

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

The Mid-Century Union Session Opens

By W. L. EMMERSON

If it had not been for the disorganization of the war years the recent General Conference session and our own Union quadrennial session would have taken place two years ago. By reason, however, of the postponements which then became necessary both have moved forward to this notable mid-century year.

On the surface of things it may seem just a coincidence, but certainly the significance of these important gatherings of the Advent people is heightened against the background of the central milestone of what one international statesman has described as the "terrible century."

In the political sphere the unsettlements of the post-war years have broken out into open conflict in the Far East and no one can tell how far the reverberations of that struggle may extend.

The great Roman Catholic Church, which is steadily increasing in power and prestige in the midst of the chaos of the nations, has pronounced this year a "holy year" and strenuous efforts are being put forth to make it the year of the "great return."

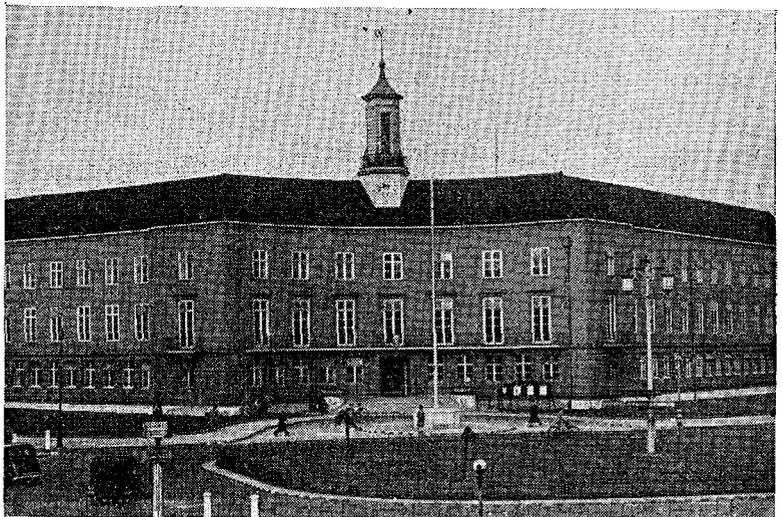
How appropriate then that we who believe that we have a divinely-given message for this very time should have assembled in General Conference session during this fateful year, and that following that world conference representatives of the Advent church in Britain should be meeting here in Watford to make a new dedication to the solemn task given to us in this corner of the great harvest field.

Without a doubt, it was the consciousness of the seriousness of our times and the importance of this occasion which led the officers of the British Union to call all the

workers together for a special season of devotion during the afternoon of Monday, September 11th, prior to the opening of the session in the Watford Town Hall.

In this service Pastor W. W. Armstrong was impressed to urge upon all that the time had come when the self-life should be displaced completely by the Christ-life, that God might do a mighty work through them; while Pastor O. M. Dorland directed the worker group again to the promised infilling of the Holy Spirit with which goes "all heaven's resources."

Pastor L. K. Dickson, one of the vice-presidents of the General Conference, whom we were to welcome to the Union session, supplemented these appeals by drawing attention to some of the messages concerning the work of God in England which came to us



The fine Watford Town Hall where the British Union Conference is being held.

through the years from the pen of the Lord's messenger.

"There is scarcely a limit" to the possibilities of the work of God in this great land, we were reminded, if in complete dedication and with unflinching zeal workers and laity alike apply themselves to the sounding of the last message of mercy throughout the length and breadth of these British Isles.

When the hour for the opening of the Union session came, the beautiful town hall in the centre of Watford presented an impressive picture. On the rostrum were seated the leaders of the various conferences and missions comprising the British field, together with welcome visitors from the General Conference, the newly organized North Atlantic Division, and the African mission territories.

Representing the General Conference were Pastor Dickson, one of its vice-presidents, Pastor W. P. Bradley of the General Conference secretariat, and Pastors E. E. Franklin and E. W. Dunbar, respectively secretaries of the Publishing and Missionary Volunteer Departments of the world work.

From the new North Atlantic Division the president, Pastor A. F. Tarr, was with us, together with Pastor G. A. Lindsay, the newly-appointed treasurer.

Pastor W. McClements, with his missionary colleagues, represented the African missions.

Filling nearly every seat on the floor of the hall were delegates and churchmembers from all parts of our island field. Their expectant faces showed that they had come for, and were confident of, a great spiritual uplift from the session.

Sitting behind the ministerial group on the rostrum were the combined ladies' and male choirs of the Stanborough Park church, giving promise of an abundance of musical inspiration throughout the session.

Finally, dominating the platform and rising almost to the roof of the hall, was a great clock face enclosing a map of the British Isles and with the hands pointing to three minutes to twelve. Beneath the clock face were the challenging words of the Lord, "I come quickly."

All hearts must indeed have thrilled as the great congregation stood to open the session with a hymn of challenge and appeal composed by our veteran worker, Pastor J. Harker. There could be none but was praying in its closing words:

"So may these days of fellowship and prayer
Bring much of good from Thy all-bounteous hand;
But most we crave the latter rain to share,
To swell the last, loud cry throughout our land."

Following Pastor E. B. Rudge's welcome to the visitors from overseas, and those who had come in from every part of the field, Pastor Dickson was asked to make a statement on the organization of the North Atlantic Division at the recently closed General Conference session.

In response he explained how, by reason of the disruption of the war years, certain areas of the world field, including the British Isles, had been operated as detached Unions for some considerable

time, directly under the General Conference administration.

While this relationship had been entirely happy, it was felt that these Unions should as quickly as possible be reintegrated into divisional organizations, and in working out plans for the accomplishment of this desirable end it had been decided to bring into existence a new North Atlantic Division, comprising the territories of the Northern European Division and the British Union and certain African mission territories.

An invitation had been extended to Pastor Tarr, secretary of the Southern Asia Division during the past quadrennium, to head the new administration, and most of the other offices had been filled by the appointment of experienced leaders from the home fields of the new division. This, of course, meant the sacrifice of experienced men from the British Union, but he was convinced that the rearrangements would be for the strengthening of all the fields concerned and that, under the blessing of God, a strong team of leadership for this field would emerge from the deliberations of the conference.

Before Pastor Rudge rose to present his presidential report, a further reorganization within the British field was brought to the notice of the delegates.

In view of the political alignments in Ireland, which divide the six northern counties from Eire in the south, it had been felt desirable by the Union committee to reorganize the work in Ireland as two missions. This reorganization was put into effect some two and a half years ago and through the generosity of the General Conference and the help of several new workers from the United States, a fine health institution had already been established as an "entering wedge" to the hearts of the people of Catholic Ireland.

After hearing cheering statements from Pastor Rudge and Pastor A. J. Mustard on the development of the work in Eire, the delegates gladly admitted the Eire Mission into the sisterhood of conferences and missions comprising the British Union.

Pastor Rudge then rendered his presidential report which appears in full elsewhere in this issue. He had many cheering things to report which revealed that the Lord's prospering hand had been over the work in the British Union during the past quadrennium. The tithes and offerings revealed a loyal membership, fully living up to its responsibilities of stewardship. Literature sales were the highest in the history of the field, fine groups of young people had graduated each year from our College, and there had been a heartening growth of the Voice of Prophecy activities.

Yet he had to admit to perplexity and concern over the very small gain in membership during the four years. The Lord has blessed our evangelists with a good fruitage resulting in the accession of 1,376 members to the church during the quadrennium. Yet this splendid achievement had been largely neutralized by losses through death, transfer, and apostasy. This grave problem has been the con-

stant concern of the field leadership and will take first place in the hearts of those who are to bear the burdens of the coming quadrennium. It presents a situation which must be changed and can be changed if all, workers and laity alike, will, in the words of the messenger of the Lord, be "absolutely and completely for Him in this world as He [Christ] is for us in the presence of God."—"*Acts of the Apostles*," page 566.

On this note of appeal the first meeting of this momentous Union session closed in order that the delegates might proceed with the important task of appointing the standing committees of the session. And as Pastor E. L. Minchin led the large congregation to the throne of grace in a prayer of consecration, there was a determination in all hearts to meet with an entire dedication the challenge of the hour.

British Union Conference

President's Report

1946 - 1949

By E. B. RUDGE

As we open this session of the British Union Conference, it is fitting that first of all we should record our sincere gratitude to God for His watchful care, His abiding blessing, and abundant prosperity to His people, and to His church within the British Isles.

We welcome to this session the delegates who represent the General Conference: Elders L. K. Dickson, W. P. Bradley, E. W. Dunbar, and E. E. Franklin; the leaders of the North Atlantic Division, Elders A. F. Tarr and G. A. Lindsay, together with the delegates assembled from all parts of the British Union Conference.

We meet in a crucial time in the history of the world and the church of God. This is the day of God's preparation. The Lord is preparing to finish His work and cut it short in righteousness. As the Judge of all the earth He is also preparing "to destroy them which destroy the earth." This moment of climax in human history is very near at hand. Four years ago we met as the burdens and cares of the second World War appeared to be passing away. The United Nations Organization had come into being, supported by the hopes of countless millions who longed unceasingly for peace and tranquillity.

To-night as we gather together, we are depressed with the knowledge that the United Nations Organization has largely failed, and has become the sounding chamber for international bickering and re-primination. Our world is divided into two huge,

rapidly arming camps. One, embracing more than forty per cent of the world's population, is dominated by a leadership obsessed with an atheistic ideology. The other comprises most of the democratic peoples of the world who professedly follow a Christian philosophy of life. In each alike is found a disregard for God and His law. Toward each, as inevitably as the morrow's sunrising, approaches the hour of divine judgment. This is the destiny of "all the nations that forget God."

At such a time we commence this quadrennial session. It would appear to be appropriate then that we pause sufficiently long to review the dealings of God with His people and understand something of our duty and responsibility to God as members of His remnant church.

At the beginning of this quadrennium, the executive committee of the Union Conference set forth the following five-point programme as general guidance in its activities:

1. The promotion of aggressive evangelism.
2. The strengthening of our educational work at Newbold Missionary College, Stanborough Park Secondary School, and the revival, where practical, of our church schools.
3. The extension of the work of the literature ministry.
4. The rehabilitation of the Stanboroughs Hydro.
5. The widening of the activities of our health food work as conditions might permit.

The reports which will come to the session from the various sections of the work will clearly indicate that in the main the Lord has greatly prospered us in our endeavours to carry forward this programme. We shall hear of record tithes and offerings, of large accessions to our church membership, of the highest sales in the history of our literature ministry, of splendid young people graduating from Newbold Missionary College, of the success attending our health food work and of the most heartening growth of the Voice of Prophecy broadcasts and correspondence school activities. We shall learn, too, of problems facing our Sanitarium and College leaders, and of what is being attempted in order to meet these needs.

In all these matters we have experienced the rich blessing of God and realized His leading. Nevertheless there are several problems which still cause concern, and for which we still seek a final solution. I refer to the financial perplexities surrounding our College and Sanitarium. At this session suggestions will be made which it is hoped the conference will adopt in the expectation that helpful changes may be effected, particularly as far as Newbold Missionary College is concerned. This institution is doing excellent work, and merits the full-hearted support of our membership.

The latest reports from the Sanitarium indicate that at last we are turning the corner toward complete self-support.

The most perplexing and serious of all our problems, however, is that of an almost static church membership. At the beginning of this quadrennium

our membership was 6,372. At its close the membership figure was 6,493. Our accessions for the four years were 1,376. Apostasies and deaths reduced this number by 1,196, leaving a net gain in membership of 121. These figures reveal a situation which must challenge the attention of every Seventh-Day Adventist in this Union Conference. The implications are many and varied. Above all they call for a sober and humble examination of the life of our church. Our evangelists bring men and women into the church, but somehow within the church we are failing to hold those thus won.

Our Union Executive Committee has given careful study to this grave problem, and its survey reveals that the critical years are the third and eighth years after baptism. The inference is that some members are not thoroughly indoctrinated, and so they soon fall by the way, and that others somehow fail to find sustaining care after being more or less well established in the life of the church. Undoubtedly factors of influence are our great lack of suitable church facilities for housing more than fifty per cent of our members, and the serious difficulties which arise in divided homes when the time comes for the youth to plan their future life-work. Here is a situation which calls for the earnest and prayerful co-operation of every worker and churchmember if this lamentable trend is to be checked. Only as each and every member becomes in reality "his brother's keeper" can the much-needed and earnestly-desired change be brought about. If only we would study prayerfully and apply faithfully the message of the book of Jude, how quickly all this could be changed!

Attention should be given at this session to several important resolutions passed at the recent General Conference Session, and which it is intended shall be brought to the attention of our people throughout the world. One was a resounding call to our laymen everywhere to unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers in a concerted effort for the finishing of the work God has given us to do.

The second calls upon the Advent people everywhere to unite in a whole-souled effort to find new spiritual strength and that measure of heavenly grace which will lead our people to a complete renunciation of sin and a full consecration of heart and life to God. To this end our field leaders everywhere are counselled so to plan the work of our churches that this much-desired result may be achieved.

The third action calls attention to the urgent need for special plans to be made to meet the needs of some of the world's great metropolitan centres with their teeming millions of unwarned people. This timely counsel seems to emphasize the outstanding needs of our own crowded islands with their more than fifty millions of people. It must inevitably draw our attention to the great city of London with its ten millions of people—the world's largest city—where so much is yet to be done. The east end of London with some three million inhabitants has as yet no Adventist church and probably not a single Adventist churchmember. What

a tremendous responsibility is ours! With less than 7,000 members we face the task of giving the message to the fifty-five millions who live within the British Isles.

Surely, as a church, "It is time to seek the Lord, till He come and rain righteousness upon you." Our great need is a revival of our first love and a special outpouring of the Spirit of God to empower us as His witnesses to fulfil His command, "Compel them to come in."

"If the church will put on the robe of Christ's righteousness, withdrawing from all allegiance with the world, there is before her the dawn of a bright and glorious day. God's promise to her will stand fast for ever. He will make her an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations. Truth, passing by those who despise and reject it, will triumph. Although at times apparently retarded, its progress has never been checked. When the message of God meets with opposition, He gives it additional force, that it may exert greater influence. Endowed with divine energy it will cut its way through the strongest barriers, and triumph over every obstacle."—*Acts of the Apostles*, page 601.

Is not this the hour to say with the psalmist, "It is time for Thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void Thy law"? How heartening it is to-night to remember, "He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness"; but we must also remember this: "The greatest praise that men can bring to God is to become consecrated channels through whom He can work. Time is rapidly passing into eternity. Let us not keep back from God that which is His own. . . . God requires the homage of a sanctified soul, which has prepared itself, by exercise of the faith that works by love, to serve Him. . . . He asks us to be absolutely and completely for Him in this world as He is for us in the presence of God."—*Acts of the Apostles*, page 566.

God grant to each of us hearts willing to meet such an inspiring challenge as this, as we face the future in the expectation of being eye-witnesses of the final triumph of God and His church, over the works of unrighteousness.

British Union Conference

Secretary's Report

1946 - 1949

By G. D. KING

"Whatsoever things are of good report, think on these things."

THIS well-known admonition of the apostle Paul will doubtless be fully followed during this important session of the British Union Conference. Already our president and our treasurer have brought

to us facts and figures of "good report" upon which we can think, and over which we may well rejoice. Local field leaders, departmental secretaries, and institutional leaders will give us details of achievements in their own spheres of influence and leadership, which doubtless will offer us a challenge and send us back to our witness and our work in the world, inspired to even greater achievements for God.

It is therefore not my purpose to lengthen this morning's proceedings by leading the delegates into a detailed study of figures which will be more than duplicated in further reports yet to be rendered. However, along with this commentary you have received a brochure of interesting figures. These figures cover the membership returns for this Union for three quadrennium periods, and reveal not only the work accomplished but, we believe, indicate that greater work yet to be accomplished in this field.

You will also notice that the figures for each individual field are given, indicating the membership position, the number of workers employed, the evangelistic budget expended, and the appropriation granted by this Union to the local field concerned. We believe that the delegates will find these figures illuminating, and they should be considered as part of this report.

Before commenting upon a few outstanding features, we should, and must, pause to pay tribute to three men who through the years, and many years, made a contribution to the work in this field which cannot be measured by mere figures, or estimated by human reckoning. I refer to Pastor W. T. Bartlett, Arthur Warren, and Pastor G. W. Baird, who during this quadrennium period have passed from this sphere of service into rest. Each in his sphere made an impression upon the work and workers in this field, the fruits of which can only be known in the day of final reckoning.

Now as you study the figures in the brochure, there will be features which you will notice and, I am sure, underline. I would comment as follows:

1. Evangelism is costing us more, and the results appear to be less. This surely deserves the close scrutiny of intelligent executives.

2. Apostasy is still a disease affecting the body of the church as cancer affects the human frame. Assiduous study must be given to this in an endeavour to discover its cause and its cure.

3. The death rate in our membership is a constant factor which must be reckoned with as we estimate our net gain results year by year. It is a factor which cannot be controlled, but more young people won to the message as compared with older converts, might have some effect upon the percentage of deaths to additions.

4. The number of workers employed increases year by year. Field committees and executives need to give increasing attention to the productivity of the workers employed.

We rejoice to-day in the encouraging fact that 1,376 new believers were added to our church in this field during the past quadrennium, bringing our membership figure to 6,493 as we began 1950. We

are happy to report that our membership figure to date stands at 6,579.

The call that challenges the church in Britain at this time is for greater accomplishments in the field of evangelism. The supreme task of the church is the task of winning men to Christ and adding to His church. Nothing must be allowed to divert us from the one purpose of our existence—"To make ready a people for the coming of the Lord."

We re-echo the words of Elder J. L. McElhany, spoken by him at the Conference in 1946 and re-emphasized by him at the recent General Conference session. I quote: "The great outstanding need and objective of this cause to-day is to evangelize—to win souls for the kingdom. There is, and can be, no substitute for the winning of souls by the preaching of the Word. That is fundamental to any purpose, plan, or objective."

Now a great deal might be said concerning the work of the Ministerial Association in our midst during the past two or three years. It has been the aim and purpose of the Association office in Britain to give service and counsel to our hard-working evangelistic teams in the field. We have reason to believe that this service and counsel has been appreciated. (We hope that that belief is not a strong delusion!)

In *Gospel Workers*, pages 345, 346, we read:

"Ministers of God's appointment will find it necessary to put forth extraordinary efforts in order to arrest the attention of the multitudes. And when they succeed in bringing together a large number of people, they must bear messages of a character so out of the usual order that the people will be aroused and warned. *They must make use of every means that can possibly be devised for causing the truth to stand out clearly and distinctly.* The testing message for this time is to be borne so plainly and decidedly as to startle the hearers, and lead them to desire to study the Scriptures."

It has been our endeavour to place at the call of our evangelists some facilities at least hitherto denied them in this field, thus enabling them in a measure to meet the demands of this arresting statement. In this connection we would call your attention to the Ministerial Association data in the brochure of figures you have received.

Speaking at an Autumn Council in 1946, Elder W. H. Branson, the present General Conference president, made this statement: "The task that God has given us is not something to be taken lightly or played with; it is the most serious work that God has given to man in the history of the world. We are engaged, brethren, in the greatest crusade of the ages, and our time in which to finish our task is just about run out."

May God give us an awareness of the truth of that statement as it affects us here in the British Union. May it burn itself into our consciousness in such a way as to lead us into deeper consecration and a fuller dedication, that stronger plans and a larger programme of evangelism will be forthcoming in this field that will sweep us on in glorious achievement for the finishing of the work of God in our own beloved land.

British Union Conference Membership Report, 1938-1949

BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE

	1938-1941	1942-1945	1946-1949
Baptism & Vote	1597	1399	1376
Gain by Letter	.....	.....	.....
Apostasies	875	495	647
Deaths	468	470	549
Loss by Letter	56	17	59
Net Gain	198	417	121
Membership, January 1, 1938,	5757		
Membership at End of Each Quadrennium	5955	6372	6493
Workers at End of Each Quadrennium :			
Ordained Ministers	39	45	54
Licensed Ministers	41	42	49
Bible Instructors	32	40	36
Voice of Prophecy	..	..	10
Other Workers	11	12	13
TOTAL	123	139	162

SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

Baptism & Vote	822	603	697
Gain by Letter	...	5	124*
Apostasies	428	215	279
Deaths	224	219	258
Loss by Letter	50	...	...
Net Gain	120	174	284
Membership, January 1, 1938,	2969		
Membership at End of Each Quadrennium	3089	3263	3547
Workers at End of Each Quadrennium :			
Ordained Ministers	14	18	21
Licensed Ministers	21	17	19
Bible Instructors	13	18	11
Other Workers	3	3	5
TOTAL	51	56	56

*Transfer of Newbold College, January 1, 1946, from N.E.C. accounted for approximately 120 names.

NORTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

Baptism & Vote	510	654	454
Gain by Letter	...	...	..
Apostasies	345	198	262
Deaths	154	160	194
Loss by Letter	10	1	175*
Net Gain	1	295	..
Net Loss	...	...	177
Membership, January 1, 1938,	1865		
Membership at End of Each Quadrennium	1866	2161	1984
Workers at End of Each Quadrennium :			
Ordained Ministers	11	16	19
Licensed Ministers	13	14	13
Bible Instructors	12	14	14
Other Workers	3	3	4
TOTAL	39	47	50

*Transfer of Newbold College, January 1, 1946, to S.E.C. accounted for approximately 120 names.

WELSH MISSION

	1938-1941	1942-1945	1946-1949
Baptism & Vote	76	61	94
Gain by Letter	7	..	3
Apostasies	33	34	36
Deaths	44	39	44
Loss by Letter	...	3	...
Net Gain	6	...	17
Net Loss	...	15	...
Membership, January 1, 1938,	461		
Membership at End of Each Quadrennium	467	452	469
Workers at End of Each Quadrennium :			
Ordained Ministers	4	2	3†
Licensed Ministers	2	5	3
Bible Instructors	2	2	1‡
Other Workers	1	1	1
TOTAL	9	10	8†‡

†Plus 1 Part-time Minister

‡Plus 3 Part-time Bible Instructors

SCOTTISH MISSION

Baptism & Vote	110	48	82
Gain by Letter	..	...	4
Apostasies	44	31	40
Deaths	23	34	30
Loss by Letter	13	8	...
Net Gain	30	...	16
Net Loss	...	25	...
Membership, January 1, 1938,	298		
Membership at End of Each Quadrennium	328	303	319
Workers at End of Each Quadrennium :			
Ordained Ministers	3	4	4
Licensed Ministers	2	1	4
Bible Instructors	3	4	3
Other Workers	1	1	1
TOTAL	9	10	12

IRISH MISSION

Baptism & Vote	79	33	49
Gain by Letter	10	..	...
Apostasies	25	17	30
Deaths	23	18	23
Loss by Letter	...	10	15
Net Gain	41	..	...
Net Loss	..	12	19
Membership, January 1, 1938,	164		
Membership at End of Each Quadrennium	205	193	174
Workers at End of Each Quadrennium :			
Ordained Ministers	4	2	2
Licensed Ministers	2	4	4
Bible Instructors	1	1	3
Other Workers	1	1	3
TOTAL	8	8	12

British Union Conference

Treasurer's Report

1946 - 1949

By A. CAREY

1944	9	6	11
1945	9	16	6
1946	10	0	2
1947	11	4	2
1948	11	19	5
1949	12	4	1

The percentage increase in per capita tithe paid by our members for the year 1949 is 22 per cent above that of the year 1946, and over 56 per cent increase as compared with the year 1942. This surely does speak in a practical way of the faithfulness of our churchmembers in the matter of the payment of tithe.

MISSION OFFERINGS

Now we would direct your attention to the general mission offerings which have been passed into the treasury during the past quadrennium. The total sum of these offerings given (not including the Ingathering), was £64,450. 1s. 6d., as compared with £60,405. 9s. 4d. for the previous quadrennium; an increase of £4,044. 12s. 6d. or approximately 6½ per cent.

Then there is the Ingathering. The sum of £122,901. 2s. 6d. was raised in the House-to-House Collections Campaigns during the past quadrennium, and this is an increase of £36,964. 11s. 1d., or 43 per cent as compared with the years 1942-1945. The total sum of the general mission offerings, including Ingathering, for the period under study was £187,351. 4s. 0d., an increase of £41,009. 3s. 3d., or a 28 per cent increase over the previous quadrennium. The total increase in tithe and offerings for 1946-1949 as compared with the previous quadrennium is £107,404. 16s. 8d. an increase of 29 per cent.

UNDER the blessing and providence of our Lord we meet together again as a British Union Conference in session. Four years have passed by since we met in this Town Hall of Watford in like assembly, and we would express our deep gratitude to God for His grace and keeping power which enables us to present to you this report of the love and loyalty of our church membership shown in a practical way, in that there has been a large increase in tithe and offerings.

With this report we are showing in detail the amount of tithe and offerings for the two past quadrenniums.

TITHE

The tithe income of the whole field for the years 1946-1949 inclusive amounted to £289,134. 10s. 0d., an increase of £66,395. 13s. 5d., as compared with the previous quadrennium, or nearly 30 per cent increase. One naturally wonders if there has been a corresponding increase in tithe per capita, which perhaps is the principal type of increase to which we should give attention, and so I will give you the following increases in the tithe per capita over a period of eight years:

TITHE PER CAPITA	£	s.	d.
1942	7	16	1
1943	8	12	5

COMPARATIVE REPORT OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR QUADRENNIUMS 1942-1945 AND 1946-1949

Tithe	Quadrennium 1942 - 1945			Quadrennium 1946 - 1949			Increase			Decrease		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
South England	117,307	15	9	161,088	8	5	43,780	12	8			
North England	70,318	12	6	82,384	11	7	12,065	19	1			
Welsh Mission	14,546	13	6	17,011	0	5	2,464	6	11			
Scottish Mission	11,129	3	2	11,898	3	10	769	0	8			
Irish Mission*	6,451	16	11	10,528	3	3	4,076	6	4			
Union Specials	2,984	14	9	6,224	2	6	3,239	7	9			
Union Total	222,738	16	7	289,134	10	0	66,395	13	5			

Sabbath-School Offering

South England	22,219	8	1	27,237	9	4	5,018	1	3			
North England	13,066	14	4	14,022	16	0	956	1	8			
Welsh Mission	2,883	0	1	3,310	0	10	427	0	9			
Scottish Mission	1,990	3	5	2,518	1	9	527	18	4			
Irish Mission*	1,312	19	10	1,520	4	4	207	4	6			
Union Specials	3	14	0	332	8	3	328	14	3			
Union Total	41,475	19	9	48,941	0	6	7,465	0	9			

Week of Sacrifice and Annual Offering

South England	6,793	16	6	5,302	18	3				1,490	18	3
North England	2,620	0	5	1,601	12	3				1,018	8	2
Welsh Mission	607	16	6	328	19	5				278	17	1
Scottish Mission	515	12	8	392	2	9				123	9	11
Irish Mission*	424	2	8	254	14	4				169	8	4
Union Total	10,961	8	9	7,880	7	0				3,081	1	9

Missionary Volunteer Offering

South England	808 17 4	968 13 7	159 16 3	
North England	474 8 5	480 18 6	6 10 1	
Welsh Mission	70 12 6	87 12 1	16 19 7	
Scottish Mission	45 16 11	58 8 3	12 11 4	
Irish Mission*	60 19 3	58 1 6	.....	2 17 9
Union Specials	3 0 0	9 13 0	6 13 0	
Union Total	1,463 14 5	1,663 6 11	199 12 6	

Missions Extension Offering

South England	1,691 12 2	1,893 12 1	201 19 11	
North England	1,208 8 4	684 13 5		523 14 11
Welsh Mission	191 4 7	230 2 10	38 18 3	
Scottish Mission	198 15 3	162 15 6		35 19 9
Irish Mission*	81 0 5	129 4 6	48 4 1	
Union Specials	1,390 7 4	2,480 0 7	1,089 13 3	
Union Total	4,761 8 1	5,580 8 11	819 0 10	

Miscellaneous Offerings for Missions

South England	288 9 6	374 0 0	85 10 6	
North England	204 10 8	.....		204 10 8
Welsh Mission	6 18 6	.....		6 18 6
Scottish Mission	4 3 0	.....		4 3 0
Irish Mission*	2 0 0	.....		2 0 0
Union Specials	1,236 16 8	10 18 2		1,225 18 6
Union Total	1,742 18 4	384 18 2		1,358 0 2

Ingathering

South England	39,221 2 4	60,279 5 4	21,058 3 0	
North England	31,991 6 5	43,513 14 5	11,522 8 0	
Welsh Mission	7,388 16 1	9,337 18 2	1,949 2 1	
Scottish Mission	4,034 0 4	5,213 10 10	1,179 10 6	
Northern Ireland	3,180 16 1	4,441 9 3	1,260 13 2	
Union Miscellaneous	120 10 2	115 4 6	.....	5 5 8
Union Total	85,936 11 5	122,901 2 6	36,964 11 1	

Total Missions Offerings (including Ingathering)

South England	71,023 5 11	96,055 18 7	25,032 12 8	
North England	49,565 8 7	60,303 14 7	10,738 6 0	
Welsh Mission	11,148 8 3	13,294 13 4	2,146 5 1	
Scottish Mission	6,788 11 7	8,344 19 1	1,556 7 6	
Irish Mission*	5,061 18 3	6,403 13 11	1,341 15 8	
Union Miscellaneous	2,754 8 2	2,948 4 6	193 16 4	
Union Total	146,342 0 9	187,351 4 0	41,009 3 3	

*Including Eire

Tithe Increase 1946-1949	£	s.	d.	New Guinea and Solomon Islands	
compared with 1942-1945	66,395	13	5	.....	42 11 10
Mission Offerings increase				Czechoslovakia School	50 0 0
1946-1949 compared with 1942-1945	41,009	3	3	General Conference "Radio Work in U S A"	25 0 0
Total Increase in Tithes and Offerings	<u>107,404</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>	General Conference for	
				New Work	470 0 0
				Famine Relief	38 15 0
					<u>3,378 4 0</u>
					<u>6,311 13 7</u>

Now these mission offerings to which I have called your attention do not tell the whole story, for from time to time gifts have been made for specific fields and purposes, and during the last four years the sum of £6,311. 13s. 7d. has been given in this way, as compared with £3,378. 4s. 0d. for the previous quadrennium as follows:

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

	1942-1945	1946-1949
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Southern African Division	995 5 0	597 0 0
Southern Asia Division	145 10 0	26 6 0
South American Division	18 10 0	.....
Middle East Union	500 0 0	.....
West African Union	1,098 5 6	515 4 10
Far Eastern Division	.....	70 0 0
China Division	111 18 6	55 0 0
Leper Work	.....	25 0 0

Before closing this mission offering report, I think it only right that I should give you details of the fields to which the Ingathering money has been sent year by year for the past two quadrenniums.

	1942-1945	1946-1949
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Southern Asia Division	28,000 0 0	49,000 0 0
South African Division	22,000 0 0	49,000 0 0
West African Union	34,200 0 0	12,000 0 0
Far Eastern Division—		
Singapore	.....	10,000 0 0
	<u>84,200 0 0</u>	<u>120,000 0 0</u>

APPROPRIATIONS

Now I would direct your attention to the appropriations which we have made to the Conferences,

Missions, Newbold College, Church Schools, and for other purposes during the years 1946-1949 inclusive:

<i>Appropriations to the Conferences, Missions, College and Church Schools.</i>		
	£	s. d.
South England Conference	8,448	0 0
North England Conference	39,432	0 0
Welsh Mission	11,188	0 0
Scottish Mission	15,713	0 0
The Irish Missions	27,446	0 0
Voice of Prophecy	11,771	0 0
Newbold College	22,800	0 0
Church Schools	7,885	0 0

Total Appropriation to Conferences, Missions, College, and Church Schools 144,683 0 0

<i>Appropriations for Church Building Propositions</i>		
1947 Wallasey	100	0 0
1947 Lincoln	300	0 0
1947 Blackpool	700	0 0
1948 Stoke	1,250	0 0
1948 Grimsby	300	0 0
1949 Wood Green	300	0 0
1949 Oldham	600	0 0
1950 Coventry	2,100	0 0
1950 Croscombe	250	0 0
1950 Cardiff	5,419	0 0
	<u>11,319</u>	<u>0 0</u>

<i>Appropriations for Church Building Repairs</i>		
1947 Portsmouth	145	0 0
1947 Aberdare	15	0 0
1947 Blaenavon	50	0 0
1947 Edinburgh	50	0 0
1948 Barry	100	0 0
1948 Folkestone	41	0 0
1948 S. Manchester	50	0 0
1948 Handsworth	100	0 0
1948 Exeter	133	0 0
1948 Holloway	470	0 0
1948 Lewisham	224	0 0
	<u>1,378</u>	<u>0 0</u>

<i>Sums Placed in Reserve for Churches in Great Need of a Building:</i>		
1949 Ealing	1,800	0 0
Newcastle	1,000	0 0
Dublin	1,463	0 0
Wembley	300	0 0
Ilford	300	0 0
Newport	1,250	0 0
Wimbledon	£1,500	
Gift from Australia	£1,310	
	<u>2,810</u>	<u>0 0</u>
Belfast	£3,818	0 0
	<u>12,741</u>	<u>0 0</u>
Total Appropriations for Church Buildings	25,438	0 0
Total Appropriations to Conferences, Missions, College, Church Schools, and for Church Buildings	<u>170,121</u>	<u>0 0</u>

In addition to these appropriations, we have placed on one side various sums of money for advance work, etc., as follows:

For Newbold College New Dormitories	21,636	0 0
Educational Fund	5,000	0 0

Sustentation Fund	5,000	0 0
Union Capital	16,000	0 0
	<u>47,636</u>	<u>0 0</u>

making a grand total of £217,757 appropriated for the work in this British Union during the four years, and all this money has come to us for the purposes named, by the generosity of the General Conference Committee.

CHURCH BUILDINGS

During this past quadrennium, it has been our privilege to give some time, study, and help in the matter of the acquisition of seven new church buildings as follows:

<i>North England Conference</i>				
	Total Cost	Church Raised	Union Gift	Local Conference Gift
	£	£	£	£
Wallasey Church	300	150	150	...
Blackpool Church	1,250	550	700	...
Lincoln Church	400	100	300	...
Grimsby Church	790	...	300	490
Stoke Church	2,500	750	1,250	500
Oldham Church	1,200	600	600	...
	<u>6,440</u>	<u>2,150</u>	<u>3,300</u>	<u>990</u>

<i>South England Conference</i>				
Wood Green Church	650	350	300	...

At the close of the year 1949 we had fifty-one church buildings in the Union as follows:

South England Conference	26
North England Conference	16
Welsh Mission	5
Scottish Mission	2
The Irish Missions	2
	<u>51</u>

and the total investment in these churches held in trust by British Advent Missions Limited as at December 31st, 1949, is as follows:

South England Conference ..	£57,293
North England Conference ..	16,144
Welsh Mission	2,968
Scottish Mission	5,365
The Irish Missions	1,198
	<u>82,968</u>

HOUSES PURCHASED BY THE BRITISH UNION FOR EVANGELISTS

There is one very important item of finance which we should bring to you at this time. At the close of the year 1946, our local conference and missions administratives found it impossible to obtain housing accommodation for workers who were to be moved from one part of the field to another, also for new workers coming to the field from abroad, and it seemed that they could not launch their evangelistic campaigns unless a number of houses were purchased, so as to make the change of workers possible, and get the evangelistic work started in real earnest.

The total number of houses purchased by British Advent Missions Limited was eighteen, at a total cost of £37,743, and the money was provided as follows:

British Union Conference (contributed)	6,503	0	0
British Advent Missions Limited (invested)	22,390	0	0
Stanborough Press Limited	5,550	0	0
Granose Foods Limited	1,500	0	0
South England Conference	1,050	0	0
North England Conference	750	0	0
	<u>37,743</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

We find that in addition to these houses purchased by British Advent Missions Limited, the two local conferences have purchased twelve—North England Conference being responsible for the purchase of three, namely, at Bolton, Leeds, and Sheffield; and South England Conference nine, namely, Bedminster, Colchester, Exeter, Gorleston, two at Watford, Southampton, Westcliff, and Bournemouth, and most of these have been purchased by the two local conferences on the plan of obtaining a substantial mortgage from building societies.

I almost feel that I have burdened you somewhat with all these figures, but I believe at such a time as the Union session we should give as much information as possible to our constituency and to the delegates present, representing our churches.

In bringing this report to a close, may I say that I have considered it a very great privilege to have been entrusted with this portion of the Lord's work, however humble it may be, and have conscientiously endeavoured to handle the finances of this field in harmony with the policies of the General Conference and of the British Union. I have enjoyed very much indeed working with my colleagues and the staff in the Union office.

I believe that the Lord has blessed richly the finances of this Union which are now in such a state as to enable us to make a big forward evangelistic move, with a view to proclaiming this glorious message of salvation and of judgment to the people of this Union and also the world field in these days, which I believe to be the closing days in the history of this old earth.

I would express my deep gratitude to God for His guidance and blessing, and pray that such blessing will be continued on our work as we step forth with larger vision for the future.

British Union Conference

Home Missionary Department Report

1946 - 1949

By J. A. McMILLAN

THE post-war period covered by this report, that is, 1946-1949, reveals much of the blessing of God on the labours of this faithful people. During these

four years, 7,000 of our members reported some feature or other of Home Missionary service to the cause of Christ. They distributed some 4,198,267 pieces of literature to friends and neighbours, thus paving the way for souls to find the kingdom of God. They also paid 77,048 missionary visits, endeavouring to bring the witness to Christ into the homes of the people. A total of 5,085 cottage meetings were conducted, wherein the Word of God was proclaimed as the way of life. Our members also gave 19,968 Bible readings during this period. These are the combined totals of many earnest individual efforts to bring the cup of salvation to the thirsty travellers of this world's highways and byways.

We are glad to report that there are 200 lay preachers in the Union. A Lay Preachers' Council was held at the Stanborough Park church from April 4 to 7, 1947. One hundred and eighty attended and were blessed under the ministry of some dozen ministers, who rendered efficient service.

A more modest and limited public speaking class was conducted for three months, from January to March, 1949. About thirty of the local London lay preachers attended.

Dorcas societies function in at least fifteen churches. This branch of home missionary service—based on New Testament precedent and support by Spirit of prophecy endorsement—needs to be greatly strengthened and developed.

We come now to a survey of the public campaigns conducted by the Home Missionary Department. There is first of all the Tract Campaign. This campaign lapsed during the war years, but was revived in 1947. In that year 23,884 copies of *Present Truth* were circulated by our members. In the following year, 30,217 copies of *Present Truth* were taken out, but in 1949, 93,574 copies of *Present Truth* were broadcast by posting to every part of Great Britain. In the three years under review 1,205,823 tracts were made available to our churches. Powerful influences for good must have been released by this scattering of the printed page carrying God's, last invitation to mankind.

The Missions Extension Campaign raised £5,580 for missions during the four years. This was £744 beyond the amount raised in the previous quadrennium period.

The greatest home missionary effort is the Ingathering Campaign. Here we reach the high water mark of church activity and achievement. The 1946 total was £28,900; the 1949 total was £33,648. Altogether, our membership raised the magnificent sum of £122,831 in the four years. This was a gain of £36,896 over the previous period, and was equal to all the Ingathering collected from 1915 to 1933, a period of nineteen years. We thank the Lord for His prospering favour. We express our appreciation for the leadership of the local home missionary secretaries—A. C. Vine, A. W. Howard, and E. R. Warland. We thank the local agents and home missionary leaders and secretaries of the local churches—and, above all, we thank our loyal members who went out into the homes and shops

throughout the country to gather in the funds. The British Union was the only Minute-man Union in the world organization throughout the four years under review. In 1950, £34,850 was raised for missions.

We have left to the last, reference to the soul-winning activities of the department. Many contacts were initiated in the various campaigns that resulted in souls being won to the truth. Thirty-four souls were baptized from taking the Voice of Prophecy course through Ingathering contacts. Fuller details of these results will be dealt with in the report from that department. Once more we praise the Lord for all His blessings during this past quadrennium and express our confidence that He will guide and prosper the work in the days that lie ahead.

British Union Conference

Voice of Prophecy Report

1946 - 1949

By J. A. McMILLAN

THE Voice of Prophecy is our youngest department in the denomination. It is less than four years old, but has already manifested itself as a sturdy contributor to church membership. In the years 1947-1949 a total of 21,916 persons were enrolled in our Bible Correspondence School. Almost fifty per cent of this total were enrolled by card. The radio produced 2,218 enrollees, and the remainder came from such sources as leaflets, folders, newspapers, bound books, and periodicals.

During the same period £2,902 was donated by members and students to help support this work. Offerings taken up in our churches amounted to £1,334, and donations and literature sales to students brought in £1,568.

It is in baptisms, however, that we evaluate the results of our activities. Up to the end of 1947, some twenty-seven souls were won. Then in 1948, ninety-nine Voice of Prophecy students were baptized, this representing twenty-five per cent of the Union totals for that year. In 1949, 137 souls, or 33½ per cent, were baptized. Altogether, since this work was started, over 300 souls have been baptized. This does demonstrate that the Lord is blessing this modern method of winning men and women to His truth.

This year it has been my privilege to be present at the baptism of a number of Voice of Prophecy students. The last of these services was at Southampton when a soldier, a sailor, and a civil servant—all young men—were baptized. These young people have decided for Christ against great obstacles and their courageous stand is a testimony to the operation of the Holy Spirit on human hearts and wills.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1950

In Edinburgh, out of thirteen baptized, some eleven were connected with the Voice of Prophecy. The story is as thrilling as any that have come from the mission field, and leads us to believe that when the Spirit of God is poured out on all flesh there will be an abundant harvest from the faithful sowing of Gospel seed.

We are thankful for the support this department has received from the Union Committee. The installation of the recording studio in the former Union boardroom is evidence of this. We have one of the most modern and scientifically equipped recording studios in the country. We appreciate the loyal service of our Voice of Prophecy staff, the co-operation of the workers in the field, and the friendly helpfulness of the team who made our recordings.

Recently we ventured into a new field, placing an advertisement in the *News Chronicle*. This will appear each fortnight over a period of six months. Already we have received an encouraging response from the readers of that paper. We must endeavour to exploit every means within our reach to bring the blessings of the Gospel to the attention of our fellow countrymen.

With our present total enrolment of over 25,000 and over 300 baptized students in the church, with six month's experience in recording radio services, with our faith in the blessing of the Lord and the help of the Holy Spirit, we have every reason to believe that the Voice of Prophecy will achieve even greater and more lasting results in future years, bringing the news of salvation to tens of thousands who would otherwise be untouched by our denominational activities. The Voice of Prophecy is the handmaid of evangelism. If workers and members will unite to develop its potential forces, a greater work than has been done will be done, and a notable contribution made to the finishing of the work in Great Britain.

FACTS AND FIGURES, 1947-1949

	ENROLMENTS			
	1945-1947	1948	1949	Total
Radio	759	765	694	2218
Folders	972	1542	425	2939
Leaflets	652	404	154	1210
Cards	583	7060	2815	10458
Books	912	85	104	1101
Magazines	177	361	298	836
Miscellaneous	256	1719	1110	3085
Newspapers	55	14	...	69
	4366	11950	5600	21916

	BAPTISMS		
	1945-1947	1948	1949
Radio	...	5	19
Folders	3	33	19
Leaflets	5	20	9
Cards	...	22	52
Books	4	3	3
Magazines	6	7	16
Miscellaneous	2	9	19
Newspapers	..	...	...
	20	99	137
	25 per cent of total	33½ per cent of total	

OFFERINGS AND DONATIONS

	1947	1948	1949	Total
Church offerings	£44	£669	£621	£1334
Students' donations and sales	£297	£490	£781	£1568
	£341	£1159	£1402	£2902

CONFERENCE ENROLMENTS AND BAPTISMS

	1947	1948		1949	
	Bap- tisms	Enrol- ments	Bap- tisms	Enrol- ments	Bap- tisms
S. England	11	2799	51	2569	70
N. England	5	1667	29	1315	35
Wales	2	667	1	319	14
Scotland	2	546	15	778	12
N. Ireland	...	6135	1	531	4
Abroad	...	136	2	88	2
	20		99		137
	Total Baptisms				256

British Union Conference

**Sabbath-School
Department Report**

1946 - 1949

By E. L. MINCHIN

THE world Sabbath-school work made the greatest advance in all history in the past quadrennium. There was a gain of 1,608 schools and a gain in membership of 201,392. This represents an addition of 138 members for every day of the quadrennium, bringing our world membership to 889,386. By the end of next year we should reach the million mark.

Scattered around the circle of the earth the purpose of all the schools is the same whether the members are found in a commodious church building, in a thatch-roofed jungle hut, or under the spreading branches of a friendly tree. The study of the Word of God and the saving of souls is the two-fold objective toward which each school presses. And in what unusual places the Sabbath-school is found. Did you know that we have a Sabbath-school in Paradise (North California), another on Devil's Island (French Guiana) and two more in Purgatory (a town in Colombia)? But that is not all. The Sabbath-school still presses on in its great advance into "the enemy's territory," and now comes the cheering word that a Sabbath-school of twenty-five members has been organized at Levanger, just five miles from Hell (Norway)!

Here in our corner of the world field we are happy to report a gain of 577 members during the four-year period, compared with a gain of only 57 members in the previous ten years. Our membership at the close of 1949 was 6,180 and was found in 175

Sabbath-schools including twelve Branch Sabbath-schools.

It is with concern that we report that we have over 2,240 churchmembers who are not receiving the blessing of the Sabbath-school. This means that one-third of our entire church membership is missing from the Sabbath-school. This fact is challenging to all who understand and appreciate the place that the Sabbath-school has in preparing a people to meet the Lord. May it not be that this fact has some vital bearing upon the number of apostasies we sustain from year to year?

BAPTISMS

We are solemnly warned that "the object of Sabbath-school work should be the ingathering of souls."—"Testimonies on Sabbath-School Work," page 47.

It is a joy to report that 639 of our Sabbath-school members were baptized into the church during the four-year period. May God give us Sabbath-school officers and teachers with shepherd hearts, who will not rest until every child and youth in our Sabbath-schools is won to the Saviour.

SUNDAY-SCHOOLS AND BRANCH SABBATH-SCHOOLS

The thousands of children in the streets of our great cities in this land are a challenge to us. What a great field for missionary work of the highest order do they present. In recent years many of our Sabbath-school members have responded to this call and have gone out to conduct Sunday-schools for these children. Fifteen Sunday-schools, with an average attendance of 460, are now being conducted throughout this field. At a recent Junior camp, four of these Sunday-school children were baptized. Twelve Branch Sabbath-schools are also giving opportunity to our members to bring the truth to others. We should constantly remind ourselves of the Lord's great purpose for our Sabbath-school: "The Lord desires that those who are engaged in the Sabbath-school work should be missionaries, able to go forth to the towns and villages that surround the church and give the light of life to those who sit in darkness."—"Testimonies on Sabbath-School Work," page 74.

CHILD EVANGELISM INSTITUTES

We are greatly indebted to the General Conference for making it possible for Pastor Eric B. Hare of the General Conference Sabbath-School Department to visit this field in 1949. His radiant personality, his love for the children, and his dynamic messages and effective teaching, have given him a name and a place in the hearts of our British members that will not quickly be lost. A new interest in Child Evangelism, and the possibilities of the work in our Primary and Kindergarten divisions was aroused. We trust that this interest will not be lost. It is tragically true that the children in many Sabbath-schools have been neglected and little provision made to attract them to the Sabbath-school. Seven Child Evangelism Institutes were conducted during Brother Hare's visit, and four more since his visit.

TEACHER TRAINING COURSE

Arising out of Brother Hare's visit, considerable interest has been awakened in the need for a large army of trained, efficient teachers in all divisions of the Sabbath-school. The most important person in the Sabbath-school is the teacher. Poor teaching makes poor Sabbath-schools. The excellent new book recently prepared by the General Conference Sabbath-School Department, *Teaching Teachers to Teach*, constitutes one of the finest textbooks on good Sabbath-school teaching that has ever been published. It contains much of the instruction given by Brother Hare, and should be studied by every Sabbath-school teacher and officer. Already classes have been organized, and some are taking the course by correspondence. We hope to see a great forward move in this respect during the coming year.

Another fact causing concern is that only fifteen out of the 163 Sabbath-schools report the holding of Sabbath-school teachers' meetings. In spite of the difficulties, we are convinced that the teaching and general strength of our Sabbath-schools will never be what it should be until we give more serious attention to teacher training.

We are glad to report that 130 Sabbath-school teachers and officers during the period have taken the Sabbath-School Reading Course. Each year a book is selected by the General Conference Sabbath-School Department and recommended to our teachers and Sabbath-school officers. Outstanding among those chosen during this period was the volume, *Building Better Sabbath-Schools*.

OFFERINGS

While we recognize a need for greater strength in some respects, on the whole we have cause for great rejoicing. Our people love the Sabbath-school, and what a testimony to their devotion to His cause and to their interest in its extension in the great world field it is when we can report a grand total of £48,605 having been given to the work of foreign missions through the Sabbath-schools of the British Union during the past four years. The offerings for the years 1948 and 1949 were the highest in our history.

As an indication of the way our offerings have increased, we give the following figures:

	£
1936	5,197
1940	5,882
1946	11,566
1947	11,871
1948	12,520
1949	12,648

The totals for the four years under review include the offerings listed below:

	Investment Offering	Birthday Offering	13th Sabbath Offering
	£	£	£
1946	324	215	3,072
1947	324	227	3,102
1948	233	225	3,365
1949	166	239	3,145

We sincerely thank all who have helped in the glorious work of the Sabbath-school during the

past four years. Let us go on to greater heights. The coming of our Lord cannot long be delayed. Our time for working is short. Let us not be satisfied until our Sabbath-schools are properly fulfilling the holy purpose that God has for them—the finishing of His work and the preparation of a people to meet Him.

British Union Conference

**Missionary Volunteer
Department Report**

1946 - 1949

By E. L. MINCHIN

FROM all over the world come reports of a new spirit gripping the hearts of the Advent youth. In a day when sin seems triumphant and faith has been lost, when many great nations have been humbled and their lands and cities laid waste—a day of famine and economic collapse—God has done a wonderful thing. He has put a renewed faith in the hearts of His youth. He has possessed them with the urge to impart that faith and rise to new heights of soul-winning endeavour. The challenge of that remarkably gripping phrase, "Share Your Faith," sounded first at the momentous Youth Congress in San Francisco three years ago, has caught the imagination of the Advent youth in all the world and spurred them on in an all-out effort by God's grace to take the Gospel to all the world in this generation. The end is not yet. It is only the beginning of that mighty work which must be accomplished under the leadership of the Holy Spirit before the work is finished. Here in Britain we have felt God calling us.

During the past four years we have been stirred as we have witnessed our own youth responding to this call and stepping into line. We have a loyal and warm-hearted army of youth in the British Isles. They are like we are—tempted, battling, and struggling—but it is my conviction after nearly four years of association with them that they are as splendid and earnest a group of Advent youth as is found in any part of the world field. Given right leadership, they will go anywhere and attempt anything for God.

MEMBERSHIP—BAPTISMS

The past four years have been good years and a token of better things to come. By the end of 1949 we had seventy-seven societies with a membership of 2,020, an increase of 214 young people during this period.

During the four-year period, 250 of our young people confessed Christ in baptism. In view of the fact that more members are baptized between twelve

and fifteen years than there are at any other age, how challenging is the task of those called to labour for youth. Indeed, our children and young people constitute the most fruitful field for evangelism in the whole world.

MISSIONARY WORK

Figures do not convey the real value and influence of missionary activities. The 625,429 items of missionary work reported during this period represent only a part of what has been done in sharing their faith. The habit of giving a faithful report has not been properly established in this field. We know that much has been done that has been recorded only in the books of heaven. During this period our young people contributed £1,625. 13s. 10d. for foreign missions, an increase of £164. 19s. 5d. over the previous four years. This represents about half of the total amount contributed in our young people's societies.

READING

To encourage our youth in the establishment of good reading habits, is a part of the character-building programme of the Missionary Volunteer Department. Each year much time is spent in selecting suitable Reading Course books. Because of the almost impossibility of securing our own denominational books, we are required at present to depend almost entirely upon non-denominational volumes. This is most unfortunate and presents a serious problem to those who make the selection. During the four-year period 702 Reading Course certificates have been issued in this field.

What a responsibility rests upon the Adventist home and the church in providing wholesome literature for our youth. In spite of increased costs, our young people cannot afford to be without their incomparable church youth paper, *The Youth's Instructor*. The monthly coloured edition costs only 10s. 7d. a year. Around the world it grows in popularity until to-day it enjoys a circulation greater than the good old *Review and Herald* by 10,000 copies per issue. *Our Little Friend* should be provided for every Adventist family where there are children. Our own youth paper, *The Light Bearer*, costing only 3d. per month to our youth, brings news of local interest and develops local talent. From far and near expressions of appreciation come to us concerning it. It is heavily subsidized by the Union and local conferences. Our membership is small and some fresh plan must be devised and a greater interest aroused if we are to continue to provide this paper for our British youth.

JUNIOR WORK

We have been gratified to see the increasing interest in the activity programme for our boys and girls known as the Progressive Courses. A total of 508 Helper, Friend, Companion, and Comrade pins have been received. Parents are whole-hearted in their praise of this intensely practical and church-centred programme for their children. Could you call in to our headquarters Community Hall during

the regular Junior Missionary Volunteer night, you would see an army of ninety juniors, in uniform, and splendidly organized, and led by men and women who have caught the vision of service for our children. Pastor L. A. Skinner of the General Conference Missionary Volunteer Department who recently visited this field, inspected this group of juniors and watched their activities. He stated that he had not seen anything better anywhere in the world field.

Missionary Volunteer honour tokens are presented when youth qualify for a certain standard of efficiency in any of the hundred different hobby interests. Interest in this phase of our work is mounting. Altogether 213 honour tokens having been issued during the four-year period. The introduction of seventy-seven new honours in recent months has created considerable enthusiasm and has increased interest in this practical feature of our work.

MASTER COMRADE

To meet the imperative need for trained youth leaders, and especially in these fields of endeavour, the Master Comrade training has been established. Seventy-eight Master Comrades have qualified in the four years under review, sixty-eight of whom have been invested in the past two years. Scores of young people throughout Britain are now preparing themselves for investiture in the near future.

CAMPS

Missionary Volunteers summer camps are doing a wonderful work in providing healthy and happy fellowship with others of like faith, and in moulding our children and youth with the spirit and objectives of our message. We cannot measure the value of these camps when rightly planned for and conducted. Very many of our youth have made decisions for Christ and have had their life courses changed by attendance at the junior and senior youth camps. We trust that every effort will be made to secure permanent camp sites here in Britain. It is becoming increasingly difficult to satisfactorily conduct these camps under the present conditions. During the past quadrennium seventeen camps have been conducted in Great Britain. Nine of these were junior and eight senior. The total attendance was 1,643.

CONGRESS

The most outstanding event of the period under review was the British Youth Congress held in 1948 in this hall. The Congress has been acclaimed the greatest and most inspirational gathering of Advent youth in our history. Its effect was tremendous. "Share My Faith" was the cry on every consecrated lip. Follow-up rallies have continued to fan the flame of youth evangelism. We desire that this good spirit shall not be lost. Plans must be made through consecrated conference and society leadership to still further capitalize on this "Share My Faith" spirit so fervently aroused in the hearts of our youth. Since that event many of our young people have caught the vision of Sunday-school evangelism for the thousands of children who throng the streets of

our great cities. Nearly 500 children in fifteen Sunday-schools are this year being instructed by our young people. Four of these Sunday-school children were baptized at one of last year's junior camps.

SOCIETIES

While we thank God for what has been accomplished, there is much more that must be done, before our youth movement here in Britain is fulfilling effectively its divine commission. We must strengthen the local society organization and give time and study to the most effective means of educating our society officers to an understanding of the real objectives of the Missionary Volunteer movement. This year a most valuable and inspirational Missionary Volunteer Officers' Council was held in a boarding house at Southend-on-Sea for the society officers of South England.

EUROPEAN CONGRESS

The hour has come for a mighty mobilization of all of our youth. In July, 1951, the Northern, Central, and Southern European Divisions, including Great Britain, are planning a great Youth Congress in Paris. Well may such a gathering under God provide the inspiration that would set Europe's Advent youth on the greatest crusade for Christ that has ever been known.

CONCLUSION

Before closing this report I wish to pay tribute to the conference young people's secretaries, Brethren Johnson, Warland, and Cooper, who have so earnestly served the cause of the youth under their care, and to devoted office secretaries who, though working behind the scenes, have done so much to make this report possible. Ours has indeed been a grand comradeship. We thank God for the consecrated and self-sacrificing labours of so many youth and older members who have given leadership to the children and young people in the local societies. We give thanks for the encouragement that our conference leaders have always given to us and to the youth.

For nearly four years the young people of the British Isles have inspired me by their love, their loyalty, and their consecration. They have been happy years. Now that the brethren have asked me to carry an even greater responsibility, I am glad to know that I and my family will still be with you in Britain and that the young people we have learned to love during these years will still be a part of the greater family of Advent youth who will now come under my care. May God enable us as leaders to measure up to the expectations of His people.

There is no service more satisfying and worth while than is found in winning and directing the lives of our youth. If led aright, they will go anywhere and attempt any task that may challenge them. To this glorious work we dedicate ourselves in the conviction that from these ancient isles, as from other lands, thousands of youth will yet bear a witness for God and this third angel's message that will astonish the world.

North England Conference

President's Report

1946 - 1949

By O. M. DORLAND

DURING the period covered by this report the conference has been under the chairmanship of Pastors R. S. Joyce, G. D. King, and the writer. It has been a period of reconstruction after the war, of bringing the church records up to date, and of carrying on evangelistic work under trying circumstances.

The scarcity of halls, inadequacy of staff, and the great difficulty experienced in moving workers because of lack of living accommodation, have been some of our perplexities.

The task has been considerably lightened by the sympathetic help of the Union Conference in providing means not only for evangelistic budgets, but also for the purchase of houses for workers and chapels for our churches in Lincoln, Grimsby, Stoke, Blackpool, Wallasey, and Oldham.

Our membership has been faithful and has loyally supported the cause with its tithes and offerings. The tithe increased from £18,353 in 1946 to £22,953 in 1949. The total for the four years of £82,384 is a gain over the previous four years of £12,066—and all this in spite of a drop in membership figures.

I wish we could report a good rise in membership, but this is not possible. The Lord has blessed our evangelists and during the four years 454 have been added by baptism and vote, but, due to 194 deaths, and an adverse balance of transfers of 175, and the cleaning up of records to the extent of 262 apostasies, we are forced to show a decrease from 2,161 at the beginning of 1946 to 1,984 at the close of 1949. We are praying and working to the end that this loss will be rectified, that we shall see this glorious message triumph in the loud cry of the latter rain, and that out of our vast population of over 20,000,000 many thousands will be prepared to meet their soon-coming Saviour.

An outstanding achievement has been the Ingathering Campaign. From just over £10,000 in 1946 it increased to £12,216 in 1949—a total for the four years of £43,513. This is a gain over the previous quadrennium of £11,522.

The 1950 campaign shows a further advance, with a total of £12,687. At the close of the last quadrennium the Ingathering per capita was £4. 11s. 4d. In 1949 it was £5. 18s. 6d. and for the present year, 1950, it has reached £6. 8s. 0d.

Truly our members have been willing workers and have given unstinted, loving service in the cause of overseas missions. Such service, I am sure, means

joy and rejoicing in heaven. Pastor E. R. Warland and his many helpers deserve special commendation for these excellent results.

One of our best methods of evangelism is by the printed page. This department has been under the leadership first of A. W. Howard and then of W. C. McLeod. Over the four year period the value of literature sales amounted to £88,521—an increase of £26,209. We think this is a splendid achievement by our faithful band of colporteurs, which consists of twenty-nine regulars, forty-five auxiliaries, and seventeen students. Twelve of these regulars have over ten years of service to their credit. Three have sold over £700 each during each of the past four years, and one over £1,000 per year. During one twelve-month period, six went over the £1,000 mark. In 1948 three were taken from our ranks to serve as Publishing Departmental secretaries.

The Home Missionary Department reports the distribution of literature to the extent of 450,000 copies by some 700 members. They also made 31,000 missionary visits, gave 11,000 Bible studies, held 2,700 cottage meetings, and 10,000 articles of clothing have been given away.

We are sure that due to inadequate reporting this is far from being a complete report.

There is a growing interest in the Voice of Prophecy work, and the members have distributed thousands of leaflets and cards.

We have appreciated the help given by Pastor J. A. McMillan from the Union, and by conventions in suitable centres will continue to forward the work of the soul-saving Home Missionary Department.

One of our greatest assets is our children and youth. These are receiving care and attention through our Sabbath-school and Young People's Departments. We have twenty-six Missionary Volunteer societies in the conference with a total enrolment of about 500 members. They are scattered over the field to such an extent that it is not possible for many of them to gather together at a time, except at our Junior or Senior Camps.

In 1947 Pastor Warland organized the societies into six groups, each under the guidance of small committees, with plans for each group to have a rally, an outing, and a social once each year. This has proved a valuable contribution in providing suitable social activities and has led to better society meetings and more flourishing Progressive Course work.

Our first post-war camp under canvas was held at Cayton Bay in 1947. It was a great success. One hundred and sixty young people shared the blessing of Missionary Volunteer association. In 1949, under the leadership of Pastor V. H. Cooper, 180 youth spent an invigorating and soul-stirring time at the same camp site near Scarborough. Six young people were baptized in the sea. Four of these had been won to the faith by our young people, the other two being from Adventist homes.

During the past year a new interest has been taken in Progressive Courses, and most of the larger societies have had investiture services, thus training competent leaders for future Missionary Volunteer work.

Our Sabbath-schools have continued to prosper and accomplish their heaven appointed task. The *Sabbath-School Worker*, that excellent assistant in this work, has had its subscription list increased from 41 to 121. Every teacher should have access to this helpful paper. The subscription to the *Little Friend* and Memory Verse Cards has doubled.

At the beginning of the four-year period we had one Sunday-school. We now have seven Sunday-schools and two branch Sabbath-schools, with a total membership of 250. Eight of the pupils from non-Adventists homes have been baptized.

Much inspiration was received from the visit of Pastor E. B. Hare, of the General Conference, who spent ten days in our field in 1949.

Last, but not least, the Conference Sabbath-school contributed over £14,000 for missions—a gain of about £1,000 for the quadrennium.

We ask a continued interest in your prayers for all departments of the work of the Lord in the trying and difficult times we have entered, and re-consecrate our lives to the finishing of the work in this generation.



Special Conference Session Hymn

HERE, Lord, assembled at Thy gracious call,
From days of toil and earthly care set free,
Joined in one faith, one hope inspiring all,
We lift our hearts in grateful praise to Thee,

Praise would we bring for lives so freely blessed,
For fruitful years wherein Thy cause has grown;
For new-born souls who have Thy truth confessed,
For guiding light by which Thy ways are known.

Where we have failed, do Thou, O Lord, forgive,
And with forgiveness send us larger power;
Come in Thy might and teach us how to live,
Strong in defence of truth in this dark hour.

So may these days of fellowship and prayer
Bring much of good from Thy all-bounteous hand;
But most we crave the latter rain to share,
To swell the last, loud cry throughout our land.

J. HARKER.

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

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