

The Sabbath Watchman

Vol. 97, No. 3

Beacon of hope, faith,
and truth in a confused world.

2022
JULY - SEPTEMBER



**Give me understanding, and I
shall keep thy law; yea, I shall
observe it with my whole heart.**

Psalm 119:34.



INTRODUCTION

In the new birth the heart is brought into harmony with God, as it is brought into accord with His law. When this mighty change has taken place in the sinner, he has passed from death unto life, from sin unto holiness, from transgression and rebellion to obedience and loyalty.... Erroneous theories of sanctification, ... springing from neglect or rejection of the divine law, have a prominent place in the religious movements of the day. These theories are both false in doctrine and dangerous in practical results; and the fact that they are so generally finding favor, renders it doubly essential that all have a clear understanding of what the Scriptures teach upon this point.

True sanctification is a Bible doctrine. The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Thessalonian church, declares: "This is the will of God, even your sanctification." And he prays: "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly" (1 Thessalonians 4:3; 5:23). The Bible clearly teaches what sanctification is and how it is to be attained. The Saviour prayed for His disciples: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17, 19). And Paul teaches that believers are to be "sanctified by the Holy Ghost" (Romans 15:16). What is the work of the Holy Spirit? Jesus told His disciples: "When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13). And the psalmist says: "Thy law is the truth." By the Word and the Spirit of God are opened to men the great principles of righteousness embodied in His law. And since the law of God is "holy, and just, and good," a transcript of the divine perfection, it follows that a character formed by obedience to that law will be holy. Christ is a perfect example of such a character. He says: "I have kept my Father's commandments." "I do always those things that please him" (John 15:10; 8:29). The followers of Christ are to become like Him—by the grace of God to form characters in harmony with the principles of His holy law. This is Bible sanctification. This work can be accomplished only through faith in Christ, by the power of the indwelling Spirit of God. *-Marantha*, p. 231.

Ellen G. White.

The Sabbath Watchman

Vol. 97, No. 3

Beacon of hope, faith, and truth in a confused world.

We believe:

- The all-wise, loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ; He is its Owner and Sustainer.
- He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh.
- The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth, convicts of sin, guides into truth, and, when abiding in man, overcomes all unrighteousness.
- The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine; the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform.
- His people, in harmony with God's Word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus.
- Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

THE SABBATH WATCHMAN is the official publication of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Reform Movement, International Missionary Society, General Conference, 625 West Avenue, Cedartown, GA 30125. Phone 770-748-0077 / Fax 770-748-0095 / Email info@sda1844.org / Website www.sda1844.org.

Published four times per year by the General Conference Publishing Department. Printed and distributed by Religious Liberty Publishing Assn. Mail or email subscription orders to 9999 East Mississippi Avenue, Denver, CO 80247 / info@sda1888.org. Annual rate (U.S. funds only): U.S.A.—\$30; Foreign—\$45. Phone 916-765-3389 / Website www.sda1844.org.



1914

THE YEAR OF DECISION— OUTBREAK OF WORLDWAR I— REVEALING THE APOSTASY FROM GOD'S COMMANDMENTS

This year was the most important and decisive year of the Advent movement, and yet the saddest in the entire Advent history.

Beginning with the year 1914 well into our days has this apostasy been going on, and still today this erroneous position is defended.

To the angel (leadership) of the church the counsel is given by the True Witness, "I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyesalve, that thou mayest see."

This counsel was not accepted, and thus the shame was revealed. It appeared that at given times the faithfulness towards the law and Word of God was not kept. Also the testimony concerning "The Message of Reproof to Laodicea is Not Accepted" was disregarded.

In divine foresight the Lord, once more, gave a last warning in the Sabbath School Lesson of August 8, 1914:

"Lesson No. 6

"Duties Towards the Government—
Warnings for the Last Days

"Romans 13: 1-14.

"Question:

"1. "To whom is everyone to be subject?

"Romans 13: 1 first part, Note No. 1

"2....

"3....

Note No. 1: "By subject, be joyfully obedient; follow neither the rebellion of the heathen, nor take up the rebellious spirit of the Jews, for all authority is ordained of God or permitted. His instructions are for a government that exists, may it be what it will. We are duty-bound to obey her in all legal matters.... When the civil government recommends violence to transgress God's law, then we must obey God more than men.... This distinction must be made by the Christian with the wisdom imparted in the different circumstances in life; human affairs are subordinated to the great obligation to obey the law; and even if a law is hard and not sensible, then not disobedience but legitimate protest is the duty of the Christian."

“Right Honorable Sir.”

***“Your Reverence Lord General
and Minister of War:***

“Since often our position in regards to the attitude towards the government, as well as to the general military duty to serve, is misunderstood, and especially since the refusal of service in times of peace on Saturday (Sabbath) is regarded as fanatical, I take the liberty, your Excellency, to humbly present to you the following principles of the German

Seventh-day Adventists, especially in the present war situation. While we

are standing on the foundation of the Holy Scripture and are eager to live up to the principles

of the Holy Scripture,

and for this reason

are keeping the

rest day (Sab-

bath), which

God ordained and

avoid all work on this

day, yet we feel ourselves

duty-bound in this present

serious time of war to oblige

ourselves to defend the fatherland,

and to use the weapon also on

Saturday (Sabbath) under these circumstances. On this point we rely on the word of the Scriptures in 1 Peter 2:13-17:

“Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governments as unto them that are sent by Him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.... Fear God. Honour the king.”

“We have this principle of ours announced to our church members, and besides this

have petitioned all churches to arrange for special prayer meetings to implore God for victory to the German arms. But if it should happen that drafted Adventists refuse the service on the Sabbath or the taking of weapons, we would feel thankful to your Excellency if the appointed subservient commanding offices will be informed of this our principle.

“In connection with this I take the liberty to inform your Excellence that we have placed our sanatorium and our missionary seminar at Friedensau, near Magdeburg, as well as 250 tents erected with a doctor and a number of medically trained nurses for the placement of about 1,400 wounded ones, at your disposal. With the desire that God may give the righteous cause the victory, I have the honor to remain.

Your Excellency’s most humble (signed)
H.E. Schuberth.”

CALL TO ARISE BY ELDER A. STOBBE

In a tract “Call to Arise for the Last Church,” written by the ordained Elder A. Stobbe, who at that time was a member of the Adventist church, but later, because of the apostasy, decided for the Reformation (see Protocol, p.27, original), the events that occurred in the days of August, 1914, and later, are amply illustrated. His presentation show clearly the erroneous position and the falling away from the principles, which resulted in confusion and insecurity with the members. The participation in war, the avocation of it, and the wrong decisions in those days are also the result of the wrong actions in disfellowship from the church those members that stood loyal and steadfast in defending the

truth and its principles, which is explained by Bro. A. Stobbe in his statements. We cite from this Call to Arise:

“... How is it, my dear fellow believers, that God’s people have sunken so deep and are running with Babylon, from which the Lord so marvelously had led us out. (Rev. 14:6-12.) The Lord, since 1844, has rejected Christianity as a church, and is ever since this time calling His children out of this spiritual Babel. Now, if we as God’s children can take part in everything, then we could have remained in Babylon. Let us read in Testimonies, Vol. 6, pp. 9-13, “The Outlook.” He wishes that those that follow his holy instructions, should be separated people.... As we all know, there has occurred a split among the Seventh-day Adventists since the outbreak of the war. One part believes they can go with Babylon, while the other part remains with the three-fold angel’s message, and wishes to remain faithful to God’s commandments under all circumstances, which, according to God’s law and Testimony, alone is correct. On Sabbath, August 1, a unanimous resolution was made on many places not to go with Babylon. Sunday, August 2, a public lecture was held in Bremen-Alstadt by Bro. Staubert (ordained minister); at the close we followed with a short season of prayer, in which Bro. Staubert mentioned among other things that we, as Adventists, had a specially difficult time, since we as God’s children could not kill, as the commandment says, ‘Remember the Sabbath day.’ What was said is, that God would be with us if we would stand faithful to Him and keep His commandments, which the writer of this still believes today, and which he, with many others, has experienced. (Rev.

22:14; Ps. 19: 8-12.) But when during the course of the first week of the war the writing from Hamburg arrived, the churches became confused, the holy law was trodden underfoot, the present truth was placed under a bushel. (Isa. 58:12,13; Matt. 5:15,16; Isa. 40:9,10; Isa. 62:6,7...) If we look at the writing from Hamburg and investigate it with the law and testimony, we can safely reject it, since it is human tradition (well meant), but not found true according to the test of the law and testimony. All doctrinal points, even if they have been embraced as truth, should be brought before the law and testimony; if they cannot stand this test, there is no light in them.

“As mentioned above, to test it means to pass sentence upon it according to the ten commandments and the prophets.

“The sixth commandment does not permit any child of God to transgress it. In the Sabbath commandment we find no clause that we, during these confusions, are freed not to keep it. Now if we take the prophets, besides the testimonies of Sis. White, to hand, we likewise find no evidence that now we may do these abominations. Quite to the contrary, we find terrible threats of punishments if we forsake the Lord our God, disregard His law and even teach others to transgress it, which has been done through the many circular letters by so many of our leaders. I remind of a circular in which is written that it would be insanity not to go along. Gods word says, Blessed are they that keep His commandments (Rev. 22:14), and here in this circular letter it says that it is insanity if one holds solid to the commandments of God now in the wartime. President Bro. M. said among other things, necessity knows of



no commandment, and in wartime one may make exceptions. Minister G. says, We shall not kill the enemy, but only wound him.

DISFELLOWSHIPMENTS FROM THE CHURCH

"It has gone that members are being disfellowshipped that do not wish to fall in line with the new position; thus in Kray the church was dissolved and approximately 40 members were not reinstated, in Essen and Bremen members were disfellowshipped. In Bremen, Neustadt, a church of about 75 members, two members were disfellowshipped by only 13 votes; three weeks later five members were disfellowshipped by only seven votes, without any questions asked!"



German soldiers on August 1, 1914



Newly mobilized German soldiers in Berlin, 1914.



1915

1915 HIGHLIGHTS **ANOTHER LETTER TO THE MINISTRY** **OF WAR**

Seven months had passed since the letter of August 6, 1914 was sent to the War Ministry in Berlin, and the leading brethren had time to reflect and acknowledge that their attitude toward the law of God and the principles of the church had been a great departure from the Lord. But then another statement was sent to the General Command of the VII Army Corps at Dresden on March 5, 1915, and this proves that the leadership continued on in the wrong track that it had taken: "As to the ordinance No. 856 III of February 22, 1915, concerning the prohibition of Adventist meeting in Dresden, the undersigned take the privilege to make the following declaration: 'Already some years ago the undersigned presented to the Military Office the oral and documented declaration that it remains a matter of the individual conscience as to how one should conduct

himself in times of peace toward military service on Saturday (Sabbath).

" 'But at the outbreak of the war the leadership of the Adventist denomination in Germany has, out of their own initiative, furthermore given the counsel to their members in the military draft in the whole country, that they, in view of the present state of emergency of the fatherland, should faithfully perform their citizen's duty to the state in accordance with the Holy Scriptures also on Saturday (Sabbath), as all other warriors do on Sunday. The enclosed copy of the petition to the honorable Prussian Ministry of War of August 6, 1914, may serve as proof. This position, already, taken years ago, is herewith verified and humbly signed. For the European Division, Headquarters Hamburg, Grindelberg 15a, signed L.R. Conradi, President; For the East German Union, Headquarters B-Charlottenburg, Uhlandstr. 189, signed H.F. Schuberth, President; For the Saxon Association, Headquarters Chemnitz, Eschestr. 9, signed P. Drinhaus, President.' "

In May, as already mentioned by Brother Stobbe, the church at Kray was dissolved.

On July 16, 1915, Sister Ellen G. White was laid to rest just when her counsel was being disregarded. We find a parallel in the

death of Samuel: "It was when the nation was racked with internal strife, when the calm, God-fearing counsel of Samuel seemed to be most needed, that God gave His aged servant rest." —Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 664.

On September 21, the Koelnische Zeitung (Cologne News) reported: "Among the adherents of Adventism there occurred a separation after the outbreak of the war. The majority wanted to see the existing doctrine made powerless for the duration of the war, while the remaining part demanded on the other hand the sanctification of Saturday also during this time of stress. The opposing factions finally led to the disfellowshipment of the adherents to the old faith out of the church."

On September 23, the following appeared in the Christlicher Hausfreund (Christian Friend of the Home), the official organ of the German Seventh-day Adventists in the United States: "A Christian cannot at the same time carry the carnal sword of the state in one hand, and in the other the sword of the Spirit; this only an apostate church can do, one that has lost the principles of Christ's kingdom out of his heart and conforms to the power of the state."

"But the Christian, faithful to principle and defenseless fights for 'the faith that once was delivered unto the saints. (Jude 3.) And since he keeps the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, he cannot according to the sixth commandment kill his fellow man; he will rather act on the command of Jesus, to put his sword into its sheath, say-

ing, 'We must obey God rather than men.' Acts 5:29. The defenseless Christian will die for the gospel's sake and receive eternal life, rather than act against the will of God and die nevertheless and in addition forfeit life everlasting."

In this statement the Adventist Church pronounced its own judgment—that through participation in war it has become an apostate church.

ARRESTS OF FAITHFUL CHURCH MEMBERS-LETTER OF W. RICHTER, BREMEN

Oct./Nov. Arrest of Brother Hosfield

Writing of Protest of the protesting Adventists by Wilhelm Richter, church leader in Bremen.

"Since we have the mind of our Saviour to live in peace with everyone, we make the proposal to arrange for a Conference in general where both parties can discuss matters. We appeal to all churches and ministers of the S.D.A in a cordial manner to support this proposal in this important matter of faith and in such a serious time, and with all available strength participate in such a meeting where the well-being and woe of the church can be counseled about. If ministers and leaders should not accept this proposal; if they will not grant us freedom of conscience in matters of faith and safeguard it, then we shall live up to our principles according to the Holy Scriptures, without fearing the consequences and false accusations. Our prayer shall be: 'Lord, give us leaders like Moses, who regarded it higher to suffer affliction and persecution with God's people, than to support Egypt.'

"If they wish to drag us before the authorities, bring us before the Sabbath Schools to recant or to be disfellowshipped, threaten us with withdrawing of the canvassing we shall say with Luther, 'Here we stand, we cannot do otherwise; may God help us! Amen!'"

"In the name of the Adventists of the Seventh-day who pre protesting against human dogmas of faith, as before mentioned, Wilhelm Richter, church Leader of Bremen."

We can recognize from the Protocol of Friedensau, page 14, that the brethren of the S.D.A. did not honor this request, although the discussion of this earnest matter was of the utmost importance.

DECEMBER 1915

The S.D.A. Church published the pamphlet "The Christian and the War," by J. Wintzen, which contained many false interpretations, led many to participate in the war, and no doubt cost many lives on the battlefield. How can the church answer for this? Here is an excerpt from that pamphlet:

"Thus we have shown by all that was said that the Bible teaches, firstly, that participation in war is not a transgression of the sixth commandment; secondly, also, that warfare on the Sabbath is not a transgression of the fourth commandment.

"Whoever asserts the opposite, should bring only one sentence from the Holy Scripture or the Testimonies." (Page 18).

This proof can easily be furnished from the Bible and from the Testimonies as well.

How deplorable it is that the publishers went into such darkness.

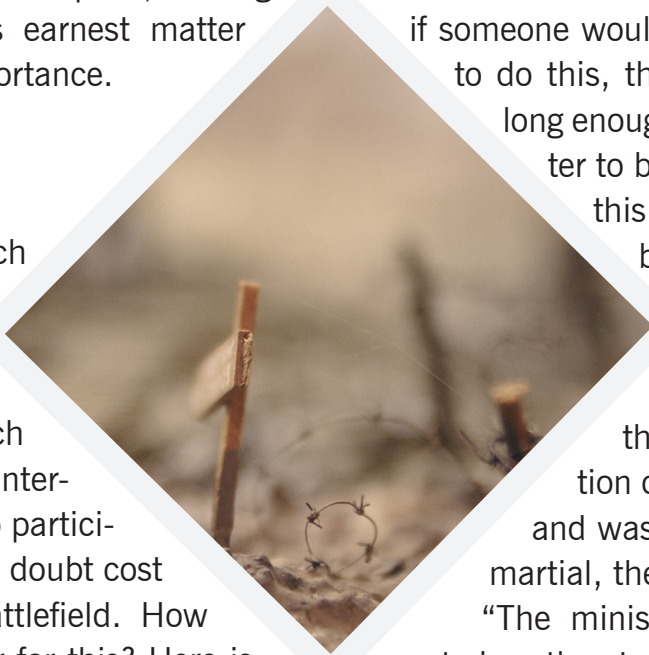
How far things can go when the commandments and God's word are forsaken, is told in Matthew 10:21, 22: "And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death,... And ye shall be hated of all men for My name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved." This has happened among Adventists, as is reported in the following:

"When brethren from the Reform Movement would come, church elders were ordered to hand them over to the police, and if someone would not have the courage to do this, they should detain them long enough for the leading minister to be informed, after which this could be accomplished by telegraph."

In one court session, where a sister was arrested during the war at the instigation of an Adventist minister, and was brought before a court martial, the following occurred.

"The minister had this sister arrested on the street in Cologne and then appeared as a witness in court. It was a court martial, and the minister declared at that time that killing in a war was permitted and that the few Adventists who were of an opposing opinion were fanatical extremists disfellowshipped from the church or had left by themselves. In a second trial, this sister was condemned to nine months' imprisonment.

"In Berlin in 1915, two brethren were sentenced to five years in prison. It was learned from witnesses' accounts that an Adventist



minister, P. St., Bremen, had one of these brethren publicly arrested on the street in Bremen. He accused these brethren before the court as swindlers. But they had been punished because of the Sabbath, and because they would not perform any war service as Christians.”

From the *Erzieher* (Educator), No. 4, 1915, in an article titled “We and the War,” we again see that the Bible text of Matthew 24:20 is wrongly interpreted to justify fighting on Sabbath. We quote the following excerpt: “...In Matthew 24:20, the Lord instructs us to pray that our flight may not be on the Sabbath day. He wants to keep us from the disagreeable things that are connected with such a disturbance of Sabbath observance. But if the necessity arises to flee on the Sabbath or to fight, then the Sabbath should not pose a hindrance to save life, as is taught in Luke 14:5. Is man not more than an ox or an ass?”



THE S.D.A. GENERAL CONFERENCE GRANTS FULL LIBERTY

It is often objected that the position in favor of war was taken only by the leading men in Germany. But the announcement in the *Zionswaechter* (Zion's Watchman), No. 6, of March 20, 1916, p.90, shows differently. The General Conference of the S.D.A. granted to all countries on earth full liberty to adapt themselves to the existing laws (including war), and thus the highest leadership led the work in general and world wide into the apostasy and afterward sanc-

tioned the participation in war by the European Division.

“The Union Committee confesses itself to the Biblical position concerning military service and weapons use as a purely civilian demand, to which the government ordained of God is entitled, according to 1 Peter 2:13, 14, and Romans 13:4, 5. To this position the General Conference Committee also gave consideration by declaring during the session held in November 1915 that it would leave all the different countries on earth full liberty to conform to the lawful ordinances in question, as in the past, so henceforth.”

Wherever Reformation sprang to life, it wasn't long before men arose who brought in erroneous and fanatical teachings to discredit the true cause of Reformation and truth. Martin Luther had to contend with this. (We can read about this in *The Great Controversy*, pp. 190, 193.)

In October 1916, the so-called “Feast of Tabernacle Movement” came into being through a false vision of a Sister Kersting, who invited believers to celebrate their first feast of tabernacles at Kassel. But this was a false cause. According to God's word in Daniel 9:27, middle; Matthew 27:51; Galatians 4:10, 11; and Colossians 2:16, 17, every Bible student will know that the shadow festivals of the Old Covenant ended at the death of Christ.

1918 JUSTIFYING PARTICIPATION IN WAR-SURPLUS CHURCH MONEY INVESTED IN WAR LOANS

On April 12, 1918, the following appeared in the “*Dresdener Neueste Nachrichten*” (Dresden Latest News) page 3: “Adventist Ministers and Fatherland. At the beginning

of the war our denomination divided into two parts. While 98% of our membership took the position on the basis of Bible research, that it was a duty of conscience to defend the fatherland with weapons, and this also on the Sabbath, and gave expression to this position, taken by all of the leaders, to the Ministry of War, 2% did not fall in line with the overall resolution, and finally, on the basis of their unchristian attitude, had to be disfellowshipped. This irrational element made themselves preachers and tried, with little success, to make propaganda of their foolish ideas. They call themselves, falsely, preachers and Adventists. They are not; they are deceivers.

If such elements find their deserved punishment, we count it indeed a favor. Our leadership has up to this day invested the surplus church monies in war loans, in the solid assurance that Germany, with God's help, will come forth from the heavy battle as victor. Everywhere our members share the self-evident duty to give into the hands of the fatherland the needed means. The Adventist men are nearly all in the field or army service, faithfully fulfilling their duties, and except a just estimation and treatment as thanks from the fatherland."

But what actions were taken in other countries, including America? There "...the leadership of our denomination requested not only faithful performance of duty in all other measures in our church publications, but also a general purchasing of Liberty Bonds, as the North Americans call their

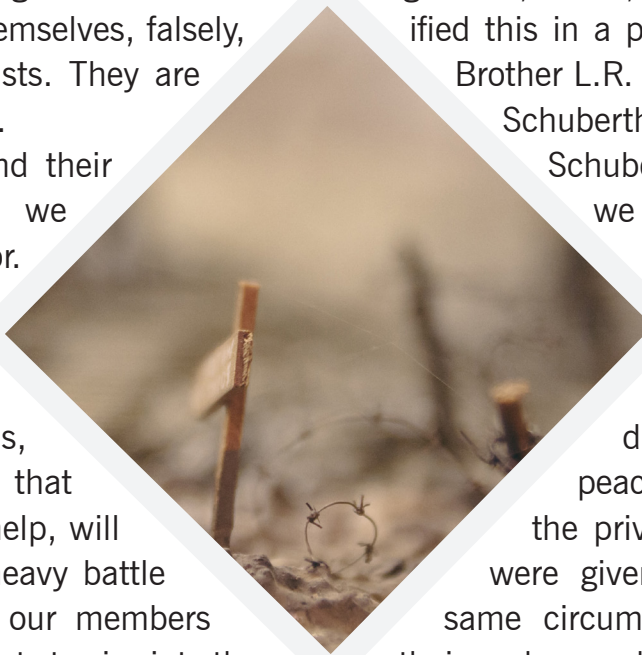
war loans." –*Kein Falsch in Ihrem Munde*, pp. 16, 17, by Conradi.

August 24, 1918. As can be seen from the above statement in the Dresden newspaper, the leadership went out of their way to make their position of participation in war known in the worldly newspapers, by which means the truth of the Bible was maligned and the name of Seventh-day Adventists brought to shame. This was further repeated in another announcement in the "*Berlinger Lokalanzeiger*" (*Berlin Local News*), No. 432, of

August 24, 1918, and the leadership verified this in a published declaration by Brother L.R. Conradi, Hamburg; H.F. Schuberth, Charlottenburg; G.G. Schubert, Munich, from which we quote the following:

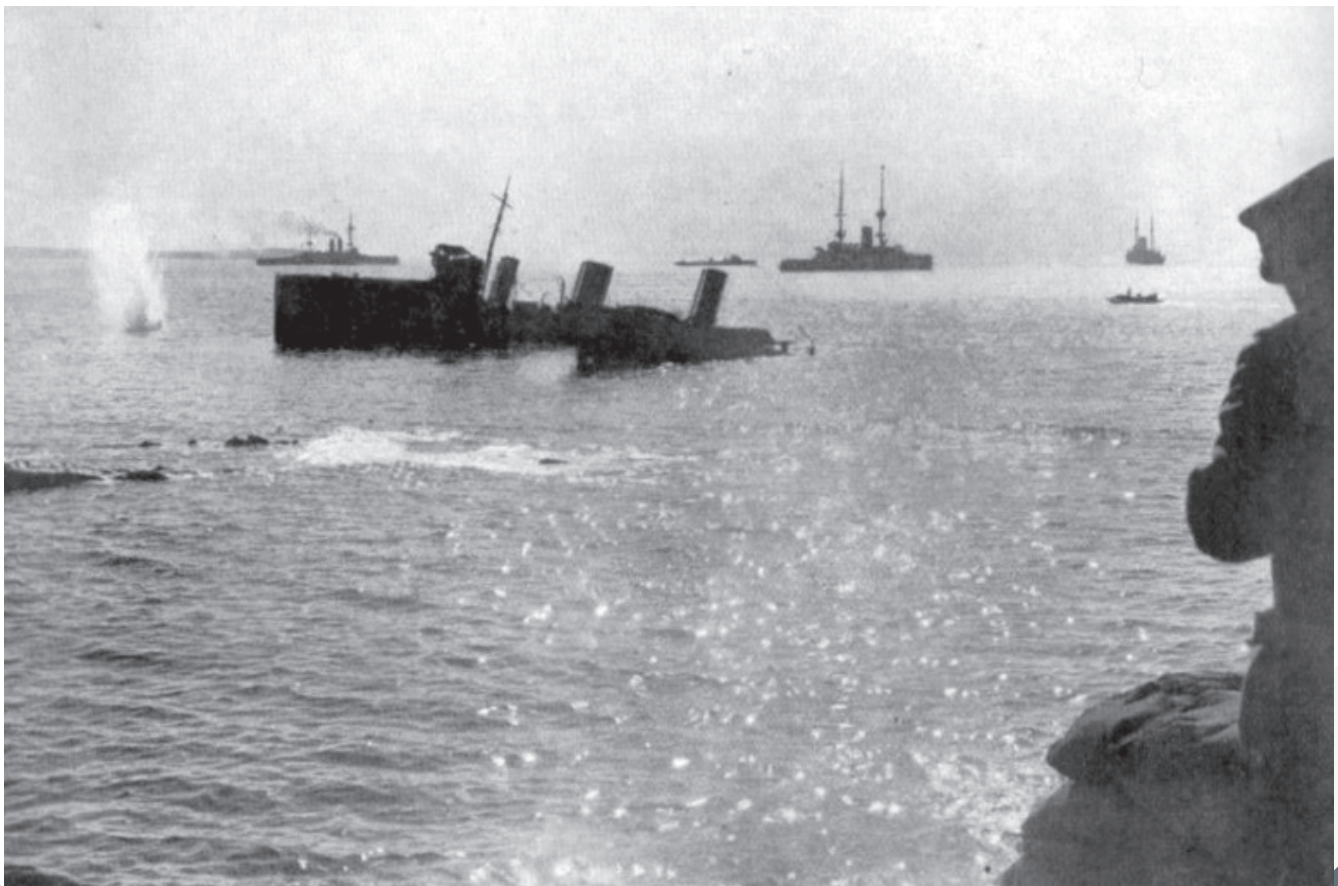
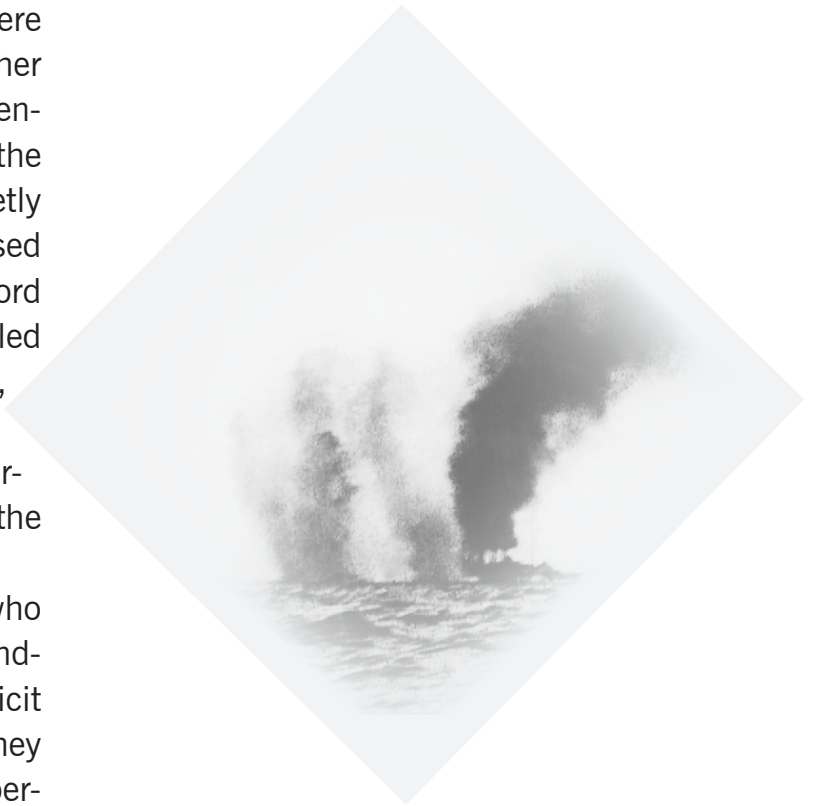
"At the outset of the struggle of nations, the church remained solid on the draft law used in times of peace, and only wished for the privileges, if possible, that were given to others under the same circumstances. Thousands of their male members are standing in the army, many of whom have already fallen on the field of honor....

"Also in regard to distinction and promotion they do not stand behind others.... At the beginning of the war many of their men and women members reported voluntarily for medical service, and the denomination made their vast missionary institutions available as hospitals to the army management. The Missionary Society has also done its duty with war loans. It has also organized a far-reaching war relief for the families of war participants.



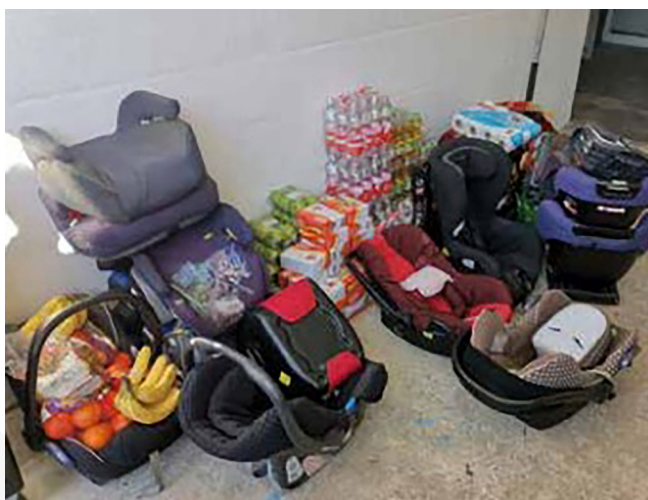
“During the process of war there were also individual members, as with other movements, who neglected to confess openly their conscientious scruples toward the government, but rather withdrew secretly from their duties, and beyond this passed from place to place to cause others by word and writing to take the same steps. Called to account by the church for doing this, they had to be disfellowshipped from the church because of their stubborn endurance in their position and as threatening the internal and external peace.”

It is shameful that especially those who were once commissioned by God as defenders of the truth now yielded and had illicit relationships with the world; also that they presented the members who stood up personally for Christ and His law as disturbers of the internal and external peace!





UKRAINE



Many children - there are a few things to consider.



"We were also allowed to pick up our loved ones.
Praise be to the Lord!"



WORLD IN BRIEF

News



The first group of refugees is picked up in Poland.



Names get a face. Part of the 2nd refugee group.



Ten refugees who are picked up in Berlin.



Taking care of the refugees requires a lot of strength and organizational talent.



The first refugees get an apartment in Mosbach.



This third group came by train to Breslau and was then picked up by cars.



A heart for children: M. Di Franca with her protégés.



The community hall in Mosbach is on time for Sabbath beginning.



The first Sabbath with the refugee siblings.





The transport of relief supplies to Ukraine begins. In the photo: helpers and refugees.



Loading the relief supplies into the car that drives to the orphanage in Ukraine.



The Sabbath
Wachman

July - September 2022
Vol. 97 № 3