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The Autumn Council

By W. E. Read

THE General Conference Autumn Council met this year in Lincoln, Nebraska. This was the first time the brethren had gone so far west for such a meeting. While the General Conference session has convened on the Pacific Coast on several occasions, it has been customary to hold the Autumn Councils either in the east or not farther west than Battle Creek. For several years the brethren held this meeting in that old centre of our work and they found accommodation in the large sanitarium in that place.

This year, however, being at Lincoln gave our believers in that area opportunity to make contact with the General Conference brethren, and being near to Union College with such a large body of students, it gave the members of the faculty and the student body an unusual opportunity of association with the leaders of our work. On the Sabbath the meetings were held in the large Methodist church in the city of Lincoln, seating over 2,000 people, and the meetings were certainly times of real spiritual blessing to our believers.

The Autumn Council this year was of shorter duration than hitherto, and not so many were in attendance. In the ordinary way this would have been the last Autumn Council before the General Conference, and such a meeting is usually small. There was a good representation from North America. All the Union presidents and most of the conference presidents were in attendance as well as the brethren from the General Conference and the vari-

ous departments with headquarters at Washington.

The large institutions in America were also represented. While there were workers present from some of the other Divisions, only two of the Divisions were represented by their presidents—these were Inter-America and Northern Europe.

The council this year met under the shadow of another great conflict. Even though separated by thousands of miles from the battle-scarred fields of China, and the war-torn areas of Europe, we were, as we assembled in Lincoln, made very conscious of the fact that we had come to serious times, of great perplexity to those who carry forward the work of God. We were reminded anew of the statement made years ago by the servant of the Lord: "The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity she will have to do in a terrible crisis, under most discouraging, forbidding circumstances."—*"Testimonies," Vol. 5, page 463.* Mention was made also of the difficulties our brethren are experiencing in travelling, the growing necessity for permits, new visas, extra endorsements, special permission to export currency, authorization to carry certain documents when travelling, and other requirements, all of which emphasize the problems and difficulties incident to these last days. This again brought to our attention another remark made by God's ser-

vant many years ago: "The passage from place to place to spread the truth will soon be hedged with dangers on the right hand and on the left."—*Ibid., Vol. 6, page 22.*

Truly we have come to the last days, and yet while perplexities and difficulties abound on every hand, we are to see in such developments not a cause for discouragement, for slackening our efforts, but a call to lift up our heads knowing that the day of our redemption draweth nigh. We are to regard the difficulties we face as opportunities for larger service, as a clarion call to greater achievement, and in the strength of God to press on to larger accomplishments in His service.

We went to the General Conference with a number of matters upon which we desired counsel, and the officers both at Washington and at Lincoln gave considerable time to the study of problems we are facing in our Division. We certainly felt grateful to the brethren for their kindly, sympathetic study of the matters we brought to them, and for the help and counsel they gave to us while we were together.

At the beginning of the council a strong spiritual note was sounded, and it found a ready response in the hearts of all who were present. At the officers' meetings a statement had been drawn up constituting an appeal to our leaders and people, in view of the times in which we live, to a renewed consecration to the service of God. This was called "An Appeal" and will be found in this issue of the SURVEY. We trust that this will be read by all

our leaders and our churchmembers throughout the Division, and that there may come from every heart a spontaneous response to this earnest and solemn call.

We were glad to greet Brother Babienco again. He had been invited to the council and plans are being made for him to take up work on the other side of the Atlantic. Brother Babienco has given to us in this Division very faithful, loyal service and we shall miss him from our counsels and shall miss also the special help that he has been able to render to us in many parts of our territory.

The council studied the question whether a General Conference session should be held next year. In the ordinary way it would convene next May and June. After prayerful, thoughtful study of this matter, it was decided that it be left with the brethren at Washington to determine. If the situation improved the plan would be to go forward with the regular arrangement of having the General Conference next year. But if by the end of November there was no change, then the General Conference would be postponed. Everything points to a postponement to either 1941 or 1942.

In view of currency restrictions in many lands, greater burdens are falling upon the General Conference treasury. When regulations of this kind are adopted in any land, it means laying extra burdens upon other countries to finance our large mission programme. Until recent years all countries have shared in bearing the burden, but these new currency regulations bring increasing financial responsibility to lands where such restrictions do not yet obtain. It was cheering to see our Union presidents and conference presidents in North America shoulder this larger burden. Their hearts are certainly with us in the great purpose that the message shall be preached to all the world in this generation.

We have been very happy to see in our own Division the good results thus far in the Ingathering work this year. Already some Unions have gone over their goal. Many of the conferences have reached their objective. We must

all work and pray that our mission funds come in as before, so that nothing may hinder the onward progress of the message, not only into territories already occupied, but into the great unentered, unwarned regions in our mission fields in Africa.

This is not the time to slacken our efforts, it is rather a time when we must gain new courage and press forward with renewed zeal in God's work.

"Never let your courage fail. Never talk unbelief because appearances are against you."—*"Testimonies," Vol. 7, page 244.*

"Go forward in faith; trust the Lord to prepare the way for His work."—*Ibid., Vol. 7, page 211.*

"Difficulties will arise that will try your faith and patience. Face them bravely, look on the bright side."—*Ibid., Vol. 7, page 211.*

"Obstacles to the advancement of the work of God will appear; but fear not."

"In the darkest days, when appearances seem so forbidding, fear not. Have faith in God."

"There must be no despondency in God's service. Our faith is to endure the pressure brought to bear upon it. God is able and willing to bestow upon His servants all the strength they need. He will more than fulfil the highest expectations of those who put their trust in Him."—*Ibid., Vol. 8, pages 10, 11.*

Appeal from General Conference

As representatives of this Second Advent Movement assembled in Autumn Council, we express our profound conviction that we have now reached a most critical period in human history. The closing scenes of the last days so clearly portrayed in the prophetic word are now being enacted before our eyes.

"Never since the creation of the world were such important interests at stake as now depend upon the action of men who believe and are giving the last message of warning to the world."—*"Life Sketches," page 246.*

"To sleep now is a fearful crime. The Lord is coming. We are appointed to prepare the way for His coming by acting our part to prepare a people to stand in that great day. Is there one Christian whose pulse does not beat with quickened action as he anticipates the great events opening before us? We hear the footsteps of an approaching God to punish the world for their iniquity."—*"Special Testimonies for Ministerial Workers," No. 11, page 29.*

For years the merciful hand of our heavenly Father has held in check the winds of strife. Thus has been accorded us a time of comparative peace in which to preach the everlasting Gospel message. Have these precious moments, however, been employed in kindling our tapers from the

divine altar? Are our lamps filled with the golden oil, and are they sending forth strong, pure, clear rays of heavenly light upon the pathway of sinners?

Believing with all our hearts that "the great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly," and that to-day we stand on the verge of eternity, and that as watchmen upon the walls of Zion it is our solemn duty to be always ready, with our lamps trimmed and burning, we earnestly dedicate ourselves body, soul, and spirit to the high and holy work of making ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Inasmuch as it is God's desire "to perfect His household through the perfection of His ministers" (*"Testimonies," Vol. 9, page 151*),

We call upon our brethren in the ministry to join in wholehearted consecration to God, pledging themselves anew to a closer fellowship with the Lord.

We call upon our believers everywhere to unite with our ministry in this holy covenant; to shun all worldliness, even the very appearance of evil, and to yield themselves wholly and unreservedly to God.

We appeal to the parents in our churches to give prayerful thought and earnest effort to the spiritual interests of their children. When in that great day the question is put to parents, "Where is the

flock that was given thee, thy beautiful flock?" what will be the response? Let all redouble their efforts on their behalf, resting neither day nor night, wrestling with God in prayer, ever remembering the precious promise of the Lord, "Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children." Isa. 49:25.

We appeal to our children and youth to give anew their hearts and to dedicate all their powers to Jesus their Saviour. We entreat them to think soberly and seriously of the truth in the following inspired statement:

"The perils of the last days are upon us, and a trial is before the young which they have not anticipated. They are to be brought into most distressing perplexity. The genuineness of their faith will be proved."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. 1, page 269.

We know that the time has come for a mighty revelation of

God's power through His commandment-keeping people.

"Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth, there will be among the people of the Lord, such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children."—*"Great Controversy,"* page 464.

"Christ has made provision that His church shall be a transformed body, illumined with the light of heaven, possessing the glory of Immanuel. It is His purpose that every Christian shall be surrounded with a spiritual atmosphere of light and peace."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. 8, page 19.

Finally, in this last hour, before the Judge of all the earth shall arise and pronounce the sentence that will seal the eternal destiny of every soul, we appeal to all our fellow-workers, to our believers, also to our children and youth, to unite in crowning Jesus Lord of all; thus shall we all be ready to welcome our Lord and Master at His glorious appearing.

in both Kenya and Uganda. Brother Vixie has just returned after considerable delay *en route* because of war restrictions.

This year we held two very important gatherings of an unusual character. The first was the Educational Convention held at Onsrud Mission School, Norway. There had not been such a gathering in our Division since 1932. Over sixty delegates gathered from all our home Unions in a very profitable study of our educational work in the Division. Following this the first Youth's Congress in the Division met at Vejlebjerg, Denmark. Here were gathered about 400 enthusiastic missionary volunteers from all sections of our Division in Europe. The young people had barely reached their homes when war was declared.

We have been fortunate in having several General Conference workers visit our Division during the year. Dr. W. H. Teesdale, Associate Secretary of the General Conference Educational Department, and D. A. Ochs, Associate Secretary of the General Conference Missionary Volunteer Department, attended our annual meetings this year, and also the two Division conventions. These visits were greatly appreciated. Dr. M. E. Olsen visited the field and helped to build up interests in the Home Study Institute, while Brethren E. D. Dick and Steen Rasmussen made a short visit to the Division during the summer, attending one of the annual meetings. The General Conference treasurer, W. E. Nelson, with James Howarth of the Pacific Union Conference and W. E. Phillips, one of the General Conference auditors, joined E. R. Colson in a survey of the Skodsborg Sanitarium early in the year, which has been a great help to the institution.

Let us turn to the statistical reports for 1938 and note the progress that the third angel's message has made in our Division since our winter council one year ago. Figures are dry but facts are living, so may these figures represent to us the living fact that the message of a soon-coming Saviour is onward in Northern Europe.

Secretary's Report at Winter Council

November 22-27, 1939

BY J. I. ROBISON

As we gather in winter council this year we are but a little group, but we are thankful that the protecting hand of God has been over His work in our Division during the year now past.

No representatives can be present from four of our Union fields, viz., the Baltic Union, the Polish Union, the East Nordic Union, and the West Nordic Union. We have two mission fields represented, only one of these by its superintendent.

During this past year the work in the Division has been onward and hundreds are to-day rejoicing in the message who one year ago had not yet received the light. Both in home and mission fields our evangelists have had good results; book and magazine sales have in some instances passed all previous records. There are indications that this war instead of hindering the work will only open

wider the doors of opportunity for the proclamation of the message.

The year 1939 has been a busy year for the Division staff. Early in the year Brother Bartlett made a much-appreciated visit to West Africa, spending some months in Nigeria and the Gold Coast in workers' institutes and general meetings. He was later joined by Brethren Read and Colson who joined our missionaries on the West Coast and three from the East Coast in holding the first General Missionary Council to be held in our Division. This was an inspiring meeting and one long to be remembered by all who attended. Following this council Brother Colson visited all the mission fields on the West Coast, auditing accounts and meeting with local mission committees. Later in the year L. A. Vixie visited East Africa, attending annual camps and holding colporteur institutes

We realize that much more might have been done, and with the blessing of God we trust that during these trying days of war still greater victories will be experienced during the coming year.

The second quarter's report for 1939 shows that our present membership is 38,719, a net gain of 1,430 over the third quarter of 1938. This is an encouraging

figure, although not so good as the previous year. The accompanying statistical tables give a survey of the membership, baptisms, net gains, and apostasies of the Division for 1938 and furnish considerable material for careful study.

tisms and votes for the four years are :

1935	3266
1936	3126
1937	3535
1938	3492

There was one year with better results and that was 1932, with 3,595.

2. The Division totals for net gain for the four years are :

1935	1627
1936	1505
1937	1702
1938	1574

The 1938 figure is 128 less than the 1937 net gain. Our best year was 1932, with 2,026.

3. It will be well to note the trend, especially during the last four years :

(a) The baptisms and votes in the home fields show decreases until 1938 when a small increase is recorded.

1935	2184
1936	1817
1937	1665
1938	1789

(b) The net gains in the home fields show decreases each year :

1935	1004
1936	583
1937	513
1938	367

(c) All the Unions show a good increase in baptisms and votes in 1938 over 1937 except the British Union.

(d) Only two Unions show an increase in net gain in 1938 and they were the East and West Nordic Unions.

4. It is well also to note the steady increase in the figures for baptisms and votes and also for net gain in our Mission Unions :

(a) For baptisms and votes :

1935	1082
1936	1309
1937	1688
1938	1703

(b) For net gain :

1935	623
1936	922
1937	1189
1938	1207

5. The proportion of baptisms and votes of home and mission fields is shown as follows :

	Home Fields	Mission Fields
1935	67%	33%
1936	58%	42%
1937	49½%	50½%
1938	51%	49%

NOTES

1. The Division totals for bap-

MEMBERSHIP AND NET GAINS

	1935	1936	1937	1938	% of 1937 Net Gain
Home Fields	25639	26222	26735	27771	...
Gains	1004	583	513	367	71%
Mission Fields	7105	8027	9216	10102	...
Gains	623	922	1189	1207	101%
Total Membership	32744	34249	35951	37837	...
Gains	1627	1505	1702	1574	93%
Average gain 1935-1937				1611	
Gain 1938				1574	
Short of gain in previous years				37	

*Transferred from Central European Division to Poland.

1. Baptism and Vote

(Home Fields)	1935	1936	1937	1938
Baltic Union	402	330	93	141
British Union	490	458	515	459
East Nordic Union	498	355	371	418
Polish Union	328	288	362	371
West Nordic Union	466	386	324	400
	2184	1817	1665	1789

(Mission Fields)	1935	1936	1937	1938
East Africa	683	817	954	894
West Africa	399	492	734	809
	1082	1309	1688	1703

Summary				
Home Fields	2184 (67%)	1817 (58%)	1665 (49½%)	1789 (51%)
Mission Fields	1082 (33%)	1309 (42%)	1688 (50½%)	1703 (49%)
Total	3266	3126	3353	3492

2. Net Gain

(Home Fields)	1935	1936	1937	1938
Baltic Union	191	48	-39	-163
British Union	163	167	232	164
East Nordic Union	288	119	147	156
Polish Union	158	77	143	121*
West Nordic Union	204	172	30	89
	1004	583	513	367

(Mission Fields)	1935	1936	1937	1938
East Africa	368	635	660	533
West Africa	255	287	529	674
	623	922	1189	1207

Summary				
Home Fields	1004 (61½%)	583 (38%)	513 (30%)	367 (23%)
Mission Fields	623 (38½%)	922 (62%)	1189 (70%)	1207 (77%)
Total	1627	1505	1702	1574

*669 members transferred from Central Europe to Poland (Teschen Area) not included in this figure.

6. Similar proportions are shown in the matter of the net gains:

	Home Fields	Mission Fields
1935	61½%	38½%
1936	38%	62%
1937	30%	70%
1938	23%	77%

7. In 1922 our Division membership stood at 15,488 and the membership in our African Missions was 8.4% of this total.

In 1938 our Division membership stood at 37,873 and the membership in our African Missions was 27% of the total.

8. The Tithes in the Division for 1938 were \$373,933, which is an increase of \$58,063 over 1937 and the best record for one year since the Division was organized, the next best being 1930, with \$319,163.

9. As to Mission Offerings, the year 1937 was the best in our history, the figure being \$243,954.

A survey of the total number of workers in our home Unions shows a good increase in two of the Union fields while three of the Unions show small decreases:

	1936	1937	1938	Inc'se since 1937	Dec'se since 1937
Baltic	108	92	90	...	2
British	176	185	210	25	...
Polish	101	103	101	...	2
E. Nordic	146	146	159	13	...
W. Nordic	120	128	123	...	5
	651	654	683	38	9

As we look toward 1940 and all its uncertainties we would not in our own strength be able to face the conflict. However, in the strength of our Leader and under His protection and guidance, we can go forward and push on to victory. We must stand together a united people, even though tribulation and persecution may be our lot.

"Fearful tests and trials await the people of God. The spirit of war is stirring the nations from one end of the earth to the other. But in the midst of the time of trouble that is coming—a time of trouble such as has not been since there was a nation—God's chosen people still stand unmoved. Satan and his host cannot destroy them; for angels that excel in strength will protect them."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, page 17.

APOSTASIES

Total	1935	1936	1937	1938
	1147	1144	1128	1218

PERCENTAGE OF APOSTASIES

	To Baptism and Vote 1938	To Baptism Only 1938	To Baptism Only 1937
Home Fields	48%	61%	50%
Mission Fields	21%	22%	26.6%

APOSTASIES AND BAPTISMS BY UNIONS

	Apostasies			Baptisms			Net Gains	
	1936	1937	1938	1936	1937	1938	1936	1937
Baltic	180	98	212	301	86	125	48	-39
British	225	161	174	368	425	377	167	232
Polish	142	150	118	269	332	340	77	143
East Nordic	143	159	154	306	329	359	119	147
West Nordic	135	157	200	339	279	353	172	30
Kenya U.M.	159	238	243	614	707	686	543	604
Gold Coast	31	17	25	217	172	185	145	139
Nigerian U.M.	24	96	62	245	413	510	219	286
Sierra Leone	100	31	7	...	106	86	-104	66
Upper Nile U.M.	4	21	22	95	77	124	92	56
N. Cameroons	1	...	...	...	12	...	-1	12
Liberia	...	...	1	30	28	23	28	26
	1144	1128	1218	2784	2966	3168	1505	1702
								1574

Difficulties and Progress

BY J. I. ROBISON

WE are drawing to the close of one of the most momentous years in the history of our work in Europe. For several years past we have been living on the brink of a great catastrophe. War has threatened again and again only to be postponed by a patched-up peace. But now the catastrophe has come, and our Division possibly more than any other Division in the world is affected by this scourge of war. It has already completely disorganized the work in one of our Unions and has brought great changes to all our fields.

We face momentous forces today and rapid changes are taking place in every land. We see now the fulfilment of the prophetic warning sent us by the Spirit of prophecy more than thirty years ago: "The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, page 11.

During the past few weeks these changes have been taking

place before our eyes. They have come rapidly, oft-times with only a few hours' notice. We have found that the way is being hedged up on every side and our work cannot now be carried on as in normal times. It will be only with great difficulty that our General and Division workers will be able to travel from country to country, and it will not be possible to hold large councils or conventions where our workers can be gathered from different parts of the Division. The visits of Division men to the mission fields as well as the home unions will have to be greatly curtailed and all our workers both at home and overseas will have to be thrown more and more on their own resources. They will often have to make important decisions for themselves and the work without the opportunity of counselling with any outside the small circle of fellow-workers with whom they labour.

The sending of funds from one country to another is already hedged up to a certain extent and this difficulty will no doubt increase as the war continues. We are at present able to send money

to all our mission fields from the Division headquarters, and for this we are indeed thankful. Mission funds are also still being sent to our treasury from the Union offices and we trust that this will enable us to carry on our mission programme.

Our missionaries home on furlough are all expecting to return to their fields, but we are finding that travel facilities are limited and bookings very difficult to secure. Also many permits must now be obtained before one can sail. These difficulties do not, however, deter our missionaries, and they are looking forward to getting back to their fields as soon as possible.

We are glad to report that we have prospect of opening up medical work in Nigeria in the near future. We have received an urgent invitation from the Oni of Ife to establish our hospital in his district, and application has now been made for a grant of thirty acres of land near the large town of Ife where we expect to build the hospital. Dr. Madgwick of Kendu Hospital, East Africa, who has given many years of faithful service in building up our medical work in Kenya Colony, has been invited to pioneer our medical work in Nigeria and he has accepted this appointment.

We welcome Dr. L. Ermshar of California into our mission service. He has recently passed the medical examinations in Edinburgh and will be going out to East Africa in a few weeks to take over Dr. Madgwick's work.

Very encouraging reports have come in of progress in our mission fields. In East Africa the brethren report exceptionally large camp-meetings this year with increasing interest in the message. The government District Commissioner who attended one of our camps in Kavirondo expressed his deep appreciation of the stabilizing influence that our mission is exerting on the lives of the natives in these difficult times.

Pastor L. A. Vixie has recently visited our missions in East Africa and reports a renewed interest in the colporteur work in the East African colonies. Brother Vixie

unfortunately has been delayed on his return journey and at this writing is held up in Cairo waiting a permit to come on to England. We hope, however, he will soon be able to return home and join his family from whom he has been separated about five months.

Some of our workers, and also a number of our believers, in the Baltic countries are being repatriated to Germany under the present plan of having all those of German nationality return to Germany. This has necessitated some reorganization of our work in the Baltic. Pastor W. Strohl, the superintendent of our Lithuanian Mission, has been repatriated to Germany and will now join the workers in the East German Union. Pastor A. Birzgal has been appointed superintendent of our work in Lithuania in his place.

The Harvest Ingathering results this year have been very encouraging. The East Nordic Union has had a most successful campaign, passing all previous records. The West Nordic Union also reached its goal in good time, and before this goes to press the Division will without doubt have reached its goal even in these trying days of war. For the splendid co-operation and the help that all have given in making this year's campaign a success we are indeed thankful, and on behalf of the Division Committee and our missionaries in the field I wish to express our sincere thanks to all who have helped to reach this splendid achievement.

Our schools have opened with encouraging enrolments in view of

war conditions. The Newbold College has an enrolment of just over one hundred, which is very good in view of the fact that they have no oversea students this year. The Onsrud Mission School has the largest enrolment in its history, with ninety-five students attending. This has taxed their resources to the limit, for the school plant has room for only about seventy-five students to be housed comfortably. The other schools have all opened with good enrolments and we trust the Lord will bless our educators as they train our young people to finish the work.

We especially ask that our workers in Northern Europe will pray for our work and believers in Poland. We have had no word from them since the outbreak of the war. Our efforts to contact them have been unsuccessful.

And now as we face a New Year with its problems and perplexities, multiplied because of war conditions, we may look with confidence to the future, knowing that God is leading. Even though wars surround us we know that He will carry forward His work to a victorious triumph. And it will not be long. He says, "Surely I come quickly." Our hearts respond, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

Our Winter Council, held at Stanborough Park, was an occasion of rich, personal blessing. Our January issue will be devoted to reports from the Council. Within a few days Brethren W. E. Read and E. R. Colson left for important work in the West Nordic Union.

The Gold Coast

BY J. CLIFFORD

An encouraging feature of the work in Gold Coast during the last twelve months has been the carrying into effect of the plans for our evangelists' training school.

For more than ten years the need of this school has been recognized and various plans put forward to bring it into being. Now, with the active encouragement of our leaders at home, and the financial help of our loyal members in the home base, funds

have been made available for the necessary buildings and equipment for this school. The Lord worked manifestly in enabling us to lease a suitable plot of land opposite our mission headquarters at Bekwai, and at the time of writing the buildings are almost completed.

The Nigerian Union has kindly released Brother C. A. Bartlett to the Gold Coast to take the leadership of this school, and we

hope that soon our plans for giving a better training to African workers will reach fruition. Africa is developing rapidly. Well-trained African evangelists are needed to give the message in these changing times, and we believe that the establishment of this school will prove to be one of the greatest forward steps in the history of the Lord's work in this field.

Though two of our four European workers are on furlough at the moment, we are still endeavouring to carry forward an active programme of evangelism. Brother Fielding is conducting an effort at Nsuta, one of the chief

towns of North Ashanti, while the writer, with the assistance of African workers, is carrying forward an effort at Obuasi. During the mid-year vacation a number of the school teachers have gone out on special soul-winning campaigns.

Lay members in the Tarkwa district report a new company raised in the Central Province by their efforts. This is in a hitherto unentered district. Our believers in Anum also report a good interest in a town on the border of Togoland. We ask your prayers that these interests may prove fruitful and more souls be won for the Master in this field.

the readers of the SURVEY some reports of these campaigns as they have come to us.

A group of the workers from Bekwai went to Obuasi, a mining town thirty miles south. They chose what is deemed a difficult field, but rejoice that their faith was rewarded in that seven souls took their stand for the truth.

Pastor Essien, with lay workers from Tarkwa, went to Adugyai in the Central Province, to visit an isolated member who has suffered much for her faith. They held special services for the townspeople each morning and evening. Some who could read brought their Bibles, others asked questions, and before they left, a company of eighteen believers had been established, with five others in a neighbouring town—a new light in hitherto unentered territory—and our lone sister now has others to join her in Sabbath worship.

From Accra and Koforidua districts, where the effects of the recent earthquake were most serious, come reports that the people are awakening from their usual self-satisfied state, and are inquiring after the truth. From workers in the Koforidua district come reports of forty-two persons having accepted the message during the past month. At Anum, east of Accra, our evangelist reports additions to the membership in Anum itself, and a second company of eighteen adults and twenty-four children raised up in a town about six miles away as the result of soul-winning services held by the evangelist and lay members. We hear also of souls won in the Agona district, but the full reports are not in at this time of writing. In this field it requires earnest effort to win one person to take his stand. We rejoice and thank God for the new converts won through these special campaigns.

Lay Evangelistic Work in Gold Coast

BY J. CLIFFORD

LAYMEN'S evangelistic work is of paramount importance to the finishing of God's work in Africa. It is obvious that funds and workers cannot be found to preach the Gospel to the countless numbers of unwarned cities and villages in Africa in this generation, and it is therefore necessary that our lay members co-operate in this work and swell the loud cry of the closing Gospel message.

This plan is God's plan. Christ taught His disciples to go out soul-winning from the time of their first contact with Him, as is illustrated in the cases of Andrew and Philip.

Therefore the first need in developing laymen's evangelistic work is to bring our members to Jesus, that they may taste the joy of His salvation, and with hearts overflowing with love and zeal, give the Gospel to those in need.

Evangelism near at home should rightly be carried out as a part of the activities of the local church. The Missionary Volunteer Department is here in its element. The Sabbath-school, conducted at times under a tree in the village instead of in the church, has proved to be a successful means of winning converts. "Open air" preaching services conducted by the church elders, assisted by the whole church, are proved means of winning souls to Christ. I remember an occasion when the Agona

church dropped its usual services and spent the whole Sabbath day preaching in the towns of Jamasi, Apa, and Oyonsu. The Oyonsu church was raised up from the interest started during that day's field work.

In another case a church that was on the downgrade was encouraged to begin local evangelistic work. Led by the visiting missionary they spent several days in "open air" preaching. Then they continued the work themselves with the help of their teacher. In time two new companies were raised up. When relating their experiences these believers told how, in one town, the people invariably disappeared when they went there to preach, so our members rose at four in the morning and preached through the thin walls of the huts to the people lying on their beds.

Such evangelistic efforts not only strengthen and revive the local church, but the smaller companies raised up in adjacent villages can in the main be cared for by the existing church with little extra expense to mission funds.

EVANGELISTIC MONTH IN THE GOLD COAST

July, the month of the mid-year school vacation, is evangelistic month in the Gold Coast, when school teachers join with evangelists and lay members in soul-winning campaigns. We pass on to

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The North Cameroons

BY R. BERGSTRÖM

IN the North Cameroons some pagan tribes have lived for centuries in a part of the country filled with rocky mountains. Every mountain has its secret places, where the people sacrifice to evil spirits. They have raised their crops between the rocks. War and robbery have been their main contacts with other tribes. Other tribes have made efforts to overcome them but never succeeded, for the mountains have been a stronghold. Islam has conquered all the surrounding tribes, but every effort to win the people on the mountains has failed. However, the everlasting Gospel has now begun to enter these strongholds of paganism.

Some months ago I went to a mountain where the people have shown some interest in the Gospel. When I reached the mountain a crowd of people came down and surrounded me. They sat very quietly listening. When I finished, one man said: "We will hear more. Speak to us again." The people have now built their own chapel, where a good number meet every Sabbath.

Our churchmembers have taken an active part in spreading the Word. They go out every Sabbath and speak in the villages. By such efforts the message has reached several places, where the people now meet regularly.

One of our teachers used to hold meetings in two villages on Sabbath. On his way he passed another village whose chief was against our work and would not allow our teachers in his village. But a few of his people had listened at another place. The chief thought to hinder them. He called his people together and said that they should not listen to the teacher or follow what the mission taught. He would show them that the spirits they worshipped were against it.

These people believe that the spirits communicate with them. If a crime is committed in a village, and they cannot find who is guilty, they take a chicken, cut its throat, and then leave the chicken to run.

They believe that they will find the guilty person by going in the direction the chicken ran before it died. The chief said he would ask the spirits by this test, and the spirits would show them that they should not listen to the teacher but follow their old religion.

So as to hinder the people from going to our teacher the chief called them together on the Sabbath. He had chosen a chicken and cut its throat. He tried to make it easy for the chicken to run in the direction of our station, and so indicate to the people that the mission with its teaching was wrong. But instead of doing that the chicken rushed on the chief himself. The chief was astonished, but did not say anything to the people. Later he told the people that it was not a good chicken he had chosen. The following Saturday he would do the same thing but with a better chicken. The Sabbath came, and the chief again called all his people. He took the chicken he had chosen and repeated the same operation. The people were all looking on with great interest. But this time also it happened as before. The chicken rushed on the chief and died at his feet. The chief did not move, and the people did not dare to speak. At the moment our teacher approached the village on his way to hold a meeting at another place. When the chief saw the teacher he called him and said: "Teacher, come over and speak to us now." He told the teacher what had happened, and continued: "I was sure the spirits which we worship would show the people that you were wrong. But instead of that the spirits have shown that it is I who am wrong, and that the mission teaches the Word of the true God."

The teacher had now a good opportunity. He had there a larger gathering than in any other village, and from that time we have met there every Sabbath.



BROTHER L. A. VIXIE arrived home safely a few days before our Winter Council convened.

THROUGH a circuitous channel good news has reached us from Poland. It is to the effect that our headquarters building in Warsaw was practically untouched by the bombing, and that the regular meetings are being held. Brother Czembor is himself well and, so far as he knows, the same is true of almost all the workers. Not all of the colporteurs have yet been traced.

In the part of Poland which has been occupied by Germany our churches are meeting regularly, and word from the eastern part of Poland, occupied by Russia, indicates that the churches are there carrying on their work.

We are grateful and happy to receive this report, and to know that prayer has been answered for our dear brethren in Poland. Pray that God will yet do great things through His faithful servants in that land.

Have You Solved Your Problem?

MANY of our mothers in the mission fields are greatly perplexed with reference to the education of their children. As school age approaches they feel the children should not be deprived of a Christian education, and yet they are hundreds of miles from any school to which they could go. Many parents have solved this question by taking their children through the early grades with the help of the lessons and books supplied by the Home Study Institute. The lessons are simple and quite complete.

The teacher in charge of this department of the Institute has taught in our church schools for many years, and she is able to give all needed assistance as the child goes on with the lessons. Mother and child enjoy this opportunity of working together and often several grades are thus completed in the home.

Why not write for full information, and make definite plans to help your children to keep up scholastically with children in the homeland.

HOME STUDY INSTITUTE,
Takoma Park, Washington, D.C.