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The Challenge of Missions

By C. E. Moseley

Ten weeks of travel in West Africa will leave vivid impressions upon the mind of any visitor. But add to that travel a survey of the various aspects of an ever enlarging mission programme, and one is easily moved with appreciation for what has been accomplished; yet one is equally stirred by the challenge of what remains to be done to evangelize the vast unentered areas.

Through Sierra Leone and Liberia, across Ivory Coast, into Gold Coast and Nigeria, one sees the thrilling triumphs of the gospel in the nobly enriched lives of once alienated men, but now lifted to purer and holier living in Christ. On every mission compound, at every clinic, school, and out-station, the visitor finds abundant cause for rejoicing. If he remains on the scene long enough, and observes closely enough, his joys will be sobered by the need for larger services, which every where presents itself.

Imagine the thrill of accompanying a paramount chief to a prominent elevation overlooking his village, which he gives to the mission for a new house of worship. Try to sense the joy that comes to one who speaks of Christ and salvation to the chief men of a village, where the Bible was unknown, and where before now the gospel was never preached. Think of the pleasure of wading into a clear running stream and of burying native converts in Christian baptism. Experience the sheer satisfaction of hearing newly won native

believers praising the great God of heaven for sending the missionary with the message of Christ, when you have shared in the support of that missionary family. Then preach the wonderful story of salvation and have it three times interrupted by songs bursting raptuously out of the mouths of deeply moved men and women, while others of their number yield body and soul in surrender to Christ. Listen to little children singing the songs of heaven in a strange tongue, and hear them join with their parents in prayer to God for greater understanding and help to live the better life. Share the pleasures of a serenade of gospel hymns which is your welcome to a native village, then follow the believers as they escort you with singing to the place of meeting, and out of the village again with a musical farewell, meanwhile, they are lavishing their love upon you in kindly words of thanks and simple gifts of fruit and flowers and foods. Then you are perfectly willing to be forgiven if your own joy overflows in thrilling tears. But you will be eternally happy that through the years you gave freely to missions and helped to make those experiences possible.

But not all that the visitor sees and hears in mission lands is rosey; for like the unsuspected prick of a brier on the stem of the rose, much that one observes on his visit tends to sober the heart, if it does not prick the conscience.

Listen to a delegation of men that

have walked miles from a remote village to plead for a teacher to come and instruct them and their children in the things of Christ, when you know that no teacher is available. Hear a chief plead with the mission superintendent to continue the operation of his school, and for lack of funds, he is told "we cannot, for the present at least." See another building on a sight which was once set aside for your mission, simply because funds from your home base were not sufficient to carry out the operations as promised. Look at the large number of sick that had to be turned away from your clinic untreated, many of whom you know have struggled over rugged miles to this disappointment, only for want of better facilities and adequate medications. Regularly they appear at the clinic, men, women, and little children, festering with tropical ulcers, their bodies eroded by diseases of the skin and wasting away from triple forms of leprosy. See them needlessly crippled and maimed and hopelessly blind, when in many cases the simplest attentions may have saved all, only those attentions were not available when needed. Hear the mission Doctor fretting as he discovers that an infant has expired in the arms of its weeping mother, while she waited her turn for the help that came too late; which help also is openly insufficient to attend to all of the most needy cases in time.

Add to these the fact that similar experiences are reinflicted many times

over in literally hundreds of villages in the vast unentered areas of Africa, and you are to feel some of the emotional disturbances which beset the missionary all too often.

When it is remembered that the above cases represent only some of the more common experiences, and only some of the most urgent needs which the missionary faces, then mission operations begin to take on a much different aspect of appeal. No attempt is made here to rehearse the personal inconveniences, privations, and dangers which are the common lot of the missionary. These alone will surely make their appeal to the conscience. But the emphasis here is shaped by things which impress themselves upon the conscience of the visitor, and make their appeal to the supporters of missions.

Admittedly, the visitor has a struggle with his conscience when he witnesses the above. His conscience not only chides him, it literally smites him, when he considers how little he has done to help, and how small has been his efforts in support of foreign missions. Then and there he decides that from what he sees of missions, it is one of the most deserving and needy of church enterprises. He is convinced that foreign missions pay a thousand times over, in men and women restored to Christ, in salvaged and recovered lives of children and youth; in the training of African youth to assume responsibility for the betterment of their own people, in the guidance given to parents in procedures for better home conditions, and general health in instructions offered in child care, youth development and discipline. He resolves firmly that his giving, to missions hereafter, shall be larger, systematic, sacrificial, and at last, purposeful, based on enlightenment and sympathy and love, such love, as the Christ must have felt during His sojourn among men. Then only can the words of our Lord live in us, for "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren," He says "ye have done it unto me." Matt. 25: 40.

North Nigerian Mission

President

W. G. TILL

Annual Report of the North Nigerian Mission

Year Ending 31st December, 1951

The year 1951 has been to us a year of great joy. We have seen during this year steps taken to advance the cause of God in the North and although most of these steps remain promises yet we believe that the year 1951 will see their implementation. With this faith we have tried to do our best to show our appreciation by added efforts and God has given us wonderful success, for which we praise His name.

In the field of evangelism we have once more been held up by lack of strong leadership. In my report last year I pointed out the need for someone to lead out in evangelism and although the budget was provided immediately it has taken the whole year to fill the appointment. We are happy that Pastor W.G. Till is now back in West Africa and we are expecting great things from his experienced leadership in 1952.

In the meantime, however, all have done their best and have not just sat down and waited for the

new leader. It has not been possible to hold workers' meetings as we have done heretofore, and also the arrangements for the extension evangelists course arranged with the Nigerian Training College fell through due to the fact that Pastor Brendel had to proceed home on leave earlier than had been expected, but the district leaders took up the challenge and have done great work in training the junior evangelists and also the laymen to carry the load and extend our evangelistic programme into their surrounding villages. Perhaps our greatest gain has been this layman's movement which has gained greatest impetus in our Eastern District and which is bringing in new converts monthly. The increasing part that the laymen are playing is highlighted by the electing of the first layman as church elder in the history of North Nigeria.

All this lay evangelism has brought in results. The Hearers Class membership is two and a half times and the baptisms are nearly five times that of 1950. This means that we nearly doubled our goal for baptism.

The figures are as follows:-

	1950	1951	as percent of 1950
Sabbath-School Membership	455	599	132 percent
Hearers Class Membership	62	153	247 percent
Baptismal Class Membership	63	59	94 percent (170) percent
Baptisms	8	39	488 percent
Baptised Membership	151	191	127 percent

The high number of baptisms has made the Baptismal Class membership seem low as we will not be promoting Hearers Class members to the Baptismal Class until January 1, 1952.

During the year we have held before the people the need for increased faithfulness in tithes and the latest figures available show that they have responded well and were at the middle of December already 66 percent ahead of 1950's total. The figures for the past three years

show God's increasing blessing and the membership's increasing faithfulness in tithes paying.

	TITHE		
1949	£ 140	16	7
1950	193	14	11
1951	320	14	11

North Nigeria is a field with small resources. We were happy however to see that God's resources are as large as the needs of the field.

When Pastor King visited our field in October of this year he was able to give us a long weekend.

Also, due to Brother Chappell's organization, we were able to have advance notice, a feature much appreciated by field leaders. We decided to attempt our first camp meeting and promoted it with the slogan "If I go and take a friend there 'll be a thousand there." And there were. We counted over 1,200 present and many were not counted. The day of small things in North Nigeria is past. We have a great God and great things He has done and will do.

At the time of the Camp Meeting we held an Investiture where a good group of Friends and Companions were invested. This was mainly due to the efforts of the teachers. We hope next year to start the Preparatory Classes for Juniors as well as having our first group of Comrades invested.

The school work at Jengre has progressed well but staffing our school is a major problem, and it is likely to continue so for some years until we can get our local boys trained as teachers. At the time of writing this report we do not know whether we can re-open the school at all in 1952. The teachers that we had have all with one accord made excuse and wish to return to the south. We have never had anything like this before and we hope never to have it again. We appeal to our sister missions in Nigeria to sacrifice to help us. It is essential that our school remains open otherwise all branches of the work will suffer not only now but for years to come.

The medical work has continued its good work in spite of staff shortages. The ward was opened in August and has had well over 100 admissions already. More than 15,000 patient attendances were recorded in the Out-Patient Department and the medical fees showed a large increase as the figures for the past three years show.

Medical Fees

1949	£ 98	2 11
1950	225	4 11
1951	475	19 10

I am sure that, if staff is available, and the doctor is allowed by time and travel budget to travel with a mobile unit, that all these figures

can be doubled quite easily. Of course, we need and should have an overseas nursing sister to help out, but our plans cannot wait for her appointment. We are grateful to our training school at Ife for such fine material as we have and ask them to remain as sympathetic to our requests for staff in the future as they have been in the past.

We would like to express our appreciation to the General Conference, Division, and Union officers who have allocated the next 13th Sabbath overflow to the Jengre Hospital. We hope that the constituency will support this offering with their best ever effort that we may be equipped for greater service in the Moslem North.

This is my last report. As Pastor W.G. Till the new President takes up his duties, we the staff and members of North Nigeria assure him of our support and our prayers. We know that the same God Who has blessed us in the past five years by doubling our baptised membership and trebling our Sabbath-School membership will continue to work with him and through him for even greater results. I am grateful to the loyal workers and membership for their support in the past and pray that as I confine my efforts to the medical work God may use me to open doors for the evangelists to enter.

Dr. J. Ashford Hyde.

"Behold I Come Quickly"

By Jesse O. Gibson

It is rather interesting to note that as the Bible comes to its close that the expression "Behold I come quickly" is used repeatedly. In the very last chapter of the Bible this expression is used twice and then in the next to last verse it says, "Surely I come quickly." Certainly the Lord wanted to emphasize the fact that His coming would be quick and sure. We as Seventh-day Adventist believers and workers all believe this, I am sure. It is one of our key doctrines. Knowing the times as we do, certainly we must do everything in our power to prepare the 40,000,000 people of West Africa of Christ's coming in the near future.

It is no time for anyone to rest, but it is a time when we should have concerted action in meeting the challenge of the dying men around us. Many of these men and women know not Christ. It is up to us as members of the remnant church and workers in the cause of God, to unite our forces as never before and finish God's work.

You have heard much in the past year about doubling our membership. We here in West Africa, with God's help can and must double our membership during this four-year period. We thank God for the 2,329 who were baptised last year. We are also thankful for the courage and faith of the delegates from the various fields who set a goal for more than 5,000 new converts in 1952 and over 3,000 baptisms. I am sure that every delegate to the Union Constituency Meeting will well remember the earnest prayers which ascended to God for the power of His Holy Spirit to accomplish this task.

I hope that everyone of you are continuing to pray at sundown on Sabbath evening that God will send us this power which we so much need. Every avenue however, must be channelled so that it produces the maximum of soul-winning achievements. Very soon we hope to have some information for you regarding a Baptismal Day when we are planning on having a large baptism throughout the Union in one day. This will probably come late in August. Of course there will need to be a later baptism in the year, but how thrilling it would be to know that throughout the whole Union every pastor was performing baptismal services on the same day. Every worker should at this time put forth renewed effort in thoroughly training and instructing the baptismal candidates which he has there, wherever possible preparing them for baptism during the month of August. We must work now so that the candidates will be prepared in time.

May God bless you as you go forth with renewed determination to win souls for Christ and prepare them for a place in His kingdom.

Liberian Mission

President

G. N. Banks

Annual Report, 1951

We could not possibly open this report without first recognizing the manifold blessing God has bestowed upon our work during the past year in Liberia. The blessings have been too numerous to count and God has wonderfully preserved the health and strength of our workers from serious illness and death.

We were very happy to have Elders Tarr and Lindsay from the Northern European Division visit with us at the beginning of the year, and we are grateful for the counsel and help rendered us at that time. We were also happy to take the occasion of their visit for the dedication of our new boy's dormitory at Konola Training School on which occasion outsiders had the privilege of hearing these brethren and becoming better acquainted with our school and work in Liberia. The new dormitory has just been completed under the supervision of Brother P. E. Giddings, the director of Konola school, and everyone present felt a great need had been filled in the erection of the school dormitory.

Another interesting event in the first part of the year was a baptismal service conducted by Pastor D. D. Henri in the Bassa district. To quote from his own words about this, he states, "On January 21, 1951 history was made as we baptised into our church in Bassa a group of earnest consecrated women. You ask, 'What so historic about that?' Well these were the first Americo-Liberians (in Bassa) to break away from the traditions and customs of their country and unite themselves with God's remnant people! One was the wife of the superintendent of Education for Grand Bassa (country) another the principal of the Government Elementary Morning School, another a specialist in kindergarten education trained in the United States, and another the wife of the Price Administrator of the country! The

influence exerted by these godly women as they took their stand for God will only be revealed in the day of judgment!" I might add that the calibre and devotion of these members was further demonstrated in the year that followed their baptism, in which the foreign pastoral leadership was taken away from their church which they had so recently joined. A month after their baptism Pastor Henri had to leave Bassa to go over to the Konola station to take charge of the school there as Brother Giddings was leaving for furlough. Undaunted these new members rallied to the test and took the lead in carrying the Bassa church on to achievement. Having been church workers and leaders in their own churches and communities they kept up the spirit in the Bassa S. D. A. church. One of them began a series of Bible studies for outsiders, another lead out in a programme of dressing and brightening up the church auditorium, and another lead out in helping to build up the church's financial goal during the year. The results were new interest increased in the church, Sabbath-School offerings increased, tithe doubled, and the largest thirteenth Sabbath offering ever received in Liberian mission history, to my knowledge, was gathered in.

We are also grateful for the visits of others of our workers from the Division and Union Offices. Pastor Cowin and Dr. Hamilton came over in the interest of our educational work and gave good counsel and much help in this field of activity. Brother Chappell and Pastor King came over in the interest of the publishing work, and we feel their visit proved a real blessing, and even though Brother Chappell could return to us later many of the members regretted that Pastor King could not return with him, to complete their visit.

Brother Chappell gave us strong help in trying to get the colporteur work going in our field and also in the Ingathering programme. In some

areas our Ingathering was better than it had ever been before and in Monrovia we received at least fifty percent more than last year and in Konola about one hundred percent more.

The Weeks of Prayer proved a great blessing as they were conducted in the field during the past year. About the Week of Prayer held at Konola Pastor Henri writes, "Early each morning students and natives from nearby villages gathered in our chapel for a short study, earnest prayer and devotional meeting. The Spirit of God was present in a marked way. Again in the early twilight you could see them coming with their lanterns, lamps and flashlights to hear the wonderful story of Jesus' love and to see it in pictures on the screen. How our hearts thrilled when on the closing Sabbath the entire student body and many of the natives dedicated themselves to God, the vast majority for the first time in their lives."

In Monrovia we conducted two separate Weeks of Prayer services. The first was for the Missionary Volunteers and the young people of the school. During the daily services in which the teachers co-operated, many noticeably rich spiritual experiences developed. At the close of these meetings twenty-two new converts took their stand for God and joined the baptismal training class to become members of the church. We give God the praise for the presence of His Holy Spirit. For the older church members their Week of Prayer was a time of devotion and re-consecration to God. Our hearts were moved as we saw the members realising the meaning of the great truth they had accepted and the nearness of the coming of Jesus. They responded by making a full dedication to be faithful to God until the end.

In a brief word about our schools I might say this year saw the largest enrolment yet in our Konola school and we believe that in the coming year it will be larger. We are being pressed from many sides to make a way to accept girl boarding students in the school and we hope that soon we may have a building in which we can see this wish fulfilled.

We attempted to carry on a strong programme of evangelism during the year and after the counsel and help

brought to us by our Union President during his visits to Liberia, we opened evangelistic meetings around the field during the mid-term vacations in July. In Konola area, Pastor Henri led a group of the workers and students from the Konola school to hold meetings in a nearby centre called Salalah. When the meetings were opened they were told no church was wanted there and especially an S. D. A. one, but when the meetings closed weeks later a church was established and the interest had grown to the place where the people actually wept when they realised the meetings were over. Here another centre of light for the truth has been established. In New Cess in Bassa country, Pastor Helbig and Brother Finn, two of our African pastors held an evangelistic effort with good results. In the Liwa district Pastor Hallowanger and his associated evangelists held a series of meetings in a number of the villages. In Monrovia we began a series of evangelistic meetings also in July holding them on Sunday nights and Wednesday nights. These meetings began at 7:00 and ended at 8:30 in order to keep from conflicting with the radio broadcast which began at 9:00 and ran to 9:30. We continued the meetings from July 15 to December 8 on which Sabbath we held a beautiful baptismal service and witnessed new valuable souls added to our Monrovia church. We were delighted to have Elder C. E. Moseley of the General Conference present with us on this occasion. Baptismal candidates for the field for 1951 were 141.

I would like to say just a word about the radio work. We were the second religious group to go on the air in Liberia and there are several others now, but we should have been the first. We are broadcasting twice each week, the Voice of Prophecy on Sunday nights 9:00 to 9:30 and the Bible Hour broadcast on Thursday nights 9:00 to 9:30. Our Thursday night broadcast is made up of special music using some local talent and good transcribed music, and a short sermon presenting our doctrinal truths. These broadcasts have been well received and we have had many good comments and good letters from a representative's wife, the highest Foreign Bishop in Liberia, an

instructor in the college of West Africa, the Aide de Camp to the President of Liberia, and compliments from several of the local church ministers and many of the local people. As the opportunity affords we feel this work should be expanded and pushed to its very limits. With gratitude to God we ask an interest in your prayers as the work continues in the Liberian Mission.

Ministerial Book Club

By Jesse O. Gibson

Ministerial Association Secretary

As you know the Ministerial Reading Course has been discontinued and in its place we now have the Ministerial Book Club. This provides for one book for our ministers each quarter and brings to you each quarter an attractive sermon brochure containing three sermons by three experienced denominational leaders. This gift for the first quarter provides material for three Sabbath morning worship sermons, the second quarter, three evangelistic sermons with appeals for decision; the third quarter, three spiritual promotional sermons; the fourth quarter, three beautiful studies on the communion service. I am sure that these sermons will be a great help to you as workers. I might say that I am endeavouring also to have some of these sermons to include in the African Reading Course for those not subscribing to the Ministerial Book Club.

There will be four books in the book club. The first one is entitled "The Flood in the Light of the Bible, Geology, and Archaeology." The second will be "Interpreter's Bible." Volume VII of the Interpreter's Bible will be the one which is included in the 1952 Book Club. It deals especially with commentaries on Matthew and Mark. It is declared to be one of the greatest Biblical commentaries of the last half century. The third book is, "Welfare Ministry" which is a handbook for pastors and gospel workers. It is a carefully selected and well-organised compilation of Mrs. White's writings on this subject.

This instruction will certainly be very helpful to our workers. We do not as yet know the title of the fourth number of the Book Club, but I am sure it will be a very worthwhile book.

If you have not already done so, I would suggest that you place your order immediately with your Book and Bible House for these books. It is difficult to arrive at the exact cost but it will probably cost you, with discount which is allowed to licensed and ordained ministers, a little less than £1 per quarter. To those other than ordained and licensed ministers we wish to urge that you take the advantage of the African Reading Course which comes to our workers at a fifty percent discount. You will get the information regarding this reading course through your local president.

Editorial

We are very happy to report the safe return to Nigeria of Brother L. Downing and his family. During his furlough Brother Downing has engaged in further study and we are pleased to congratulate him on obtaining his Masters degree.

New missionaries are always a welcome addition to our staff and word has now come to hand that Pastor C. V. Brown and family have arrived in Sierra Leone to take up the duties of Secretary-Treasurer. Also Brother R. Symonds and family have safely arrived in Monrovia, Liberia, Brother Symonds having been appointed Secretary Treasurer to the Liberian Mission.

Pastor and Mrs. Welch of Bekwai Training College, Gold Coast, and Pastor and Mrs. Bartlett of Ihie Training College, Nigeria, will be leaving for their furloughs on April 2nd. We wish these workers a safe journey and a happy and profitable time in their homelands.

Word has just come to hand that at the opening meeting of Pastor T. J. Bradley's evangelistic campaign in Kumasi there were over 2,000 in attendance. We should all pray

(Continued on page 8)

The Voice of Prophecy Bible School

Report for the Four Years 1948-1951

By E. E. Hulbert
Director

The report of the work of the Voice of Prophecy for the quadrennium covers the entire period of operations for the West African Branch of the world-wide Voice of Prophecy work. During this period we have received 46,732 applications for Bible lessons, and have enrolled 30,726 students. Of these 5,597 have completed the Basic Course, and 242 have completed the new Advanced Course, which has been in operation for only one year. Three-thousand and six of these students have replied to lessons during the last three months, and can therefore be considered as still being active.

If we reduce these figures to numbers of lessons sent to students during the last four years, we find that we have sent 500,500—over half a million—lessons to all parts of West Africa. In addition, during the past year alone we have sent 21,000 pieces of literature in the form of gift books, "Signs of the Times", Voice of Prophecy News, and books sold, to our students.

Of the 11,000 enrolled during 1951, 5,169 were enrolled from the "Wonders of the Word" enrolment folders, distributed by our faithful evangelists and members; and 5,146 were enrolled by student recommendation. Of the remaining, 415,119 were enrolled from advertizing and other contacts made through the Nigerian "Daily Times", and 60 were enrolled through sending in their names to the Editor of the "Signs of the Times." You will notice also that thirty names were enrolled as a result of sending their names to the Voice of Prophecy in England. These thirty are entirely the result of colporteur contacts, and this should bring encouragement to our colporteurs in the field, particularly in the Gold Coast, where 23 of the 30 students were enrolled.

We wish to mention the highlights of the income from students during 1951 as compared with the first year, 1948. In our first year, donations from students amounted

to £55.0.7d. In 1951, gifts from students amounted to £341.9.10d. Tithes from students amounted to £18.15.2d in 1951 as compared with £5.5.7d in 1948. Profits from the sale of books amounted to £49.11.7d in 1951 as compared with practically nothing in 1948.

The total income for the whole four years from all student sources, and including the Union wide Voice of Prophecy Offering amounts to £1,266.13.6. This represents a little less than one sixth of the total operating expenses, not including salaries.

Of the 5,597 who have completed the Basic Course during the last four years, and whose names have been reported to the fields, we have received reports from workers on 2,277. Of these, 1,330 were reported as being impossible to follow up mainly owing to distance, and 263 were S. D. A.'s. According to this figure 684 were actually contacted by workers. Of these 551 indicated that they believed the Sabbath truth, and 113 were reported as keeping Sabbath. One hundred and one were reported as attending church, 54 as members of the Sabbath-School, 23 as members of the Baptismal Class, and 23 as members of the Hearer's class. 235 have been reported as having further studies from the workers, and eleven others as planning to join the Hearer's Class.

Reports on baptisms have not been as complete as we would have liked, and therefore we are not able to give a full report to the constituency. However, from scattered reports received early in the

quadrennium, and from our own personal observation during the last two years, we are glad to report that to our knowledge at least fifty Voice of Prophecy students have been baptized during the past four years. This is, of course, to the credit of the workers who did faithful follow-up-work with these souls, and led them to decision.

We are persuaded, however, that if we could gather together a complete and accurate report, we would find that many more of our students have been baptized, or are preparing for baptism, than is indicated in this report.

From all parts of West Africa we have letters from students and workers showing how much the lessons are appreciated, and how God is leading souls to full consecration and obedience to his commandments through the work of the Voice of Prophecy, combined with the earnest efforts of our faithful evangelists.

From Aba, in East Nigeria, one student writes:

"I thank you too much for all your lessons sent to me, . . . I am a Methodist member before, but now since I have received the truth from S. D. A. I have turned out from Methodist to S. D. A., and promise to be remaining in it till the ending of my life."

Another writes: "I am nothing but a poor labourer with a salary of two shillings per day, and so unable to send any better thing to help in the work of the Voice of Prophecy. But, at the same time, I am glad for it is stated that in

Analysis of Gifts and Enrolments for the Four Years 1948-1951

Year	V. O. P. Offering.	Donations from Students	Tithes from Students	Books Sales	Total Income Excluding Appropriations	Expenditure Excluding Salaries
1948	£60 18 0	£ 55 0 7	£ 5 5 7	£ - - -	£121 4 2	£ 862 8 2
1949	49 18 6	125 8 10	22 3 6	16 15 5	214 6 3	1,376 19 4
1950	99 15 8	267 7 6	55 18 7	30 6 9	453 8 6	2,545 9 8
1951	4 18 0	341 9 10	81 15 2	49 11 7	477 14 7	2,801 7 10
Total	£215 10 2	£789 6 9	£165 2 10	£96 13 9	£1,266 13 6	£7,586 5 0

As the Voice of Prophecy Sabbath was later in 1951, full figures are not yet available for the fourth year of the Quadrennium.

the Bible that "God loveth a cheerful giver."

From Sierra Leone we have a letter from a student who has been corresponding with us for a considerable period. He writes:

"I received on today's date magazines, your official receipts, and two books, and your letter dated 16th November. . . .

"I was admitted into the hospital on 30th November. I am enjoying "Your Friends the Adventists," with the other two books received today. They are more than many friends who visited me. Thanks ever so much."

This man has also enrolled his wife, and I received a letter from her, from which we must also quote:

"I am glad that I have been able to go through the Preliminary Course, . . . I am trying to master the Basic Course.

"I am very grateful to my husband, . . . who enrolled me in this course of study. I wish to go on with much delight until I grasp deeply the fundamental truths being taught by you.

"Gradually I am following step by step to reach the light of its precious truths. There was a very strong resistance between my husband and I on the Saturday Sabbath, but the fact of its reality is dawning most vividly into my heart, not very definitely, until I received the little book entitled, "The Repairing of Sam Brown" you recently sent me. I have read it from cover to cover and have followed it thoughtfully . . . My husband and I have been led to follow truly and faithfully the rules and principles of your doctrine, and wishing shortly to enroll into the membership of the true Sabbath-keeping religion."

This man desires to enter into evangelistic work, though he has a good job which he will have to leave to do so.

We have written before of the experience of Pastor Adeoye in Lagos, and the young men who have been baptized as a result of his work there, supported by the Voice of Prophecy. We have also

written in the Messenger of the young man in the Prison at Accra who, we understand, expects to be baptized shortly after his release in the near future. Others in prison have been enrolled, and are showing an interest, as a result of the contacts made by brother Chappell and our African pastor in Accra.

The work of the Voice of Prophecy depends in large measure for its success upon the evangelists in the field. Indeed we regard the Bible School work as a powerful auxiliary of evangelism.

We in the Voice of Prophecy work wish to express our gratitude to God for his guidance and blessing upon the work of the past four years, and to consecrate ourselves to fuller and wider service in the short time that remains until the coming of the Lord.

We stand ready to help you, dear fellow-workers, in your task of winning thousands of souls for the Lord in the coming four years; and we invite you to permit us to help you in every way possible; by supplying you with names and addresses of students in your area; by giving you information on our students' progress. In our turn, we trust you will help us, and encourage us, by letting us know of your good experiences, reporting on student contacts, and especially by letting us know when you have been able, by God's grace, to lead any of our students through to baptism.

May God bless you one and all, workers and members, in this most solemn hour, and grant to us all the power and guidance which we so much desire and need to lead many souls into this most marvelous light.

The
Advent Messenger

Official organ of the West African
Union Mission of Seventh-day
Adventists.

P. O. Box 1016, Accra, Gold Coast
Editor - - - - - G. L. Annis

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Annual Report of the Ivory Coast Mission, 1951

By G. M. Ellstrom

The sentiments of our hearts are expressed in that rousing song which says in part, "Onward, forward, shout aloud Hosannah; Christ is Captain of the faithful throng." We feel that the Lord Jesus has been our Captain in the Ivory Coast, and though we may not be able to boast of the accomplishments of other fields, what has been done is due to the blessing of God, to whom we ascribe all the glory and honour which rightfully belongs to Him. The Ivory Coast has had a difficult time; it has been an uphill pull due to the inability to get land, the rapid turnover of overseas workers and the loss of all of our African workers. It has been disappointing and discouraging at times in the past and there is still a long road ahead of us with much to be done, but we thank the Lord that a beginning has been made and the future lies ahead of us bright with hope.

Organization Membership

We are indeed happy to have been accepted into the fellowship of the West African Union Mission and trust that this closer affiliation will make our work stronger in the Ivory Coast. We have also had a little organizing within our own field, for this last campmeeting saw our first church organized in the Ivory Coast with a membership of 25. We are glad to have been able to make this forward step and are planning definitely to organize at least one more church in 1952. We added 22 members to our baptized membership this past year which makes a total to date, including the overseas workers, of 104. It is not a large membership, but we feel like we are getting established and that the work is going forward.

Land and Buildings

Land has been obtained and a house built at Abidjan which shows to others that the Mission has come to stay. Land has also been obtained at Bouake which is over 200 miles farther north and

we are getting the boundary pillars set now hoping to soon begin building a school and a little later a home. We can expect greater thing when this school is established.

Working Force

We are truly glad to have two overseas families in the field at the present time. Brother Buzenet and family came to join our working force a little over a month ago. We welcome them and are indeed happy that they are with us.

We also rejoice in having Brother Amponsah with us and we want to thank the Gold Coast Mission for sacrificing him on our behalf. He has learned one of the most commonly spoken native languages during the six months that he has been with us and in that same time has almost doubled the membership in the church where he is working. I trust that we shall soon have the second worker that we were promised almost a year ago and if a third one can be sent you can be sure he will not be rejected.

Endeavouring to get some workers native to the Ivory Coast we are taking in three to personally teach and train that they might go out and instruct our believers. It is a great task for they must first of all be taught the French language before they can read and study and understand the Bible for themselves. We are really starting at the bottom, but with the blessing of God I believe the Gospel could be spread rapidly in the Ivory Coast even with such untrained and inexperienced workers, but think how much more might be accomplished with trained workers.

Lay Workers

We have nothing but lay members, and inexperienced ones at that, who are teaching our people and holding together our churches. Thank the Lord that we have those who can and will do this for us. To help them I held a Bible study school for them twice this last year, once for a month and the second time for a period of two weeks. Five were in attendance at these studies and they went back to their churches determined to do more for their people.

They need help and some training so that they can go out and do more. When we visited the church where Brother Amponsah is located two adults and three children came and asked to be enrolled as Sabbath-School members. These were brought into the church by a lady member of the church as a result of the influence and the teaching and enthusiasm of the worker. Yes, workers are essential to the success of the work and an absolute necessity in our field at the present; for our lay members need both teaching and training before they can go out to do much in evangelism.

Missionary Volunteers

We do not as yet have a very active Young People's group. At our last campmeeting we had our first investiture. Twenty were invested; one Master Comrade, one Companion and eighteen Friends. We are planning to have another investiture when Pastor Minchin comes in April and we hope to have a group ready for investiture at our next campmeeting.

Tithes and Offerings

Our people in the Ivory Coast have given well. If they had all done as good as one church we would have had at least twice as much tithe as we received this last year.

	Francs	Approximate Pounds
Tithe	200,460	£400
Per Capita	1,925	4
Offerings	92,546	200
Books sold	11,395	23

Paris Congress Funds

I may also add that over £50 was given for the Paris Congress delegates in anticipation of getting a delegate to come over to our field and instill in us some of the inspiration received at that Congress. We have been disappointed. We were expecting even more than that for we thought we would have one of these delegates come to labour in our field. In this also we have been disappointed, and I feel very sorry about it. I trust that another worker may soon be sent to us that our believers over in the Ivory Coast may be encouraged.

We wish to express our thanks to the Union for what has been done for us and we trust that you will all remember our needs for the year 1952. Our courage is good and hopes are high for we anticipate far greater accomplishments in the year 1952, but we do need your help. We send forth the Macedonian call, "Come over and help us." "Where?" you may ask. The answer is, "The Ivory Coast." When? My dear friends, "NOW!"

Editorial

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that this interest will be maintained and that many will come to accept the truth and be prepared for a place in the Kingdom of God.

Pastor E. L. Minchin, the Northern European Division Young People's leader is at present touring our Union. Reports from the Nigerian fields indicate that his ministry has been much appreciated. We are sure that this will be the case in the rest of our union. Pastor Minchin's visit will no doubt be completed by the time these notes are printed.

Pastor J. O. Gibson has recently attended the local constituency meetings in Sierra Leone and Liberia and is now, in company with G.L. Aniss attending the constituency meetings of the three Nigerian fields. It is very gratifying to see the delegates in council taking a keen interest in the operation of the work in their fields.

Pastor E. Keslake and family are leaving for their furlough during March, and our good wishes go with them as they take a well-earned rest in their homeland. We are very glad to announce that Pastor H. Wilson has been appointed Acting Superintendent during the absence of Pastor Keslake.

An unexpected yet welcome visitor to our Union has been Pastor E. E. Cossentine from the General Conference Educational Dept. who, while primarily on a visit to South Africa, took time to stop over in our field to discuss and give counsel on the future of our Educational work here in West Africa.