

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

The Next Best May Be the Best

A NUMBER of years ago when, as a minister from the field, I was conducting a Week of Prayer at Newbold Missionary College, a student made a statement to me which momentarily startled me. He was explaining why he had to come to College. "I never really wanted to come to College and study for the ministry," he said. "I was in an office bent on a business career, but Sabbath difficulties thwarted my plans, so I thought that the next best thing to do was to come to College."

The next best thing to do! I had always thought that the ministry was a divine calling to the greatest and highest work of all. From youth up I had thought that those who thus responded to the call of God deliberately did so after estimating that the joys of service in salvation's cause more than compensated for the sacrifice of settled abode and wealth offered by other professions or occupations.

Yes, that student's frank admission startled me; it still stirs my thoughts, for evidently there are many to-day in various walks of life who are doing what they regard as "the next best thing." Ambitions thwarted by the lack of funds, parental disapproval, youthful neglectfulness, physical disabilities, academic barriers, or by other unavoidable circumstances.

Observations have led me to classify the varied reactions in individuals to their changed plans. Some spoil the remainder of their lives with self-pity and defeatism. Others take their dis-

By W. R. A. Madgwick,
B.A., B.D.

appointments with unreasonable bitterness casting unfair blame upon their parents, teachers, or those who guided them in their formative years. Happily we find inspiring examples of men and women who with divine help and personal determination have triumphed over initial handicaps, transmuting the next best into the best. Barriers have been regarded as the sign-posts of God guiding into paths of His all-wise choice. Obstacles have been taken as stimulating challenges to higher achievements.

These exhilarating successes have re-interpreted for me the message which God gave to Jeremiah the prophet in the potter's workshop, as recorded in Jeremiah eighteen. That "other vessel" was no second-rate substitute for the original. God does not work that way—it was vastly superior!

LISTEN—
to the
VOICE OF PROPHECY

Radio Luxembourg
(1,293 metres)

Every Tuesday at 5.15 p.m. and
every Friday at 11.15 p.m.

Doctor Lynn Wood, a former principal of Newbold Missionary College, was once doing some archaeological research in Jerusalem. He watched an old-fashioned potter at his wheel in his workshop and heard the potter's story of a beautiful iridescent vase exhibited on his shelves.

"Well, you see it was this way. I found some clay once that impressed me as being of excellent quality. But it was so sharp and resistant that I could do little with it. I ground it. I kneaded it and worked it, but all to no avail. It would either break on the wheel or crack all to pieces in the kiln. But I kept on working with it in every way I knew how. One day I had this lump on the wheel and as my hand was inside, shaping the vessel, suddenly a sharp bit of clay gashed my finger and the blood spurted out. To my great astonishment it proved to be just the solvent the clay needed. It moulded beautifully, as you see, and when I took it from the kiln it was full of these iridescent colours. Gentlemen!" he paused meditatively for a moment, "this vessel has in it my own lifeblood. It is a very part of me. It is not for sale!"

Oh yes, our so-called "next best" plan can become the very best when God has done the shaping. The blood from His wounded hand can transmute our failures, disabilities, and initial waywardness into the gorgeous iridescent hues of success and usefulness.

THE STANBOROUGHS HYDRO

By Dr. A. H. Williams

It is now almost thirty-eight years since The Stanboroughs opened its doors as a medical institution and in the intervening years many changes have taken place.

As it happened, the writer arrived home from Burma that year, and it was his privilege to join the Sanitarium family in the September to spend a very happy and profitable few months with them before returning East.

Accommodation was then limited to less than thirty patients, whereas now we hope soon to be able to provide for seventy. The main addition to the building was made in 1921; but sundry internal re-arrangements now in progress should soon bring the total up to the figure stated.

In those days it was possible to include the training of nurses in the programme, and twelve young women and one young man entered the first year's class. These were responsible for all the domestic work, including cooking and laundry, as well as being nurses in training. It would be a great personal pleasure to hear from any of them who may chance to read this. The only ones of whom we have any present information are Mrs. Lane (née Miss Wakeham) and Mrs. Conyers (née Miss Sargent), but we sincerely hope there are others. There was then an office staff of one, Miss Ancombe.

Now, as is generally known, we can no longer provide for the training of probationer nurses, owing to statutory restrictions; but we still hope to provide interesting work for some of our young people, as may be announced later. Little did we think, when in 1939 we were invited to give the graduation address to the nurses of that year, that it would be the last of the series. Two world wars and consequent profound changes in the political, social, and economic structure of this country have brought many perplexities; so much so that the very continuance of The Stanboroughs seemed

threatened. We are very happy, though, that with the full concurrence of the General Conference it has been decided to continue to develop our medical institution at Watford. Of course there still are, and always will be, many problems to face and much hard work to be done. Patronage is improving steadily, even though our fees have had to be increased; and we have solid grounds for confidence that the slump associated with recent uncertainties will soon be no more than a memory; salutary, we believe, in lessons it has taught, but extremely perplexing while it lasted.

(To be continued.)

ADVENTIST "NEWS"

By Pastor R. D. Vine

You will be interested to hear that several reports of Adventist news have recently succeeded in occupying valuable space in local newspapers.

Here we have a very fine report which appeared in the *Western Mail and South Wales News* (Pastor F. S. Jackson reporting) entitled: "Welsh Nurse Going to Leper Hospital." It briefly tells of "Sister Ford, who has been a member of the Cardiff Seventh-Day Adventist church for the past twenty years," who recently left "for Nyasaland to join the Seventh-Day Adventist Malalulo Hospital for Lepers."

And here, in the *Southend Standard*, is a choice item about the convention recently held there for our M.V. leaders who "Came to Town to Talk it Over." It says that the "purpose was to

strengthen spiritual life and to study plans in order to lead the youth, under their care, into active participation in a 'Share my Faith' campaign." It concludes with the brief report: "There are 8,175 Missionary Volunteer Societies of Seventh-Day Adventists throughout the world, with a membership of 210,327." You will agree that whoever submitted this report—which was passed to us by Pastor H. T. Johnson—did a very commendable job.

We wonder what publicity those other conventions enjoyed. We hope that some of them, at least, made local news.

Several items have been published in the Watford paper, thanks to our reporter, Pastor H. F. DeAth. Among other things accepted by the local editors are brief reports of missionary movements and special meetings, including a paragraph on the work of Dr. and Mrs. John Hyde, and one telling of Pastor W. E. Read, "a former president of the British Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists," who "addressed a large congregation of Adventists at Stanborough Park on Tuesday." Still another report was entitled "Adventist Stalwart," and recorded "the recent passing of Mr. J. J. Hyde" which thus "removes a familiar and venerable figure from Stanborough Park Seventh-Day Adventist church."

In the *Coventry Telegraph* appeared a fine picture and quite an illuminating report of our new church which has just been completed and dedicated in that city. All credit to the one who submitted this material. We suspect it was Pastor W. M. Lennox.

Have you a reporter in your church yet? The task is not onerous. Just a brief write-up of fifty to one hundred words or so of anything special such as baptisms, conventions, missionary visitors, evangelistic campaigns, Dorcas activities, etc., is all that is needed—the briefer the better. And if you can supply a nice, clear photograph, the prospects of a favourable decision by your local editor are greatly enhanced.

Will you do your best to get us into the news? There are few

INGATHERING

First Report

Field	Amount Collected	Increase or Decrease
South England	611	-219
North England	466	+ 50
Wales	114	- 2
Scotland	52	+ 10
Northern Ireland	28	+ 28
Total	1271	-140

more effective means of dispelling public prejudice. You will thus be doing the cause a great service. Please let us know of your successes, so that others may be encouraged in the good work.

Congratulations!

LESS than a year ago Dr. John A. Hyde and his wife came home for nine months' furlough from Jengre, Northern Nigeria. During their stay here Dr. Hyde, who was called to the medical work when he had secured his qualifying degrees, L.R.C.P. and M.R.C.S., successfully took a further examination which secured for him the university degrees M.B. and B.Ch. Also, at the request of the General Conference, he took studies, and sat for the degree D.T.M.&H., which he has also gained. Sister Hyde meantime has also employed her furlough most valuably by taking some special medical studies.

We congratulate these young people on their successes and admire their spirit in using their furlough to improve themselves for a greater work in the Lord's vineyard.

A. CAREY.

Scottish Mission

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84892

President's Notes

AT a recent meeting of our advisory committee, action was taken to re-locate two of our young workers. Brother C. D. Baidam, who has been assisting with the church and evangelistic work in Glasgow for the past three years, has been invited to open up evangelistic work in the hitherto unentered town of Dunfermline. Brother T. J. Dabson, who has been working in Edinburgh for two years, proceeds

to assist Pastor T. S. Brash in Glasgow. Both these moves will become operative immediately the current Ingathering campaign closes. We wish these promising young men much of God's blessing, and our prayers will sustain them in their new fields of labour.

At the time of going to press, the Ingathering campaign has just started. Our highest-ever objective, of £1,500, can be reached; but let us always remember that success is spelt with a letter "U," and cannot be achieved without a "YOU" in it!

THE Lord's tithe for the Mission, during the first quarter of 1950, is £100 in advance of the corresponding period of last year. How true God is to His promise—"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, . . . and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it!"

MISS JESSIE BAIRD, our Bible instructor in Glasgow, is shortly to be united in matrimony to Mr. John Stewart, also of Glasgow. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to Miss Baird for the faithful service she has rendered to the cause in the Scottish Mission, and previously in Wales. We believe God's richest blessing will attend the new Adventist home about to be established, as these young people continue actively to serve Him.

JOHN H. BAYLISS.

North England Conference

President: Pastor O. M. Dorland
Office Address: 22 Zulla Road,
Mapperley Park, Nottingham
Telephone: Nottingham 66312

North Campers, Attention!

YOUTH of the North, it is once more time to start dreaming of camp which this year is to be held at Dinas Dinlle (pronounced Dintlhce), Caernarvon, North Wales.

The site chosen for the 1950 camp is a gently sloping, ten acre field next to an old Roman fort, and adjoining the sea-shore. The guide book says: "Lovers of the open sea should visit Dinas Dinlle on the Caernarvon Bay shore. Take the Pwllheli main road as far as the fifth milestone, and shortly after that the road bearing to the right. The sands are of the best, and the views of Snowdonia are superb. Here Watling Street ended. . . ." Picture if you can the rows of neat tents clustered about two large marquees—one for meetings, the other for dining.

The days will be packed with interesting activity. From the time when "sweetly the holy hymn breaks on the morning air" until the camp fire's glowing embers begin to darken and the last fireside story is told, the days will be full of both pleasure and profit.

M.V. Camp will satiate the

Swallow Falls, Bettws-y-Coed, one of the beauty spots which will be visited by the North campers.



mind with memories full of joy and gladness which you may recall as often as you wish.

Bible games and boat rides, quizzes and quiet time, swimming and songs, fun and frolics, sermons and stories, tracking and trailing, nature study and nourishing food will all be served in a delicious and appetizing medley.

Places of interest we shall visit include: Snowdon, 3,560 feet, the highest peak in England and Wales; the Swallow Falls near Bettws-y-Coed—a beauty spot of international reputation; Beddgelert, so called, legend says, in memory of the rescue of Llewelyn's son by the faithful hound, Gelert; Caernarvon and its castle built by Edward I, one of the best preserved old fortresses in the kingdom.

And now a word with regard to travelling. Arrangements will be made for an adult to accompany juniors to and from camp. Youth under sixteen years of age may obtain a voucher from the M.V. Department enabling them to buy a return rail ticket for half the single fare. Youth of sixteen to eighteen years may obtain a voucher allowing them to travel for the single fare. Those over eighteen years of age may still travel for the single fare if they travel with a party of at least eight persons.

Here are the dates and fees for this year's camp.

Seniors: 15 and upward, August 4th to 20th; 50s. per week.

Juniors: 10 to 14 years, August 21st to 31st; 50s. for 10 days.

Registration fee, 2s. 6d.

The first meal gone will sound at 6 p.m. on Friday, August 4th. Senior youth, be sure you hear that joyful signal. Send in your application form immediately. Juniors, your camp starts 6 p.m. Monday, August 21st. Be sure to reserve your tent accommodation as soon as possible.

Ask your youth leader for your application form or write direct to the M.V. Department, 22 Zulla Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham. Youth of North England and the Missions, we welcome you to the M.V. Camp on the seashore of Snowdonia.

V. H. COOPER.

South England Conference

President: Pastor W. W. Armstrong

Office Address: 780 St. Albans Road, Watford

Telephone: Garston (Watford) 2213-4

Come to Shanklin!

CAMPERS! well did the poet Laureate write some 350 years ago of the Isle of Wight:

"Of all the Southern isles, she holds the highest place, And evermore hath been the greatest in Britain's grace."

Shanklin scores not only by being on an island, but also by being on an island of quite exceptional beauty.

One thing we all desire for our annual holiday, and especially if it is to be a camping holiday, and that is sunshine. Over a period of ten years, Shanklin has had an average during the months June to September, of seven and a half hours every day; so come to camp at Shanklin.

Shanklin with its surroundings is by far the loveliest spot in this island of beauty and among the "sights" is "the Chine," which in 1846 Lord Cockburn described as a "prodigious chasm," and "remains, although less spectacular than the Cheddar Gorge, one of the Seven Wonders of Britain."

This remarkable fissure is about 180 feet wide and almost 300 feet deep and the cliffs carry a remarkable wealth of foliage, ferns, creepers, and flowers. You, who are interested in your native history, will recall an encounter between the natives and the French.

Then, there's the Old Village—but no more just now—join us and see this lovely spot for yourself.

H. T. JOHNSON

Advertisements

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION Bed and breakfast Miss Bousfield, 88 Oxford Crescent, Clacton-on-Sea.

TEACHER, visiting Oxford and London in July, wants room at moderate price. Write: Mrs. Mette Ditlevsen, Norregade 20, Copenhagen K, Denmark.

Two reserved coach seats to Edinburgh from Victoria available July 3-17th inclusive. Ring Garston 2547 after 7 p.m.

WIDOWED sister in Birmingham, living alone, wishes to share comfortable home with S.D.A. lady, for modest remuneration. Write in first instance to: F. Edwards, 1 Holyhead Road, Birmingham 21.

SVE or other small film-slide projector wanted. State exact specifications A.C./D.C., voltage, etc. (If transformer required) Write: A.J.T., 2 Wheeler Cottages, Wheeler End, High Wycombe, Bucks.

FOLKESTONE. Holiday accommodation. Ideally situated. Commanding finest views of the English Channel. Every comfort and good food. Vacancies up to and including June Wharfedale, 12 Wear Bay Road.

PRINTING We can supply all your printing requirements at moderate prices. Quick delivery. Estimates gladly submitted. The Crescent Press, 311a High Road, Wood Green, N.22. Tel. Bowes Park 6101.

BED and breakfast from June onward. Mrs. B. E. Baldry, 29 Edger-ton Road, Kirkly Run, Lowestoft.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION, bed and breakfast Mrs. A. L. Yardley, 44 Wimborne Road, Southend-on-Sea.

FRENCH boy, 14 years (non-Adventist) would like to exchange homes with English Adventist boy for two to three months, *au pair*, or against payment. Can come any time. Write in first instance to: Mrs. E. Houghton, 57 Cheddeshden Park Road, Derby.

MRS. A. J. TIMOTHY wishes to express her appreciation for the 850 pieces of literature received in response to her advertisement, and to state that she has sufficient for the time being.

Acknowledgments

THE editor acknowledges with thanks receipt of the Lord's tithe, £1 from E.F.J., and £5 from T.I.M.

THE treasurer of the South England Conference acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the Lord's tithe, £2 from T.T.G.

CORRECTION

WE regret that as a result of a printing error an amount of tithe acknowledged by the British Union Conference treasurer in the last issue from C.D. was shown as £9. 10s instead of £19. 10s.

SUNSET CALENDAR

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

Lon'n Car'ff Edin Not'm Bel't
May 12th 8.39 8.52 9.12 8.50 9.17
May 19th 8.50 9.03 9.24 9.01 9.28

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