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Voice of Prophecy Rallies in Nigeria and Gold Coast

By Roger W. Coon

Radio Secretary, West African Union.

Pastor H. M. S. Richards, director-founder of the International Voice of Prophecy movement and probably the world's best-known Seventh-day Adventist clergyman (the "Voice of Prophecy" is now broadcast in 14 languages over 845 radio stations around the globe), was a recent guest of the West African Union.

Accompanied by his wife on this third 'round-the-world' air tour of Seventh-day Adventist missions and Voice of Prophecy installations, Pastor Richards set foot in Africa for the first time in his life at Kano airport on Wednesday morning, August 28th.

In the six days of his "flying" visit through Nigeria and Gold Coast before leaving Accra airport for Johannesburg, South Africa, Pastor Richards held four public Voice of Prophecy rallies, two other public services, four press conferences, recorded three radio programmes for local release and was feted at



Pastor H. M. S. Richards.

a surprise birthday party: all this besides travelling 1,635 miles, in only 144 hours!

More than 850 new enrolments for the West African Branch of the V.O.P. Bible School were secured at the rallies in Ibadan, Lagos, Kumasi, and Accra. Attendance was at near-capacity for vir-

tually all of the meetings, and more than 1,300 crowded the large Prempeh Hall in Kumasi long before the hour for the service arrived.

God marvellously blessed in granting an unprecedented amount of newspaper and radio publicity to the meetings. More than 500 column inches of space were devoted by Nigerian and Gold Coast newspapers to the reporting of Pastor Richards' activities, speeches, and visits.

The Nigerian Broadcasting Service, closed to our work until now, granted free time to an interview by Dr. Carson, American Baptist missionary who co-ordinates all religious programming for the Broadcasting Service, in which Pastor Richards told of his trip to Abraham's tomb in the Holy Land.

This was broadcast throughout the entire country of Nigeria.

In Ibadan, Bishop Akinyele, an Anglican African reputed to be the oldest bishop of any faith on the continent still

in active service, interviewed Pastor Richards on his trip to Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives.

Then he gave a running translation in Yoruba so that thousands who do not hear English could also benefit. This was broadcast over the Western Regional Network of the N.B.S.

Mr. Adisa Williams, programme organiser for the Western Regional Network cancelled another programme the Sunday following Pastor Richards' Ibadan visit, so that the very peak listening time might be available for playing the recording made earlier.

Mr. Williams, who was most helpful in many respects, was the man who introduced the late King George VI on his last world-wide Christmas greeting to the world just prior to his death.

In Gold Coast a recording of Pastor Richards, Pastor Gibson and Pastor Coon was taken, for later release to the country from Accra.

Considering the large number of active students who comprised the various audiences, the number of new enrolments gained was termed "gratifying" by church leaders.

The impact of Pastor Richards' visit, caused by unprecedented newspaper and radio publicity (which continued for a week after his departure to South Africa!) has made the public conscious of the presence and work of the Seventh-day Adventist missions. Many new contacts were made in the communications world which will prove helpful in later months.

Without doubt, the presence of Pastor and Mrs. Richards has brought a "new day" in public esteem for the work of God in these two countries.

East Nigerian Mission's Women's Groups

By D. V. Cowin

Union Departmental Secretary.

Off we went in the school pick-up, bumping over rough roads and through the bush to the little S.D.A. church at Osusu. There were three of us in the front seat — Mrs. A. E. Brendel from the Nigerian Training College, Teacher Enwereji, also from the college, who was to act as our translator, and the writer. In the back of the car were the women, tightly packed together, who were going along to the quarterly meeting of the women's groups of the 19 churches in the Ihie District of the East Nigerian Mission.

We arrived a little after the time we were scheduled to begin to find the place deserted except for the president, vice-president and the secretary of the group. When we enquired where the women

were who were to attend the meeting, the assuring answer was, "They will come!"

Sure enough, in true native fashion the women began to come, some on cycles, and some on foot, just a few at a time, until more than 150 filled that little church to overflowing. There they were, a most colourful array, dressed in their carefully embroidered blouses and bright native clothes, topped off with cleverly arranged head clothes tied in a variety of designs to suit the individual.

This quarterly women's meeting followed a general programme pattern which was much like the following: First came a period of singing, in which purely native songs and some religious ones were used. It was a



East Nigerian Mission's Women's Group, Ihie District.

general friendly period. A devotional study followed, after which the business of the group was taken up and announcements made. The enthusiasm of the women waxed so great at this juncture that at times the meeting was nearly broken up, for as each problem was presented they proceeded to talk it over and argue all points loudly in Ibo, all talking at the same time. The president, Mrs. Ugwuala, Mrs. Brendel, the group counsellor, and the other officers sometimes despaired of restoring order in the meeting. At such times a familiar song was started and soon all seemed to forget their determined debating, order was restored and the business went on. The next item on the programme was the presentation of a special subject, closely related to the entire plan of the women's work. I as a guest speaker presented several features of the Dorcas Work, Mrs. Brendel, who is also a nurse, then presented a "Health and Child Development" study, after which the meeting was brought to a close.

This was only a part of a mission-wide programme which had grown up through the years and was still developing along the lines of our West African Union's scheme of "Women's Welfare Work." In the East Nigerian field there were said to be fourteen such federations of women's groups. Nearly all the local churches have their women's society which meets once or twice each month. Small dues are collected and these are used in their local work.

About two years ago it was felt by some that the women's work in the churches could be greatly strengthened if certain women had a short course in "Leadership for Women's Work." Miss A. S. Nuka, the

director of the girls' school at The Nigerian Training College, who has a keen interest in work for girls and women, called together a select group of women and spent several days training them for this work, giving them materials and ideas to be used in their local meetings. Since that time she has called these people back periodically for further instruction. The effective results of such purposeful training is being evidenced in the churches and in such large groups and gatherings as this one in which we had just participated.

I wish you could have witnessed them as they left the church, greeting each other with many handclasps, much bowing, and a long series of friendly expressions and enquiries something like the following:

First woman: "Ndewooi" (salutation and greeting, good afternoon, good evening).

Second woman: "Ibila" (Welcome).

First woman: "Ndewo (good afternoon).

Second woman: "A Idinma" (Yes, are you well?).

First woman: "U mug'i" (what about your children and husband).

Second woman: "Odi, Nma" (they are well).

and so on. Then they wended their way in two's and three's and in small groups, into the bush and along the paths, to go to their separate places, some of which were as much as twelve and fifteen miles away. It touched my heart but it cheered me greatly too, for these were East Nigeria's Seventh-day Adventist women in action.

Gathering the First-Fruits

By S. Appiah Dankwah

District Leader, Kumasi.

A Laymen's Institute, which was sponsored by the Gold Coast Mission, was held at Agona, Ashanti, May 21-24 this year. It was attended by 140 laymen from all parts of the Gold Coast mission territory.

The lessons taught in the Institute were inspiring and fundamental. They included evangelistic tactics, home visitation, preaching methods, and promotion. The laymen left with spiritual weapons well-sharpened and ammunition ready for the battle.

One layman, Enoch Opoku, an ardent, energetic, and good Christian from Noboam, Ashanti, went back to his home town and applied the methods and tactics he had

learned at the Institute, and with the help of God has already won eleven souls in a laymen's evangelistic effort which he conducted by himself.

Good reports are coming in from various towns and villages as a result of this Institute. "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me." John 12:32. When Jesus is uplifted, nothing can hinder the growth of the church of Christ.

May the Lord help all our laymen to fight a good fight, and to bring many captives from the strongholds of Satan into the fold of the Good Shepherd.

Stewardship for To-Day

By W. H. Branson

President of the General Conference.

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." "None of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." These are but two of the many texts of Scripture which teach that it is the duty of every Christian to share with others the blessings which have come to him. We have nothing except that which God has given us. We brought nothing into the world when we came. We take nothing with us when we leave except the character which we have formed. All that we may seem to possess has been placed under our control for a short time in order that we may learn how to be stewards for God. Even life itself is to be spent in service for others. It is not to be wasted in idleness or pleasure seeking or in gathering riches and power for selfish use. The moments of every Christian are carefully numbered and in the judgment an exact record will be revealed. You and I will be called upon to give an account of our stewardship. Day by day, it is our solemn responsibility to fulfil the purpose of heaven in our lives.

The apostle Paul understood what it meant to be a steward. "I have received of the Lord," he says, "that which also I delivered unto you." He did not consume the blessings of heaven upon himself. The gifts of God to him were to be shared with others. He could not rest until he had done this. He was a debtor to all men everywhere, Greeks, barbarians, bond, free, wise or unwise.

"Woe is me," he declared, "if I preach not the gospel." Farther and still farther he extended the triumphs of the cross. With burning zeal, in spite of iron fetters and the darkness of the dungeon, he brought the good tidings even to Rome. He lived to see the gospel preached to "every creature which is under heaven." He was indeed a steward of the manifold grace of God.

The Lord Jesus Himself is our great example of stewardship. He dwelt in the fellowship of the Father and the holy angels in the sunlight of eternity, worshiped and adored by the heavenly host. But he could not continue to enjoy heaven while men and women were lost in sin. "Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." And God Himself so loved the world that He emptied heaven in the one great gift of the only begotten Son.

Everyone who names the name of Christ becomes a partaker in the work of redemption. "My father worketh hitherto, and I work," said Jesus. The people enquired, "How shall we do the works of God?" "Believe on Him whom He hath sent," was the reply. And "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also."

It seems clear therefore that to be a Christian is to be a fellow worker with the Lord of glory, to join Him in the solemn, thrilling declaration, "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work." It is to deny self, to take up the

cross as we follow Him in service, knowing that whosoever forsaketh not all that he hath cannot be His disciple.

The work of God is to give life to the world. The tidings of eternal redemption are to be carried to every creature. This is the work in which all heaven is interested, and the plan is that those who believe in God and in His Son Jesus Christ, are to have a part in its accomplishment. Every talent is to be put to use. Every treasure is to be laid on the altar of sacrifice. This is not just a romantic sentiment. It is not just an emotional exercise at the time of conversion. It is not simply a declaration to the world that we have decided to join the church, not merely the assent of the mind to the fact that the Bible is true. It is all of these, but stewardship is much more. It is the active, regular, unceasing dedication of a part of ourselves to the work of God. We are to bring to Him freely, joyfully, that which is entirely within our control, that which we could keep for ourselves if we wished, that which we could easily use in our own affairs, but that which because we love the Lord Jesus and long to see His cause grow and have a part in the salvation of precious souls, we eagerly devote to the work of God.

There is no other way. The only plan of heaven for the progress of the gospel on earth is that those who have themselves tasted the good word of God and become partakers of the heavenly gift shall do every thing in their power to make the glad tidings known to others. This

brings ever-increasing joy and spiritual growth to the Christian. He learns the meaning of the Scripture assurance, "There is that scattereth and yet increaseth."

In the remnant church to which God has called us in these last days, the phenomenal growth attending the preaching of the three-fold message has always been accompanied by the payment of faithful tithes and liberal offerings on the part of the membership. Seventh-day Adventists believe in tithing as the plan of God, given to His people from the very earliest times. It is the divine arrangement for bringing the gospel to mankind by the ministry of the human agent. It is the solemn obligation of every member of the church

to keep his account right with God and to render back to Him His own. The faithful tithe payer seldom becomes discouraged. He rarely apostatizes. The money which he pays into the church does not purchase for him the favour of God or assure him an inheritance among the sanctified. Not at all. But his faithfulness in acknowledging the claims of God make it possible for heaven to open the windows of heaven and pour him out a blessing.

In addition to the tithe, which belongs to God, and over which man has no lawful control, the faithful steward will bring his freewill offerings. These come from a thankful heart which cannot be satisfied to bring merely the required amount, the tithe, but which longs to ex-

press more abundantly his love and gratitude for the many blessings enjoyed. This is done not of necessity, but willingly, cheerfully, eagerly. It gives an opportunity to share more abundantly in the great work of salvation which is going forward in every land.

Seventh-day Adventists live in the time when the most thrilling events are taking place. The work of God is almost finished. The enemy is fighting with great fury, but the Lord of hosts is with His people and marvellous victories are being won as thousands take their stand for the truths of the Bible and join the remnant people. With these developments come the privilege and the duty of faithful stewardship. "Pray

(Continued on page 8.)



CAN WE WITH GOD'S HELP

**DOUBLE OUR MEMBERSHIP—OR MORE
BY APRIL FIRST—NINETEEN FIFTY-FOUR?**

PRAY FOR IT

PLAN FOR IT

WORK FOR IT

GOD WILL HELP YOU



Adventists Challenged Not To Remain a Dead Letter

By David H. Hughes

Station Director, Bassa, Liberia.

"Seventh-day Adventists Dedicate New Church Building — President Tubman Delivers Sermon." No doubt this very striking caption caught the eyes of many readers of "The Listener" on the morning of June 7, 1953.

I was an eye witness of this unforgettable event and I want to share with you the things which I saw and heard. It all began about four o'clock on the Sabbath afternoon of June 6. A strange and wonderful group of personages were assembling in front of the new \$12,000 church building on Camp Johnson Road. One could see without a doubt that this was no ordinary gathering. Men and women of high rank in society and in the fields of education, religion, politics, government, etc., were pressing their way through the doors into the Lord's sanctuary. Everywhere there was an atmosphere of anticipation, an ardent feeling of expectancy that the unusual was about to take place.

The service commenced with the opening of the main doors, the opening of the windows and interior doors, and climaxed by the unveiling of the chairs and pulpit, the latter by Dr. John B. Falconer, head of the Baptist Convention in Liberia. Arrayed on the rostrum were an impressive group of men. Doctors and Bishops were there, representing the Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian and other denominations.

Elder P. E. Giddings, super-

intendent of the Konola Mission, and Mrs. Giddings, the director of the Konola Choral Group, were present. They had travelled approximately 60 miles in an open truck over almost impassable roads due to heavy rains, to render the beautiful selections that thrilled the hearts of all present.

The long awaited moment arrived. Standing behind the new pulpit was William V. S. Tubman, president of the Independent Republic of Liberia, ready to preach the sermon. Slowly, distinctly, and solemnly President Tubman, who incidentally had been a preacher before he became a president, made his introductory remarks. He rocked and stunned this august assembly as, with great earnestness, he made the following statement, "Seventh-day Adventists believe ardently and correctly too, that this is the only Sabbath and that Sunday is not the Sabbath, so we all realise and recognise and endorse their doctrine in so far as their belief in the Sabbath is concerned." He went on to say that there would never be peace among the nations through diplomacy or military might, but that peace will come through the church when Christ comes to establish His kingdom upon this earth. President Tubman's opening remarks were a rebuke and a challenge to the Protestant world. His closing remarks were a rebuke and also a challenge to the Seventh-day Adventist Movement, in the following words,

"But in this church dedicated to the worship of God, may the laws of God and the doctrines of Seventh-day Adventists be enforced and not remain a dead letter." Men of the world and in all stations of life recognise the truthfulness of this eleventh hour message to the world and feel that many of the believers have not proclaimed this message with the earnestness, perseverance and enthusiasm of which it is worthy.

How many sincere thinking men and women feel we are guilty of permitting Adventism to become a dead letter in our locality? The servant of the Lord writes, "The Lord now calls upon Seventh-day Adventists in every locality to consecrate themselves to Him, and to do their very best, according to their circumstances, to assist His work." —"Testimonies," vol. 9, page 132.

Because Elder C. D. Henri, the President of the Liberian Mission and pastor of the newly erected church, and his programme committee did not want Adventism to become a dead letter, they made plans for the church opening, calculated to shake the very foundations of Monrovia. Those who belong to the higher ranks of society are to be sought out with tender affection and brotherly regard. . . . These should be the first to hear the call. To them the invitation must be given." "Christ's Object Lessons," page 230.

This was the principle upon which the Programme Committee laboured energetically with much prayer and faith to accomplish God's will. Committee members were given names of prominent persons desirable for participation in the forthcoming service. Elder Henri was

given, among others, the name of the President. He had a personal interview with His Excellency, who, in spite of a very heavy programme accepted the invitation. He even delayed his week-end visit to his farm in order to be present. The rains had set in, but this problem was met with prevailing prayer, and from Friday afternoon until Tuesday the heavens refused to send forth rain.

The climax of the service came in a very tangible way in response to what had been said and done. Four very prominent people came forward to lift the offering by inviting the congregation to come forward and lay the offering on the table in front of the pulpit. Mr. Dennis, Secretary of the Treasury Department in his appeal made this statement — "It is unorthodox for us to be here today (Sabbath), let us therefore give an unorthodox offering." The congregation responded by giving over \$600. Stepping up to the pulpit once more, President Tubman said that the offering should be \$1000, the goal that had previously been set. The congregation rallied, and with the President's very liberal offering, the total amount was well over \$1,000, this clearing the church completely of all debt.

Instead of Adventism being a dead letter in Monrovia, Liberia, we had just the opposite situation. The proof of this statement is in the contents of this report. This incredible event is indeed a challenge to Seventh-day Adventists throughout the world harvest field to attempt great things for God, to stand before the world and cry out — "Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou moon in the valley of Ajalon."

Colporteuring in the Ivory Coast

By G. M. Ellstrom

President, Ivory Coast Mission.

Perhaps some of you have noticed in the "Messenger" a new name among the colporteurs labouring in the West African Union. We are very happy to introduce to you Jacob Gbessin, our first Colporteur in the Ivory Coast, and though this field is far from the easiest in which to sell books we are confident he is going to be faithful in proclaiming the Message through the printed page. He is a strong member of the Church and is not afraid to face the taunts and jeers of the many mockers he meets in his work. His wonderful colporteur smile is a real asset when he encounters such trials. Following is an example of what is very often his lot, but he has the courage to carry on, nevertheless, and in this case profited by it immediately. This is what Jacob wrote to me.

"I sold the book, "The Return of Christ," to a Mr. Ernest Dijgawa. When he

brought the book home a friend of his by the name of Paul picked it up and read part of it. It proved very interesting to him and he told his friend Ernest to send the fellow who sold him that book around to his office if he saw him again. Soon after that I was again in the office where Ernest works and he told me to go over and see his friend, Paul. Following his directions I soon found Paul who was happy to see me and bought a book immediately. There was another man in the same office who began jeering and laughing at me. 'Oh ho,' he mockingly cried, 'I've been told that the end of the world is near and that Christ is coming back again.' And he sat there and laughed at me. I gathered up my courage and told him that the end of the world will take place. Jesus himself preached that the end of the world will come and showed us that His Kingdom is now near. John, Peter and Paul preached the same thing and that is why we also today are preaching the soon return of Jesus and the judgment to come. When I had finished talking he looked at me a few moments and then he reached into his pocket for some money, took out the 275 francs for the book and asked me to leave it with him. Of course I left that office in a very happy mood."

I trust that the book will be a real blessing to that young man. I could wish that all who mock would buy a book, but of course that does not happen. Jacob has many trials to face as he labours for God as a Colporteur in this Catholic country. Re-



Jacob Gbessin.

member him when you pray for the work of God in West Africa that he might bring many to a knowledge of the Truth through his literature ministry in the Ivory Coast.



Stewardship for To-Day

(Continued from page 5.)
 ye the Lord of the harvest that He may send forth labourers" is the divine admonition to those who lift up their eyes and look on the whitened harvest fields. No man can pray with earnestness and fervent sincerity for more labourers without feeling in his own heart the determination to do his utmost in helping the Lord to answer that prayer. "Here am I, send me," must ever be a part of his petition. Perhaps he can go in person to answer the call. Perhaps he can send a son or daughter to help gather in the ripened grain. However that may be, surely he can by his consistent, godly life and his faithful liberality have a definite part in hastening the day of the Saviour's appearing. With such stewardship God is well pleased. This is no time to "trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God." It is time to do good, to "be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate," laying up in store a good foundation for the time to come, and making sure of eternal life.

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Acting Editor — — — J. O. Gibson

*Have You Remembered to
Order Your*

"MORNING WATCH"

for 1954?



Colporteur Report for July, 1953.

Name	Hours	Orders	Deliveries
East Nigerian Mission: S. A. Njoku, P.D.S.			
Njoku, C.	205	28 10 0	7 4 0
Ugboaja, J.	120	28 19 0	51 4 6
Ubani, A.	160	52 4 0	49 15 0
Emelugu, P.	117	56 8 0	23 4 0
Onuiri, S.	116	13 2 0	11 7 6
Achor, M.N.Y.	226	83 7 0	19 17 0
Owuala, N.	223	49 11 6	21 10 0
Obia, J.	134	7 11 0	2 11 6
Ehiodo, M.	55	31 12 0	4 11 0
Etufugh, R.	113	10 16 0	9 6 0
Onumadu, E.	137	14 1 0	9 3 0
Amarihe, I.	52	7 15 0	7 11 0
Ochingwa, T.	159	64 15 0	12 17 0
Miscellaneous	61	28 15 0	3 5 0

West Nigerian Mission: J. J. Hyde, P.D.S.

Oriaku, Hope	167	33 15 0	10 0 0
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Gold Coast Mission: L. H. Davidson, P.D.S.

Amoah, Agraw	75	16 15 0	36 0 0
Ampim, J. K.	97	17 10 0	16 4 0
Arthur, H. G.	90	44 15 0	21 1 0
Agyemang, H. K.	97	63 12 3	8 3 9
Adjei, Danso	80	24 15 0	14 0 0
Ampofo, I. K.	84	60 10 3	52 0 0
Clerk, C. A.	160	68 0 0	38 10 0
Daitey, J. A.	159	40 0 0	27 12 6
Dankwah, J. K.	145	34 8 0	20 14 9
Enim, M. A.	227	225 6 0	126 14 0
Gyeble, Joshua	85	36 7 0	3 5 0
Mensah, H. A.	125	101 11 7	56 0 6
Odai, David	101	73 10 0	11 12 0
Owusu, S. K.	352	236 15 0	63 16 0
Quarten, J. A.	187	180 0 0	66 2 0
Twum-Antwi, B. A.	131	85 4 0	107 17 0
Miscellaneous	222	164 17 9	80 17 7

Sierra Leone Mission: V. C. Brown, P.D.S.

Daitey, A. N.	38	7 3 0	5 8 0
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Ivory Coast Mission:

Gbessin, Jacob	151	17 1 2	17 1 2
Union Total, July 1953	4,651	2,009 2 6	1,016 5 6
Union Totals thus far	33,865	13,279 14 2	6,785 12 8