

# The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald



Vol. 100

Takoma Park, Washington, D. C., November 22, 1923

No. 47

THE GOSPEL TO ALL NATIONS

## The True Riches

Mrs. E. G. White

**C**HRIST beholds the world full of activity in seeking for earthly treasures. He sees many eagerly trying first one thing and then another in their effort to obtain the coveted earthly treasure which they think will satisfy their selfish greed, while in their eager pursuit they pass by the only path that leads to the true riches.

As one having authority, Christ speaks to such ones, inviting them to follow Him. He offers to lead them to the riches that are as enduring as eternity. He points them to the narrow path of self-denial and sacrifice. Those who press on in this path, surmounting every obstacle, will reach the land of glory. In lifting the cross, they find that the cross lifts them, and they will at last gain the imperishable treasure.

Many think to find security in earthly riches. But Christ seeks to remove from their eye the mote that obscures the vision, and thus enable them to behold the far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. They are mistaking phantoms for realities, and have lost sight of the glories of the eternal world. Christ calls upon them to extend their view beyond the present, and add eternity to their vision.—“*The Unwise Use of Money and the Spirit of Speculation*,” in “*Special Testimonies*,” Series B, No. 17.

# Report of the Autumn Council of the General Conference Committee

Held in Milwaukee, Wis., Oct. 9-17, 1923

THROUGH the courtesy of the Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce and the board of management of the Milwaukee Auditorium, the delegates to the Autumn Council were guests of the city of Milwaukee during the session from October 9 to 17. We were comfortably housed in the sub-halls of this large Auditorium, with ample provision made for our various needs.

There were present, besides the members of the General Conference Committee in North America,—which includes the presidents of the union conferences,—the presidents of the local conferences, and the following representatives from abroad, most of whom are home on furlough this year:

Far Eastern Division: I. H. Evans, S. L. Frost, O. A. Hall, Dr. C. C. Landis, J. J. Strahle, C. C. Morris, A. B. Cole, Dr. J. N. Andrews.

European Division: L. H. Christian, J. C. Raft, G. W. Schubert, J. E. Jayne.

Southern Asia Division: I. F. Blue, Dr. H. C. Menkel.

African Division: B. E. Beddoe, G. R. E. McNay.

South American Division: W. H. Williams.

Inter-American Division: E. E. Andross, J. A. Leland, C. J. Boyd, W. E. Baxter, C. E. Knight, F. L. Perry, S. E. Keltman.

## Greetings to Absent Workers

In our opening meeting we were not unmindful of our brethren who are carrying on the work in various parts of the world under more trying circumstances. The meeting therefore opened with an expression of welcome to the delegates from the divisions abroad, and it was agreed to send greetings through the Secretary to the leaders in the various fields who were not able to be present, especially remembering in this way J. E. Fulton of Australia, W. H. Branson of Africa, W. W. Fletcher of Southern Asia, and also our pioneer workers, J. N. Loughborough, whose life God has been pleased to spare throughout the entire years of our denominational history; L. R. Conradi, our pioneer in Europe, who had been expected at the Council, but who chose rather to stand by the work in Germany in these distressing times; and J. W. Westphal, our pioneer in South America.

The delegation was especially mindful of the afflicted areas of the earth, agreeing heartily to send greetings to our workers and believers in Japan, and an expression of sympathy with them in their recent losses through the terrible earthquake which lately visited that unfortunate country, destroying the mission printing plant at the headquarters in Tokio. Yet we rejoiced to know that God had spared the lives of all our workers and believers. We remembered Germany in the present trouble and perplexity into which the leaders are thrown in conducting their work under the uncertainties prevailing in that part of the world; and our hearts went out to Russia. Yet we rejoiced to know that in spite of the grave situation in these fields, the work is continually advancing.

The first item of business considered was the resignation of W. W. Fletcher from the vice-presidency for the Southern Asia Division, this step being made

necessary on Brother Fletcher's part through the continued ill health of Sister Fletcher. The Chairman made reference to the untiring work of Brother and Sister Fletcher in the India field, and the resignation was regretfully accepted. It is part of the toll of battle to have to withdraw valiant leaders in order that their lives may be spared for future service.

The Treasurer presented a report for the first eight months of the current year. This interesting statement showed that there had been some increase in the mission offerings, and yet to date we had raised only about 31 cents a week per member on our mission goal, a condition which calls for a strong, united effort to reach the 60 cents a week per member before the end of the year.

## Soul-winning Work and Workers

One of the important topics that received consideration from time to time throughout the Council, and concerning which a number of resolutions were passed, was the promotion of soul-winning work and the training of soul-winning workers. It was felt by all that in every phase of our activity there should be the definite objective in mind of winning souls. So careful study was given to the means by which the minister in the field, the conference president in his leadership, the teacher in his work of training, and the student in his training, should ever keep in mind the only aim of the third angel's message. We believe helpful plans were devised for impressing this upon all hearts, and the Committee on Plans, with this in mind, presented a report, which was adopted as follows:

## The Work of the Minister

Recognizing that the work of the minister is fundamentally a spiritual, soul-winning, and truth-impacting work,

*We recommend,* 1. That our ministers give themselves to spiritual interests, leading lives of consecration, prayer, and piety; and that, as far as consistent, business details be left in the hands of competent business men.

2. That they "preach the word," and make the one supreme objective of their ministry the bringing home to the hearts of men the saving truths of the Word of God.

3. That we urge upon our ministry the necessity of proclaiming the fundamental truths of the third angel's message in the affirmative rather than in the negative. (See "Gospel Workers," p. 358.)

4. That pastoral visiting, consisting of Bible study, prayer, and spiritual work for the people in their homes, occupy a large place in their work.

5. That the minister in charge of a church or district, have every member under his spiritual observation and care.

6. That our ministry put forth most earnest efforts to win and hold our young people, strengthening their influence over our youth through more faithful attendance at young people's meetings and the Sabbath school.

7. That thorough instruction be given upon all points of the faith to all candidates presenting themselves for baptism or admission into the church.

8. That every minister, whether a resident pastor or a departmental secretary, make it his objective to engage in aggressive effort to win new members to the faith.

9. That there be the closest possible co-operation between the minister and the church officers in their relation to one another and to the church.

10. That as the duty of every minister is to lead in every line of church activity, he should not therefore expect departmental workers to relieve him of his real responsibilities, as set forth in the "Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 375, central paragraph.

unnecessary publications, thus saving expense in promotion and oftentimes annual deficits.

20. That we give careful heed to the oft-reiterated admonition of the spirit of prophecy, to avoid debt; and that we urge upon all conference and institutional administrators not to make investment of any character, either in additions to existing work or the establishment of new enterprises, until the means are in hand for the proposed work.

#### Special Sabbaths and Offerings for 1924

In preparing the calendar of promotion Sabbaths for 1924, it was felt by all that the Bible should have a larger place in the worship hours on the Sabbath day. It was hoped, therefore, that in the preparation of all matter for presentation to our people on the Sabbath, any mercenary tendency would be avoided, and the various calls for help be put in the strongest spiritual setting. With this in view, the Committee on Special Sabbaths presented the following report, which was adopted:

*We recommend*, 1. That in the preparation of general programs, as far as consistent an effort be made to present more Bible studies, and that material and suggestions be presented as a help in preparing programs, rather than as readings, and that an effort be made to reduce the number of programs.

2. That all campaigns for the promotion of periodical or book sales on the Sabbath day be eliminated, and that those responsible for the promotion of these campaigns be directed to the method of house-to-house solicitation by visiting committees in connection with campaigns for literature sales.

3. That we invite our publishing houses to exercise caution in circularizing our people on behalf of publishing house projects, and to refrain from sending to church officers matter to be presented on the Sabbath, without previous arrangements with the local, union, and General conferences.

4. That the yearly calendar of special Sabbaths be reduced as follows:

a. That the Home Missionary Department have two promotion Sabbaths a year, and that there be two other Sabbaths on which the ministers and elders be invited to preach on the importance of soul-winning effort on the part of the laity.

b. That missionary programs be prepared for Missions Bally Sabbath once a quarter, and that the remaining issues contain missionary information for ministers and church elders and isolated Sabbath keepers, it being understood that it is not intended that a program should be held on every third Sabbath of the month; rather, that the minister or leader be free to speak on our foreign mission work, or encourage a season of prayer for our work and workers in mission lands.

c. That no programs be supplied for the day on which an offering is taken up for the rural schools or the colored work, but that information be supplied the church elders and workers, so that a suitable announcement may be made of the needs of these branches of the work as an incentive to a liberal offering.

#### Calendar of Special Campaigns and Sabbaths for 1924

Home Missionary Program, January 5.  
 Signs Campaign, January 20 to February 2.  
 Missions Bally, February 16.  
 Religious Liberty Day, March 1.  
 Missionary Volunteer Day, March 15.  
 Missionary Volunteer and Spring Week of Prayer, March 15-22.  
 Rural Schools Offering, April 12.  
 Big Week and Publishing Extension, April 19-26.  
 Home Missionary Day, May 3.  
 Missions Bally, May 10.  
 Medical Extension, June 14.  
 Home Missionary Day, July 5.  
 Midsummer Offering and Missions Bally, July 19.  
 Home-Foreign Offering, August 2.  
 Educational Day, August 9.  
 Harvest Ingathering Campaign, September 1 to October 11.  
 Golden Jubilee Commemoration, September 27.  
 Review and Herald Campaign, September 27 to October 31.  
 Offering for Colored Work, October 25.  
 Home Missionary Day, November 1.  
 Missions Bally Day, November 15.  
 Week of Prayer, December 6-13.  
 Annual Offering, December 13.

#### Departmental Work — Unity and Co-operation

In the early part of the meetings, and as an introduction to the various plans for promotion of departmental interests, it was felt by all that unity and co-operation should be sought by the departments in their endeavors in the field. To this end plans for strong departmental work in the conferences were recommended and adopted as follows:

In order that a uniform work may be carried on in our conferences, and as an ideal to work toward,

*We recommend*, 1. That provision be made in every conference for the departmental work as follows:

a. That small conferences make such provision as is consistent for conducting departmental work.

b. That in conferences of 1,500 to 2,500, not more than two departments be placed on one secretary.

c. That in conferences of 2,500 or more, one secretary carry only one department.

2. That the field missionary secretary in each conference devote his entire time to the colporteur work; that in small conferences he spend as much time canvassing, under the direction of the conference committee, as is consistent with his other duties.

3. That in the future the selection of educational secretaries or superintendents be made from those who have had practical experience in teaching and in soul-winning work, the desirability of normal training being also recognized.

4. That in the future home missionary and Missionary Volunteer secretaries be selected who have had successful experience in evangelistic work, preferably ordained ministers.

5. That in prosecuting their work, all secretaries, union and local, counsel with their respective presidents regarding all plans.

6. That there be the closest co-operation and understanding between the local president, the union president, and the union secretary, in selecting or exchanging local secretaries, or in changing their work.

*We recommend*, That where a combination of departments in one secretary is necessary in any conference, each of those departments thus combined receive equal attention.

#### Publishing Department

In an endeavor to build up the colporteur work among the student body in our schools, the Committee on Plans presented the following report, which was adopted:

*We recommend*, 1. That the following action, voted at the Educational Council held at Colorado Springs, be approved:

"We, the committee appointed at the Spring Council to submit definite plans for a colporteur representative to promote work in colleges and junior colleges during the school year, recommend the following:

"a. That the publishing house in whose territory the school is located provide tuition for the person agreed upon.

"b. That the school provide at least one hour each week for the colporteur class to meet and carry forward its studies and work, under the leadership of the person provided in section a.

"c. That the school give credit of not more than four hours to those who take the course and devote at least eleven weeks of forty hours each to canvassing during the year.

"d. That an outline for a course of study be provided by the General Conference Publishing Department.

"e. That this colporteur class, and the field work of eleven weeks of forty hours each, be elective in the regular ministerial course."

*We recommend*, 2. a. That this plan be put into operation as rapidly as suitable men can be secured for these appointments.

b. That the leader in the school be appointed by a committee composed of the president of the school, the union conference president or presidents, the union conference field missionary secretary or secretaries, in the union or unions concerned.

*We recommend*, 3. That our public workers and people in general be on guard against circulating sensational stories apparently designed originally to create prejudice and hatred, and in which we are likely to give credence and currency to unsupported statements.

#### Home Missionary Department

In an effort to promote neighborhood work on the part of our church members, and yet at the same time

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