

CHURCH MISSIONARY

TRACTING UNDER TRYING CONDITIONS

The "News" is permitted to copy part of an interesting letter from a young elder laboring in Narvik, Norway, the "Land of the Midnight Sun." The writer is Elder David Christensen, son of Bishop Lars P. Christensen of Hyrum, and relates some of the trials of a missionary in that inhospitable land as follows:

Narvik, Norway, Nov. 5.—I am back again to the little city of Narvik for the winter, and have a nice companion, a man from La Grande, Oregon. He has been in Norway nearly a year and a half, so he is pretty good in the language, which I expect to learn rapidly during the winter. I certainly have learned rapidly since coming here, and although I can't talk it as well as I would like to, yet each day finds me trying, and I can now begin to see the fruits of my labors. I have had many chances in learning to talk, as we have Sunday school every Sunday, M. I. every Tuesday, Relief society every Friday, and our public meeting every Thursday night. Besides this we have the busy town to tract three times this winter.

This tracting is rather uphill business; most of the people have no use for us whatever, and many of them are so narrow-minded that they will not even read one of our tracts, while others take them, tear them into shreds and burn them right before us. Instead of having light and sunshine make us did when I was here last, we have mostly darkness, and will not be able to see the sun for two months. All the lamps are burning at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and it seems like it is all night. Of course we have a few hours daylight, but while the daylight lasts, I am so busy that I don't have time to enjoy it, as I am busy trying to get out of the dark, as a fellow can't see what kind of people he has to deal with, besides, it is not near so easy to get down the steps in a hurry in the dark, but if the people were all like some I have met, we wouldn't need to worry about getting down the steps, as they would be more than willing to help us down a whole flight of stairs, but I don't know what I am doing. I take my tracting in the light, where I can be sure of getting down without any help. I don't know what is going to become of us by the time we reach the third day, but I suppose by the time a fellow has been thrown out twice he will remember the place the third time he sees it, and will be apt to pass it by.

One day, as I was out here, I thought the worst part of it would be in trying to defend our religion. I was afraid I didn't know enough about the Bible; but I find it an easy matter to defend our religion, but I find it is all truth and is based on a system given of God, and no man, however bright he may be, can pick it to pieces. But it is different with the people of the world; they are not based on a system, but on a system, and it is very easy to pick it to pieces, and from the Bible convince them that one of the most essential points required of them is to believe in the Bible. It is very easy to prove to them that the baptism they believe in is not the baptism that Christ requires of them, and that their doctrine is false. It is easy to prove to them that they haven't the gospel of Jesus Christ, for in His gospel there are no false doctrines.

Every day, from priests to laymen of all denominations, but I haven't had one of them yet that could take the Bible and prove that I was wrong.

MEXICAN MISSION.

No. 1, Calzada de Santa Maria, No. 4, Mexico, D. F., Nov. 19.—Two successful conferences have just been held in the city of Mexico, the first at San Pedro Martir and the other at Toluca. The San Pedro conference was held Saturday and Sunday, November 7 and 8, and was presided over by Elder J. L. Pratt, Jr., of the Hyrum Stake. The Toluca conference was held Sunday, November 8, and was presided over by Elder J. L. Pratt, Jr., of the Hyrum Stake. Both conferences were very successful, and many converts were secured.

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CHURCH MISSION ADDRESSES

For the convenience of travelers, the Deseret News gives here with the addresses of the various missions of the Church, where this paper will always be found on file, and where travelers will receive courteous attention:

New York City—30 West One Hundred and Twenty-sixth St. Chicago—149 So. Paulina St. San Francisco—1442 Baker St. Los Angeles—423 West Tenth St. Denver—622 West Sixth Ave. Chattanooga, Tenn.—711 Fairview Ave. Portland—267 Hancock St. Independence, Mo.—302 South Pleasant St. Mexico—Calzada Sta. Maria (la rodonda) num. 4 (fines). D. F. Enland, Deseret High Road, South Tottenham, London. Liverpool, England—295 Edge Lane. Bristol—10 Albert Place, Cheltenham, England. Zurich, Switzerland—Hoscheggstrasse 18. Stockholm—Korsgade 11. Stockholm, Sweden—Svartensgratan 3. Honolulu—Punchbowl St. Tokyo, Japan—No. 16 Kasumi-gakomachi, Yotsuya. Toronto, Canada—659 Bathurst St. Rotterdam, Holland—Croesweg (Kieschingsel) 8. New Zealand—53 Upper Queen street, or P. O. box, 72, Auckland.

navajo conferences accompanied the elders of the Toluca conference to that conference where the week was spent in canvassing and advising the people in the Toluca district that on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 14 and 15, a conference would be held in Toluca. This was the first time a conference had been held in Toluca, but on the days named a number of people gathered to hear the word of the Lord. Six very well attended meetings were held and a number of converts were secured. All who heard the word of the Lord were very enjoyable and expressed themselves as well pleased with the spirit of the conference and the teachings of the gospel. One old gentleman 77 years of age walked six miles to attend the conference.

At the Toluca conference Elder Nephi W. Thayne, who has labored as a counselor in the mission since the first conference, was released to return home. His position as a counselor was filled by Elder Frederick W. Jones, Jr., who has been second counselor since the first conference. Elder Robert C. Beecher, of the Hyrum Stake, was also present.

CYCLONE STRIKES TEXAS COLONY

Kelsey, Tex., Nov. 24.—What we term the "big wind" struck through this colony of the saints about 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and literally demolished several of the homes of the saints, blowing some flat to the ground, others from their foundations, and some with the roofs and porches blown away; some blown half around and leaned over and twisted all out of shape.

But we are thankful that no one was seriously injured, the people sitting out from the fallen down house (a heap of mangled and disordered house material), and none hurt. All found their children and loved ones.

The damage will amount to about \$2,500.

Our semi-annual conference has just closed and all the North Texas elders and Arkansas elders were in the conference. President Bennett and Elder Whitely had left just a few hours before for Independence.

WM. H. HEATON, Conference President.

CONFERENCE OF WESTERN STATES MISSION

Denver, Colo., Nov. 25.—The elders of the Western States Mission have just concluded a very successful conference here.

President Joseph A. McRae will be released in the near future, and Elder John L. Herick of Ogden, Utah, will succeed him. Because of this change, President McRae planned a general conference of the elders. It was appointed for Nov. 18, at Denver, and by the blessings of the Lord and a great deal of perseverance, every elder and missionary reported at headquarters on the morning of that date, with a glad smile and a hearty handshake for their co-laborers.

After covering the distance from their fields of labor to Denver, some of the elders walked 45 miles without purse or scrip.

A happy time ensued, such as is enjoyed only by those who have a keen sense of having done their duty. They count and recount their many experiences with the pride of conquerors. They mingle mirth and tears with the innocence of children, while bravery and valor stand out on every brow that makes them men in very deed. To those who have never labored as elders in the mission field, let me suggest that consider small trips containing several books of Mormon, with small doc-

trinal works in proportion and with your companion start out through a strange country, walk day after day depending entirely on the hospitality of the people, (who at times are not very hospitable, although in the main we have no enemies to complain of), imagine yourself tired, worn and hungry, standing on the street corner, speaking to an audience whose only knowledge of Mormonism has come from the enemies of the Mormon faith, and you will find you can expect no favorable response. Kneel down by the roadside and pour out your soul to God in supplication for a place to sleep, something to eat and someone to listen to your message. And your eyes are weary for a familiar face; then meet in conference with your friends, the elders, and if your heart does not melt with gratitude, it is surely injured.

It was under these conditions that the report meetings of the conference opened. One conference president (William Redd) reported that his elders had sold 1,000 books of Mormon, 4,000 small doctrinal books. Two other elders (Roy Chipman and H. W. Perry) have sold 200 books of Mormon to the Indians of Nebraska. One elder has sold 1,000 copies of the Book of Mormon in 70 days. The mission has sold since Jan. 1, 1908, 6,000 books of Mormon and 25,000 small books. All reported having had a good time and were desirous of seeing the good work continue. Sixty-five elders have done this work.

The climax of our conference was reached when we held our testimony meeting, Saturday, the 21st. For six hours the 81 elders of the mission testified that they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost. Strong men broke down and sobbed under the influence of the good spirit present; every heart swelled with emotion from joy and thanksgiving. The father of our president, the youngest elder present, who is but 19 years of age.

In recognition of the good work done by elders and as a token of remembrance, President Joseph A. McRae presented to each one of the elders, a splendid likeness of himself and in return the elders and lady missionaries, made President and Sister McRae, present of a book-case and sideboard. Cleo McRae who has been acting as organist at the mission headquarters, was given a set of furs.

The following elders were released:

D. F. Fawns of Raymond, Canada, who has been presiding over the Pueblo branch; H. B. Pincock of Sugar City, Idaho, president of the West Colorado conference; W. D. Glendon of Panguitch, Utah, president of Pueblo conference; J. M. B. Higbee of St. David, Arizona, president of the Nebraska conference; Joseph W. Smith of Provo, Wellington, New Zealand; George N. Larsen of Riverdale, Idaho; Elmer E. Rigby of Driggs, Idaho; Zebulon Skouson of Raymond, Canada; Nephi Harker of Magnath, Canada; R. L. Whicker of Deseret, Utah; George N. Larsen of Mant, Utah; and Francis Bingham, Huntsville, Utah, president of New Mexico conference.

Appointments of conference presidents were made as follows:

Elder George H. Bennett, Pueblo conference.

Elder H. W. Perry, North Colorado conference.

Conference William Redd, Nebraska conference.

Elder Nephi Anderson, Dakota conference.

Elder W. E. Morrell, West Colorado conference.

Elder Joseph E. May, Denver conference.

JOSEPH E. MAY.

SAN JUAN CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the San Juan Stake of Zion convened at the Burnham ward meetinghouse at Kirtland, New Mexico, Saturday, Nov. 14.

There were present of the stake presidency Walter C. Lyman and William Halls. Also several members of the high council, bishops of all the wards in the eastern part of the stake and representatives from all of the wards of the stake except the two most distant from the place of gathering.

Altho the weather was not so favorable as it had been, the members of the stake were very enjoyable. The members of the stake presidency, and other elders who addressed the saints were filled with the spirit of the Lord, and many instructions were given. The principal topic being the Word of Wisdom and the necessity of the young men putting themselves in a condition to be used in the ministry.

The organization of the stake board of Religion Classes was completed, Andrew J. Stephens and Morris Decker being sustained as assistants to Superintendent Charles S. Saturday, Nov. 14, L. Halls as secretary of that organization.

The meeting Sunday forenoon was in the interests of the Sabbath schools and was conducted by Stake Superintendent Clyde A. Hammond, who, together with his assistants, W. R. McConkie and M. A. Barton, gave many interesting instructions to Sabbath school workers.

The conference closed with the usual M. I. A. meeting on Sunday evening at which a creditable program was rendered.

The next quarterly conference of the stake will be held at Huff, Feb. 13 and 14, 1909.

PETER ALLEN, Stake Clerk.

JORDAN STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the Jordan stake was held in Sandy ward meetinghouse Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 21 and 22. President Hyrum Goff of the stake was in charge. Reports from various wards were given in brief by the respective bishops, James P. Jensen, Crescent; James A. Miller, Sand; Thomas Butterfield, Hermit; Gordon S. Ellis, Riverfront; William C. Burgen, Union; and John A. Egbert of West Jordan wards. Elders James Jensen and J. W. W. Fitzgerald of the presidency of the stake, also spoke upon the general affairs of the stake, especially the work of auxiliary organizations, priesthood quorums, etc., which they commended for faithfulness and diligence. Bishop Wm. D. Kuhre reported Sandy ward. Elder Nels Lind made brief report of the condition of the record in the stake of illness and Mrs. Nancy Colton was sustained as her successor with Anna K. Bartlett and Mary Hall Stringham as her counselors; Phoebe Merkle as secretary and Mary B. Henry as assistant secretary.

GEORGE A. DAVIS, Stake Clerk.

ELDERS OF THE NORTH WEST VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

Standing Row, reading from left to right: G. C. Udall, C. Johnson, G. S. Hartley, R. J. Barton, H. C. Frank, J. C. Grant, Chas. Moser.

Sitting Row: S. E. Quigley, Wm. Bradfield, O. F. Rice, C. L. Weed, J. E. Simons, Eugene Curtis.

and wards, and of the quorums of the priesthood.

The addresses of the visiting Church leaders were replete with wisdom and advice to the young people, and the general observance of the Lord's commandments were enjoined upon the saints. Much was said upon the sacredness of the marriage covenant, and the unhappiness of those who are not respecting the same. The unhappy terminations of mistaken and ill-advised marriages were portrayed.

A special priesthood meeting was held Sunday morning at 8:30 a. m. when Bishop David A. Smith explained the uniform movement of quorum meetings and courses of study to be inaugurated at the commencement of the year. The subject was well received and promises to be of great benefit to all concerned.

The usual M. I. A. conference was held Sunday evening, and addressed by the visiting brethren and others.

NIELS LIND, Stake Clerk.

CONFERENCE OF ST. JOHNS STAKE

The quarterly conference of the St. Johns stake was held Nov. 21, and 22, 1908.

Elders W. D. Rencher, of the stake presidency gave a favorable report of the condition of the people in the stake.

The principal themes of the two sessions on Saturday were: "Taking advantage of opportunities," "The power of the Word of Wisdom," and "The blessing to be received from it."

Part of Sunday morning was devoted to Sunday school work, during which the elders and lady missionaries worked to attend to their duties, and the juvenile instructor as a guide in their labors, and the necessity of reports.

Some remarks were made on "Duty of teachers to pupils, and pupils to teachers," showing the effects of example.

The Kindergarten class gave a very interesting exercise under the direction of their teachers.

In the afternoon the general and stake officers were presented and sustained by unanimous vote. The speakers dwelt at some length on character and its value. Considerable stress was placed upon the Word of Wisdom.

Four members of the stake board of the Relief society from the Snowflake stake were in attendance, having come specially to attend the Relief Society conference, by request of the general board. Their visit was very profitable and pleasant.

WILLARD FARR, Stake Clerk.

CONFERENCE OF UTAH STAKE

Conference convened Saturday, Nov. 21, 1908, in the stake tabernacle at Vernal, at 10 a. m. President William H. Pratt presiding.

The service was a fairly good representation of the officers of the stake and wards present, and a fair attendance of the saints.

NORTH WEST VA. CONFERENCE

Fairmont, W. Va., Nov. 19.—The elders in the North West Virginia conference are working energetically for the spread of truth and feel that much good is being accomplished. There has been more than double the amount of books sold in this conference during the last seven months, than any other time of equal duration. Church works, 542, other doctrinal books, 1,454. Elder H. S. Rice who has presided over this conference for the last six months, and recently returned home, left the banner record for selling books.

The foundation for a great harvest is laid, and people are laying aside prejudice and becoming more hospitable than they were, so that the elders have fewer hardships to endure. Where elders previously have been egged and mobbed they are now received with open doors. Schoolhouses and even churches are thrown open for the elders to preach in. We have standing invitations but owing to the limited number of elders we cannot take advantage of them as we desire. This summer we have had only from 10 to 12 elders while we should have at least 30. In order to justice to the large territory we have in this conference, we continually hear the cry "come again, and soon," the harvest is surely white, but the laborers are few.

It is pleasant to work over ground where faithful energetic elders have been laboring, although we find some have promised when leaving to return home, that they will write and have not kept their promise. Elders should be very careful and not make promises unless they keep their word good, as such things are a great drawback to elders succeeding there.

We had a flying visit by President Ben E. Rich the 10th of this month, and consequently did not hold conference here this fall, but we had an excellent priesthood meeting at the same time. Reports were received from President Rich, and the reports given by the elders were gratifying. Elder O. F. Rice has been selected to preside, with William Starnfield and Charles L. Wood as counselors. The presidency has a quorum of 10 young energetic elders to assist them in the work, and we intend to make the North West Virginia conference second to none in the ministry.

There have been assigned three counties to each pair of elders for their field of labor this winter, and we intend to work without purse or scrip as near as possible.

WM. BRADFIELD, Secretary.

HAWAIIAN COLONY QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

The quarterly conference of the Hawaiian colony convened at Iosepa on Sunday, Nov. 22, 1908, under the most favorable circumstances. The visiting elders from Salt Lake were William T. Noall, Mathew Noall, Thomas Brimley, Charles Smith, Charles C. Bush and Henry Bird.

The members are in good health and spirits at the colony, and seem to be living in comfort, and trying to live the Word of Wisdom. The children are growing up in the fear of the Lord, and are being taught industry, and usefulness, as well as in the things pertaining to their spiritual and temporal conditions of the colony, seem to be in a prosperous and thriving condition. The trip of the visiting elders this time was made by automobile, leaving Salt Lake City Sunday morning, and returning after the afternoon meeting Sunday evening.

CHARLES C. BUSH.

BAPTISMS IN FOREIGN MISSION FIELDS

Four more members were added to the Nelson branch (Liverpool conference), in the evening of Nov. 12. They were baptized in Burnley Baths, Elder I. Garlick officiating.

On Friday evening, last, Nov. 13, a baptism was performed at the public baths, Lancaster (Liverpool conference), when two converts were initiated into the fold of Christ. The ordinances were administered by Elder Kenneth B. Woodley.

On Nov. 12, 11 converts received the ordinance of baptism at the hands of President W. S. Caldwell, Elders Harold R. Smoot and Walter Bird, in the Middlebury Public Baths, (Newcastle conference). Confirmations took place immediately after, at the saints' regular place of worship, where President Caldwell explained to many saints and friends the essentiality of the ordinance just performed. Elder E. H. Cornwall exhorted all the saints to remain faithful to the covenants they have made with the Lord.

A baptismal service was held in the Glasgow Roads Baths, Sheffield, Nov. 15. Elder T. Edgar Beard and President J. A. Rockwood of the Leeds conference spoke upon the necessity of complying with the sacred ordinance. President Josiah H. Eardley then addressed those who were about to be baptized and take upon them the name of Christ, that they may not expect to be persecuted for His name's sake, after which nine converts accepted baptism, Elder Thomas Kershaw officiating. Confirmations took place at the afternoon meeting.

A baptismal service was held at Livingston Street Baths, Birkenhead, (Liverpool conference), on Monday evening, Nov. 16, when two converts were baptized by Elder Bertrand T. Pond.

On Saturday, November 7, a baptismal service was held in the Public Baths, Leigh (Manchester conference). President J. C. Larsen gave a very convincing talk on the essentiality, made and object of baptism, after which three converts were baptized by Elder Moroni Colvin, two from Southport and one from Leigh branch. Confirmations took place the same night at Occasional Room, Market buildings. President Larsen delivered an excellent discourse to the saints and friends.



ELDERS OF THE NORTH WEST VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

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On Sunday last, Nov. 15, a baptismal service was held at the headquarters of the London conference, South Tottenham, London. Five new members were added to the Church. The ordinance of baptism was administered by Elder Albert B. Needham. The following day four more converts were baptized at the same place, Elder Walter P. Whitehead officiating—Millennial Star, Nov. 19.

RETURNED MISSIONARIES.

The thirty-eight elders named below have reported at the Church Historian's office in this city their return from the foreign mission fields on the dates given. All report a most enjoyable missionary experience and gratifying success in their labors. With exception of a few, all turn in the heat of health and spirits.

Nov. 25.—Wellington Wood, Jr., of Spanish Fork, Utah, from the Western States mission; set apart May 1, 1906.

Nov. 25.—John M. B. Higbee, of Cedar City, Iron Co., from the Western States mission; set apart Sept. 29, 1904.

Nov. 25.—William T. Hicken, of Heber City, Wasatch Co., from the Northern States mission; set apart May 2, 1906.

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