union president, Pastor E. B. Rudge. He took the book of Jude, the "fiery epistle," as the basis for his remarks. Side by side with the apostate is he who is kept by the love of God and reaches out to help those in need. Men to-day are kept either by the power of Christ for salvation, or by the power of God for judgment.

This service was followed by an hour of Gospel melody and song which will long be remembered by all present. Sister Watson, who

has made a very valuable contribution to our evangelistic work with her singing, has laboured hard to train her ladies' choir. We were privileged to enjoy the results of her work as we listened to the various items so exquisitely rendered. We all felt that in this precious hour God came very near to bless.

A conference would not be complete to Adventists unless some corner was given to the work of our foreign missions. So, Sabbath evening found on the platform a good array of missionaries home on furlough. We listened eagerly to the stories they told of God's providence in West and South Africa and the progress of our work in many places. One of the speakers to whom we were privileged to listen in this meeting was the secretary of the South African Division, Pastor F. Clifford.

Still the good things planned for the Sabbath were not ended. Pastor A. S. Maxwell, a welcome visitor after more than twelve years' absence in America, gave to us an exhilarating account of his experiences in promoting the sales of the *Signs of the Times* magazine, of which he is editor. The *Signs* has an amazing weekly circulation of almost 300,000 copies. In the entire world, this figure is surpassed by only one other Protestant magazine. The story of the *Signs* from its early beginnings to the present time was continued in a coloured sound film entitled, "For Time and Eternity" which Pastor Max-

well had brought with him. It was a fitting end to a Sabbath full of inspiration.

We all looked forward to Sunday as the day when the real work of the conference would begin, and the various committees would take up their appointed tasks. But first there was the devotional hour, when Pastor A. S. Maxwell spoke on "Greatness in a Great Hour." God's people, he said, are a chosen generation, a peculiar people, for a special purpose, to reveal the virtues of Christ's character to the world. This wonderful character Pastor Maxwell outlined. Christ was the true internationalist. He worked for all, regardless of who the individual was or where he was born. His need was his only qualification. Christ possessed compassion and sympathy. He listened to the trouble of others. He had courage, too, in speaking the truth, not fearing for Himself. His generosity, His appreciation of others, His tolerance for all, His desire to save and not to destroy, His complete dedication of life to the purpose of God, these made up the character of Christ that we are to show forth to others.

In the session that followed, the revised constitution of the conference was voted upon and accepted. Our president, Pastor W. W. Armstrong, gave his report, in which he spoke of the increase in membership which, while not large, was encouraging. We were especially proud of our exploits in the 1949 Ingathering Campaign, the amount collected—over £16,000—being the highest in the history of the South England Conference. We were pleased to note the emphasis upon the need to make our places of meeting suitable for the worship of God.

Pastor H. T. Johnson, our Young People's leader and Educational secretary, who was preparing to leave for Camp at Ladrang Bay, gave his report for this department of the work. It is a wonderful privilege to have in our message the solution to all the problems of youth.

Sunday afternoon saw the work of the conference continued, but not before Pastor Blunden, in his

Bible study, had led us to contemplate the question, "Why have we not entered the Promised Land?" The truth was proclaimed yet again that had the church lived up to its privileges we should by now be in the kingdom. God's greatest need to-day is an awakened church.

This message was suitably followed by reports on the Publishing and Home Missionary departments. During this session a new plan was outlined for extending our home missionary endeavours by sending copies of the *Present Truth* to bodies of leading men in public life throughout the land as well as to all in humbler walks of life who must receive the message. Pastor Maxwell presented to us the plan they use in America to accomplish this, whereby churchmembers donate subscriptions for the magazine, and the publishing house mails copies regularly week by week to the various names and addresses. Members attending the conference were thrilled with the plan and responded immediately to the appeal to donate subscriptions. One lady pledged two hundred subscriptions, one hundred to be sent to Members of Parliament, and another hundred to Peers of the Realm. Other members pressed in, taking some a hundred subscriptions, some fifty, some twenty-five, some ten, and in all over 1,630 subscriptions

Officers and Committee of the South England Conference

THE officers chosen for the ensuing term of the South England Conference are as follows:

President W. W. Armstrong
Secretary - Treasurer J. H. Parkin

Missionary Volunteer and Education Secretary H. T. Johnson
Home Missionary and Sabbath-school Secretary A. C. Vine
Publishing Department Secretary S. Combridge

Executive Committee: W. W. Armstrong, J. H. Parkin, C. R. Bonney, H. T. Johnson, G. R. Bell, Miss V. M. Warren, Dr. L. G. White, E. J. Bunker, W. A. Girling.

were donated in a very short time. The publishing house is now empowered to send *Present Truth* for one year to all the Members of Parliament, all the Peers of the Realm, and to many other leading men throughout the country. This plan is to be extended so that all our churchmembers may join in sending the paper to leading personalities in their own towns. This was a wonderfully inspiring hour and one that marked a forward move in our future plans to finish the work of God. Pray and work that God may richly bless us in this great endeavour.

To end a really great day, Pastor Maxwell took as his theme on Sunday evening, "There shall be time no longer," or, as Moffat renders it, "There shall be no more delay." We are indeed living in the very last hour of earth's history, when we are shortly to witness events of the greatest magnitude, and of necessity we must dedicate all to God if we are to triumph with Christ.

The last day of the conference came all too quickly. We began with a devotional hour led by Pastor W. R. A. Madgwick, the principal of Newbold College. The future is a source of fear to many, but in these days of crisis God's people, like Paul, can gain strength from a vision of the man Christ Jesus.

The work of the conference followed, in which Brother J. H. Parkin, our secretary-treasurer, presented the financial statement for the past two years. This was a source of great encouragement, as the figures indicated a steady increase in tithes and offerings throughout the period.

We were blessed by another Bible study from Pastor Blunden on Monday afternoon in which he told of the guiding voice of the servant of the Lord in the story of the Advent movement; prosperity, he convincingly showed, attended those who believed God's "prophets." In the session that followed, reports and discussion in the Sabbath-school and Publishing departments brought the work of the conference to an end, and in the evening service Pastor Blunden brought us his final mes-

sage, in which he urged all to live not on the "carnal" level but on a high "spiritual" plane. The response of the whole congregation

revealed the desire of every soul to reach "higher ground" in experience and service.

We believe that these days of

inspiration will strengthen and sustain all who attended, as we go forward in faith to another year's work for God.

The North England Conference

WE were agreed, we who had had experience of such gatherings before, that this was a Conference that was different—different in many varied and satisfying ways.

Take the meeting place for instance—the City Hall, Sheffield—one of the most comfortable and modern in the country. Who will readily forget its carpeted elegance, its luxuriously upholstered seats, its acoustics and, above all, its air of cultured intimacy? Not many places in North England are blessed with such a structure as this but Sheffield is and we revelled in its welcome.

Then there was the weather—yes it rained, and rained, and rained—but we rejoiced in this too! It is hardly believable, but we did, for it was literally showers of blessing upon a thirsty land. Smilingly we moved about in it between sessions, enjoying to the full its cool freshness after the broiling heat-wave of a day or two earlier. Surely that rain was symbolic of the spirit of this gathering—continuous refreshing showers from above on exulting souls beneath.

But probably the greatest difference was in our visitors. We have had visitors before of every type and kind and surely all know the warm-hearted welcome this homely industrial area gives to each. But this truly was different, for wasn't our old friend "Uncle Arthur" Maxwell to be with us again? He couldn't arrive until Friday evening, but that just made us all the more eager to see him. When he came he hadn't changed a bit. He was the same, bubbling-over, vitally-alive enthusiast that we said good-bye to years ago. And he didn't even have an accent.

But though Uncle Arthur was a dear friend come back to us, this didn't stop our welcoming

By K. A. Elias

our other distinguished guest whom we had not had the privilege of meeting before. He too, was quickly admitted to our fellowship, and justly so. He had a message to bring, a cheering, encouraging, challenging message, and powerfully he brought it before us. Pastor H. M. Blunden, Field Secretary of the General Conference, won the confidence and affection of all as searchingly, and movingly, he led us through the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

Strangely enough though, it was a different type of man that dominated the Conference—the difference here being that he dominated by self-effacement! Pastor Blunden drew our attention to it as we listened to the president's report. That statement was unique—no dry, self-exalting reading of a prepared script this, but a quiet unassuming talk outlining the triumphs of the past two years in North England, and a passing of the credit for these fine achievements to his associates. It is a truly great man of God who can divert the well-earned honours of the day to his subordinates. Such a man is Pastor O. M. Dorland.

Typical of his administration, came a gesture right at the end of the session. At various stages he had expressed his pride in those associated with him—his evangelists, Bible instructors, workers, and members generally. But one little group—a vitally important little group—hadn't been singled out. This was made right when the four young lady stenographers of the office staff were brought before us and formally introduced. Such solicitation for the welfare of all IS different and worthy we feel, of a place in the

records of this noteworthy Conference session.

Were there any other points of difference to record? Why yes! You, who know your North England, marvel at this. There was not one motion put before the delegates in all the week-end's business, but was passed unanimously. Not a dissenting voice was raised at any point during the whole session. The spirit of unanimity has never been demonstrated more strongly in North England than at this Conference. We thank the Lord for this.

Lastly, there was the difference of accommodation. Always a thorny problem at gatherings of this kind, this intimate side of Conference arrangements was managed with foresight and imagination to the lasting credit of Pastor R. A. Vince and his helpers. Personally we heard of only one complaint and this was remedied immediately.

To sum up, this was indeed a Conference where the blessing of God was felt, not only in the spirit-filled messages of power that we were privileged to listen to, but in the association of man to man and church to church. Long may the godly influence of this gathering remain with us, that His cause may flourish and we may enter our eternal home.

SABBATH BLESSINGS

DESPITE raincoats and umbrellas, the Sabbath of our North England Conference, 1949, will be remembered as a time of rich blessing. The highlights of the day's activities were the ordination of Brethren J. Handysides and R. A. Vince, and the stirring of our hearts as we listened to our visiting brethren Pastors H. M. Blunden and A. S. Maxwell.

Pastor J. A. McMillan began

the services of the day by directing our minds to the precious promises given to those under the new covenant. Pastor E. R. Warland superintended the Sabbath-school and by this time the beautiful Memorial Hall in which we had gathered was nearly filled to capacity. The missionary note was struck by an appeal given by Missionary D. Clarke, who was able to tell us of the progress of the work in Africa. After the review by Pastor J. Handysides we were led into the study of the lesson by Pastor R. A. Vince. We were shown how close is our relationship with the early church as we await the coming again of Christ.

From the study of God's Word and the Spirit of prophecy, Pastor Blunden made us all sense our need of the indwelling presence of Christ, and that only as we are clothed in His righteousness can we receive the outpouring of the latter rain. This message was brought very close to our hearts by the singing of that beautiful song, "The Stranger of Galilee," by Miss Joy German.

How happy we were to see during the afternoon ordination service two of our young brethren set apart for the Gospel ministry. Pastor G. D. King reminded us of the great commission entrusted to them of bringing hope and comfort to a hopeless world. The prayer was offered by Pastor H. M. Blunden and was followed by the reading of the solemn charge by Pastor O. M. Dorland, Pastor E. B. Rudge extended, on behalf of the ministry, a very warm welcome.

The afternoon preaching service proved a real tonic, for, in a way known only to Elder A. S. Maxwell, we learned that now is the hour for doing great exploits for God.

After the tea recess we had the privilege of seeing one of our latest movie films which marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the *Signs of the Times*. After seeing this film and hearing the stirring message from the editor of this famous periodical, we were better able to realize why its circulation has now reached almost 300,000 from 50,000 in 1936.

At our evangelistic symposium,

the closing service of the day, we heard from a number of our evangelists. We were particularly interested in what the two recently ordained men had to tell.

May the memory and inspiration of these services remain with us as we step forward to do still greater exploits for God.

JOHN P. WEST.

A SPIRITUAL FEAST

"We have come together," Pastor O. M. Dorland told us in his opening remarks, "to conduct the necessary business and to seek a blessing." His theme was "The church of God." It is God's agency for the salvation of men. He believed that of all the 600,000 in Sheffield that evening God's eye was on us in the City Hall. Ezekiel likened the church to a river that brought healing and food to the world. The happiness of her members was not in serving self, but others. Jesus told His disciples that she was the salt of the earth. She is a preserver like Joseph in days of old. She is a city and the light of the world. In John seventeen Jesus prayed for the unity of the church, and unless we have it God cannot do for us that which He desires to do. We need, Brother Dorland concluded, more men, more money, but above all, the power of the Holy Spirit. He urged, therefore, that we put away everything that will hinder the working of that Spirit in our lives.

Pastor W. R. A. Madgwick had charge of the Friday morning devotional service and spoke of the triumph of the church, basing his address on Isaiah 54:2. Nations, famous men, and even young people to-day fail because they do not put into practice the principle laid down that if the cords are lengthened the stakes must be strengthened. He quoted as examples Babylon and Greece, Alexander and Francis Bacon, and modern youth with their new freedom and the lack of moral stability to compensate it. We need to strengthen the stakes of prayer and Bible study and engage whole-heartedly in church

work or else all material gains are valueless.

In his Bible study on Friday afternoon Pastor H. M. Blunden brought out some very interesting and helpful thoughts on the great controversy between Christ and Satan based on Revelation twelve. It was not primarily a conflict over your salvation and mine, but over the coming of Christ. He vividly traced the course of the battle from heaven to the final scenes of earth's history, and showed how this earth became the "theatre" for the great conflict. Satan tried to destroy the Seed by famines, decrees, and slaughter, but God's plans are established, and in Jesus the inheritance promised to Abraham and the throne of David are united. If only we could see the overall picture and not our own local temporary one we would not worry so much about events that are transpiring to-day.

We all had to agree with Pastor E. B. Rudge when he told us at the Friday evening service that we lived in a time of confusion when statesmen are unable to solve the problems that confront them. We, he affirmed, know where we are going and the path that is marked out for us. Pastor Rudge found the assurance of safety, steadfastness, and stability in Revelation 3:10-12. He quoted from the Spirit of prophecy to the effect that darkness is the misapprehension of God. As the church of God, we are called to lighten that darkness, and this can only be done by filling the vacuum of our lives with the graces of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Rudge also conducted the Sunday morning devotional service when he spoke of God revealing Himself to man. He wanted us to understand the promise, "Lo I am with you always." When the psalmist was poor and needy the Lord thought on him and so He will upon us. It is for us as we are told in Psa. 46:10 to "Be still, and know that I am God." To know God is eternal salvation.

The devotional services of this inspiring conference were brought to a triumphal close as Pastor A. S. Maxwell struck a vivid evangelical note before many non-members on the Sunday evening.

"Watchman What of the Night" was his challenging and revealing theme.

From his recent experiences in devastated Germany he strikingly illustrated the text, Isaiah 21:11, 12: "The morning cometh and also the night." The ever-increasing darkness of the night, so evident all around us, is a sure and certain earnest of the glorious morning soon to dawn. And how intensely dark is the night as seen against the ruins of Berlin—ruins that are even more revealing in the wrecks of the bodies and souls of men than in its shattered buildings.

In the light of these things surely we must turn unto God with all our heart. The trouble

is we are turned, but only a little—God calls urgently for total consecration. The morning is coming—already thousands are flocking to the cause. Five thousand in the Soviet Zone were baptized during 1948, 1,000 monthly are joining God's remnant people from the Roman Catholic and Greek Catholic churches in Southern Europe, whilst 50,000 have been added in Inter-America during the past eight years. We were left with the challenge, "March on for there surely is a new day dawning."

May God bless this devotional feast to His glory and our salvation eternally.

E. A. BUTTERS.

Northern Ireland's Conference

By W. G. Nicholson

THE Northern Ireland biennial conference has now passed into history, but the influence of the sermons coupled with the renewal of fellowship will linger long in the hearts of those who attended. Many were missing by reason of age or sickness, but they were in our thoughts and prayers throughout the session.

Promptly at seven o'clock on July 8th, the first conference session was opened with Pastor A. J. Mustard in the chair. After the seating of the delegates, the new constitution was accepted.

In the Bible study that followed, Pastor J. A. McMillan laid the foundation for all that followed. We were assembled as delegates from all parts of Northern Ireland to meet in conference, to attend the business meetings, to find fellowship with one another, but unless we had come to meet with Jesus, to learn of Him, to become a yoke-fellow with Him, then we would miss the greatest and most important reason for this gathering.

Sabbath morning began with an early morning prayer service conducted by Brother N. H. Knight, followed by the Sabbath-school which was in the care of the junior workers of the mission,

led by Brother A. H. Cowley. Brother Logan, our latest recruit, gave the missions appeal. Brother L. Lane reviewed the previous lesson, and Brother C. Knowlson conducted the lesson from the desk.

In the service that followed, Pastor H. M. Blunden emphasized the thought of being ready to meet with Jesus when He comes; of catching the thrill and inspiration of the "blessed hope"; and of making the necessary preparation in the expectancy of an early return of our Lord. His closing appeal brought the whole congregation to its feet in a desire to be more consecrated and earnest members of the church we love. Soon our Saviour will appear. What an awful tragedy if any here in Ireland are unprepared to meet Him!

Pastor G. D. King, in the afternoon session, exhorted us to see Jesus in the great truths of the Advent message. The cross of Christ is central to all we believe. If we meet Christ at the cross we shall see Him in every doctrine of the Advent faith.

In the evening Pastor Blunden invited us to meet Christ in the history of God's movements of the past. History is but the re-

cord of the out-working of God's plan for the redemption of this world. Seeing and meeting with Christ on the cross will unfold the meaning of all God's dealings with man.

During the Sabbath the children were accommodated in a nearby Methodist church hall, where they were under the able instruction of Sisters Clement and Aikenhead.

On Sunday the day began with Bible study and prayer in which Pastor A. J. Mustard led out and Pastor J. A. McMillan conducted the afternoon Bible study.

For the Sunday evening meeting the members and friends met at the Shankill Road meeting place to hear Pastor Blunden speak on: "The Family of Adam and the Family of Christ." So appealingly did he present the saving grace of Christ that two were led to surrender to Christ.

So ended another blessed time with God; a time when the Holy Spirit spoke clearly and distinctly to every heart; a time in which we were led closer to God in consecration; a time when all present covenanted with God to draw a little nearer, to be a little better, to work a little harder for the lost.

May God grant that out of this happy fellowship with Christ and with one another may be seen fruitage in the kingdom of God.

South England Conference

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Baptism at Croydon

The long-awaited day came for Wimbledon church when over 200 members and friends gathered in the Queen's Road Baptist church, Wimbledon, to witness the baptism of the new believers.

Thinking back, we recall that the work here began with considerable opposition from various local churches, but the attempts made by them to stop the preach-

ing of our special message were of no avail. Threats received by phone and letter did not deter Pastor Bradley's determination to reach the hearts of the people.

We were conscious of the Lord's presence with us as the weeks went by, and the work was carried on unhindered during the winter months.

And so, on June 25th, our hearts were filled with gratitude to God, as twenty were accepted into fellowship.

We were glad to have with us our President, Pastor W. W. Armstrong, who, together with Brother E. Cox, made a strong appeal to the candidates just entering this new experience, to throw off the evil of the old life and put on Christ Jesus. A life of witness must be preceded by the filling of the Holy Spirit.

After the new members had been accepted into fellowship, Pastor Bradley made a call for those desirous of being included in the second baptism on August 13th. We were happy to see eleven rise to their feet to express this determination.

So we await eagerly this further increase to our membership in the near future.

HORACE WEST.

"Fishing for Men"

THE Great Yarmouth church was tastefully decorated and almost filled to capacity on Sabbath, June 25th, when four precious souls followed their Lord through the waters of baptism. We were very pleased to welcome Pastor A. C. Vine as the conference representative who, after examining the candidates, led out in a simple but impressive service. As the baptismal rite was administered, reverently, quietly, and orderly, it must have given great satisfaction to those who had worked so hard to make the necessary preparations.

When the "Gospel net" was cast in October, 1948, we were unable to achieve any element of surprise. The coming campaign by the Seventh-Day Adventists had evidently been well discussed, and not to our advantage, as there

was strong opposition from the beginning. Quite a number of those present on the first night were Plymouth Brethren who did not come to be convinced of Bible truth, as the following extract from a letter of criticism sent to Watford by one of them indicates:

"Your evangelist did appeal for decision for Jesus Christ at the end. I could say Amen to this, and a lot more. However, behind it all was a sort of veiling of your real purpose to make saints legal, and sinners comfortable. So we left not desiring to attend any more of such meetings."

A very interested section of our audience left after four or five weeks when the Scottish fishing vessels returned to their home ports. However, we were happy to enrol at least six of them in the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence Course and pray that the seed sown will bear fruit at last.

Three of the newly baptized members were taken into the fellowship of the Yarmouth church. In the case of the fourth, who joined the Lowestoft church, it was our happy privilege to finish the work begun by Voice of Prophecy lessons and Bible studies by one of the faithful lay workers. For these evidences that the Word of God shall not return void, we give praise and glory to Him. We would also express our appreciation for all the help given during the campaign—to Pastor J. C. French for conducting the singing during the first weeks, to the ushers and pianist who came over from Lowestoft for many weeks, to those in Yarmouth and Lowestoft who faithfully delivered handbills, and to all who supported the meetings with their presence and prayers.

Others are desirous of uniting with us, but are finding much difficulty over arrangements with regard to Sabbath privileges. We invite the prayers of the MESSENGER family that these will be successful in their endeavours, so that they may soon be brought within the shelter and safety of the remnant church.

F. J. WILMSHURST.

Baptism and Investiture at Lewisham

SABBATH, July 16th, was one of those happy occasions when the Lord's people have visual evidence that He is working with them for the salvation of souls, for when the service began, the front row was occupied by baptismal candidates garbed in their symbolic robes of white. Pastor H. T. Johnson gave a short address and sage counsel, based on the well loved words from the book of Ruth: "The Lord recompense thy work and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust." Ruth 2:12.

As Pastor Cumings stepped down into the waters and received his witnesses to the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, in turn, most of the congregation present (and it was an unusually large one) must have thought of their own baptismal experience, and fully entered into the feelings of these dear ones.

There was a young mother, happy in the knowledge that her husband was planning to follow her example in a few months, an older sister from Dartford, who heard the message through a distant cousin, a brother who had formerly been baptized into the faith in another denomination, and a farmer from India, the father of three splendid children, who after twelve years of endeavour was happy to be joining in the fellowship of God's people.

Well do we know the sacrifices already made and the difficulties which lie ahead, and many hands were raised, after our new friends had retired to divest themselves of their robes, when Pastor Cumings asked for members to volunteer to pray for one month for these "babes" in the truth.

Finally the new members were voted into fellowship with us and warmly welcomed by Pastors Cumings and Johnson, also by our elders, Brethren Yeates and Darbyshire.

May God's blessing rest upon them in their homes and in their occupations, wherever their good influence will be felt.

An interesting programme fol-

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lowed in the afternoon, when seven junior members were invested with their scarves, certificates, and badges on completion of their primary and junior reading courses. Pastor Johnson is always in his element with the young of the flock, and greatly appreciated was his story of little Jean and Bob, the pony, who was saved with her Granny by the angels because of the prayer of the child. The little people fulfilled their part of the programme without faltering and were a great credit to their leaders. At the close of the meeting the adults admired fine examples of the young folks' skill in handicraft and painting which were arranged on a table at the rear of the church.

Surely it was a Sabbath programme which will long be remembered by Lewisham members, and one which must surely make glad the heart of the Saviour of mankind.

MARGARET J. WIBER,
Church Clerk.

Welsh Mission

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Superintendent's Notes

"It's been the most helpful Workers' Council we have ever had." This was the spontaneous comment of several of our Welsh Mission Workers at the conclusion of our intensive series of council meetings which preceded our biennial session. As Pastor Lewis plans to write up a brief account of the four days Council and Conference for a later issue of the MESSENGER, I will not comment any further now, only to say that our meetings were well-attended throughout the week-end, every church and company in Wales being represented.

SHREWSBURY AND RHOS

OF special interest to all was the voting of the Shrewsbury company into the Sisterhood of Churches.

For seventeen years this little group of believers had struggled

on in their witnessing and now, in 1949, under the pastorate of Brother Humphries, the membership of Shrewsbury was sufficiently strengthened to be organized into a church.

It was my privilege recently to baptize seven dear souls and welcome them into church fellowship. Six of these seven were members of one family. The first to go forward was Ivor Kinnersly, a young man of sixteen, who is now in College studying for the ministry. He greatly helped Brother Humphries by his influence on the rest of the family. Ivor has proved himself a missionary indeed. His father and mother were baptized, his brother and sister-in-law, and his aunt. What a happy day it was! It meant much faith as two shops had to be closed on Sabbath and permission obtained to open Sunday mornings. Formerly Sabbath was their busiest day. To-day their takings on Sunday exceed what they used to take on Sabbaths. They showed their faith in service. Before their baptism the family collected in the Ingathering £115 between them. £16. 15s. of this was collected by Ivor's sister, Gwen, who is not yet baptized.

The Shrewsbury and Rhos district has surprised us all in its Ingathering achievements this year—£414 was collected.

It seems almost a miracle to us how this little group of about fifteen members could collect so much in so little time. Surely it is a world record per capita! Twenty pounds of this amount came from the ageing company of Rhos—its only youthful member, Sybil Edwards, collecting £11 of the total. We think also of Sister Wood of Broseley, practically housebound, invariably sick, yet given the strength to collect £8. The youngest member of Shrewsbury, Adrian Evans, collected £11 and the eldest, Sister Marston (between seventy and eighty years old) £103! Miss Hanley scoured the villages and country towns and brought back £58. The pastor, the elder, and his wife, Brother and Sister S. Smith and all the members worked. There was a wonderful spirit manifested and all felt the

great blessing of God. The tithes and offerings of this little church were £80 up on the previous year at the end of 1948.

On Sabbath, July 16th, it was a great joy to me to organize this company into a church. Any visitors to Shrewsbury are welcomed. The services are now at the following times: Sabbath-school, 10 a.m.; preaching service, 11 a.m.; Sunday service, 6.45 p.m.; prayer meeting, Tuesday, 7.30 p.m. I am sure I am voicing the prayers of the MESSENGER family, when I say—"May God bless the minister and members throughout 1949. May they grow in spirit and in numbers and be kept faithful 'till Jesus comes.'"

J. M. HOWARD.

Ministry of Literature

The Tide Came

SAYS the inspired Word, so familiar to every colporteur, "Some who buy the books will lay them on the shelf . . . and seldom look at them. Still God has a care for His truth, and the time will come when these books will be sought for and read."—*"Colporteur-Evangelist," page 6.*

Frequently through the years has this cheering promise been verified. Here is the latest experience, demonstrating once again the power of the printed page.

A farmer in a Norfolk village bought a copy of *"Daniel and the Revelation"* about twenty-five years ago, apparently from our lady colporteur, Miss Butler. It lay on the shelf unread for about eighteen years. Then the son married, the farmer moved to another house, and the book was left with the son.

A relative who called saw the book and borrowed it. One Sunday night the young man visited this relative and noticed the book lying open on the table. On being told it was a good book he took it home again.

While having to spend six weeks in bed after an accident he read it, first *"Revelation,"* then

"Daniel." "To my amazement," he says in reporting the matter, "I saw that the symbols could be interpreted. How eagerly did I read, for my soul needed the water of life I found in this wonderful book."

Whilst studying he remembered that his grandmother had many years before purchased a book called "*The Great Controversy*." His spiritual appetite now fully waked, he borrowed this book which also had been lying dormant since its purchase, and he soon saw that it was written by someone of the same belief as the author of "*Daniel and the Revelation*."

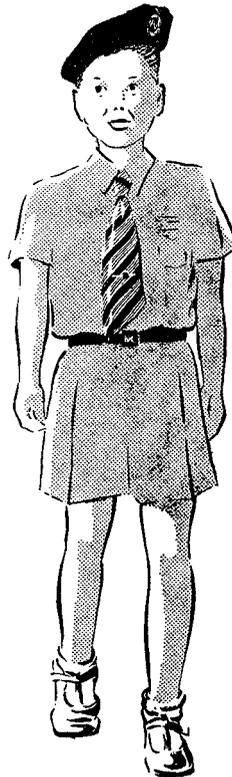
With no human teacher by his side he read on through the two books. "I read much and felt it was no ordinary voice that was speaking, and the light came gradually, as God saw that I could bear it," he says. He found the truth of the Sabbath and became convinced of the need to keep it. During the years that followed he sent for other Adventist books, including "*The Bible Speaks*." His contact with the Press led the editor to put him in touch with Pastor W. G. Nicholson, then in charge of the Norwich church, who visited him in November, 1946, and who was the first Adventist he had ever met.

But to take his stand alone in his family at that time seemed too much for him. At length, however, the fruitage of his years of reading came. "I made up my mind at all costs to obey God, even if it meant suffering," is his testimony. "God has spoken, and now I consider it a great thing to honour God by keeping His Holy Sabbath."

He and his wife were baptized by Pastor J. C. French in Norwich on May 7th this year, and as a testimony to his high regard for our literature, he has since circulated six copies of "*Daniel and the Revelation*" among the people of his village with the great longing that others will see and accept the truth he now loves so well.

This literature ministry! How great its blessings and boundless its scope!
B. BELTON.

DON'T you know?
—HAVEN'T you heard?
—HASN'T anyone ever
told you?



that the approved uniform for the

Junior Missionary Volunteers

is a Royal Blue Beret with Gold and Blue Badge and Blue and Gold Club stripe tie. Worn on Mid-Grey clothing.

Boys—Grey Shirt and Shorts or Trousers

Girls—Grey Shirt or Blouse, Grey Sports Shorts or Grey Skirt Royal Blue ankle socks.

● Write to the Union or Local Conference Secretary for details

Congratulations!

WE extend our hearty congratulations to Miss Constance Belton who has just received her medical degree L.R.C.P. & S. from the Scottish Conjoint Boards, and wish her much of

God's blessing as she enters upon her life work of Christian medical ministry.

JOHN H. BAYLISS.

Until the Day Break

TODD.—On March 16th 1949, Mrs S. J. Brimley Todd passed peacefully to her rest in her eighty-first year, trusting in the Saviour she had known from her youth. Through the influence of *Present Truth* she, with her husband, accepted the Advent message and joined the Manchester church on August 3, 1940, being transferred later to the newly formed Denton company on January 31, 1942. Several years of faithful church attendance, during part of which time she acted as organist, were followed by failing health, but unflinching faithfulness in the truths she had embraced. Even though latterly unable to attend church she was delighted to throw her home open for Week of Prayer meetings and other purposes. Our sister was laid to rest in the Denton Cemetery in the presence of friends and relatives, where she awaits the glad reunion with the saints of all ages. CHURCH CLERK.

Advertisements

ALL-ROUND shoe repairer wanted. Urgent. Girling, Winslow, Bucks.

To LET. Accommodation—bed and breakfast or full board. Moderate terms. 38 Cove Road, Bournemouth.

FOR SALE, 12 quarto filing cases, labelled for doctrinal subjects. Suit a young minister 30s P. Cumings, 432 High Street, Lewisham, London, S.E. 13.

WOODEN preaching desk, pulpit height, free to anyone prepared to pay carriage. P. Cumings, 432 High Street, Lewisham, London, S.E.13.

Acknowledgments

THE treasurer of the South England Conference acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the Lord's tithe, £9 from M.J.D.W., and £11 received with conference offering, anonymous.

THE treasurer of the North England Conference acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the Lord's tithe, £6 from A.B.Z., £5 from Anonymous, Liverpool, and £4. 4s. 6d. tithe and offerings from M.B.H.

SUNSET CALENDAR

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

Lon'n Car'ff Edin Not'm Bel't
Aug. 19th 8 16 8 28 8 42 8 24 8 49
Aug. 26th 8.01 8 14 8 25 8.08 8.32

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