

FORTY

YEARS

FORTY YEARS! On July 22nd 1975 the "Prayer Suggestion Paper" completed forty years of issue, this medium which was begun to stimulate our prayers for one another, and our praises for the Lord's good hand upon us, and to help us to keep in touch with one another although scattered about in various parts of this country and the world.

FORTY YEARS is a long time, and much has happened during this period, and these papers, (if you have them all, as I have), are a history stretching back to 1935, recording births, deaths, marriages, saints coming into contact and happy fellowship, and also by reason of names that appear no more, of fellowship which has not been maintained. A record of service for the Lord, and a continually widening sphere of interest.

There is sadness, there is joy; the record is one of discouragement and encouragement, as one would expect in **FORTY YEARS**. There is the obvious shift of activity and blessing, whereas there was much to report in early days of the Lord's work in this land and Europe, now the emphasis is on that which the Lord is doing with our brethren in distant parts, most of the dear faithful men and women whose names appear in earlier years are now with the Lord, and sad to say few have taken their places, that is here in this land. The greater number of faithful ones we are now in contact with, are overseas, and this may be the pattern of the Lord's work in general in our days.

I suppose one cannot think of **FORTY YEARS** without various Scriptures coming to mind as, "Your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years". "For the Lord thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hands, He knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness; these forty years the Lord thy God hath been with thee; thou hast lacked nothing". "And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep His commandments or no". "Forty years long was I grieved with this generation and said It is a people that do err in their hearts

and they have not known My ways". "About the time of forty years suffered He their manners in the wilderness".

A few of us, like Caleb, can look back over the FORTY YEARS, because we still live, when mostly all who were with us in 1935 have gone, but are we able to say truly as he did, he "who wholly followed the Lord his God", that we are now ready, despite our age, in dependence on the Lord, to drive out the enemy, and possess our possessions?

Is our story like the FORTY YEARS of Saul's reign or of David's kingdom, or the FORTY YEARS of Solomon's reign? FORTY YEARS in each case, but vastly different. Two begin well and end sadly, the other continues despite failures, faithful to the end.

The verses that mention FORTY YEARS are certainly meant to speak to us. There is much in them to cause us to wonder if they have any relevance to the past FORTY YEARS of our experience, as we remember all the way that the Lord our God has led us these FORTY YEARS, and the years before that. There is no doubt that "we have lacked nothing", the Lord has not failed us, and never will. But has His proving of us these FORTY YEARS made clear that we delight to keep our Lord's commandments or not?

The end of the FORTY YEARS in the wilderness brought Israel into the land flowing with milk and honey. If only at the end of our FORTY YEARS we had such a prospect! But is there any reason why we should not be entering a period of rich blessing? If we are not going on into fuller experiences with the Lord, and of possessing our possessions, and walking in His ways, then the way ahead is indeed bleak! But should we not endeavour, by grace, to go forward, forgetting what is behind, and stretching out to that which is before, for the coming of the Lord draws nigh!

CHAPTER 1

So let us look back over this period. Much could be written of what happened before in the years prior to July 1935, but we will begin our review from the advent of this paper which was then called "Suggestions for Prayer". A copy of the first issue follows on pages 3 and 4.

MR. HEWARD AT GLENSFORD Monday evening (22nd) to see all the Lord's people there, regarding assembly arrangements and fellowship

HOLIDAYS UNTO THE LORD. Any other brethren who can devote their holiday time in service unto the Lord, are asked to mention this for fellowship in prayer.

MR. HOWE at Liege, Belgium, Monday to Friday (29th July to 3rd August), and at PULLIAM for the Lord's Day after.

MR. MARSEALL AND FAMILY to be in London with us for several days from the 27th.

BUSINESS DIFFICULTIES among the Lord's people call for our most definite prayer. Problems are getting very serious in the lives of some. Special prayer meeting has been suggested. Messrs. De Gabrielle, Clark, Ives, Willerton and Piper to be specially remembered. (PRAISE that Mr. Hills has change of situation - definite answer to last week's prayer).

LORD'S DAY MORNING MEETING at Forest Gate - suggestions are welcome as to further study for the first part - shall Genesis be continued, or another Book, or a Subject? (Pro tem - Dagcai)

THURSDAY EVENING MEETING - Shall this continue as a conversational meeting, or a series of Addresses on special subjects taken?

Pray for MR. BAVENSTOCK, and the meeting at GUILDFORD on Wed. (24th)

The Lord is continuing to bless the work at STOCKPORT in the Tent. Pray for MR. ELLIS, and also for the work in DADFELD.

There will be a GERMAN MEETING on Saturday next (27th) at 6 o'clock (at Forest

Gate), and all who know German are welcome. Another meeting on Monday week (29th.)

MR. CEARPELL seen during the week; values our prayers.

Mrs. Linale - sisters are having conversations with a view to fellowship

Mrs. Davies is seeking fellowship

Mrs. Thirby is now living in South London, and is desiring to be gathered with the Lord's people at Jerningham Road.

A welcome to Mr. Bell (Darlington) among us.

Encouraging letters from Latvia (Messrs. Zinger and Odins), also from Mr. and Mrs. Stockford.

You will notice the first item which is such an encouraging beginning, when the meeting at Glensford was seeking to walk in New Testament principles. Also our brother W. Ellis was working with the tent at Stockport, and so a work was beginning there. Could there be a better starting point?

The economic state of the world in the 30's is reflected in the mention of various brethren being out of work, something which is repeated many times in later issues.

In the second issue there is the reminder of the gospel magazine "Testimony of the Truth", each page having a gospel message in a different language, and a page with a gospel verse in 10 or so languages, which was my privilege to prepare. Also a new booklet in Maltese was being prepared, which was posted away week by week to Malta, to addresses on their voters list.

No 3 mentions the German magazine "Gedanken an Gottes Wort" ("Thoughts") which our brother E.A. Werner was issuing as and when possible.

On the 12th August a mention of progress at Stockport and our brother W. Ellis looking for a house "expecting an assembly in the district", also a note re Calgary, and refreshment among our brethren there. We are also 'introduced' here to the work in Poland, which had been going on steadily, and our brother M. Waszczuk seeking permission to print literature, and also of our brother M. Ruda getting his passport, to engage in this work.

The fifth issue reminds of the Nazi regime and the problems for our brethren in Germany, our brother E.A. Werner being called to the police station, and two other brethren released and charges dropped. Sadly we shall hear more of this as we continue our story.

The issue of 16th Sept. (No. 9) adopted the present title "Suggestions for Prayer with Thanksgiving".

Issue No. 12 reminds of needy Luxembourg, the only land in Europe with no gospel witness. Our brethren Edward and Riisnaes were there and after gospel witness in several towns and villages

returned to Luxembourg city only to be detained by the police and then conveyed over the frontier. Our brother Mr. Heward then went on to Germany and Poland, which he was continually doing.

No. 15 carries the news of our aged brother Wyatt Turner being called Home. What a grand old saint! He catered for us at '61', with affection we remember him!

Nov. 11th 1935 (No. 17) Mr. Heward writes from Poland, and reports after the meeting "a dark walk back over the bog, and sleeping in the hay albeit cold". "Helped in sleeping although in the cold, and then the long cart journey in the early morning freezing air. We felt the strain...at the evening gathering possibly 200 from district around, many young people, many unsaved..." A fortnight later Mr. Heward was in Latvia.

No. 26. 19th Jan. 1936 reports that our brethren in South London were moving their meeting from Jerningham Road to 217 Brockley Road, which was our brother A.W.Howe's home.

3rd May '36 finds Mr. Heward again in Poland and going on to Latvia.

No. 44 mentions our sister Miss Hutter (Nelson) for the first time and her problems with the Trade Union which she was being pressed to join. A matter which comes up again later on. And has been a problem various ones have had to face.

No. 47 (8th June) mentions the "Minorities" meeting held in a restaurant, in the early evening, on a Tuesday. Here our brother Mr. Heward addressed us, while the waitress brought around the food we had ordered for our 'tea'. A well attended meetings, by various ones who were not in our fellowship too. (I shall never forget the aroma of steamed haddock and the like, being eaten as our brother gave us wonderful Bible teaching!) These meetings were held for years till the war, and then when we could no longer have that room, because of the air raids, we went to a cafe in Commercial Road, not far away.

In July Mr. Heward was in Switzerland. In August he was at Birkenhead, Liverpool and Stockport. Continual visits to encourage the saints. Besides that which is not mentioned the con-

tinual witness at home, and in the docks which he visited regularly. I was usually with him on Saturdays, visiting ship after ship, and he using language after language, and giving out literature in each.

No. 69(Nov.'36) tells of our sisters Mrs. Perry and Miss Perry moving to Brockley. Thus bringing to an end a long period of service to us all at No. 8 Studley Road, a few doors from the meeting room. Mrs. Perry's home was where the sisters went for meals on the Lord's Day, and from whose hands came the food for the brethren to eat at '61' on the Lord's Day.

No. 85(1.3.37) recalls that never to be forgotten Lord's Day when our brother Mr. Moffat read the Psalm 29 which ends "The Lord will bless His people with peace" (in the morning meeting). In the afternoon he walked over to Hornerton (nearly 5 miles) to visit his mother in hospital. We gathered for the breaking of bread in the evening, as usual, but there was a strange feeling of 'tension' during that precious season. When it was time for Mr. Heward to give the first address, he instead read from two Scriptures, one I remember was 2 Corinthians 1, and then announced that our brother Mr. Moffat had collapsed not far from home, and was with the Lord. What a shock that was to us all, to be so suddenly parted from such an earnest, and loving brother!

No. 90(5.4.37) Mr. Heward in Switzerland after being in Germany. At Grossburschla 55 hours were spent together with believers in conference.

No. 92 reports that our brother H.A. Werner was not getting letters posted to him, and there were prohibitions as to his business.

No. 100(14.3.37) Mr. Heward was in Antwerp 14th, Dortmund 15th, 17th Kaunas (Lithuania) and then Latvia. Reminding again of the witness carried on in these pre-war years, seeking to be a blessing in Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Poland, Latvia and Lithuania. Visit after visit was made.

No. 102)23.6.37) Further news from Germany. The authorities have decided to destroy our brother's literature. Indicating the trials our brethren experienced during the Nazi period, which

were to intensify.

Also we have a note as to our brother Paul Rosenberg and his wife, having a little son. They had left Poland for Argentina, and were serving the Lord there.

Nos. 162,163 (August '38) carry significant items which would not have been realized then. "Our heavenly Father granted me a visa (one year) for Latvia and Poland...It seems I should seek grace to start in September" P.W.H. (Our brother never needed another!) Mr. Ruda received his Lithuanian visa for ONE year also!

No. 164(4.9.38) Our brethren A.W.Howe and J.F.Williamson serving the Lord in N. France, and our brother Mr. Pitcher having refreshing correspondence with 'a missionary brother in Syria', the name was not given, but it was, of course, our brother S.J. Duce.

No. 168(3.10.38) brings us to the crisis in Europe and the fear of war, which was averted. But in Germany our brother H. A. Werner speaks of authorities again taking away literature. Our brother F. Oertel in prison because of his testimony.

No. 171(24.10.38) Mr. Ruda in Switzerland. Mr. Heward hoping to arrive in Warsaw on Thursday(after dealy).

7.11.38. Our brother H.A.Werner still free but weak. He suffered with chest trouble. Mrs. Oertel was able to visit her husband. She is free, but prohibited from correspondence.

No. 176 (28.11.38) In addition to Mr. Oertel, Mr. Clasen, Mr. Werner, Mr. Karpfinger and P. Karner and a sister Miss Hutter are under restraint and examination. (2.1.39) These dear ones have been examined and removed to another prison.

No. 182(9.1.39). In Poland Mr. Heward had been unwell but was better. Meetings have been encouraging. On one occasion about 200 stood packed together to hear the word, some were there for two hours or more. (This was to be our brother's last visit to Poland, something he was spared from knowing at this time).

No. 181(23.1.39) Mr. Ruda was going on to Lithuania, Latvia and Esthonia. Mr. Heward had reached Switzerland.

No. 186(6.2.39) In Germany Mr. Clasen released. Several brethren sentenced to between 2 and 9 months. The next week Mr. Karpfinger was released, and four weeks later Mr. Oertel was free, but denied correspondence.

No. 191(13.3.39) Our brother Waszczuk writes of seeking an occupation to support himself, but also (193) of encouragement in Wolynia, where the dear believers were now using the unleavened bread for the Lord's supper.

No. 194(4.3.39) Our brother P. Kammer and Mrs. Werner expected out of prison this week.

No. 210(24.7.39) Mr. Ruda going on to Latvia 3rd August.
No. 212(7.8.39) Our brother H. A. Werner should be free this week.

No. 231(21.8.39). Mr. Eward hoping to go to Belgium and two days in Luxembourg, which was not possible, because of the outbreak of the war.

Also the report of our brother P. Rosenberg in Buenos Aires very low with kidney trouble.

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CHAPTER 2 The War Years

On the Lord's Day morning 3rd September 1939, as we began our meeting, the Prime Minister was announcing war with Germany, and minutes afterwards the air raid sirens sounded, reinforced by the hooter of the laundry across the road. Some feared the air would be full of death-dealing bombers, as had been promised, and there was a measure of consternation as to what should be done, so some believers decided they should go home at once, and we who remained continued the meeting. The all-clear sounded soon after, it was a false alarm. Poland had been invaded, and as far as we were concerned news from Germany ended for five years. Various things we learned afterwards, and the last letter to get through was from our sister Mrs. Werner to say her dear husband was home again.

News from Mr. Ruda and Mr. Sofer and family was possible for a little while as they were in Lithuania, but the letters were slow in coming, but here our brethren were 'trapped'. No. 229

(11.12.39). They were living in one room to save fuel (there being no coal), Mr. Waszczuk and family were still in Kobryn, and had another little son David.

No. 218(25.9.37) Paul Rosenberg writes from hospital.

No. 231(25.12.39) Our brother S.J.Duce with us for the first time, on the Lord's Day.

No. 233(27.5.40) Mr. Ruda and Mr. Cofer write of refreshing opportunities for the Lord, still in Lithuania.

Paul Rosenberg has had his fifth operation.

No. 257(24.6.40) Our brother M. Arend, being of German nationality was arrested and taken to the Isle of Man, but after representations was released.

No. 267(2.9.49) Mr. Ruda writes (via U.S.A.) they are selling printing equipment, as we are not able to get any gifts to them now. They have no news of Mr. Waszczuk. Indeed we have had no more direct news of this dear brother since, 35 years later! His part of Poland is now in the U.S.S.R.

No. 270(23.9.40) The meeting room windows were blown in by bomb blast. Incendiary bombs fell at our brother Mr. Riisnaes', soon put out. Mrs. and Miss Perry had to leave their home temporarily owing to a delayed action bomb.

Nos. 271 & 272. "Our brother S. Nicholls and our sister J. Humphreys look forward to being united in marriage on Saturday Oct. 5th". But on the night of the 4th a bomb completely demolished the house and both Joyce and her mother were taken to bed with Christ. There was no marriage, but a double funeral on the 10th. "HIS way is always perfect" is our brother F.W.Heward's comment. Our brother S. Nicholls in the same house, came out alive. And the Lord graciously preserved us all through all the war time troubles, but these two sisters.

No. 275(4.11.40) Mr. Heward at Cheddar, Bristol, Cardiff, - continual visitation and service uninterrupted by war. And indeed it is refreshing to read of all the different ones travelling all over the land to encourage other saints. Such names as Mr. McComb, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Lowe, my father S.A.Bown, Mr. Kirk and

so on, their names keep on appearing. What a lot was done in those days by so many.

No. 276(11.11.40) The Lord's Day evening meeting is now at 4 o'clock. Most did not want to be out when it was dark, because then the air raids began.

This issue reminds of our brother W.H.Sale's little daughter Ruth being called away(at Ullesthorpe). She had always been weak. Our brother A. Brand took the little service at the cemetery. I remember going up that day. No trains were running from the terminus, so had to go out to Harrow, and then coming home, the darkened train stopped as German bombers were overhead, on the way to some big town. But eventually we got slowly back to London.

No. 231(16.12.40) Mentions the witness in the air raid shelters. One was in the new underground railway tunnel which had just been completed,(but the war had interrupted laying the rails) not far from here. This had been made into a shelter with bunks down the middle. Quite often Mr. Heward and I and others walked right through giving out tracts and talking to the people of whom almost lived down there. I had been issued with a 'tin hat', for my work, so I used to take that and felt no qualms walking through the streets when the tremendous anti-aircraft guns were firing. But what went up had to come down, and all manner of jagged bits of metal would fall. I well remember on one occasion Mr. Heward suggested we stood up in a door way as it was dangerous. But we alwys continued this work. And when the prisoners of war arrived, we visited their camps too.

In February '41 we had the news that our brother M. Ruda had arrived in Australia from Lithuania, taken by the British Government, across Siberia.

In April the house here in Forest Gate where our sister Miss Elsey lived was completely demolished by a bomb, but she miraculously came out of the wreckage.

In June 1941 our brethren Paul Rosenberg and F.A.Franco began the Spanish magazine "The Doctrine of Christ".

In January 1942 our brother T. Green was walking in the street, and was called suddenly Home. And in February our aged

brother A. Brand went to be with Christ. "A brand plucked from the burning," as he liked to describe himself.

In this month too we heard from our brother E. Lutz in Switzerland that our brother H. A. Werner (Germany) was in a sanatorium for his lung trouble. He also gave the sad news that our young brother Paul Kanner who had refused military service there in Germany, had been sentenced to be shot and died in June 1941. One of his last letters reads -

"Dear ones all,

In the beginning of my believing life I learned a hymn, the first verse of which I loved and often sang,

Ach wie gern will ich dies Leben
Wenn es meinen Gott beliebt
Willig in den Tod hingehen
Ein darüber nicht betrübt,
Denn ich hab in Jesu Wunden
Ein weit höheres Leben funden,
Und ich werde allezeit
Bei Ihm sein in Herrlichkeit.

Now that will be fulfilled. Because of refusal to bear arms, I have been condemned to death by the Reichkriegsgericht, as are all who do so. The Lord gave me much grace. So accept thanks for all your loving companionship, for when you read these lines my body will already be in the earth, but my soul with the Lord. So again my heartiest greetings to all,

Yours Paul Kanner

Thank God for those who were faithful to death.

A free translation of the verse above is

O how gladly would I this life
If it is pleasing to my God
Willingly lay it down in death
Feeling not the slightest care
For I have through Jesus' wounds
Found a far far higher life
And I shall for evermore
Be with Him in glory bright.

In January 1943 my father, S.A. Bown, was faced with the Trade Union 'closed shop' situation, and the men refused to work

with him. So he was sent home. It 'happened' that the chief engineer of London's Underground railways then, had been previously my father's district engineer, and so knew him. He tried to get him to join the Union, but of course, this had no effect. There were consultations with the Union and at last in May, although the Union had made it a condition that my father was not to benefit in any way, he was offered a staff job, on testing etc. a salaried position. So the Lord cared for another one who was determined to be faithful. He did not lose but gained!

In August 1943 our brother S.J. Duce was working in Lebanon, and hoping to visit Transjordan and Palestine.

Also in this year on 16th November the "Minorities" meeting was transferred to 18 Little Britain.

On the 8th our brother J. Kasser was called home, after a long period of illness. A brother who sought to witness at all times. A barber by trade, not a brilliant speaker, but one who did what he could to encourage. He liked to attend auctions, and so when we were binding up the new hymn books, he had some leather which he donated so that a good few books had leather covers.

In December of this year our brother F.A. Franco gave up employment, to devote all his time to the Lord's work, and in March 1944 moved up to Corrientes where he stayed till today.

January 1945 began with the sad news that our brother M. Buda had severed connections with us to meet with "Exclusives" there in Australia. This was another of the severe shocks our brother P. W. Heward had to endure, what heart-breaks those who serve the Lord faithfully, have to endure at times!

But also in that month we find the believers at Mansfield looking for a room to begin Scriptural gatherings. In that month too our brother Paul Rosenberg got permission to visit Canada and U.S.A and was looking forward to a long cherished wish to meet saints in England face to face. (Which did not materialize) Our brother also finished his translation of the Psalms into Guarani in February. Also in February there came the great news that 15 believers had been baptized in Corrientes, including our brother F.A. Franco's elder children, Lydia and Samuel, and believers were also gathering for the Lord's Supper in Resistencia.

We heard too that in March the believers in Jamaica had taken a stand as to the Lord's Supper, which meant separation. This faithfulness has continued to this day. Praise God for such continuance in well doing!

The last note as to war conditions was on the 19th March 1945 when a rocket fell at the end of the Lord's Day evening meeting, doors and windows were shattered, but only two or three sustained cuts.

CHAPTER 3

In February 1946 we had a letter from our brother H.A. Werner reporting that most of the believers known, had come through the war years, and that his three children "seem to be rejoicing in Christ's salvation".

In July our brother Mr. Heward was able to start again his continental visits, first in St. Gallen, Switzerland and then two full days in Paris.

In August our brother W. Ellis was visiting and witnessing in Ireland, and our brother P. Rosenberg had reached Calgary.

In September Mr. Heward was in Belgium and found that the proprietor of the hotel where he had stayed before, had still the 17,000 tracts! Safely kept all through the war years.

November saw four baptized at Mansfield, and 14 gathering there as a house of God.

In January 1947 because of the food shortages in Germany, we determined to start sending food parcels, and our brother Mr. Durrell undertook the work of sending vitamin parcels. Our brother Paul Rosenberg called on his way back at Corrientes, and then went on home to Montevideo.

In June of that year our brother M. Waszczuk wrote to our sister Mrs. Stockford (Calgary), valuing prayer for his dear wife's health, and confirming that our brother I. Sofer and all his family had been killed. Mr. Heward was also in France and Belgium during this month, and

was hoping to get into Germany when allowed.

In July Bank of England gave permission for gifts to be sent to S. America. Also in this month our brother S.J.Duce was here in London. While our brother H.A.Werner was in bed with haemorrhage, and Mr. Heward was again in Switzerland and Paris, and in December permission was at last given for a short visit to U.S.Zone of Germany.

In April 1943 our brother Mr. Heward was able to go to Germany, where he had happy fellowship, but as most know as he came home, and was doing on the Underground, some one stole his case (3rd May), pneumonia set in and on 6th at 11 p.m. he went to be with Christ. ^{tell} Who can what this brother's long and faithful ministry among us has accomplished in us? Our brother's report, his last, was as follows -

Dear fellow believers,

Greetings "in Christ",

I do rejoice that we can truthfully and happily write thus. I know that you will be lovingly waiting with prayer, a little record of some first experiences in Germany and among many dear Latvians after the war. One cannot condense all, O that our Father may give me wisdom to record what will truly help praise and prayer. We can praisefully record His love, and strength, physically, spiritually, in weather circumstances, and ever open doors. I have proved His faithfulness. The mistakes have been mine, not His, but He does not harshly chide: He knows our heart longing, and grace, and forgiveness, and the enabling of the Holy Spirit are precious.

Dear Daniel Werner met me at Stuttgart, and I can thankfully tell you of a definite and refreshingly bright work in all the (now grown up) children of our dear brother and sister H.A. Werner. As to believers generally, I have only been in American Zone (and briefly in French), this time, and most whom we know are in British or Russian Zones, so many of the 'contacts' are new. I longed to see how God's own deep work was manifested after the war among all classes, and I must say that in Württemberg I find a refreshing attitude, and desires after the Lord, even among still more or less, in the 'Landchurch' as it is called (Lutheran Reformed).

There exist groups of earnest believers who meet in the week for Bible study, and spiritual affection is seen. Their stress on the blood of Christ, the new birth, and holiness is evident. Two or three dangers are evident (a) ruts, (b) over emphasis on some past 'pietist' writers, (c) and, as in other parts, the Universal reconciliation theory is sometimes under the surface, though I had to warn of the Concordat Version, which is linked (unknown to most) with attacks on Christ's Deity. The days have been very full on the whole, and with little general tract service because of the many meetings, small and large. But the Lord has given time for quietness. If you ask for some of the privileges that are outstanding in my experience I would say, (a) The loving attention of all, and the large number coming together, even in a village, (b) The remarkable interest of the children in Dernhausen and Wilhelmsdorf (and the respect for those who care for them); (c) The very refreshing opportunities in speaking for the Lord in five Lettish centres, and visiting families. There we found some used to plenty and good houses in very straightened accommodation, but there is cheerfulness in 'freedom'. Poor Latvia! I rejoiced to be in our brother C. Zingers family, and see their love and zeal for the Lord. Do pray for their aged mother, ill. (d) The privilege in hospitals.

Now I must speak more of Maslachmühle and Wilhelmsdorf. Here we find about 5 institutions, for the young deaf, and feeble minded. Germany has always excelled England in prayerful care for such. Dear Mr. Dreher gave me such a warm welcome in II. I was almost 24 hours at Wilhelmsdorf, but we had about 11 classes or meetings. The children were so attentive. The brightness of the weak-minded children and the ingenuity of I ve in training them by devoted believers, many years, for example a paralysed teacher still teaching his class in the Children's Home - all these things make the experience a red letter day in my grateful life. The work here was among the simplest I have visited, and the Pfarrer is not in the Land church.

I was three times in Jewish centres - one Lager, excluding Germans and Americans, was opened in answer to prayer. But in Stuttgart I found the usual lightness, alas, yet in homes we were happily welcomed. Train opportunities must not be forgotten nor the happy seasons at Neuenstein where Elieser still works. In journeying from Wilhelmsdorf to reach Paris there was a remarkable

mistake. Motor and connecting train were late, and I saw Paris on a train and entered, going in the reverse direction. This meant a night at Lindau. After tract service I felt drawn to call on the Pfarrer. He was busy just then, but his wife, very tender, welcomed me in, and it was Bible study evening. They showed me "no little kindness" and lodged me courteously, gave opportunity for ministry (about 25, so grateful), and "laded me with such things as were necessary", though had to leave at 3 in the morning. O for much fruit. The wife is weak and values prayer. (Switzerland and Ermatingen where beloved Mr. Matter was - are quite near, across the lake. Pray for that land too. This shortened my time in Paris. I arrived 6.15 and a meeting was arranged by telephone, and I was enabled soon after 8 and the next morning helped in the markets and in obtaining Scriptures for use in street and train, ere leaving at 11.15. The Lord lovingly fitted things in and I would praise Him, also for opportunities in Calais station, and the boat (the men know and welcome) - a very quiet sea helped me.

With respect to nourishment, I am thankfully surprised at the improvement in U.S. Zone, and in measure in the French Zone, and also to notice that the International Refugees Organization's work for Lettish is better than I would have hoped for, though there have been sad mistakes. The American Care parcels are refreshingly regular for refugees, and your smaller ones (less likely to be robbed) are much appreciated and the vitamins priceless. The Russian Zone rations are hard to tell, for they are good on paper, but fail in execution. I have full particulars of all. Our dear brother Friedrich Certel was able to come thence with two daughters and two hours were happy before the Lord.

Details help praise. In a Lettish camp I broke the left lens of my glasses and wondrously it could be supplied in Stuttgart in a day, and at an insignificant cost. The paper money is plentiful but many things are unprocurable. Food is wisely kept down in price, but only "2 or 3" things are unrationed. Bread is good, potatoes and fruit variable. Clothes are a difficulty, especially for a large children's home, and I noticed the very worn floor covering in the Institutions. Food in hospitals is remarkably good. Transport is bad, but cheap, and the courtesy with which I was offered a seat was surprising. Butamid, and behind, all the energy and bright determination of an energetic race, there are hidden wounds, - the many 'missed' in Russia, the con-

tinued retention there in captivity, the pain of military rule, by other nations, the immense number of refugees to be kept, and the lack of prospect for the German youth in the restriction of activities, and business openings - and only the gospel of the Lord Jesus can deal with these painful though earnestly hidden, sores.

I cannot tell of real difficulties, but long to please the Lord more to the praise of His glory. I shall welcome any questions, and your faithful prayer and loving willingness to spare me for the British Zone also, and I may add there are 17 camps there, and Latvians are much on my heart. I do hope I may help while here, and am thankful for your real help and love. Any questions, please ask; above all, pray.

Yours heartily in our soon Coming Lord Jesus,
Percy W. Heward.

In July our brother Daniel Werner began to reissue the German 'Thoughts' magazine, 'Gedanken aus Gottes Wort'.

In October the breaking of bread began at the little meeting at Hornchurch.

1949

Our brother H. A. Werner wrote in September of dear ones wishing to be baptized in the Eastern Zone, and also wrote of his son Elieser's experience. He was unemployed at this time and was helping a believer in the harvest, and while burning a heap of thistles, caught the whole field alight, which was between fields of standing corn. He laboured strenuously alone, to keep the fire from the corn (in the meantime the alarm was given). But then the fire began to reach the standing corn, and he directed the fire with his last power, between the two fields, and when he was exhausted and could do no more God turned the wind, and the fire was halted, and when the fire officer arrived on his motor cycle he found a large black field and Elieser standing in the middle of it, weeping and marvelling at God's mercy, that worked this wonder in turning the wind. Psalm 107.21-32.

Also in this month on the 12th our brother Paul Rosenberg was called Home, after all his devoted service in S. America. He dictated the following letter 12 hours before his home-call

My most beloved brethren, fellow-labourers, and prayer-partners in Christ Jesus,

I am drawing near towards the end of my earthly pilgrim journey. I am ready to be taken, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course. I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord shall give me. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. for our citizenship is in heaven from whence we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our vile body according to the working whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself.

I thank God for every one of you who so faithfully fellowshiped with me in the labours of the gospel, be it through prayer or giving and receiving, not that I desired a gift, but I desired fruit that may abound to your account. I have received all things which were sent from you as an odour of a sweet smelling sacrifice, acceptable and well pleasing to God.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice.

I am leaving behind my beloved wife and precious Walter and Ruthie, I know they will miss very much their husband and father. I commit them to the care of our heavenly Father, for gold and silver have I none for them. I pray you all to continue to remember my family before the throne of grace, that they may be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let their requests be made known unto God, My God shall supply all their needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Now unto God our Father, be glory for ever and ever. Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

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In October our brother E.A. Werner reports the communist police took all the magazines except one, and on the 25th November, this dear brother, so faithful, was called Home. (How one would like to tell of this dear brother's activity in literature production, and translation, of his witness, of his seeking to be a help to the saints, his sufferings in prison for Christ, his

sufferings bodily. What examples God has given us over the years that we might follow their faith!)

Our sister Mrs. Howe was now very seriously ill with cancer.

In April our sister Mrs. Werner wrote of the hatred she was experiencing in Grossburschla, and was hoping to come over to U.S. Zone to be with her daughter Ruth. Also letters specially mentioned during this month, from our brethren in Germany, giving thanks for the food and vitamin parcels. Our brother Hehde, writing to Glensford said "My wife had a dream and saw the postman come to say we should have a parcel from England, and at 10 a.m. your parcel arrived"!

In May our brother Daniel Werner was visiting in the E. Zone, and our sister his dear mother was able to come to the U.S. Zone. Later in the month Daniel and Mr. Lutz were here at Forest Gate for the Conference.

On July 9th our dear sister Mrs. Howe was called Home at 7.15 on the Lord's Day evening. Another of the faithful!

In September our brother S.J. Duce was at last in Jerusalem after six months separation from his dear wife.

We were also in this month able to send a typewriter and a duplicator to Daniel Werner for the magazine production, which arrived safely.

In December there was a blessed conference at Drümtorf, which I was privileged to attend, and will never forget.

During this year we sent 202 food parcels to Germany from Forest Gate, costing £106.12.10d.

1951

On April 2nd our dear blind sister Mrs. Bishop was called Home, a remarkable sister who brought up two daughters, whom she never saw. One of her hymns is in our hymn book (No.159)

In August the "Monthly Record" was recommenced after a lapse of 30 years! Mr. Weeks started it, I have sought grace to carry it on.

In November our brother S.J.Duce sailed for U.S.A.

1952

Our brother A. W. Howe moved to 171 Jerningham Road, in March so the meetings are here again.

In May our brother S.J.Duce was able to be with the saints in Calgary, and hopes to stay in U.S.A. for a few months, his dear wife is back in Israel, 2nd June.

In June our sister Miss Ruth Werner came over to England to work in a doctor's house, to improve her English, for a year.

Special mention was made of our brother H.A.Brown and his labours in the open air and among the Jews in Manchester etc.

On 30th September Mr. and Mrs. Ellis left for N. America. In December they were with our brother Paul Noble, and then arrived in Calgary on December 5th.

Also in December our brother A. W. Frince was called home, a brother who opened his home for the meetings at Horn-church and did so much to help.

1953

Our brother and sister Daniel and Magdalen Werner are now living and working in Stuttgart(January).

In February our brother W. Ellis reports nearly 8 weeks of meetings in Calgary, and the breaking of bread commencing on the 1st.

In this month too our brother S.J.Duce was back in Israel, distributing gift Hebrew Bibles.

Mr. Ellis wrote in March of being in California and seeing the Redwoods, and the highest tree in the world, 364 ft. high. Then the next week of seeing prune, peach and apricot blossom, and then "But that was not all, soon our eyes fell on oranges, yes oranges where we had never seen them before, yes on trees, that's where they came from before they reach us! Oh how we realize that fruit, spiritual fruit has to have an origin before we can be refreshed by it".

On 30th March our brother wrote on the way to Texas to see our brother and sister Mr. and Mrs. Argue, of "passing through many miles of desert land, such a contrast to the well laden trees of oranges and lemons that we had gazed upon previously. Yet there were possible lessons for example, here and there we saw a group of palm trees looking so healthy despite their surround-

ings. Do we overcome in contrary circumstances? We were attracted to one spot in particular, a house stood surrounded by green trees, an attractive oasis in the desert. How was it possible in such a place? Only by that which caused it being brought by pipe-line from a distance. Oh beloved are we drinking in the rain of heaven, are we receiving heavenly refreshment, is the line of communication clean and clear? If so, will there not be proof of it in ourselves? This world is such a scene of dearth and death...May we manifest that we have life more abundantly"

Our brother and sister W. Ellis arrived safely back on May 4th after their long journeyings.

On the 22nd May, we moved our meetings to a room upstairs at Upton Lane, no longer needing the large room on the street level.

In September our brother S.J. Duce was with us in London, and then left for N. America on 23rd October.

1954

On the 10th April our brother J. Highan went to be with Christ after an operation on the 9th. What a trophy of grace he was. His story has been told elsewhere. Praise God for such conversions!

Early in May our brethren Daniel and Elicser Werner were able to visit in the Eastern Zone of Germany, by motorbike. At Grimnitz there were blessed times with the saints and a short visit to Leipzig was possible, and believers gathered though they had no permission to do so.

In this month, due to new financial arrangements I had to take over the cost of producing and printing this paper without any further help from the funds handed to our brother E. Kirk. How gracious the Lord has been in supplying all needs till now, 1975!

In June our sister Mrs. Duce was here, with little hope of Israel visa being renewed. Sailed for U.S.A 5th July.

Holiday gatherings were held at Brüntorf (W. Germany) when seven dear ones from the East were able to be present. They talked over the food situation and decided that parcels are no longer necessary. They expressed gratitude for all that had been sent and valued continued prayer on their behalf.

In August came news from a German brother released from Siberia that our brother M. Waszczuk was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for preaching, in 1949.

Nov. 1st. "This issue is the 1,000th Suggestion paper that has been issued since it began in July 1935. Has its regular sending forth helped to make us more men and women of prayer?" I well remember a cheering letter from our brother A.W.Howe on this occasion. SCB.

Nov. 29th. Our brother D. Werner now has a printing press and setting machine to print the "Thoughts" magazine in future. Mr. Oertel came over from the East to help get it ready.

1955

In February the German "Thoughts" appeared again in print, after so many copies in duplication.

Also the Spanish "Thoughts" has now been increased to 12 pages.

In November of this year our brother A.W.Howe's health began to deteriorate.

1956

In August our sister Mrs. Franco was very ill with heart attacks and thought she was going to depart to be with Christ, but as they prayed she improved, and in the Lord's goodness she is still with us.

On 28th September our sister Mrs. Pitcher was called Home, a faithful and loving sister, and wonderful example.

1957

From 7th May the Tuesday evening meeting is now at 34 Ludgate Hill.

In November Mr. Oertel received permission to hold meetings after 23 years!

1958

My dear father S.A.Bown was called Home after a period of illness on 2nd January.

In February we heard that our brother E. Lutz (Switzerland) was told by the doctor he needed an urgent operation (cancer in the bladder), but our brother decided against it, and trusted the Lord.

Our brother S. J. Duce writes of opportunities for the Lord in Florida and of our brother A. Vincent spending the night

with him from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. talking over the things of the Lord, before going on to Honduras.

1959

In February our brother S.J.Duce was in Jamaica with our brother C. V. Atkinson.

On 11th February our brother C. Stocks was called Home. He had helped so much in the work at '61' with literature etc.

On 19th our brother A. W. Howe went to be with Christ, after a long period of weakness. A brother specially dear to me. SCB.

On 21st too our sister Mrs. M. V. Thompson (Guelph, Canada) was called away. A 'faithful steward', and one who has been in 'link' in bringing different ones into touch.

In June we moved our meetings into what had been the 'packing room' - a smaller room.

1960

March 14th our brother A. Vincent and S.J.Duce meeting in New York and A.V. goes south and S.J.D. to England.

Our brother and sister S.J.Duce here with us in April. He has a visa for Israel. On arrival in May, told by police only a three month stay and no missionary work. In August our brother here, his wife staying, having a teaching post in Haifa.

On 10th August our sister Mrs. Stockford was called home (Calgary). She and her dear husband had been faithful supporters of the Lord's work for years.

1961

Our brother S.J.Duce labouring in Haifa among the saints but left again on 27th July for New York.

Our brother A. Vincent was visiting in Peru.

1962

April found our brother E.A.Pearce, from Calgary, with us for a short stay.

In May our sister Miss Ruth Werner came to England to perfect her English.

June 3th - Our brother H.A.Brown was called Home, what

a faithful witness he was among the Jews, and at football matches and race meetings, carrying his text banner.

August 25th. Ruth and I were married. The request was then "Remember us in prayer on Saturday - and onwards". We are indeed grateful if you still do!

1963

In May our brother S.J.Duce was here again on a round-the-world tour. In June he was in Israel. July in India, then in Singapore with that company who break bread according to the pattern, 150 were at the Supper in the evening. In Japan in August, two days in Manila with our brother F. A. Arreola and then back to U.S.A.

In July our brother A. Vincent was in England and our brother W. Ellis took him from place to place by car to visit the saints, then he went on to Spain. On Saturday(13th) our brother gave us a report of his journey before he returned to Canada on Monday. A precious opportunity to get to know our brother face to face.

1964

Our brother S.J.Duce's condition began to deteriorate and he had an operation for a lump in his neck, which could not be fully removed, followed by cobalt ray treatment. He planned however another round-the-world trip to begin on 21st Jan.'65.

1965

Our brother therefore set out for New Zealand, and then was in the Philippines for a few days, followed by Madras and Hyderabad in India, also having some wonderful days in Singapore with the saints there. In April he was in Haifa, and in May was able to visit the saints in Germany for the first time. Our brother E. Lutz acting as 'translator'.

It was on the 3rd June that our sister Mrs. Thompson (Eunstanton) was called home, so unexpectedly, as she made a hot drink. How many of us have enjoyed the happiness and fellowship of her and our brother's home.

On 26th June our brother S.J.Duce was here with us in London, and left for N. America on 16th August, and went to see our brother A. Vincent in Stevensville.

1966

In February our brother S.J.Duce had another tumour removed and more cobalt treatment. But in August he set off on another of his round-the-world tours. On 29th we borrowed Ridley Hall in Upton Lane, and had quite a large meeting, with our brother addressing us, and on 29th September, he left for Israel.

It was on 23th November that we had our last meeting at 6 Upton Lane, this was a prayer meeting, and we had our first meeting at 23 Claude Road on Thursday 1st December.

1967

In January our brother S.J.Duce was addressing large meetings in India. He then went on to Singapore and the Philippines. He had much pain in his right side and had a hospital examination, and was advised to go straight home. But in March he was in Australia, but was soon in hospital, had two operations, and five weeks of radio-therapy. Nothing daunted he went on to New Zealand in May, feeling better, and stayed with our brother E. Pollard.

In May of this year(29th) our brother Paul Noble(U.S.A.) who had been a great help in the work for years, was driving his car, pulled up at a red light, and passed from this scene to the glory.

In June our brother S.J.Duce had recrossed the Pacific and was in Calgary with our brethren. In July he was back in St. Petersburg, Florida. In August he was in hospital in a very serious condition. In October he was at home but in bed taking oxygen all the time.

1968

January found our brother S.J.Duce very helpless, yet still thinking of further service for the Lord, and on the 20th June this servant of the Lord who would not give in, was called away to be with his Lord.

1969

It was in April(15th) that our brother W. Gysler in St. Gallen, Switzerland was called away too, he had lived in London till he retired to his native land.

1970

On 27th March our aged sister Mrs. Werner, my dear wife's mother was called Home. What a lot one could write of the lives of such dear saints. It is recorded above!

1971

On the 30th May we recorded a most unexpected visit of our brother and sister F. Oertel to be with us on the Lord's Day evening on a 'flying visit'. After all those years of contact, and then at last we met!

On October 29th our dear brother F. Erett (Glensford) was called Home. We were happily with him one Saturday and the next we were at the 'sowing' of his body. How painful is such a parting, after such long and happy fellowship.

1972

In September (4th) our brother S. Murphy (Liverpool) was called to be "with Christ". What an active witness he was with his text banner, at football matches and race meetings etc. and visiting the hospitals.

On December 30th our brother R.L. Wheeler did not recover from an operation. A brother remembered for his much writing on prophetic subjects etc., and much more.

1973

On 10th April our brother E. Lutz (Switzerland) was called Home after a heart attack. After long years of cancer, with much pain at times, but able in the Lord's goodness, to lead an active life in dependence on his Lord, for daily strength.

And then on 13th May our brother C.P. Bennett went to be with Christ, at great age, but in good health till nearly the end. What a memory for Scripture he had! And chapter and verse!

On 18th August our sister Mrs. L. Mills was suddenly called Home, after a lot of suffering. A sister who had contributed large sums to the Lord's work, and still does!

On 24th December our brother F.A. Franco (Argentina) recorded the fact that he had now been in Corrientes for thirty years, labouring for the Lord.

1974

We learned that our brother H.E. Stubbe (Canada) had been called Home on May 28th. How he struggled on, with right sided paralysis after a stroke, even typing letters with his left hand. How we enjoyed his half-English-half-German letters!

And on 31st May our sister Mrs. Clutton (Stockport) after long suffering, having one leg after the other amputated, was called away to rest.

1975

On March 1st our faithful sister Mrs. G. Ellis went Home, quite unexpectedly. How such encouraging saints are missed!

On July 18th our sister Mrs. Lomas (Stockport) went to be with Christ. Another loving, faithful sister taken from us!

In these latter years I have just picked out an incident or two, as so much is still fresh in our memories. Volumes more could be written, but much is already told in the "Monthly Record", with reports of all the missionary journeys and labours of our brethren overseas. And this is just a quick review of FORTY YEARS, to remind of what the Lord has done, and also to remind us, as we see so many being called away after a life of usefulness, that we remain, and it is our duty and precious privilege, to carry on the work that they have laid down. If we do not, who will?

S.C.D.