

REPORT OF THE AMERICAN UNION CONFERENCE  
August 19-23rd, 1953  
BOULDER CREEK, CALIFORNIA

"Lord Thou hast heard the desire of the humble: Thou wilt prepare their heart, Thou wilt incline thine ear to hear... Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Psalms 10:17; 133:1.

Those who were privileged to attend our recent Union Conference can testify that these words never found a truer fulfillment than during those five precious days in August, when God's people met in the quiet of nature to worship their Creator. From the moment that we sang those inspiring words, "Come we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known," in the opening hymn, until the last refrain died in the silence of those giant Redwood trees, we could sense the joy, unity and love among all the believers. Even though the Conference was short, the attendance relatively low compared to some Conferences, yet there was no lack of enthusiasm on the part of any. Each and every obstacle could easily be surmounted because there was unity, harmony and cooperation in every respect.

Everything seemed to indicate that we "were all with one accord in one place." Brethren and sisters we had a little foretaste of the promised land, "Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able." Many of us felt like sister White, when she was viewing that glorious land; we wanted to stay on in that glorious atmosphere. What can I say to encourage you to make a personal preparation so that soon God's people can receive the "latter rain," that the work can be "finished and cut short in righteousness"; and we can go home to glory? Don't you want to go? I'm sure that we all do, and may God grant that the long-awaited day may not be far distant. To this end we hope and pray in faith.

Our Conference was officially opened Wednesday 8:00 p.m. August 19th by singing of the hymn, "Were Marching to Zion." Elder Stabel read the following appropriate Scriptures as an introduction: Ps. 122:1; 100; 92:1-5; and 126. Following the Scriptural reading we all knelt while a solemn prayer was offered. Again we sang, "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand and Cast a Wishful Eye." The songs, the reading and the prayer had already prepared our hearts for the opening message to be given by Elder Stabel, "Lift up Thine Eyes." These words became the theme and motto of our Conference and were displayed above the rostrum for the duration of the Conference. Elder Stabel opened his discourse by reading of the words, "Unto Thee lift I up mine eyes, O Thou that dwellest in the heavens. Behold, as they eyes of the servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God, until that He have mercy upon us." Ps. 123:1,2. He called our attention to the thought that while Moses was only privileged to lift up his eyes and from a distance behold the promised land, we can, in faith, by lifting up our eyes to Jesus, go on to possess that which he was only privileged to see. What a glorious opportunity is ours! No other people have stood on the brink of such an inheritance. We have kept our eyes on this world long enough let us now direct them to things above. We must take our eyes off others, off the church, off the world and even off ourselves, and look only to Jesus the "Author and Finisher of our Faith." By beholding we become changed. The more we see Jesus, the more we shall be like Him. In a final appeal Elder Stabel urged that we take great care not to be entangled with the things of this world; not to be taken in by the wily sophisteries of Satan in the various forms that he has to offer, such as worldly amusements, television etc. He expressed the thought that his one heartfelt desire is to see the church grow spiritually.

On Thursday, August 20th we conducted the business of this Conference session. Following Elder Stabel's report of the work in general, he read the minutes of the previous Conference. We could rejoice that the Lord had blessed the work and especially that peace and harmony had been restored in God's cause within the past two years. We were able to work in unison with the Canadian Field as well as with the other Fields of the world. Within the past two years we could employ one additional ordained minister, one additional Bible worker and one additional canvasser and Bible worker.

The Treasurer's report was encouraging despite the fact that we had not gained noticeably financially, nevertheless we had been able to employ additional workers and increase the salaries of the present workers at the beginning of the two year period.

Elder Stabel laid down the office as leader which he had held the past two years whereupon Elder Doerschler, as a General Conference representative assumed the chairmanship. After the Treasurer's books had been examined by responsible brethren, the Treasurer was released from his office. When the congregation had been dismissed, Elder Doerschler called for a delegates meeting. Eleven delegates from various sections of the United States and Canada were officially recognized.

The officers and plans proposed by the Nominating Committee were unanimously adopted by the delegates and were as follows:

President: Elder A. W. Doerschler  
Secretary and Treasurer: Elder E. J. Stabel  
Editor: Elder O. Kramer

Executive Committee: Elders: A. W. Doerschler, E. J. Stabel, O. Kramer, W. Korpman and brother P. Newell.

Finance Committee: Elder E. J. Stabel and brethren O. Welp Jr. and A. E. Pfaff.  
(Brethren O. Welp Jr. and A. E. Pfaff to serve in the capacity as Auditors.)

Workers: Elders: A. W. Doerschler, E. J. Stabel and O. Kramer.  
Canvasser and Bible Worker: Brother M. P. Ringelberg

Canada: Elder W. Korpman, leader.  
Bible Worker: Sister K. Uhran.

The Literature Office, which is presently located in Sacramento, California, is to be transferred back to the Union Office in Denver, Colorado.

"Youth for Truth, United," shall be transferred into the hands of the Union Office.

The following resolution was drawn up to be presented to the General Conference: "Resolved, that the General Conference issue the "Advent Worker" in the English language for the benefit of all English speaking fields. The size of the copy may be in a condensed form at present. The American Union shall assist in the preparation, translation and in supplying material for the paper." (The American Union shall frequently issue a bulletin to supply the members of this Union with news pertaining to the local work.)

The following resolution affects all our churches in the American Union and we kindly request the church officers and leaders to comply with this decision.

"Resolved that the Sabbath school offering shall be taken following the lesson study, just before the closing hymn. In harmony with the practice of other Fields, tithes and offerings, (Mission offering), shall be taken before the closing hymn of the gospel service. An appropriate prayer shall be spoken before the tithes and offerings are taken."

"Resolved that the offering taken during the gospel service be designated a 'Mission offering', and is to be sent to the Union Office."

It is our prayer that God may bless these officers and workers as well as the plans that have been formulated.

The morning devotional hours proved inspiring and we were reminded of the Scripture; "Cause me to hear Thy loving kindness in the morning." As we began each day with prayer and praise, we truly felt that it was only because of the kindness and grace of God that we could assemble in such a quiet place, away from the world and alone with God.

Elder Kramer delivered a stirring message on Thursday evening, dealing with the thought, "Spending my last day." In the uncertainties of life we cannot afford to slack our vigilance. If this were your last day upon earth, where would you spend eternity? The message was very timely and appropriate.

On Friday morning we experienced great joy in witnessing the baptism of a dear young sister. The surroundings for this solemn occasion were most beautiful and we could feel the Holy angels hovering about the scene. Our prayer is that God may keep this young convert under the shadow of His wings.

A health lecture by Elder Stabel on Friday afternoon, proved both interesting and instructional. Elder Stabel brought from the Bible and Spirit of prophecy, a balanced position on health, especially emphasizing that there is a spiritual and a physical side to this question. Oh, that God would help us find the golden middle-road in this important subject.

We could welcome the Sabbath and appreciate it better as a result of Elder Korpman's study just as the sun was setting among the Redwoods Friday evening. Elder Korpman, from Canada, stressed that the Sabbath comes as a visitor each week. When we expect a guest we make early and ample preparations. So we must also do for the Sabbath. We must be ready when the Holy hours draw on so that we can receive the blessing that is in store for us by this weekly visit.

Following the opening of the Sabbath we retired to the open air meeting place for a young peoples program directed by brother Wilfred Kramer. The theme of this program was "the voice of God." Our souls thrilled as we listened to these young people. How beautifully they rendered the message in readings and in song, can only be described by those who were privileged to witness it. We were carried through the history of the ages, from Adam to the close of time, We could retire for the night with the one desire to be able to once again commune with God face to face as did our first parents before the fall. This will be our privilege in the earth made new. As we viewed that nice group of young people we could not help but wonder if there were not some who had the desire to become full time workers in the vineyard of the Lord. At this writing we are happy to report that one has made this move in entering the harvest field.

Brother Williamson from Canada, conducted the Sabbath school, which was a very interesting and instructional part of the Conference. The appreciation was shown by the liberal response of the believers by giving so freely of their means in the Sabbath school offering.

Perhaps the most solemn meeting was conducted by Elder Welp Sr. on Sabbath morning. Expressing the loss of his dear wife, who had so faithfully stood by his side through those many years, he could not have selected a more appropriate subject than "Homesickness." Heaven seemed nearer at the close of the meeting. We are homesick for that better land where there will be no more parting. The absence of sister Welp was keenly felt by all, but we know that she is resting peacefully awaiting the voice of Jesus on that resurrection morning. We have been blessed by many precious messages from the lips of our dear Elder Welp since his arrival in America, but many agreed that the words of his message at the last Conference were the crowning words of his career in America.

On Sabbath afternoon we again gathered under the clear blue sky among the towering Redwoods. In glancing heavenward from time to time, one could not help but be moved by the gentle swaying of these trees, the tallest tree in the world and the oldest of all living things. They reminded us of the greatness and majesty of God. In this atmosphere Elder Doerschler brought some words from the Holy Book and concluded by giving some reports from the various lands of the world. He then led us into a praise service which was a real stimulant. The experiences of our dear believers gives us courage to press on in this battle of life.

We must not fail to mention the children's program which was one of the highlights of the Conference. Under the able leadership of sisters Ruth Stabel and Zerita Kramer, these youngsters, our heritage from the Lord, expressed their love to God in the lovely poems, portions of Scripture and songs. Daily classes and programs were conducted for the children during the course of this Conference.

Following the close of the Sabbath our offering was taken for the expense of this Conference. The response was very good and may God bless all who had a part in it as well as those who were not able.

Early Sunday afternoon we conducted a workers symposium and farewell service. We must confess that the meetings came to a close all too soon. With our hearts filled with blessings and praise we could begin our journey homeward. A number could go to the San Francisco Airport and witness the departure of Elder Doerschler. As the last glimmer of the plane disappeared in the distance over the Golden Gate of the Pacific, we could not help but breathe a prayer for Elder Doerschler as he departed on this long journey to Australia. May God richly bless him on his mission there.

In conclusion we must say that the accommodations were convenient and ample, the food fine and everyone seemed to have heeded the words in our invitation to the Conference, "Bring a good digestion, good disposition, good character, and as many good friends as possible." This Conference proved a real blessing to everyone and will go down in our history as one of the best.

E. J. Stabel Secy.

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#### CANADIAN FIELD CONFERENCE REPORT

"Praise ye the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and His praise in the congregation of saints. Let Israel rejoice in Him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King." Psalms 149:1,2.

The days of June 12-14th, 1953 were indeed blessed ones for the believers of Ontario and New York who assembled in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada for the Canadian

Field Conference. From the very beginning of this gathering, to the time when the last prayer was offered at the close of the farewell service, it was a spiritual feast to all. We truly felt the Spirit of God present throughout the services and caught a glimpse of what our heavenly home must be like as we joined together to sing hymns of thanksgiving and praise to our eternal Father.

We were happy to have with us Elder Doerschler and Elder Stabel with his wife and family. It is always a time of rejoicing when the brethren make a visit to Canada. Their inspiring messages from the Word of God were nourishment for our souls. Every service was deeply spiritual and was designed to help all to a closer walk with Jesus.

After the various discourses were given during the three-day Conference, you could sum up the entire session with this theme, "This mighty hour and our relationship to it." The question comes to my mind, "What are we doing for Jesus in this last hour, this mighty hour, this crisis hour?" The gospel must reach every individual on earth who can be saved by it, and this task has been committed to you and to me, His followers. This mighty hour presents a challenge to God's people to finish the task. We must arouse to the work. We cannot delay any longer. The westering sun is sinking slowly from sight. We must employ this last remaining hour in earnest labor.

On Sabbath afternoon a very impressive praise service was held in which many good experiences were related. Oh, that everyone of God's people had some of the trials borne by those who told us of their trials and afflictions. It would truly arouse us out of the lethargy that takes hold of us so easily. Perhaps the part that appealed to me most was the desire of the believers to be used of God as a channel through which the Divine principles of truth may be communicated to those who are in darkness around us.

On Sunday morning we gave our attention to the "business of the Lord." Much as we like to feast on spiritual things, and let our thoughts dwell on heavenly themes, nevertheless it was necessary for us to consider the routine activities of our Canadian Field. In operating an organization such as we have in this present world, there will always be problems to meet, plans to be laid so that our Movement can be kept moving efficiently.

The meeting was presided over by Elder Stabel. Many items were discussed and resolutions carried that pointed forward to a promising advancement for the cause of God in Canada. The Treasurer's report was then read and it revealed that we were operating on a sound financial basis. An important fact that impressed us was that all obligations were met and there remained a considerable balance in the Treasury. We are very thankful for this because as you all know the work of God should never operate in the "red." So we thank our heavenly Father that He has put it into the hearts of His people to willingly sustain the cause with their tithes and offerings.

After the officers for the past year had been released, a nominating Committee was selected. The following report was rendered by the Nominating Committee and was unanimously adopted by those attending:

President: Elder W. Korpman	Canadian Committee: Brethren Korpman, F. Williamson, L. Martinen, J. Baer and E. Hofer.
Secretary: Brother F. Williamson	
Treasurer: Brother Leo Martinen	

Finally the last item came up for discussion. After making our decision we brought our business session to a close. Earnest prayer was then made that the Lord direct and guide the work to greater prosperity.

The time came all too soon for us when we had to separate once more to our various homes. This always brings regret and sadness. These special gatherings bring to my mind the wonderful invitation of Jesus to "come" and "rest awhile." Now our season of refreshing is over. So with renewed courage the believers in Ontario and New York have taken up their allotted tasks with determination to finish the work so that Jesus can come. Dear friends, we invite you to join with us in carrying forward this great work of Reformation. Our greatest joy in heaven will be to see Jesus and the next greatest will be to have an individual clasp our hands and say, "T'was you who invited me here." Our Conference came to a close and as we turned homeward it was with the conviction that God's hand was leading His people on to victory. For this we thank God and take courage.

F. Williamson, Canadian Field Secretary

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I M P O R T A N T A N N O U N C E M E N T

At our recent Conference there were some changes made in the addresses of the Literature Office and also the Treasury. The following notation will give you the correct, present address of the Union Office, Literature Office and Treasurer.

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY  
S. D. A. REFORM MOVEMENT

North American Union: Denver 6, Colorado  
P. O. Box 51, Capitol Hill Station

Correspondence intended for the North American Union, also orders for literature, should be addressed as above. Remittances covering tithes, offerings and orders for literature should be forwarded either by Bank draft or money order, and should always be made out in favor of the International Missionary Society. (Address as above.)