

Dykes Family

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The Advent
REVIEW
AND
HERALD
Sabbath

GENERAL CHURCH PAPER OF THE
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS



As soon as our people caught the vision of a world task they prepared to send a representative abroad. Here we see J. N. Andrews with his son and daughter as they were about to sail from Boston harbor, in 1874, to bear the torch of present truth to Europe.



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HARRY ANDERSON, ARTIST

The work prospered from its beginning. After eight years there were possibly a thousand believers. In August, 1851, Elder Bates wrote in the REVIEW, "Within two years the true Sabbath keepers have increased four-fold in Vt. and N. H." In February 1852, James White wrote, "The cause is onward, and . . . numbers are daily entering the ranks of those who observe the Lord's Sabbath." In

Young men, born in Europe, who in their youth came to America and here learned of the message, returned to proclaim the good news to the people of their homelands. It was thus that the work began in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. In similar providences and at about the same time the work began in Germany, Russia, Rumania, the Crimea, and other parts of Europe.

It was in this period, too, that the message spanned the broad Pacific Ocean to Australia and New Zealand. There it found fertile soil for growth not only in membership but in institutional development. It has since become the base from which our far-flung island mission work of the South Pacific is operated. When World War II broke on this area, islands like Guadalcanal and Bougainville, whose names were new to the invading forces, were found to have been occupied by Seventh-day Adventist missions decades before, and a stability and trustworthiness had been developed in the native peoples which provoked surprise and admiration from military leaders.

The message likewise found lodgment in the hearts of believers in South Africa during this period. Upon learning of the discovery of diamonds in the Kimberley area, a Sabbathkeeping miner from America went there to find his fortune. He shared his views with others, and soon a company began to keep the Sabbath. This company, desiring help in their search for further light, sent an earnest appeal, accompanied by \$250, to the General Conference for a minister to come and instruct them. Workers were sent to meet this Macedonian call. A few years later other workers were sent to start mission work among the great heathen tribes of native peoples. These were the first efforts to bring the Advent message to the Dark Continent. Marvelous have been the results. Now the message has been planted in almost every country and colony of that great continent. The work in the south among the European peoples has become a strong base for both money and missionary personnel for the extension and support of missions among the native peoples of the hinterland. The message has been carried to East, Central, South, and West Africa, where already the converts number approximately 110,000. Truly the jets of light are breaking forth in the Dark Continent.

Strange indeed are the ways of God in the accomplishing of His purposes. In this same era the message was to take root in South America. Here the work was begun in part by refugees from Europe, who, because of persecution following the acceptance of the truth there, fled to Argentina where they could enjoy religious freedom. These came from France, East Prussia, and Switzerland. Thus the truth was brought to Argentina.

A German ship stopping at the port of Itajahi accounts for the first church in Brazil. The ship had a copy of our German paper aboard. This was carried ashore, and fell into the hands of a schoolteacher who was a drunkard. It was exchanged with a grocer for drink. The grocer wrapped his goods in this paper, and thus, unintentionally, gave the message to his customers, some of whom began to keep the Sabbath.

Most of the countries in Inter-America, our nearest neighbors, received the message in this era, and in ways which manifestly indicate God's leadership. Literature from the International Tract Society was thrown ashore in British Guiana. A paper fell into the hands of a woman who read it and soon began to keep the Sabbath. She later sent it to a friend in Barbados, who also accepted the message. Thus the truth spread.

Asia, that great continent where more than half the world's population live, that great bastion of heathenism and mystic religions, was the last to receive the message. Driven on by an unquenchable desire to carry the truth to the land of Sinim, Abram La Rue began colporteur

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1863, when the General Conference was organized, there were 3,500 members. In 1868 two ministers sailed around South America to California to establish the work there. In 1874 the numbers had increased to 7,000, of whom all, save a few in Europe, were in the United States.

The truly world-wide character of the work was but dimly understood in the earlier days. Through the voice of the Spirit of prophecy within the church and the Macedonian calls from without, the horizons of service were broadened. Early the message came to us:

"I looked intensely over the world, and I began to see jets of light like stars dotted all through this darkness; and then I saw another and another added light, and so all through this moral darkness the star-like lights were increasing. And the angel said, 'These are they that believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and are obeying the words of Christ. These are the light of the world; and if it were not for these lights, the judgments of God would immediately fall upon the transgressors of God's law.' I saw then these little jets of light growing brighter, shining forth from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and lighting the whole world." —*Gospel Workers* (1892 ed.), pp. 378, 379.

James Erzenberger, of Switzerland, urged on by a few believers, crossed the Atlantic to plead with the leaders of the movement to "come over and help us." In response to this appeal, J. N. Andrews, our first missionary, sailed from Boston, September 15, 1874. This marked the beginning of a new era of expansion and growth. In the two decades that followed, the message took root in every continent of the world, and the numbers of adherents within this time increased sixfold—from 7,000 to 42,763. The providences attending the opening of the work in these great continental areas give evidence of the blessing of God.

MAY 5, 1949

THE

Growth of the Church

OVER THE WORLD

By E. D. DICK

IN THE days of long ago, "when the fulness of the time was come" for the first advent of Christ, "God sent forth His Son." In His coming He fulfilled every prophecy which had been recorded concerning this event. There was no deviation from the revealed purposes of God. His coming was heralded by shepherd peasants and Wise Men from afar.

Similarly, with the approach of the time of the end, as revealed in the prophetic Word, when the work of the investigative judgment was about to begin in heaven and the final message of salvation was to be given to the world in preparation for Christ's return, God again moved upon the hearts of men to consider anew the teachings of His Word concerning our Saviour's second coming. Beginning slowly, in a few short years the Advent Movement spread from its birthplace in New England to the Midwestern States of America, and before long became strongly established on the West Coast. From country to country, from continent to

continent, and to the islands of the sea it spread; until now it is proclaimed in 685 languages, written and oral, and in 227 of the 281 land areas of the world. Latest available figures reveal that the adherents number 647,781. Its advancement constitutes the greatest miracle of modern Christian missions.

Not for a moment would we claim the achievement of the message as any accomplishment of man or boast of any of the results. It is the work of God. It was foretold by the Seer of Patmos. The hour had struck for the message to go forth, and God was fulfilling His purposes.

It seems highly fitting, therefore, that in this centennial number of our church paper we recount the growth of the work, remembering that "we have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teachings in our past history."

REVIEW AND HERALD

Are the so-called heathen wiser in this matter than we who have so many blessings bestowed upon us? I think of the cable received from the Australasian Union Conference at the time of the 1947 Autumn Council, saying that New Guinea alone had called for a thousand teachers. I remember also that two chiefs who made the long journey from Borneo to the meeting which was being held at our headquarters in Singapore last year. They pleaded, "Our sons and daughters are growing up in ignorance and superstition. Won't you send us teachers? We will build a house and a schoolroom; we will give land; but please send us teachers, that our children may know the way."

I think of the earnestness of our people in the north-east part of the Celebes. They had little money, and land was very costly; but so eager were they to have a Christian school that they willingly sacrificed to secure the necessary land. One day each month they would all come and work at clearing the jungle and helping to erect the buildings. On the day that I was there, nearly 600 were working from early morning until late at night. Most of them had walked to the school site, some as far as twenty-five miles. Now several hundred young people are enrolled in the school, and there will be more as fast as facilities can be enlarged to provide for them. How precious is our heritage, the youth of this denomination! What a privilege to help prepare them for service!

How are our Seventh-day Adventist schools meeting the challenge of fitting our youth for the great task before them? The product is the best proof of efficiency. Both graduates and undergraduates, when brought to test beside those on a comparable level from schools of the world, have repeatedly proved their competency. In every walk of life and in every country on the globe they have shown their ability to live joyfully for God and to serve their fellow men under any and all conditions. Their record speaks in clarion tones of power-filled, consecrated lives.

The Adventist youth are unquestionably the hope of the Advent Movement. They have the latent talents, the hidden possibilities, the dynamic energy, and the audacious daring that, when touched and transformed by the divine flame of consecration and abandonment to a great cause, will speedily finish the work of God on earth. As we look back over the way God has led us, and see and realize the leavening power and influence of the Word of God in our own lives and in the lives of our youth, shall we not determine to bring our children to the fountains of living waters rather than to the broken cisterns of the world? Let us prepare them as "vessels fit for the Master's use."

The Growth of the Church

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work among the English-speaking peoples of China's seaport cities in about 1888. Thus the first seed of the message was sown in the Orient. Here as in other lands, though starting slowly, the message has made great strides. The Philippine Islands and the Dutch East Indies have hitherto produced the largest fruitage. Strong foundations for the work have been laid in China and India, and the prospects bid fair for an abundant harvest of souls in these great countries. Thousands in these lands already are rejoicing in the blessed hope.

Into all the world the message was to be given—to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. With the work established on every continent by 1894, the message was to grow rapidly. Cheering indeed is the record of progress. Beginning with no membership in 1844, the work has

enlarged until our world membership was 628,594 at the close of 1947. Of these 228,179 were found in churches in the United States and Canada, and 400,415 in churches in other parts of the world.

The pioneers of the message labored until 1913, or 69 years, to attain the first one hundred thousand members. The record of attaining the succeeding units of 100,000 members stands as follows:

9	years	for	the	2d	100,000
8	"	"	"	3d	"
4	"	"	"	4th	"
6	"	"	"	5th	"
6	"	"	"	6th	"

What a marvelous record. To God be the glory!

Undergirding the evangelistic program of the movement three specific types of institutions have been developed. These have made a large contribution to the up-building and stabilizing of the superstructure. The first publication by a Sabbathkeeping Adventist was a thirty-nine-page pamphlet of which a very small edition was printed in 1846. Now forty-nine publishing houses are operated, printing literature in 190 languages. In 1947, the latest year for which world figures are available, the retail sales value of this literature reached the phenomenal amount of \$11,477,499.76. As we contemplate this figure we cannot but recall the words expressed by Samuel Morse on receipt of the first telegraphic message, "What hath God wrought!"

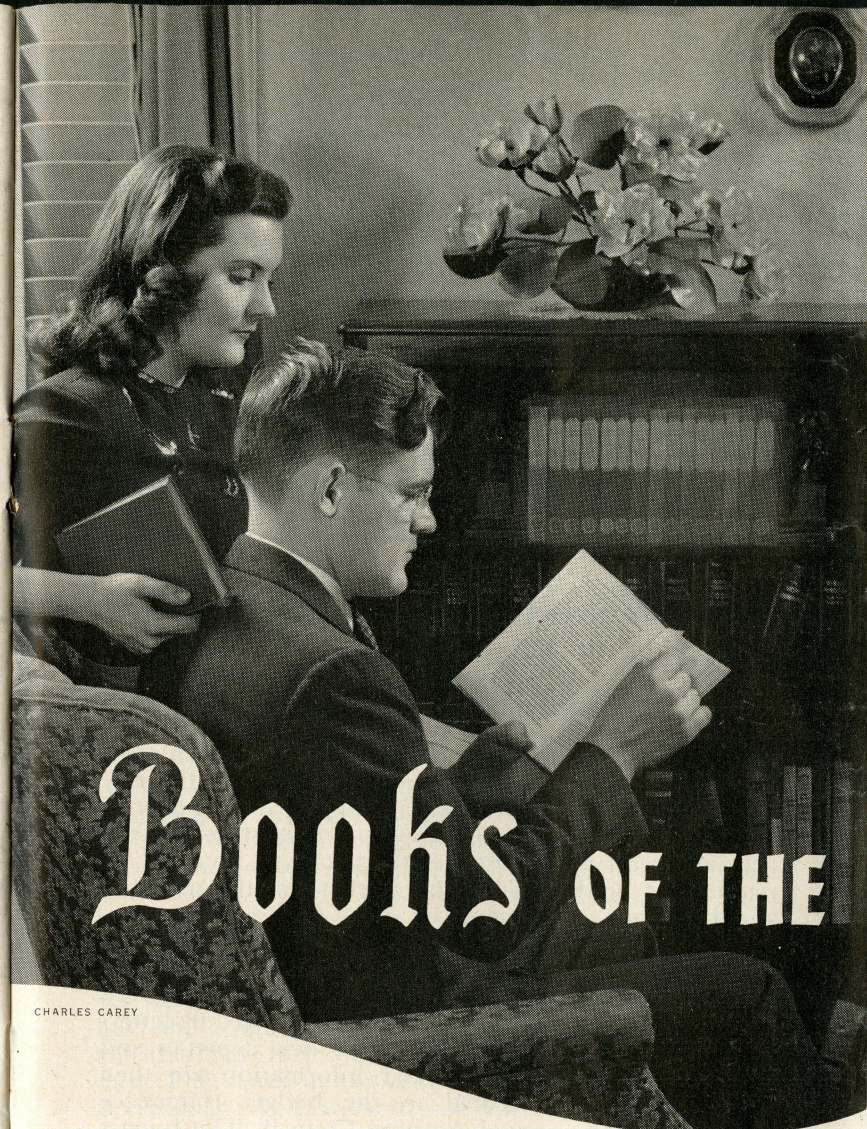
Medical work was conceived early in the history of the movement as being a means of opening doors for the presentation of the gospel in the lives of individuals and as an opening wedge for the message in difficult geographical areas. This led to the establishment of health institutions which, like the publishing interests, have enjoyed much of the blessings of God. Ninety-one sanitariums and hospitals and eighty-six clinics are now operated, and 336 doctors and interns, 1,808 nurses, and 5,085 other workers are engaged in this work.

Basic to the objectives of the movement is the educational work, which dates its beginnings in 1874 with the establishing of a school for the training of mature workers for the cause of God. Now the scope has been broadened to include the entire range of work from the elementary school to the postgraduate training in the Theological Seminary. A school of medicine as well as a postgraduate school of medicine is also operated. The enrollment in the schools of the denomination now numbers 170,295. From these schools is coming an army of youth trained for service and dedicated to the task of completing the yet unfinished work.

Thus the message has gone from land to land and from strength to strength. Nothing can stop its onward progress. "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." Rom. 5:20. Where difficulties arise God provides a way, even in the deep. The numbers of our believers in Europe doubled during the first world war. After the second world war the church emerged in the midst of famine conditions and in great need of physical necessities, but strong in faith and zealous in good works. Nearly 7,000 have been baptized in Germany alone since the close of the war (1946-1947), and almost 15,000 in the lands of Southern Europe. Everywhere are omens of a finishing work. God will not disappoint His people. Christ will come again.

But though the work is the Lord's, and He will finish it, we cannot escape the responsibility which He has placed upon us. As the pioneers of the movement went forward in faith and sacrifice, so will the work be finished. He calls upon everyone, old and young, to lay all on the altar for the finishing of the work. As the work was begun, so will it be finished. Let us then dedicate our lives anew for the finishing of the work.

REVIEW AND HERALD



Books of the ADVENT MESSAGE

BULWARK AND FIGHTING BATTALION OF THE FAITH

By J. D. SNIDER

NORMALLY a need constitutes its own appeal. A child lost, a man overboard, a miner entombed, a ship in distress—the mere announcement stirs us to action. The primary assumption of our movement is that mankind needs the gospel message for today, and that the remnant church is the custodian of that message. Therefore our inherent obligation as Advent believers is to hasten to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people with this special message which is to lighten the earth with its glory. And from God's messenger we have the plain statement that in a large degree this will be accomplished through the publications sent forth from our publishing houses. Early in the history of this movement this inspired messenger declared that the treasure of truth entrusted to the Advent believers should be published to the world "to prepare a people to meet God."

In obedience to that heavenly vision our denominational leaders have emphasized the urgent need for literature production and distribution from the pioneer days down to the present. And the results are well known. The printed page can go everywhere at a minimum of cost. It can be mechanically multiplied so that every distributor of gospel truth receives the answer to Wesley's

prayer, "O for a thousand tongues, to sing my great Redeemer's praise!" Today many thousands of tongues do sing their Redeemer's praise because in the inky pages of our literature they first saw the light of present truth and are now firm believers in the Advent message.

No one has yet been able to seize in the grip of complete definition the full power and worth of our literature, but no story of ancient Scripture or modern letters convinces us more deeply of the infallibility of the "sure word of prophecy" or of God's divine love and care for His work, than the moving recital of how our literature ministry goes forward from year to year. Each report that comes from our publishing centers, showing what has been done during any given period, adds another chapter to the record, but no one of these reports alone, or all of them combined, can tell the entire story, even in digest. Neither can any complete picture of what has been attempted and accomplished down through the past hundred years be drawn in full. Each year's story is only a tiny dot among a myriad of minute dots that cannot be brought together

in a half tone of the whole until the day of God, when the literature we have published and distributed in many lands and languages shall have yielded its full harvest of souls. It is a stimulus to consider that, in the day of the final declaring, multiplied thousands will

stand on the sea of glass and sing the song of the redeemed because redemption's story first reached them through the printed page.

Today ours is a tangled, tormented world, in which the bad that happens and the worse that threatens are so urgent as to shut out nearly everything else from view. However, it is a circumstance not without interest that our publishing work has gone from strength to strength for a full century through every crisis hour of upsetting situations and economic collapse. The importance and significance of the role our literature is to play in the work of God during this present crisis hour has been stated before in quieter times and is well known to all of us, but it needs to be stated again and again, and more emphatically now. Its threefold function is clearly set forth in these words of divine counsel:

"The printed page is . . . essential, not only in awakening them [the people] to the importance of the truth for this time, but in rooting and grounding them in the truth, and establishing them against deceptive error."—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 315.

It is plainly apparent from this passage that our literature is destined not only to prepare the way for the living preacher but also to reinforce his spoken messages and stabilize the converts he wins to the Advent faith. Therefore in the great battle of the books that currently roar from the presses to claim the attention of mankind for every sort of idea and belief, it is our concern to see that books which carry the Advent message are given the widest possible distribution. On every hand there is evidence of a great new hunger for books. This hunger is world-wide, and must be supplied with the bread of life through literature evangelism.

MAY 5, 1949