

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

ORGAN OF THE BRITISH UNION AND CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Pioneering in the Lion Country

THIS is really to describe, within a brief compass, our latest trip, and I hope you will be able to share it with us, on paper! We left Nova Lisboa early one Wednesday morning, and for the first two hours travelled through thick mist—and, oh, did it smell good, just like a “cool September morn” in England! But the road was awful, and in the last stages of decay, and we just had to bump from one rut and one shelf to another for the first thirty miles.

By the time we reached the first town, Bailundo, we were on very good roads for Angola, and were able to bowl along merrily for the rest of the day. We reached Mussende, where we stayed for the night in the “hotel”—what a place—and what food! We hardly slept a wink and were on the road at 5 p.m. The first five miles were good; then came the holes and ruts, and we had to crawl along, and even then it was hard on us and the car.

Then came worse trials, thirty miles of sand without a break, and through the worst stretch of country in Angola, for it is infested by the tsetse fly, whose bite causes the fatal sleeping sickness. By charging the sand in bottom gear we ploughed through many bad patches, but in the middle of one long stretch we came to a standstill, the rear axle bedded in the sand. Our kitchen boy and I had to dig the car out, then tear up grass and sticks to put under the wheels and in front of the track where we hoped the car

By B. E. Sparrow

would go—and all the while the sun blazed down and the tsetse flies were swarming round us.

After two strenuous attempts, and with Marjorie and the boy pushing behind, the car slowly pulled out of the sand onto terra firma. We stuck no more, and at 10.30 a.m. we reached the Cuanza River.

On reaching the banks of the river, the procedure is to toot loud and long on the horn until someone stirs on the other bank. Then African boys slowly—oh, so very slowly—begin to pull the pontoon across the river. This takes over half an hour; then the car has to be loaded on, and then another half hour to pull across to the far side. We were badly bitten by small flies while on the river, but that was better than being bitten by the hungry crocodiles that abound in the river. Continuing the journey, we reached Malange, the only town, where a better hotel awaited us.

At 5 a.m. next morning, we took to the road again and soon we had another river to cross, but then went straight on to Cuale Mission, our objective. Arrived there, we had a genuine welcome from Pastor and Mrs. Giddings, who have given twenty-five years service in Central Africa, and we stayed with them during our two weeks' visit. Pastor Giddings is really seriously ill with pernicious anæmia, and has no strength for

work, but will not consent to go home until someone can be found to take his place. The two are very consecrated workers, unselfishly giving all they have to help the Africans. The only other white folk on the mission are a young Portuguese couple, newly married, who are teachers in the Mission school.

I took the week-end meetings and then on Monday started to fulfil the main purpose of my visit, to visit each of our out-schools in the area—the first visit of this nature they had ever received. We have only nine schools as yet, since this is our newest mission, but the prospects are excellent. Cuale is in the midst of the Jinga tribe, a very primitive heathen people who are untouched by any other mission society. The Adventists are the only ones working for them. The nearest other mission is that of the Methodists at Malange, 110 miles to the south. I took our local pastor with me, and together we inspected the schools, got an idea of the pupils' progress, and the way the teacher was handling his school, gave him advice, visited the heathen village, took a meeting around a camp fire at night and again in the open in the early morning, gave about seventy to one hundred medical treatments at each place. Sore eyes and awful sores are the commonest complaints, but coughs, fevers, and skin diseases, including leprosy, are also common.

I slept in a grass hut each

night, and had my meals in the car when no other dining room was available. The people were interesting. I do not think there can be many more primitive than these Jingas. They wear scarcely any clothes, even when a white man is around. The women smear themselves in a red ochre grease-dirt compound, and do their hair in the most fantastic of perms. The children roam around naked, the men have four or five wives and the chiefs have up to seven. They have scarcely any recognizable religion, and to win them to the Gospel is very slow work.

After five years we have four baptized members at one school, and five at another. The only hope is to get the children into the schools, and then after three years in the first classes, transfer them to the mission school, where they stay for another four to six years, then send them to Bongo Training School for two more years, when they may be ready to serve as teachers to their own people. It is almost impossible to win adults, they are so steeped in heathenism and fear of their witch-doctors.

Then too, the whole area is under the curse of forced government labour for the production of cotton, and this almost kills our schools, since all the pupils are forced to go out to work at cotton for all but three months of the year. So we face great difficulties in this area, but the opportunities are also great, and I am going to shout loud and long so that we can get more workers up there while the way is open.

Now my space is almost gone, so I must record that I returned to the Mission, where Marjorie and Gerard were anxiously awaiting me, conducted a Week of Prayer in our school there, and then drew out of Cuale for the return journey. We crossed the Cuanza River, and then, before we had gone six miles we stuck fast in a long, deep stretch of sand. In broiling heat, with evil tsetse flies buzzing around us, we worked for over an hour but could not budge the car. Finally, we heard a lorry coming along, so waved it to a standstill, and eventually, with four men push-

ing, and with me at the wheel, the car slithered through the sand to firm ground. We had still sixty miles of bad road to get through, but managed to avoid getting stuck again; and to finish the story, we reached Nova Lisboa at 10.40 p.m. that same night, having been on the road seventeen and a half hours. Were we tired! Our cook boy at the back of the open truck looked as if he had turned grey—covered with dust—but it was good to be home.

Now, in two weeks' time, I am due to spend three weeks in the bush, in a grass hut, directing a corps of teachers in an evangel-

istic campaign. But I propose to cut it in two, and spend some days at home, for, a fortnight after that, our annual camp meetings begin, and then I shall be away from home for the best part of two months.

We hope you have enjoyed this little glimpse of mission life in Angola. Let me add just one more item—Cuale is in the midst of lion country. I camped for six nights in their hunting grounds, and stayed in villages where goats have to be tied up, even in daytime, because of the leopards who come after them. More exciting than Oxford Street at mid-day, but even so, quite a bit safer!

Make Use of the Press !

ONE of the greatest obstacles to the advance of this Advent message in our own dear country is the prejudice that exists in the minds of so many who otherwise might hear, heed, and receive the truth for these days. The prejudice is frequently the result of false or distorted information on what Seventh-Day Adventists believe and practise. What can we do to wear down this great barrier to the progress of our work?

One answer is, Get the newspapers to publish the facts about our faith and works! Hold your objections a moment, and let us hasten to point out that newspaper editors are not all antagonistic to religion in general, nor

to Adventists in particular; and we do have "news" to offer the editors which they will gladly publish free of all cost.

But you say that the papers will not print all our doctrines. We do not expect them to do so, and it might not be too helpful if they would. They can serve us best by printing items (even small ones), which in some way mention our name, the Seventh-Day Adventist church, in connection with normal, sensible, interesting, and worthy activities of everyday life and religious service. Going into the homes of thousands of people, at no expense remember, such reports have incalculable influence for good on our behalf, and serve to allay soul-destroying prejudice. The fogs of mysticism and fanaticism which so many associate with our name, will almost completely disappear before the enlightening rays of a few honest facts.

The Bureau of Press Relations is a comparatively young branch of the General Conference Office in Washington, and yet the influence of its work has now reached incredible proportions. The remarkable results achieved in the American press have challenged workers in other Divisions, and the ever-growing tide of free, helpful publicity for Seventh-Day Adventists is spreading across the world.

One of the most outstanding
BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

LISTEN—
to the Voice of Prophecy
Radio Luxemburg
(1,293 metres)

Subjects:
"People Jesus Loved,"
September 13th
"The Second Coming of
Christ," September 20th

4.15 p.m. every Tuesday

examples of the Bureau's work to date, has been in the literal "blanketing" of the American continent with news of the visit of Pastors Salau and Stewart to the United States. An official of the Associated Press (familiar AP) has estimated the value of the free publicity of this one story at the astounding figure of "over five million dollars" (£1,250,000). The newspapers, newsreels, radio, and television vied with one another to get a fresh "angle" on the Salau story.

However, the biggest things have a small beginning. One or two, here and there have tried a little of this publicity work here in Britain with success. But like our brethren in other lands, we should have "press secretaries" in every church and company, with a central office to stimulate and co-ordinate their work. Here, where our membership is small, and our institutions few, we need to utilize this new, and yet old, ally of our work to the full.

Ask your pastor to get for you a copy of "News Beat" published by the Press Bureau in Washington, and see if you do not get a "heart beat" to begin something great for the Lord, where you are.

G. M. HYDE.

South England Conference

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The Joys of Harvest Time

A DAY of rejoicing, of gladness of heart, and of blessing because of God's manifest presence. Such was Sabbath, August 13th, to the members of the churches at Watford, and to the twenty-five precious souls who were added to the church that day.

Ten months ago we began the evangelistic effort of which this was the wonderful climax, and our minds went back over those months as we sat in the beautifully decorated Park church waiting for the service to begin. We thought of the "billing," of those

six inspiring meetings in the Town Hall, of the choirs, soloists, and all others who helped to make the meetings attractive and enjoyable. Then followed the long series in the Palace Theatre, and the steady work of visiting the interested people week after week.

And now, on this Sabbath afternoon, we could see the results of this long series of meetings. Pastor S. G. Joyce, who had put in so much faithful work and had borne the responsibility of the whole effort, was now privileged to baptize these dear souls.

The Ladies' Choir and the Male Choir were both present at the service and contributed to its beauty and solemnity. Pastor G. D. King spoke words of admonition and encouragement to the candidates and then Pastor Joyce baptized them.

Unfortunately several who had planned to be baptized were away on holiday and so could not go forward on that day. We hope to hold another baptism for these and some others who are preparing, in a few weeks' time.

It was encouraging to see a number of young people among the group, and also two families, husband and wife, going forward together. We pray that God's blessing may rest abundantly on these dear ones as they unite with the remnant church,

and that He will keep us all faithful till He shall come to claim His own.

Throughout the campaign the two Bible workers, Miss A. Ruddle and Miss V. Warren had given valiant service. Miss Ruddle left in July to help in Walthamstow and Miss Warren leaves in September to connect with the work in the West London area. We pray that God will richly bless both these workers in their future service.

EDGAR A. WARREN,
Press Agent.

Northern Ireland Mission

Baptism in Belfast

SABBATH afternoon, August 20th, was indeed a happy occasion for the believers who were assembled together in the Adventist church, Belfast, as they witnessed, yet again, the results of the Lord's working upon the hearts of the men and women in this apparently unproductive corner of His great vineyard.

The superintendent of the Mission, Pastor A. J. Mustard, who was present for this service, invited God's special blessing upon our gathering. A message of ex-

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hortation and encouragement was given by Pastor W. G. Nicholson, who also baptized the new converts.

It was a time of real spiritual refreshing to all present to see five precious souls ready to follow their Lord through the waters of baptism and to identify themselves with the remnant church which "keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

Three of the five new believers—Mr. and Mrs. Aiken and Miss Mailey came from the Coleraine district through the ministry of the writer and will unite with the Mission church, while the other two new believers—Mr. and Mrs. Davidson are the fruits of Pastor Nicholson's efforts and will have their membership with the Belfast church.

We invite the prayers of the Advent family on behalf of these new believers that the Lord will keep each one of them faithful and true to the message which we know they love. Pray also for those other dear souls who we believe will be baptized before the year closes. And pray especially for the workers who labour in this difficult field, that they may be given wisdom, love, and power as they seek to save men and women for the kingdom of God.

A. H. COWLEY.

Wedding Bells

BAILDAM-WHITING—On Thursday, July 7, 1949, two well-known and highly respected Adventist families were linked when Sister Jean Whiting, daughter of Brother and Sister E. Whiting of Bournemouth, and Brother Denys Baidam, son of Brother and Sister J. N. Baidam of Grimsby, exchanged marriage vows.

These young people are both graduates of Newbold Missionary College and have served the cause of God as Bible instructor and evangelist, since their graduation.

The presence of such a large number of relatives and friends both in the Bournemouth church and at the reception in the home of the bride's parents, was an indication of the love and esteem with which they are held. It is a beautiful thing to see two Christian youth linking their lives in service for their Lord. Denys and Jean

have returned to Glasgow where they are associated with Pastor T. S. Brash in the mission there. May our heavenly Father greatly bless them as they set up another Christian home. May it be as a beacon light pointing the way to the beautiful home beyond.

E. L. MINCHIN

BUNKER-BISHOP—July 19, 1949, was another festive occasion for the Plymouth church as Kenneth J. Bunker and Miss Leta Bishop were united in marriage. The church was well filled with relatives, friends and churchmembers as Pastor C. R. Bonney performed the marriage service.

The bride, given away by her father, was attended by Miss Monica Roe, of Watford, and little Elizabeth Bunker and Judith Richardson, of Plymouth. The groom was attended by David Whiting, as best man. At the organ was Mr. Douglas Durston, whose skilful tutoring has given the Plymouth church a valued organist in the bridegroom.

The bride is a trophy of the Plymouth church school, for it was there that she first learned of this message as a pupil.

We wish these dear young people the guidance and blessing of heaven as they establish yet another Adventist home; and look for their united service to add greater strength to the cause of God in Plymouth.

The beautiful lawn and gardens at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Whiting provided a charming setting for the reception held under the favour of glorious sunshine.

G. M. HYDE.

Until the Day Break

COOPER—On May 29, 1949, Miss M. E. Cooper passed to her rest at her home in Rhyl. It is over forty years since she was introduced to the truths of the remnant church by her brother, the late Pastor T. H. Cooper. Since then Miss Cooper has been a very active member of the church in many towns. She helped as a Bible worker in evangelistic missions in Stoke-on-Trent, Shrewsbury, Hereford, and Newport, Mon. For the last twenty years Miss Cooper lived in North Wales and has been associated with the Rhyl church since its beginning. She served the church in many ways, especially in the home missionary department. Many hours were spent in selling our literature all along the North Wales coast. Ingathering was a pleasure for her, and she always gave a good lead to the church in this campaign. Many isolated members have been helped by her visits. We extend our sympathies to her sister, Mrs. Vernon, and relatives, many of whom are actively engaged in spreading the truths that Miss Cooper loved.

F. DAVIES,
Church Clerk.

FORREST—Like a divine benediction, the warming rays of the summer sun broke through the stormy clouds, as we laid our dear sister, Miss Ivy Muriel Forrest, to rest in the Walton-on-Thames churchyard. Sister Forrest passed peacefully away, after a brief illness, on July 28, 1949, at the age of fifty-seven years. Baptized at Southampton, by Pastor F. A. Spearing over thirty years ago, Sister Forrest has continued ever since as a devoted, though mostly isolated, member of the Adventist church. Her outstanding characteristics were her simple faith and her cheery disposition. God's Word was for her the end of all speculation; the welfare of others was her constant concern. The funeral service was conducted in the parish church by the vicar, the Rev. Crighton-Melville, and with the latter's kind permission, the committal was read, and a few words of comfort spoken, at the graveside, by the writer. We extend our deep sympathy to the two surviving sisters in their irreparable loss. We can only look forward the more confidently to that glorious day when we shall all be "for ever with the Lord." While we wait, it is our joy to "comfort one another with these words."

E. COX

Advertisements

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TO LET, accommodation. Bed and breakfast or full board. Moderate terms. Mrs. Yallop, 40 Essex Road, Lowestoft.

LOST, limp leather *Advent Hymnal Revised*. Left in North Hall, Sheffield City Hall, on Sunday of North England Conference session. Verse written on flyleaf beginning, "Our lives are songs." Please send information to: Pastor T. H. Fielding, 20 St. Michael's Avenue, Northampton.

SUNSET CALENDAR

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Lon'n Car'ff Edin No'm Bel't
Sept 16th 7.14 7.26 7.30 7.19 7.39
Sept. 23rd 6.58 7.10 7.11 7.03 7.22

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