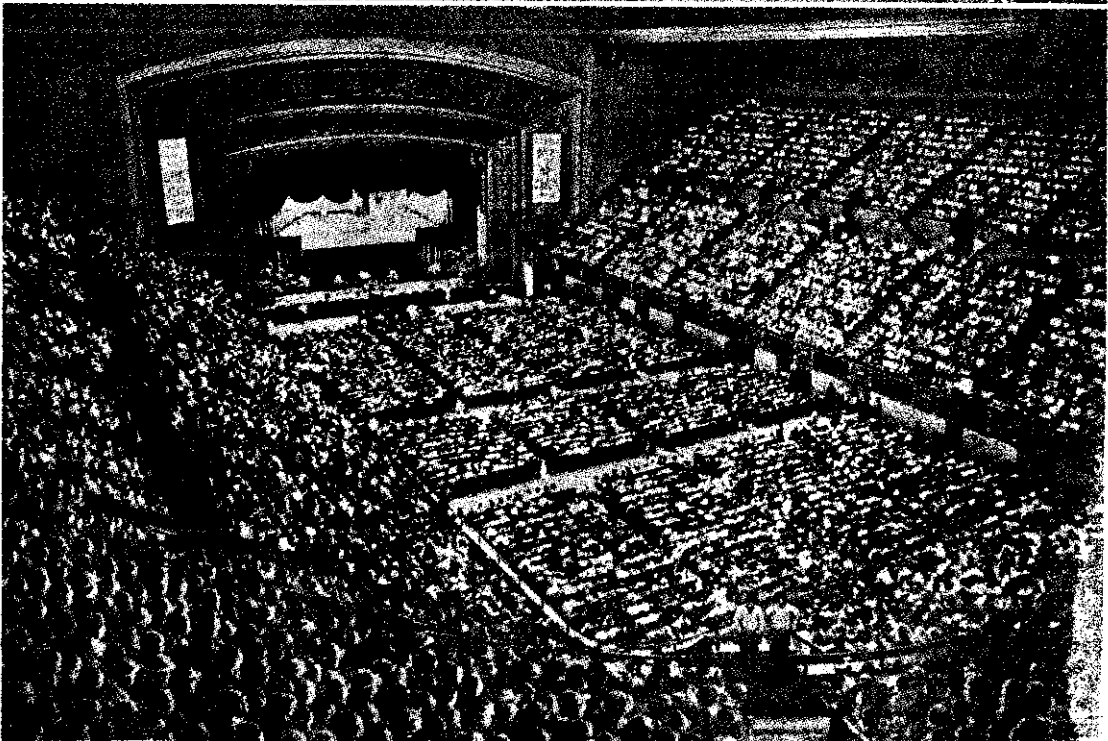


Report of the
"FREE NATION'S"
THEOCRATIC ASSEMBLY
of Jehovah's witnesses



"An Unusual and Outstanding Gathering of Christians"

The yearly convention of Jehovah's witnesses was announced first in April, and was called the "Free Nation's" Theocratic Assembly. Later, *The Watchtower* publicized the Assembly, listing the 100 cities participating in the United States, and also drew attention to its international scope by announcing assemblies in cities in foreign countries. Such an unparalleled Christian gathering vitally concerned all people of good-will. Hence Jehovah's witnesses prepared a special news release, as follows:

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES ASSEMBLE IN 100 CITIES

An International Convention Arranged

During the three days of August 20 to 22, inclusive, there promises to be an unusual and outstanding gathering of Christians. Jehovah's witnesses are again holding their yearly convention. This time it appears to be an international convention, because similar assemblies are being held in the United States, Mexico, Cuba, Brazil, Sweden, and many other countries, so it is reported. In the United States alone there will be 100 conventions convening simultaneously, and at certain times during these three days all the cities will be tied together by private telephone service arranged by the A.T. & T. Co. It is reported, too, that in Mexico 12 such assemblies are being arranged.

The highest executive of this land, some months ago, stated that the spiritual interests of the people should not be impaired, neglected or interfered with during this period of war against totalitarian aggressors. He stated that only certain national regulations be complied with so as not to hamper the conduct of the conflict for the "four freedoms", of which freedom of worship is one. The convention committee says that this matter was taken into consideration in laying out the arrangements for this convention. In view of the conditions prevailing throughout the land, instead of having a general assembly convene at one common point, as they did a few years ago at St. Louis, where there were 115,000 in attendance, this year the Jehovah's witnesses' convention is spread out over 100 cities from coast to coast. Minneapolis, Minnesota, is what they call the key city; and what goes on at Minneapolis will go on simultaneously throughout all the land. With this unique arrangement, the convention committee says, the amount of travel will be greatly reduced; thus not interfering with nor causing too great a load to fall on

the railroads and bus lines. They are now already overcrowded. In most parts of the country conventions are so situated that no one has to travel much more than 50 miles at the most.

On three different occasions during this convention of 100 cities in the United States all of them will be tied together by a vast network of telephone lines. On each of these three days the president of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society and other officials will address the entire assembly from coast to coast. The president of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society will attend the key assembly at Minneapolis, where Jehovah's witnesses are using the Municipal Auditorium. On Sunday, August 22, the widely-advertised lecture, "FREEDOM IN THE NEW WORLD," will be delivered by Mr. N. H. Knorr, president of the Society. Persons in this city will be able to hear this lecture at p.m. in the auditorium, (address). The local convention committee says that all persons who love freedom of worship are cordially invited to attend any and all sessions of the convention. Seats are always free and no collections are taken. The meetings are for the worship of the only true God, Jehovah, and for free Theocratic education. (End of news release)

This release being read over radio stations and published by many newspapers, the curiosity and interest of many persons were aroused; yet their curiosity and interest were not satisfied by a factual report of the happenings at the Assembly itself. This report seeks to satisfy their desire. The pages following carry a condensed survey of the "Free Nation's" Theocratic Assembly.

Our Front Cover

(1) With magazine bags and sound equipment to the fore witnesses about to leave for the field at one of the South African cities. (3) A capacity crowd jams the Municipal Auditorium in Minneapolis to hear the Sunday lecture, "Freedom in the New World," and (2) immediately thereafter happy throngs leaving the building wave the newly released booklet containing the stirring discourse on freedom.

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Report of the "FREE NATION'S" THEOCRATIC ASSEMBLY of Jehovah's witnesses



JEHOVAH GOD is the Master of space. Throughout the boundless expanse of the universe extends his invisible organization, its members numbered by the millions. Inanimate heavenly bodies hurtle through limitless space at incredible velocities, each adhering to its well-defined orbit and maintaining a time schedule unchangeable through the centuries. The great God of order and organization maintains perfect unity in his universal organization, despite its immeasurable vastness. To the reigning, omnipotent God, Jehovah, space presents no problem. —Revelation 19:6.

Then the mere planet-speck in the universe known as the earth could offer no unsolvable space-problem to the Creator. His visible organization upon this mundane sphere must, like his heavenly hosts, operate unitedly to Jehovah's praise, and this notwithstanding the seemingly great earth-distances that separate its members. Jehovah's spirit spans all obstacles of space to effect unity, and through his King Christ Jesus both the visible and the invisible parts of His organization are welded into one harmonious whole. So declares an inspired witness, at Colossians 1:17: "In and through him [Christ] the universe is one harmonious whole." (Weymouth translation) God's Word further emphasizes the close relationship existing between the visible and the invisible parts of his realm where it speaks of "the whole family in heaven and earth". (Ephesians 3:15) Space, yea, even the great difference between physical and spirit creatures, cannot prevent unity within God's organization. Having fulfillment now is His expressed purpose to "gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in the heavens, and which are on earth". Why does he thus "gather together"? "That we [Free Nation members] should be to the praise of his glory." (Ephesians 1:10, 12, *margin*) All the space of the universe, including the comparatively insignificant distances on the surface of the planet earth, cannot defeat this divine purpose of unified assembly for praising Jehovah and his King.

Unity Despite Barriers

Focus attention now to the year A.D. 1943, and consider Jehovah's organization of witnesses upon the earth. Though physically scattered over

the face of the earth, Jehovah's spirit binds them together as one, and the fellowship of Christ unites them. They have assembled unto the Kingdom. (Hebrews 12:22, 23) But the people of God have assemblies that are more visibly evident than their assembly unto Mount Zion. This more literal 'gathering together', however, has the same purpose as the great assembly unto Zion's King, namely, to sing the praises of the Most High. Many of such assemblies have been enjoyed by Jehovah's witnesses in the years gone by, and remembrance of the Lord's bounteous blessings on these occasions lingers. Nonetheless, surpassing all these was the glorious assembly held in this year A.D. 1943.

On this occasion not only were Jehovah's witnesses united by the everpresent spirit of the Almighty, but they were associated together in a more tangible sense also. For three days they assembled in obedience to the Theocratic law: "Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law." (Deuteronomy 31:12) True, not all were gathered at one physical location on the earth's surface. Globe-girdling in its scope was this assembly. In the United States alone one hundred cities were used as assembly points, and added to this imposing figure were many assembly cities in such lands as Mexico, Cuba, Brazil, Chile, Hawaii, New Zealand, Sweden, South Africa, West Africa, and others. But even though scattered throughout the earth, the divers assemblies of God's servants were united, all partaking of the same spiritual food at the Lord's one table, and in the United States the space-bridging devices of telephone and telegraph spread like a great web from the key city and linked together for the three days the American cities in one grand assembly. Just as the lines of communication between the heavenly and earthly parts of God's organization remain unbreakable, though they extend across the broad expanses of the universe, so on occasion the separated congregations in the earth are tied together by communication lines, despite enemy attempts to disrupt such facilities. Jehovah God surmounted the difficulties of space for His people.



A happy group of witnesses from the Northern Transvaal all set for the fray

Freedom Exalted

Not only is Jehovah the Master of space; he is also the Source of freedom. Appropriately, then, this triumphant assembly was called "FREE NATION'S" THEOCRATIC ASSEMBLY. Not democratic, not totalitarian, but Theocratic and FREE is the Nation. Not any earthly nation under the control of the "god of this world", but the God-founded "holy nation" is it. No national barriers or racial differences or separating spaces mar its unity or shorten the arm of its Ruler. The theme of freedom was most timely, in view of the fact that the burning issue before all creation is: Shall the universe of creatures live free in Jehovah, the Creator? or shall it exist slave to the Devil? Creation will not remain part free and part slave, as it is now. This "Free Nation's" Assembly unerringly pointed the way to everlasting freedom, not only from want and fear but also from demon dominion and death. All of the discourses, all of the new releases, everything pertaining to the Assembly, forcefully emphasized again and again the freedom theme; indeed, the "Free Nation's" Theocratic Assembly seemed to actually breathe freedom during those three eventful days. And inasmuch as this atmosphere of freedom was nowhere else so in evidence as at the key city, and since that spot was the hub of the Assembly, from which emanated the keynote address and principal lectures, that assembly city offers the best vantage point from which to view the "Free Nation's" Theocratic Assembly. So let us turn our attention to the key city, Minneapolis, Minn.

It was in the \$3,000,000 Municipal Auditorium there that Jehovah's witnesses met for worship in the key city, and from which the main programs emanated by land wires to the other assembly cities. And it did prove itself ideal for the housing of the convention and all its activities, with but one exception; that was on Sunday at the time of the public lecture, "Freedom in the New World," when even the large, magnificent Municipal Auditorium could not accommodate the

influx of citizens of Minneapolis and vicinity responding to the invitation extended to them, which augmented the throngs of witnesses already in attendance. The many broad corridors and subsidiary rooms accommodated the various departments needed for the running of the convention, such as administrative offices, volunteer service, ushering, rooming assignment, hospital, etc. A large and efficiently-operated cafeteria was housed in the basement Exhibition Hall. The co-operation of the Auditorium management and employees was splendid, and they did everything within their power to make the visit of Jehovah's witnesses with them a pleasant one.

The Assembly Begins

By opening day, Theocratic conventioners by the thousands were in Minneapolis, having arrived via the rail and bus transportation systems that feed into the city. Some reportedly hitchhiked long distances to take in the Assembly from the key-city vantage point. Upward of five thousand gathered in the Municipal Auditorium at 8:30 a.m. on opening day, for the "assembly for Theocratic activities". After uniting voices and hearts in song and prayer, and receiving instructions for field service, the witnesses spread throughout the highways and byways presenting the gospel of the Kingdom from house to house, as did their Exemplar more than nineteen centuries before.

After returning from the field and satisfying their appetites for the bounteous supply of appetizing temporal food served at the cafeteria located in the basement, the conventioners began filtering back into the spacious arena for the early afternoon "assembly for advertising". The numbers of the publicity agents for God's kingdom now augmented by hundreds of new arrivals, this army of advertisers received last-minute instructions for the final push. And it was just that, because the advertising of the public lecture "Freedom in the New World" had been zealously pursued. Several days previously, 701 streetcars and 269 buses began carrying advertisements of

the lecture; taxis and private cars cropped up wearing hundreds of purple-and-white streamers inviting the public to attend the "Free Nation's" Theocratic Assembly. Posted in eye-catching spots throughout the "Twin Cities" were fifty billboard signs. Twelve hundred show-window placards were placed in the display windows of the downtown business section. Adding to this array of mute testimony, beautifully stenciled announcements of the main lecture blossomed forth on the sides of automobiles. Topping all these for impressiveness were the two mammoth banners stretched out on the Municipal Auditorium itself. Nearly ten feet high and fifty feet long, these huge streamers were visible for great distances.

Dominating the advertising campaign, however, were the hundreds of living, breathing, moving "advertisements" that appeared at strategic points on the streets of the "Twin Cities". These were Jehovah's witnesses themselves. Carrying on the front and back of their persons placards informing passers-by of the big lecture, these workers distributed hundreds of thousands of leaflets to the people. It was this part of the advertising campaign that was stressed at the Friday afternoon "assembly for advertising", and it constituted the final push that climaxed a highly successful publicity drive that resulted in an overflow crowd at the public meeting.

The Keynote Speech

But now the time approached for what might be termed the official opening of the "Free Nation's" Theocratic Assembly, previous gatherings of the day being in the nature of preliminaries. After a quarter-hour of songs of praise extolling the great Theocrat, Jehovah God, the 9,000 assembled ones lent their attention to the words of the chairman as he offered prayer and delivered the "Address of Welcome". Shortly thereafter, at 3 p.m., assemblies in nearly 100 American cities were made as one by means of nation-wide telephonic system, and tens of thousands heard an assistant chairman introduce the president of the Society, N. H. Knorr. Welcoming applause greeted the president as he took his position on the beautiful stage in Minneapolis, which greeting was echoed by the eager audiences that were 'listening in' throughout the nation. Settling themselves comfortably in their chairs, a combined assemblage of nearly 60,000 conventioners in the United States gave attentive ear to the stirring speech, "Standing Fast for Freedom." Then the keynote of the Assembly was struck, and the freedom theme that it exalted was repeatedly sounded by all the discourses that followed. Freedom dominated!

"Jehovah God foreknew that there would be born men and women who would desire to be delivered from bondage, not that they might please self, but that they might worship and serve the only true and living God, their gracious Creator." So opened in measured tones the keynote address. Declaring that "Jehovah God is the great Liberator", the president sketched the bringing forth of the Israelite nation from Egyptian bondage as a free people, and the provision of divine law to keep them free, especially from religion's yoke. Jerusalem's departure from Theocratic law, her ensnarement in religion as a result thereof, and her rejection of the Deliverer who only could make her free, were vividly portrayed. Thus having laid a foundation, the speaker focused attention on the present-day perils and issued timely warning of how religionists "use craft and make sly efforts to entrap and bring the delivered one back again into bondage". In ringing tones the key text of the talk was proclaimed, "For freedom did Christ set us free: stand fast therefore, and be not entangled again in a yoke of bondage." (Galatians 5:1, *Am. Rev. Ver.*) Warning of the supernational government that will emerge from the global war, and the pinnacle on which its creators will perch it, to thundering applause he declared: "But, let them build it as high as the tower of Babel, Gods Word yet stands true that only Jehovah God and Christ Jesus His reigning King are 'the Higher Powers' to whom all Christian souls must be subject for conscience' sake." We were made free to remain that way for God's service; hence "let freedom-lovers never drop their guard". The offensive against religion must be pressed without abatement. Illustrating the need for this, the visit of Israel's king to the bed-fast prophet Elisha was dramatically described. The crying need to shoot against the land of demon religion "THE ARROW OF JEHOVAH'S DELIVERANCE", and to smite again and again with the 'bundled arrows' of truth until the demon organization sinks into oblivion at Armageddon was burned into the minds of the Free Nation's fighters as they listened spellbound to this climactic battle cry. Shortly after, the speech was concluded. Enthusiastic applause showed hearty and unanimous acceptance of the keynote address.

The First Release

Appropriately the president was succeeded by the vice-president of the Watchtower Society, who is also its legal attorney, who discussed the subject of "Freedom of Worship" for the remainder of the network hour. Identifying Jehovah God as the Source and Giver of freedom, the speaker then said:



Jehovah's witnesses believe in "Signs"

"Although worldly governments must recognize this right [freedom of worship], they can no more grant to Jehovah's witnesses the liberty to worship God than they can give to God the liberty of receiving such worship. The immortal freedom to preach as a minister of Almighty God soars high above the reach of earthly powers, or decrees. Today, in all the earth, there is but one people who enjoy freedom of worship. It cannot be taken from them. Who are these people? *Jehovah's witnesses.*"

A brief review was then given of the fight waged for freedom to preach, especially since 1933, when "the Jesuits, through Hitler, the house-painter, stole the German government". The fight in the U.S.A. during recent years was depicted. Assaults by mobs, extensive property damage, false arrests, all failed to deter the faithful witnesses standing fast for freedom. Court cases were fought all along the line, and many victories given by the Greater Jephthah. "Greatly out-numbered, with demon hosts driving the municipalities on to assault God's people throughout the nation, Jehovah's witnesses stood firm." Through court victories, particularly in the Supreme Court, it was shown how the Lord had caused the protective walls, misapplied ordinances and mischievously framed laws, around the viper religionists to fall flat, leaving them exposed to the barrage of Bible truths. Then, after repeating the warning sounded by the president in the keynote speech concerning the encroachments on freedom of worship by the beastly postwar "new order" government, the speaker said:

"There can be no peace between Jehovah's Theocratic organization and the Devil's organization. Jehovah's witnesses will continue to fight to establish freedom and push the battle to and through the gates of every nation under the sun. They will do this until freedom to worship Almighty God has been established through Christ Jesus in every foot of territory assigned his faith-

ful followers in the earth. *Let the enemy take notice now: We will not retreat or surrender one foot of it!*"

And though the applause that greeted the declaration of this determined resolve of God's ministers to stand fast for freedom was mighty indeed, it was overshadowed by the acclamation accorded the announcement that soon followed. Saying that the fight would be long and hard, that it would be an "endurance test", the speaker made known the preparation of a handy instrument to use in the warfare, namely, the new booklet *Freedom of Worship*. The outburst of joy that marked the release of this booklet giving instruction on court procedure was impressive testimony as to the need of Jehovah's witnesses for this latest provision of Jehovah. Thus was concluded the Friday afternoon session of the Assembly. In halls throughout the country conventioners made a beeline for ushers supplied with the first release of the "Free Nation's" Theocratic Assembly. It was merely the forerunner of good things to follow.

Fired by the two stirring discourses, publishers by the thousands streamed forth from Municipal Auditorium onto the streets of Minneapolis and St. Paul to use their freedom Godlily and 'redeem the time' of the three-hour interim between the afternoon and evening sessions. There, as evening approached, against an "old world" background of traffic din and confusion, a steady, joyous hum arose within the "Twin Cities" from the lips of happy ambassadors of the New World. Puzzled passers-by on the street corners heard the firm, assuring calls of 'Are you looking ahead to the New World?' 'The truth shall make you free.' 'Assemble for peace and prosperity.' 'Seek the only light.' 'Read *The Watchtower*.' 'Read *Consolation*.' Then they reached for the leaflet held



At the immersion pool—246 symbolised their consecration at 5 Convention cities in South Africa

out to them, and walked on, reading their invitation to the Sunday lecture, "Freedom in the New World."

Reconvening at 7 p.m. for songs, the key-city conventioners were delighted by telegrams from other Assembly cities. Especially enjoyed were the cablegrams from far-distant lands, such as South Africa and West Africa. At 7:15 p.m. three discourses of a half-hour each were delivered. The large audience of the afternoon session turned out in full force for these evening discourses, enthusiastically receiving the spiritual food provided for that occasion.

The Second Day

The second day of the "Free Nation's" Theocratic Assembly dawned clear and mild. As the multitudes of conventioners, the number of their ranks considerably swelled by new arrivals, converged upon the Municipal Auditorium, they were filled with expectancy and anticipation as to what the day held in store for them. And why shouldn't they be? Was not this the day for which an important two-hour program was scheduled, the last hour holding in store the widely discussed talk by the president, "Free Education for Men of Good-Will"? So vitally important was this two-hour session that once more the 99 other cities were to tie in with the key city. Why shouldn't they be expectant? Even so, their expectations fell far short of the reality.

But before that anticipated session would convene there must pass hours, hours that must not be wasted. So at 8:30 a.m. all assembled for field service instructions, and soon 'the word of the Lord was running swiftly' once more throughout the "Twin Cities" and vicinity; more swiftly, in fact, than on the day previous, because many newcomers had been received into the ranks of New World advertisers. (Psalm 147:15) The tempo of the advertising campaign increased, and in proportion with it the fury of religious freedom-haters mounted. Their "gnashing of teeth" against the Free Nation adherents did not daunt the free servants of God, and the low meannesses to which they stooped failed dismally. But no time out now to discuss the littleness of petty tyrants; momentous events in the Free Nation's history impend, and command undivided attention.

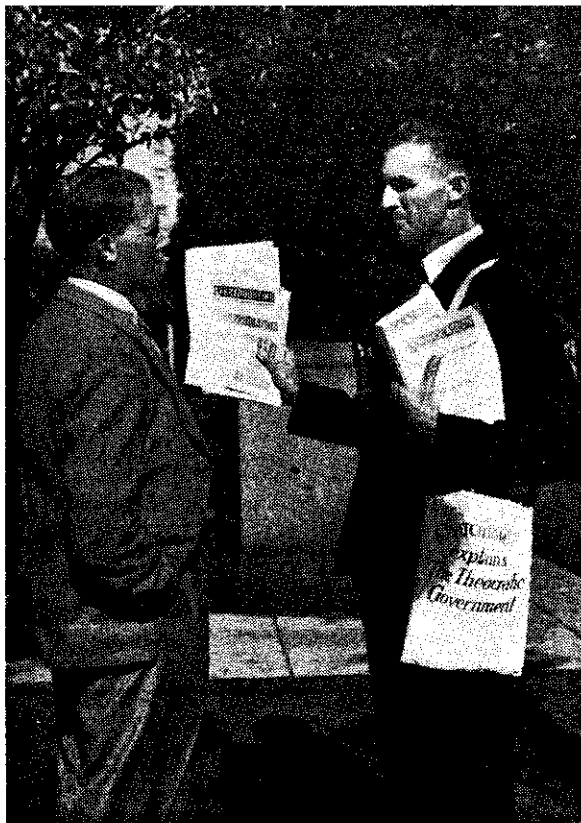
Fleeting morning hours and those of the early afternoon are gone, and once more the Theocratists sit in place of assembly. Only, this time, Municipal Auditorium no longer accommodates the assembling multitudes; Exhibition Hall in the basement is pressed into service to care for the overflowing crowds. At 2:30 p.m. 12,000 voices are raised in a rousing song, and then the key-city

conventioners were especially blessed. A wonderful description of the Free Nation as the foremost educational force ever created, taking upon itself the seemingly impossible responsibility of affording every person on earth an opportunity to know the truth concerning Jehovah and his New World, was given. Proof was presented in the form of six graduates of the Watchtower Bible College of Gilead, all educated free of charge. They described the course as "more blessings than we could contain". They eagerly look forward to 'freely giving' Theocratic education in foreign lands as they 'freely received' it at Gilead.

Saturday's Feature

Now it is 3 p.m., time for the two-hour hookup program. The lines of communication once more tied in with Minneapolis the associated cities, and neither space nor global war conditions prevented the voices of the key-city speakers from entering scores of halls throughout the nation and thrilling Jehovah's people united in assembly. On this occasion over 75,000 heard an unforgettable two-hour program, and received information and instruments that may well affect the destiny of millions.

For forty minutes a director of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society discussed "The Free Nation Keeping Truth". Declaring that the Free Nation's Father is Jehovah and its mother is His universal organization, the stirring command issued to its King, Christ Jesus, was quoted: "Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth truth may enter in." (Isaiah 26:2) Thence it was shown how the gates had been flung open and the Free Nation members gathered, and that countless numbers of the Lord's "other sheep" were becoming loyal subjects of its King. And once within the sheltering gates, all demon gods are dead to them: Jehovah and Christ they recognize as "the Higher Powers" worthy of praise. The "other lords" who once had dominion over them are doomed to destruction at Armageddon. Till then, the Lord God continues to increase his free Nation by the ingathering of the "other sheep". In concluding, the speaker held forth bright future prospects to the gospel-proclaimers: "These 'other sheep' the Good Shepherd has apparently only begun to bring into his fold into company with his free Nation represented by the remnant. The prophecy says: 'Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns, without walls for the multitude of men and cattle therein.' The increasing of the Lord's Nation has therefore not yet reached to the populousness he has decreed for it before Armageddon finishes off the envious opposers of such increase."



Offering the message of life on the street corner

Another Watchtower director followed, briefly discussing "The Service Must Go On". He declared that God's servants are free men, free to preach the gospel from house to house, make back-calls, and stand on the public streets advertising the Kingdom. He then asked: "Who of the consecrated people of the Lord are exempt from these Kingdom requirements? Are any exempt, or do all who are God's free men have the same privileges and responsibilities? None are exempt; all must serve and maintain integrity."

The next participant in this two-hour symposium of four speakers was the aged secretary-treasurer of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. This Theocratically-minded veteran of long years service opened: "The Theocratic Government of Jehovah is the principal theme of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and the prayer of God's people from and after Abel." He traced that Government's "Progress in Face of Opposition", particularly the advancement of its earthly interests committed to the "faithful and wise servant" class. Closing on a note of victory, he

declared that these faithful ones go on "to new triumphs", and counseled, "Let all the remnant and their companions shout 'Alleluia!'" And he set the example by voicing a mighty shout then and there, to which the vast audience joyously responded with rousing applause.

Free Education

Half of the time allotted for the hookup had elapsed; one hour yet remained. It was the hour looked forward to by the witnesses with keenest anticipation; it was the hour appointed for the president's speech on "Free Education for men of Good-Will". Amplifying the vital parts of the discourse by superb delivery, the speaker drew round after round of enthusiastic applause from the audiences assembled throughout the country.

At the outset he identified Jehovah as the top-ranking Educator, the great Teacher of history, and the One who caused vital history to be written in advance in the form of prophecy. The trends of this day toward forced education in totalitarian ideas and the declared needs of global education in the postwar world, supervised by an international body, were outlined. Then he posed this crucial question: "Admitting now the need for global education or re-educating all nations in the coming transition, we must face the question: Whose educational program shall it be?" The claims of the Hierarchy that education belongs exclusively under its control and its encroachments in that field were recounted, establishing the fact that religion would play a vital role in any post-war educational program.

Then in clear and forceful phrase the speaker delineated the all-important field of education for the people, namely, in the Word of God. The need for and manner of instruction in the Typical Theocracy of Israel, and the establishment of schools for that purpose, were expounded. Jesus was identified as the "greatest educator ever upon the earth", offering free education to the people and admonishing his students: "Freely ye have received, freely give." Moreover, this same Jesus marked out the educational program for the post-war world, saying: "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." It was shown how Jehovah's witnesses must be educators. "The educative work is not carried on for 'filthy lucre', for there is no financial profit made in it. It is done at God's command and with a lot of hard, steady work under persecutions; and we are glad to do it!" Unanimous applause signified their gladness. After declaring that the educational campaign would not stop until "those thus educated graduate into the



(1) Taken during the history-making two-hour program on Saturday, August 21, from the key city, this picture shows the president of the Watchtower Society delivering the discourse on "Free Education for Men of Good-Will". Visible seated are the vice-president of the Society and its secretary-treasurer. (2) The South African Branch servant puts over the speech on "Freedom in the New World" to an attentive audience at Johannesburg.

New World". he briefly sketched Elisha's smiting of Jordan waters with the prophetic mantle and crying, "Where is Jehovah, the God of Elijah?" and showed how Jehovah's witnesses must continue smiting with the truth till the "sheep" are completely separated from the "goats". In ringing tones the speaker then proclaimed: "So, on with the free education of men of good-will! The blessed day draws near when all the free and faithful shall enter into the life abundant in the New World, every tongue confessing that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of Jehovah God the Father."

After the applause had subsided, the president offered for adoption this

DECLARATION

"JEHOVAH'S witnesses and their companions, being gathered together world-wide in the 'Free Nation's' Theocratic Assembly, do hereby declare:

"THAT Jehovah God by his truth and by the sacrifice of his beloved Son Christ Jesus has made us free; and that, though in the world, we are not of it, but are of His new world to come;

"THAT our freedom is not granted for any selfish or lawless purpose, but is that we may fully serve Him and the earthly interests of his kingdom under Christ Jesus;

"THAT our commission from God ordains us to be his witnesses and ministers of the gospel of his Kingdom; and we must perform our part as such in the educational work which he has decreed must be carried on at the end of the world, where we are now;

"THAT all 'men of good-will', without distinction as to race, creed or color, must be located and prepared for life in the new world; and that the educational work with the Kingdom truth is the most essential instruction to such ones now and in the postwar period, as it makes them ready for life eternal;

"THAT our work is not subversive of present governments, nor for commercial gain or any selfish purpose or in the interest of any religious sect; but is for the purpose of spreading good-will among men, and promoting full respect for law, order and righteousness, upon which the permanent freedoms and peace and prosperity of the New World will rest;

"THAT the textbook of freedom is Jehovah God's Word, the Bible, and that the truths he has revealed therein by his Son and King at the temple make the people free, without which all freedoms announced by men are passing and illusory;

"THAT in obedience to our commission we will endeavor now and in the postwar era to extend

more widely the publication of Kingdom truth and to increase the number of free Bible-study classes in the homes of 'men of good-will' throughout the earth, using the educational means which the Lord has provided for our use. We are in favor of free education of all men of good-will concerning The Theocracy."

Free Education Exemplified!

One director leaped to the microphone and moved the adoption of the Declaration, another seconded the motion, and a mighty "Aye" in favor thereof rose from thousands of throats, amid tumultuous applause. Then it happened. Stationed once more before the battery of microphones, the president said: "By Jehovah's grace, it is now my privilege to present one of the latest educational means He has provided through his organization for our use, the new book entitled—" The din of applause drowned out the name. It is always so when a new book is released. But what is this? All lights in the huge auditorium are blacked out: the vast audience sits in darkness, amazed, wondering and waiting for but a moment. Then the puzzled thousands were startled by two spotlights in the balcony reaching out two long fingers of light and pointing to a beautiful banner that had hung over the stage from the Assembly's beginning. As the spotlight beams played upon the banner, the gold-and-silver-spangled letters on their rich violet base-material caught the brilliant rays and seemed to live as they reflected back to the wondering throngs the dynamic words of the Master, "The Truth Shall Make You Free." Ah! so that was it! As the inspiring freedom slogan sparkled and gleamed and transfixed all eyes, comprehension broke suddenly in the minds of all assembled. Here shining before them was the title of the new book! A mighty shout and tremendous applause broke the tension, auditorium lights flashed on again, and the president's voice continued: "To everyone at this afternoon session of this Assembly from five years old and upward who will accept it in the spirit of this Declaration one copy of this book will be given FREE!" As this last word pierced the air, it touched off another roll of thunderous applause, and similar shouts of exultation rang out in the 99 other cities as scores of thousands of overjoyed witnesses received this gracious gift.

No empty slogan or catch-phrase, this "Free education for men of good-will". In addition to the anointed remnant, many thousands of "men of good-will" freely received this new publication that will go far in educating them for life in the New World. The "Jephthah" Society had set a sterling example of providing free education, prov-

ing its belief in and backing of the campaign by this practical application of the declared slogan. Eagerly the recipients of *"The Truth Shall Make You Free"* ran to and fro in its pages, and as one wended his way through the little knots of witnesses absorbed in an examination of its contents he could hear excited cries as one delightful discovery after another was made. An ideal textbook to supplement the Bible in the educational campaign, was the consensus of opinion.

The conventioners were still keyed up by the two unforgettable hours of the afternoon session and its marvelous surprise gift when they reconvened for the evening session. After a half-hour of songs, special pioneer experiences, more expressions from college graduates, and messages from foreign lands, the three scheduled speeches of the evening began. The vice-president discussed "Unity and its gains". Another speaker emphasized the need for Jehovah's witnesses to study to properly carry out their service obligations, talking on "Progress of Theocratic Ministry Training". A third drew attention to the Book of Freedom, the Bible, in a talk entitled "To Whom Does the Textbook Belong?" Then another surprise crowded into the already thrill-packed day. The president appeared on the platform and announced the release of a study-questions booklet to be used in conjunction with *"The Truth Shall Make You Free"* in an expanded educational campaign, to begin in October. Grateful hearts united in a prayer of thanksgiving to the "Giver of every good and perfect gift", to close the second day of the "Free Nation's" Theocratic Assembly.

The Last Day

The third and final day of the Theocratic convention opened with an early morning assembly at Municipal Auditorium. At 8 a.m. a discourse was presented on the subject of "Baptism", and immediately thereafter candidates for immersion were taken to Lake Calhoun, where they submitted themselves to water baptism. There 237 thus symbolized their consecration to do the Lord's will. But these were not the only ones who thus came into a closer relationship with the ever-expanding Free Nation. While the 237 in Minneapolis were following the example of Christ Jesus in this respect, meek ones in the other convention cities were doing likewise, and brought the number for the United States up to 2,410. Reports from other countries swell the figure to 4,598. The remarkableness of this influx is better appreciated when it is remembered that just four months previous, on a single day, nearly 2,500 in the United States alone had symbolized their conse-

cration. A variety of places were used for the purpose of immersion. Swimming pools, lakes, rivers, ponds, and even make-shift wooden boxes, where spiteful opposers of The Theocracy closed all other facilities to them, were pressed into service by Jehovah's witnesses for this occasion. At one Assembly city, by strange coincidence, a "Jordan River" was the scene of baptism.

The usual morning assembly for field service having been dismissed at Municipal Auditorium, the Theocratic educators filed from the building and traveled to their respective territories, to extend final invitations to the widely advertised lecture, "Freedom in the New World." These morning hours constituted the last period of time set aside for ministerial service in the field, and many availed themselves of the privileges it offered. The "Free Nation's" Assembly proved to be a service convention, 7,135 different persons at the key city participating in the field service. During the three days at Minneapolis, both at meetings and in the field, 239,619 pieces of literature were placed. Add to this the work accomplished in the 99 other cities, and the number of publishers soars to 56,757 and the book and booklet placements to 926,229. If the 78,456 copies of *Watchtower* and *Consolation* magazines are counted in, the number of publications giving education in God's Word distributed in three days in the United States tops the million mark. And all this, mind you (despite the contrariwise lies of religionists), without financial profit to any organization or individual! "On with the free education of men of good-will!"

And now, on with a recounting of events of this final day of assembly. After songs and experiences, at 2 p.m. a timely discourse on "Elders Feed the Flock" was presented by a Watchtower director to a packed-out auditorium. Basing his comments upon 1 Peter 5:1-3, the importance of all mature Christians' feeding the flock, and particularly those of the "other sheep" still scattered in Satan's organization, was impressed upon the listeners. The all-out efforts of demon forces to halt this feeding work, and particularly through encroachments on the consecrated time of "elders", were warned of, and the ways of avoiding such demon snares were expounded for the edification of Jehovah's ministers in these perilous times. Here, again, the freedom theme and the necessity of standing fast for freedom were stressed.

This speaker closing his talk at 2:30, a half-hour remained before the vast telephonic circuit would close once more and enable the other Assembly cities to join with the key city in hearing the

widely heralded public lecture, 'Freedom in the New World.' Now the results of the Theocratic advertising campaign were manifested; and also apparent was the fact that God's people are not dependent upon a depraved public press, controlled by religion, to give publicity to their assemblies. Indeed, the adverse press comments and misrepresentations were powerless to offset the good impression made by Jehovah's witnesses' advertising work. When the big lecture was given, every seat in the 10,000-capacity auditorium was occupied, thousands more jammed full Exhibition Hall, in the basement, and the crowds on the outside of the huge structure numbered into the thousands. Everywhere, on the side-walks, in adjoining parks, in private cars, in the windows of private homes and apartment houses, eager listeners could be observed taking in "Freedom in the New World" as it was 'proclaimed from the house tops' by loud-speakers strategically placed on the outside of Municipal Auditorium. Upward of 17,000 in Minneapolis heard the lecture; in the United States nearly 121,000 heard it, not including an uncountable radio audience listening to WBBR's broadcast of the speech; an incomplete report of Sunday's attendance in assembly halls throughout the earth totals 166,569.

"Freedom in the New World"

Space forbids the reproduction here of the speech in full. Its importance is such, however, that it should be read and studied by all freedom-lovers. Following its oral delivery it was released in booklet form and is now being carried to the homes of the people as a part of the campaign of free education for men of good-will. In its delivery the Society's president was at his best, and he was frequently interrupted by enthusiastic applause.

Opening with "The free world comes only from the hand of Almighty God. It is at the door, and no power in heaven or in earth can turn back the hand of the all-powerful Creator from building it and offering it in all its glory to worthy creatures", the speaker proceeded to prove the fettered state of the present world. When and how and why it lost its liberty was shown, and the impossibility of men's bringing liberation and freedom was established from God's infallible Word, the Bible. Overpowering and irrefutable was the following argument that postwar "Christendom" is doomed to fail in establishing freedom:

"The postwar 'Christendom' cannot but fail to free the people from sin just as certainly as she will fail to free the nations of their invisible overlord, Satan the Devil, and all his wicked demons. It matters not that 'organized religion'

will ride and steer the new order and that 'more religion' will be put on. How can those who are themselves slaves emancipate other slaves? The religionists and their political, commercial and judicial allies are themselves all servants of sin, unable to overcome sin in themselves and likewise unable to legislate sin and selfishness out of this world".

Thereafter it was shown how Jehovah, through a Free One, Christ Jesus, would usher in a free, new world. Free beyond the wildest dreams of today's self-appointed world-builders. Not just freedom of speech and worship, and freedom from fear and want in the narrow sense in which they apply it, no, but freedom from sin, sickness and death, and even the fear of such things will be for ever gone. To the thousands held spellbound by this marvelous word picture of Jehovah's glorious new world now at the door, the speaker concluded his speech:

"The foregoing is no imaginary Utopia dreamed by some religious 'saint', but is God's written Word sworn to over His own name and is true. Accept and believe his Word now and let it henceforth be your life-guide and hope and comfort. If you do so, it means for you the gaining of the heritage of life everlasting and FREEDOM IN THE NEW WORLD."

This long-anticipated speech was now history, so far as its delivery was concerned. But it will live on in printed form and accomplish its purpose by having a wide distribution among men of good-will. (Now, just three months after its release, more than seven million copies have been printed.) Free personal copies were given to all those in attendance, along with extra copies that they might give to interested persons. Thus, once more, was emphasized the policy of "free education for men of good-will".



Young magazine publishers on the Golden Reel

The Closing Hours

The "Free Nation's" Theocratic Assembly now entered into its final hours. That evening the conventioners, their numbers somewhat diminished by early departures, gathered in the main auditorium for the last session. After enjoying a half-hour of experiences, the audience listened attentively to a discourse on "No More Time for the Old Course", and another one on "Faithful and Wise Servant". Then, in the closing minutes of this blessed three-day Assembly, all present were gratified to hear "A Message from the President", as announced by the program. For thirty minutes he spoke informally to the conventioners, reading to them many telegrams from other assembly cities in the U.S.A. and also other lands. He conversed with them regarding the work in the field among the people of good-will, especially stressing the added responsibility due to the increased knowledge and new instruments received at this Assembly. Then with prayer of thanksgiving, the president dismissed the "Free Nation's" Theocratic Assembly as held at the key city. Greatly refreshed and strengthened by the feast the Lord had spread for them in the midst of many enemies, the homeward trek by Jehovah's warriors ensued. Jehovah's promise of success to those who obediently serve Him was realized; the Assembly had succeeded in its purpose of praising the Almighty and giving an impetus to the prosecution of the work ahead.—Psalm III:10, *margin*.

Opposition

Before turning our attention from the key-city assembly and viewing some of the other convention cities, two or three other points might be noted. They are insignificant when compared with the Theocratic history made by the "Free Nation's" Assembly, yet they are the very things headlined by the local press. There was a concerted effort on the part of some religion-dominated persons to discredit God's witnesses. First there were the glaring headlines charging Canadian witnesses with border-jumping. Then inquiries were made as to the gas used by delegates motoring to the Assembly. Failing to uncover anything of importance here, the food supplies used at the convention's cafeteria were carefully checked as to their being obtained in accord with government regulations. To the chagrin of behind-the-scenes religionists, who had previously brought terrific pressure to bear against the city officials in an attempt to have the witnesses barred the Municipal Auditorium, the investigation only served to publicize the fact that Jehovah's witnesses obey all laws of the land that are not in conflict with

God's supreme law. Food ration points had been obtained, and the goodly supply of points left over after the Assembly's close returned to the ration board.

This cafeteria, incidently, was a marvel of organization. Located in the basement of the auditorium, eleven lines of hungry witnesses steadily moved past counters laden with temporal food. Commenting on this, the Minneapolis *Star Journal* said:

"Organization of the convention continued to amaze Minneapolis officials today, as they watched 7,000 members of the sect being fed three times a day in a special cafeteria set up in the auditorium exhibit hall. By means of a series of stations, long lines of delegates are served at the rate of 1,000 an hour. According to the testimony of an auditorium employee, who sampled the food; it was good. Veal stew on yesterday's menu, he said was as 'good as anything I ever ate'".

It is regrettable that so many people search out and give attention to things of lesser importance, and overlook entirely the better things. Appetizing and sustaining was the "ration point" food served at the Assembly, it is true; but all-important was the unrationed bounty of spiritual food that, if assimilated, would sustain one and carry him into the ever-abiding New World. Trying to find fault, many persons missed the satisfying nourishment of this spiritual food that they might have obtained without money or ration points, and in unlimited quantities. They merely participated in a fruitless campaign to besmirch the Watchtower Society, the convention's sponsor, as the Society was completely exonerated of all the false charges that flew thick and fast.

Other American Cities

In 99 other cities throughout the United States, in all kinds of meeting places, from the finest auditoriums to tents, the conventioners assembled. Stadiums, schools, armories, clubhouses, gymnasiums, theaters, skating rinks, fairgrounds, and even night clubs, were pressed into service for the occasion. To these places swarmed Jehovah's remnant, accompanied by their companions, the "other sheep", who, like the queen of Sheba, overcame all obstacles to hear the words of wisdom of a greater than Solomon; but the inter-city arrangement of the Assembly made it unnecessary for them to come "from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear". (Matt. 12:42) And the fond expectations they entertained upon arrival were not half as great as the blessings they received before leaving.

THE ASSEMBLY IN OTHER LANDS

A report of the "Free Nation's" Theocratic Assembly as held on distant shores will necessarily be brief and incomplete, since detailed accounts are not yet at hand. Even so, a brief survey will show the world-wide scope of the Assembly.

Australia

Australia held assemblies in seven cities, on September 10-12, just three weeks after the 100-city Assembly in the United States. Less than three months previous to this date, the Kingdom work of Almighty God was under "legal" ban in the "land down under". On June 14, 1943, Jehovah gave to his witnesses a signal victory, the ban being lifted. Then He blesses His Australian servants by an Assembly, key-noting the theme of freedom. The principal speeches delivered at Minneapolis were given at one of the Australian cities, and carried by landline to the others. Eight thousand Australian freedom-lovers attended.

Brazil

Six cities in Brazil shared in the Assembly. Prior to the Assembly on August 20-22, the organizer in Brazil reported: "Arrangements are going ahead nicely. Sao Paulo has again secured for the three days the beautiful auditorium of the Hotel Terminus. The servant in Baia reports that for the three days they have secured a hall more beautiful than for any convention he has yet attended in Brazil, at a very moderate price because of the nature of our work. The brethren in Porto Alegre have also secured a good hall for the three days and are thrilled at the prospects of a convention in the south of Brazil." In Brazil 1,291 were in attendance.

British Isles

One week after the Assembly in the United States, fifteen cities in the British Isles held a Theocratic Assembly. In 1942, when the New World Theocratic Assembly was held in Britain, opposition was strong. In striking contrast, the "Free Nation's" Assembly experienced little opposition. On Sunday, a large combined audience of 17,500 assembled in the fifteen cities.

The conventioners in Britain were thrilled by the release of *Kingdom News* No. 11, the *Course in Theocratic Ministry*, and announcements that a British edition of the WATCHTOWER Bible was being prepared, and that a new book, "*The Truth Shall Make You Free*", had been released in America.

Advertising work pertaining to the Assembly was strenuously pushed by the conventioners. Dominating all publicity avenues exploited was the appearance on British streets of thousands of witnesses, distributing invitations to the public lecture. Many favorable comments were directed to them from American soldiers, whose minds were taken back to the many times they had seen similar sights in their homeland.

Chile

This South American country reported its first Theocratic convention, 110 persons meeting in one city for the "Free Nation's" Assembly.

Cuba

At least three cities associated in the "Free Nation's" Assembly in Cuba. An excerpt from the Cuban report states:

"A greater attendance was had at this gathering



Some of the African witnesses who assembled at Johannesburg from many parts of the Transvaal. They look forward to the full establishment of God's Kingdom.

of God's people than ever before, and we can justly call it the greatest convention yet to be held on earth. Think of 3,775 souls in Cuba gathered for three days to worship Almighty God in spirit and in truth!

"All the lectures delivered at the Minneapolis convention were translated into Spanish and delivered here.

"Of course, the Devil, in his cunning way, is always on the watch to do his mischief. He tried an old scheme of having the hall canceled in Pinar del Río and Camaguey, but Jehovah arranged matters to His liking and for the blessing of His servants. New halls were located in both cities, which were more satisfactory in all respects.

"The brethren were greatly refreshed and are continuing to hold high the banner of The Theocracy as a part of the Free Nation."

Hawaii

Here in this group of islands in the broad Pacific, that figured so prominently in the present global war, the adherents of Jehovah's Free Nation met in assembly, and enjoyed the same program of events as did Minneapolis. Manuscripts were received from the Society and read at their sessions, even to the presentation of *"The Truth Shall Make You Free."* On this point they write:

"News of the book was joyfully received, and we just about had to put a chain on the one copy available so it wouldn't disappear. We are looking forward eagerly to studying and using this new instrument in the service of The Theocracy, and we give thanks to Jehovah for its provisions."

Jamaica

Here a glorious assembly was enjoyed and many new releases were sprung, to the surprise of those attending. Peak attendance reported was 1,700.

Mexico

Twelve cities participated in the "Free Nation's" Theocratic Assembly in the land just south of the U.S.A. The majority of the cities held their assemblies without any particular difficulty; some opposition was encountered in a few. This Assembly marked the first time information walking was used in Mexico. It resulted in a splendid witness being given. In spite of the fact that there are ordinances which prohibit such work without special permit, the work went on unhindered.

When the new releases were presented, the instant question was, "Is it in Spanish?" Though disappointed that they were only in English as yet, their joy was not dampened. They look forward to receiving it in their native tongue soon. The convention servant writes:

"After the meeting, what a sight to see them

thronging around the platform to see at close view and to feel lovingly the covers of *"The Truth Shall Make You Free"*! The mixed multitude, people of Spanish descent and pure Indians, mingled, the white and the bronze skins covering the same hearts filled with joy and thankfulness to the Father of all obedient human-kind, who provides us with meat in due season without respect of persons. What a picture of the 'great multitude'! The heart of Jehovah's people is strangely touched to see the Indian women barefoot and with their papooses on their backs, with the typical dress adopted by the Mexican Indian many years ago. Together, they unanimously adopted the resolution presented to 'shoot the arrows into the enemy's land' and to carry the free education to all men of good-will now and in the postwar period before Armageddon."

At El Salto, Durango, some of the Witnesses were assaulted and stoned. During one meeting the street in front of the hall was crowded with the enemy, armed with sticks and stones, and many had knives. They planned to attack the Witnesses as the meeting dismissed. Just as the assembly was due to end, a torrential rainstorm broke and scattered the would-be mobbers. Trouble was had in one or two other cities in Mexico, but the Lord gave His people the victory in the end. On Sunday 3,556 attended.

New Zealand

No report from this distant part of the earth is available other than that assemblies in three cities were held on the three days of August 20-22, with an attendance of eight hundred persons.

Sweden

The number of cities holding assemblies in Sweden was ten, and 3,147 persons assembled at the same time as Jehovah's witnesses met in convention in the United States and other countries. On this occasion 293 were immersed.

Trinidad

Only scanty news of the Assembly in this land is at hand. At the town of Arima 245 were present, while 189 met at San Fernando. At the island of Barbados there was also an assembly.

West Africa

On the Dark Continent 4,765 Jehovah's witnesses assembled in towns in Nigeria and on the Gold Coast. They took the occasion to make a declaration, wherein those assembled declared their purpose to continue to witness to Jehovah's kingdom and maintain integrity to the Most High God. Many are the difficulties that beset Jehovah's servants in that land as they push on in

the Theocratic work, and it is joyful news to their Kingdom associates in other lands to hear of such a large assembly there.

South African Assemblies

Jehovah's witnesses and their companions in South Africa shared in the "Free Nation's" Theocratic Assembly. They met together in 5 different cities, namely, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Bloemfontein. The programme followed on similar lines to that of the key city at Minneapolis.

Freedom rang loudly for three unforgettable days. Its joyful tones of triumph sounded out as a testimony to the existence and unsuppressible activity of a free nation; and the echoes thereof continue to resound throughout the land. Amid the clangor of global war it penetrated through with its good-cheer and hope, as agreeable and consoling to the ear as the sound of the *shofar* trumpets blown by Israel's priests on the Jubilee year to "proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof". Hundreds in all five cities, rejoicing in their newly realised freedom, clapped their hands and shouted for joy. They hailed the bold declaration of freedom, which freedom countless thousands shall yet come to know and enjoy.

As in the American, British, Australian, Swedish and other cities throughout the earth, all help to service the many departments of the South African assemblies was voluntary and non-remunerative. Hundreds of consecrated men, women and children willingly offered themselves in answer to the service call and worked long, steady and intensely active hours to minister to their brethren. The entire working setup was an admir-

able demonstration of thorough organisation, fine foresight, efficient performance, zeal for God's cause, love of men of good-will, good order without friction, and brotherly unity and co-operation under Christ. Worldly observers marvelled thereat. Jehovah was honoured.

At the 5 convention points in South Africa 16,827 books, booklets and magazines containing the message of God's Kingdom were distributed to persons of good-will eager to learn more about the "Free Nation" and its activities. Surely a wonderful witness to God's Kingdom!

To Jehovah Most High and to Christ Jesus his Son are due, and are rendered, all credit and praise for the success and blessings of this "Free Nation's" Theocratic Assembly.

Free Nation On To Victory!

The table below (incomplete) gives the tabulated report by countries.

From this report it is seen that Jehovah's people exercised their freedom Godly during the three Assembly days, worshiping Him in spirit and in truth, and giving out the Kingdom truths as they receive them. The "Free Nation's" Theocratic Assembly served to unite even more solidly the earthly part of Jehovah's organization. They are determined to stand fast for their freedom, to use it in the campaign of free education for "men of good-will", and to 'shoot the arrow of Jehovah's deliverance' against the land of demonism, which is religion. In the strength of the Lord they will smite the enemy with the 'bundled arrows' of Theocratic truths, not once, nor twice, nor thrice, but again and again and again, until all foes of Jehovah's Free Nation are destroyed for ever.

WORLD-WIDE REPORT OF "FREE NATION'S" THEOCRATIC ASSEMBLY

	Peak Att.	Immersed	Pioneers	Pubs.	Lit. placed Mags. inc.	S'd Att
Australia	8,000	156				
Barbados	475					
Brazil	1,291					
British Isles	17,500	654	1,068	6,035	57,220	185
Chile	110					
Cuba	3,775	133	87	1,023	1,771	3,705
Hawaii	96		13		1,200	
Jamaica	1,700					
Mexico	3,556	322		1,623	6,676	1,302
New Zealand	800					
South Africa	2,370	246	84	1,670	16,827	1,725
Sweden	3,147	645				
Trinidad	434	32				
United States	120,920	2,410	7,010	56,757	1,004,685	44,319
West Africa	4,765					
TOTAL	168,939	4,598	8,262	67,108	1,088,388	51,326



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youngest
publisher