

WEST AFRICAN ADVENT

# MESSENGER

VOICE OF THE WEST AFRICAN UNION

MISSION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

VOL. 8.

NOVEMBER, 1954

No. 10

## Colporteur Institute

By D. L. Chappell

Publishing Secretary, West African Union

Using as their theme, "CONSTANT," twenty Gold Coast colporteurs spent ten profitable and pleasant days together during their annual institute held in the Accra church 4th-14th October. Ably leading out in the meetings was brother R. D. Mawutor,

newly appointed publishing secretary for the Gold Coast Mission. (He is the third man from right in the front row in the picture).

In addition to receiving instruction in gospel salesmanship, both orally and by films, the men were privileged to hear ex-



Gold Coast colporteurs at their recent institute at Accra.

cellent messages from eight experienced mission workers, including our veteran African pastor, H. D. Wilson, who delivered the Sabbath morning sermon. The closing meeting was an ordinance service conducted by Pastor H. S. Pearce, manager of the Advent Press.

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" applies to colporteurs too. Knowing this, Mr. Mawutor planned for several social events for the men. Films were shown at my house, Miss George of our Union office and Miss Dorane Cowin honoured the colporteurs with an impressive piano concert, and one evening was spent in a "get together" with the workers of the Advent Press. Friday afternoon was spent touring the big city of Accra in a chartered bus. Highlighting the institute was an interesting visit to the publishing plant where the city paper is published and an enlightening hour spent at the Advent Press on Monday becoming better acquainted with the art of printing.

As usual, Sabbath afternoon was used for a colporteur symposium. A number of men related stirring experiences, a group demonstrated how the colporteur does his work, and others sang songs. The experience that impressed me most was the one told by colporteur Samuel Ofori, an illiterate man who began canvassing back in 1949 when the colporteur work was first organised in the Gold Coast—in the days when most educated men were afraid of "that *new work* called canvassing"! Not knowing how to read and the books being in English, Brother Ofori walks up to a man, hands him the book and then bows his head and prays while the man looks at the book. And many of the prospects buy the book. Ofori humbly stated, "I sell books by prayer." (He is the first one on the left in the front row in the picture).

But the greatest thrill came near the end of the symposium when we had those in the audience who had been interested in the truth by colporteurs to stand. Several persons stood, most of them being former customers of colporteur C. A. Clerk. The scene could have been duplicated in a number of other churches where former colporteur customers are now baptized members of God's Remnant Church.

With three more months to go, the Gold Coast colporteurs already have a £1,500 gain in deliveries thus far this year. They praise God for His wonderful blessing. Won't you join us in praying that God will continue to bless these loyal servants of His, and their fellow colporteurs around the world in their work of literature evangelism?

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## Gold Coast Mission

President: H. J. Welch

Office Address: P. O. Box 480, Kumasi

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### News in Brief

#### Mensah Appreciated in Europe

Many fine reports have come concerning Pastor C. B. Mensah's visit in Northern Europe. His trip to the Scandinavian countries as well as England aroused great interest in the West African field, we are told.

#### 500 Souls Won in August Efforts

The evangelistic efforts held during the August holiday period by evangelists and school teachers of the Gold Coast Mission were indeed blessed of God. The churches were strengthened and more than 500 persons joined the hearers classes. Over 30 efforts were held. Many laymen gave excellent assistance.

#### Mission President on Tour

Pastor Welch accompanied by the District leaders has just completed a visit to all the churches and companies in the Koforidua and Takoradi districts. In the Takoradi area he was also accompanied by S. E. Opam, Assistant Supervisor of Schools. Mrs. Welch travelled with him in the Koforidua district.

#### Home Missionary Councils

By the time this goes to press four Home Missionary Councils will have been held in the Gold Coast at the following places: Bekwai, Mampong, Techiman and Koforidua. Church Leaders and Lay Preachers are being invited to come in for these councils. Those assisting in the councils are Pastors E. W. Pedersen, R. W. Coon, D. V. Cowin, H. J. Welch, J. C. Vetter and C. B. Mensah who is acting as organiser. Pastor Pedersen is the Home Missionary Secretary of the Northern European Division of the General Conference. Some of the topics to be studied are: Lay Preaching, The Home Missionary Department, Ingathering, Women's Welfare Work, Temperance Promotion, Public Relations, Voice of Prophecy Lessons, and Sabbath School organisation.

### Secondary School Fund Victory Day

The District Leaders of the Gold Coast have set the 20th of November as a day when the drive for funds for the Secondary School should reach it's goal. It is expected that by that day every church will have reached it's goal for 1954. Every one is working hard to make this the *BIG DAY*.

### Investitures Planned for Camp Meetings

Pastor J. C. Vetter, M. V. Secretary and William Ackah his assistant are making preparations for M. V. investitures at each of the coming camp meetings to be held in the Gold Coast. Watch for later reports on the number invested in the various classes.

### Lady Graduate Teacher for Secondary School

Word has come that Miss Ruth Smith is on the way from America to connect with the college at Bekwai as Domestic Science instructor. Her principal work will be in the Secondary department but she will also teach needle craft to the Teacher Training girls and supervise the girls dormitory. Miss Smith is an American Negro woman holding a Bachelors degree from Emmanuel Missionary College, Berrien Springs, Michigan. Her specialist work was in Domestic Science.

### Wonoo Church Organisation

As a result of action by the Mission Field Committee the company at Wonoo in the Kumasi district are being organised into a church. Pastors Appiah Dankwah and H. J. Welch officiated at the organisation on November 2nd. Welcome Wonoo to the sisterhood of churches.

### Colporteurs Meet in Accra

Under the leadership of D. L. Chappell and R. D. Mawutor Publishing Department secretaries of the West African Union and Gold Coast missions respectively a Colporteur Institute was held in Accra October 4 to 14.

### Ingathering Begins in the Gold Coast Mission

With the month of September the annual Ingathering programme gets under way. In addition to the usual Harvest Festivals it is planned to carry on a strong programme of solicitation in the large commercial towns. The District Leaders have pledged themselves to lead their districts in greatly increasing the amount raised over that of previous years.

## A Special Visitor

Pastor E. W. Pedersen, the Home Missionary and Temperance secretary for the Northern European Division, is now visiting in the West African Union. Pastor Pedersen is a missionary of long experience and we hope many of our workers and members will be able to attend the meetings he is conducting. Pastor Cowin, our Union Home Missionary secretary, has planned an intensive itinerary and Brethren Chappell and Coon are participating along with local leaders in the fine programme of meetings that has been arranged.

Before going to the Mission field, Pastor Pedersen spent ten years in his home country of Denmark, working as a colporteur, a teacher, an evangelist and departmental secretary. Then followed sixteen years in the Mission field which included service as a training school principal, Union Educational and Departmental secretary, and for the last nine years Brother Pedersen was President of the Kenya Mission field and from this post, he was called during 1953 to the Northern European Division.

Pastor Pedersen is therefore, acquainted with the problems we face in mission service and well qualified to give constructive counsel.

We would therefore like to take this opportunity of assuring Pastor Pedersen of a warm welcome on this his first visit to West Africa.

## Ten Weeks Evangelism

By Edgar E. Hulbert

Evangelism in Accra, as in most capital cities of the world, requires more planning, more advertising, more effort, than in the more rural areas and the provincial towns. It also requires, as does all other evangelism, an outpouring of the Spirit of God.

We were handicapped from the beginning in our campaign through various circumstances, but in spite of this we were blessed of God, and the meetings have been a success. This is due in a large measure to the support of some of the lay members of the church, who have given good help from the beginning.

Three major difficulties faced us at the beginning of our work. First, through circumstances beyond our control, we were deprived of the help of an African worker soon after our plans for evangelism were begun. Second, the mission committees concerned were not able to give us a final budget figure until we were right up to the time of commencing our meetings. This meant that our initial advertising was insufficient. Three, our time was very short, as we must leave Accra early in June.

The first meeting was well attended, with about 100 non-Adventists present. Later attendances dropped until we had a regular attendance of some thirty or forty non-members on Sundays, and twenty or thirty on week days. Altogether we received 130 names for literature. Owing to the absence of a worker well acquainted with the town, it was impossible to visit all these people. Consequently many stopped attending the meetings, but of those who continued and were later visited a number have been enrolled in the Hearers' class, and others are receiving studies in their homes. There are several well educated and refined people among those latter. The father of one blind man (student of the Voice of Prophecy Braille course supplied from U.S.A.) is a retired Presbyterian minister. He and his wife are having Bible studies together with their son, and show considerable interest.

A notable feature of the campaign was the baptism which was the closing meeting of the series. Five who had been attending Church and studying in the baptismal classes for a year or more were buried with their Master by the writer on Sabbath 24th April. The baptism was held in the afternoon and invitations were issued to friends and interested persons to attend. The church was well filled—more than at the Harvest service last year. As the last candidate left the baptistry, an appeal was made from the baptistry for all who wished to enrol in a Bible Class to prepare for baptism to come forward. Five did so, including one Catholic young man who had been attending our meetings. Others later joined the class. A call was also made for reconsecration to God by all present.

Most gratifying of all, however, was the response of the people who attended. Several expressed their appreciation of the service, and their conviction that the Seventh-day Adventist Church was the true church. Our only regret is that we must so soon leave the work in Accra, but we pray that Brother

Adusei and his lay-helpers will be able to continue the work and win many more souls for Christ.

Why not make our baptisms an occasion for strengthening our evangelistic work? A well planned and Spirit-controlled service makes the occasion an inspiration for the candidates, and enables them to witness for their faith before their friends and families. Many will come to such a service who would never otherwise come to our churches, and God's Holy Spirit will touch hearts and sow seeds which later will bring forth fruit abundantly.

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## Sabbath-School Department

Union Secretary: D. L. Chappell

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## A Bishop Visits Our Sabbath School

Pastor E. Ooumaegbu—E. Nigeria

Amongst the visitors we had at Aba on the 13th Sabbath day of June 26th, 1954 was an aged bishop of the African Episcopal church. His first contact with us was by one of our laymen who was one day scattering Voice of Prophecy enrolment forms in the Aba township. The bishop did not want to enrol but told the layman the number of his house.

This brother, one day, went with another member (the church elder) and with some tracts from the writer, had brief Bible talks with him. On their next visit they took with them a copy of "God's Answer to your Questions" and their cutlasses. And after conversing with him for a while on the spiritual side these two laymen showed the practical side of their Christianity by cutting the bishop's grassy yard for him free of charge. This made their visits more impressive, and he then promised a one day visit to our church.

When the brethren (laymen) told me of his interest I immediately wrote to him a letter of invitation; and on the above mentioned date he came and not only to see and know our church, but with the hope of preaching if he would be permitted.

But things were more than he expected. The hours of the Sabbath school were laden with impressive events. "I am really convinced, I do not know what to preach again, the children have preached a lot; This is the true church", exclaimed the bishop after the services. He was given more tracts with which he returned to his home, and he has since then visited some of our mission leaders here who also gave more of our periodicals to him.

Remember to pray for the work of the laity and for this bishop.

## Thirteenth Sabbath in Accra

By Mrs. H. G. Anniss

Another Sabbath morning had dawned. The sun was shining and there was promise of another hot day. But this was a special day. Oh, yes! true — it was the Lord's Sabbath and as usual, we were in our places at Church for Sabbath School. It was the 13th Sabbath and we knew that there was a treat in store for us.

As we entered the Church, what a picture we saw! In front of the Rostrum stood a wooden trellis frame, painted white and threaded in and out of its squares were various kinds of flowers. It was truly a beautiful sight.

Our school was opened with the usual exercises and just before we separated into classes, we listened to the report of the previous week's Sabbath School. This was given in the form of an acrostic, the words being, "13th Sabbath Day".

The lesson for the day having been studied, we reassembled full of expectancy. We had not long to wait for there was a stir. Brother Anniss made his way to the front of the church to introduce the programme and then the vestry door opened. There were thirty children lined up, ready to march in. They sang, "We are little children marching," as they came in and took their places each side of the small carpeted platform.

Two little folk sang a welcome, in Ga. Then a solo rendered in English entitled, "The Happy Chime," was very sweetly sung by Georgina. We sat intense and almost to the point of holding our breath, as little Ashikwe recited the "Ten Commandments" in Ga. It seemed that he hardly waited to take a breath for it was repeated without any hesitancy.

How we, who are Europeans were reminded of the homeland, as we listened to three choruses. Particularly, the last one, when the children's voices rang through the air with "Joy, Joy, Joy".

A very interesting and impressive story was given in dialogue form by three of the older members. It was entitled, "The First Passover". The characters were that of a Jewish father and his son, taken by Samuel and Mepherson respectively and David Pearce was the narrator.

Dwarme also sweetly sang, "I will early seek the Saviour".

Then a group of six children from the Korle Gonno Branch Sabbath School assembled on the platform. They certainly put everything they had into an action song entitled, "Rock, rock, rock, little boat on the sparkling sea".

The air was filled with music as the children sang together, one of their favourite hymns, "Tis Love that makes us happy".

So ended all too soon the rendering of an excellent programme. Expressions of thanks to Sister Pearce and her helpers who had contributed to it were justly offered. We sincerely pray that the seed sown in the hearts of these little ones of His flock, will bear precious fruit in the Kingdom.

## Joy in Giving

By D. L. Chappell

I had often heard about the sacrificial giving of our Sabbath School members in Liberia on 13th Sabbath. Being on trek in their country the latter part of September, I had opportunity to attend one of their Sabbath schools on September 25th and to be inspired by their spirit of liberal giving for the cause of God.

The death of the son-in-law of the Sabbath school superintendent on Friday afternoon and heavy rains prevented some of the members and a number of the expected visitors from attending the Monrovia church on 13th Sabbath. In attendance were only 70 members and 20 visitors, including a member of the Legislative Assembly of Liberia. You can imagine my surprise when the assistant superintendent announced that the total offering amounted \$155.00 (£55.7.0.). I learned that some of the members gave \$10 (£3.12.0.), others \$8 (£2.6.6.), and not a few \$5 (£1.16.0.). This is almost incredible, in view of the fact that

the average monthly income of these dear people is from \$20 to \$30.

On Monday, I was again astonished by the news that the Sabbath school at our Konola Training School amounted \$240! Those in

## Have You?

I have never heard of a faithful member of the Sabbath school who apostatized. **HAVE YOU?**

I have never heard of one who faithfully practices the daily study plan who went astray on false doctrines. **HAVE YOU?**

I have never heard of dissension and divorce occurring in a home in which the family joined in daily lesson study. **HAVE YOU?**

I have never heard of a man becoming poor because he gave too liberally in Sabbath school offerings. **HAVE YOU?**

I have never heard of a person who became ill because he arrived at Sabbath school on time. **HAVE YOU?**

I have never heard of anybody suffering a nervous breakdown because he invited too many friends to Sabbath school. **HAVE YOU?**

I have never heard of a church that had a good Sabbath school that was rent by dissension and bickering. **HAVE YOU?**

I have never heard of a church that enjoyed the united co-operation in the Sabbath school of both leaders and people that did not grow and prosper in multiplied blessings. **HAVE YOU?**

I have found the Sabbath school a mighty means in the hand of God for my own soul's edification and my own spiritual advancement. **HAVE YOU?**

If you have not, then determine right now that you will attend Sabbath school every week and that you will arrive on time, too. It cost too much to remain away. The spark soon dies from a lone coal.

Remember, A FRIENDLY WELCOME AWAITS YOU AT SABBATH SCHOOL. COME EARLY!

—Adapted from General Conference Sabbath School Department leaflet.

attendance numbered 150, the larger section being students. While it is true that three Adventist families from America, who are now working for Pan American Airways Company in Liberia, gave their offerings at Konola, the amount is still an indication of

the sacrificial giving on the part of our people there. They have set a new record in giving for missions, a noble example for others to follow.

Glancing around to behold the expression on the faces of the members in Monrovia when the amount of the offering was announced, I realized, to some measure, the truthfulness of Christ's statement, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." It was evident that they know the "joy of giving."

## My Visit to Europe And America

C. B. Mensah

My expectations and anxieties grew higher and higher as the day drew nigh when I should commence my journey overseas. The promise of my going had been made and I knew the officers would not fail me. Depending upon the promise all efforts were made to be sure of necessary preparations. Why, because I wanted to be sure I was at the Airport at the right time to take off with the other passengers and also I had the right dress to feel comfortable among the people with whom I was going to associate for at least three months. No time was wasted in seeking counsel, instructions and materials for the journey from well-wishers and friends.

All these remind me of our journey to heaven. The promises of Christ are near and sure. There is no shadow of doubt whatsoever in them. We can fully depend on them more than we would that of men. The officers never failed me and Christ will never, no never, fail us!

Are our desires to be with Christ, growing higher and higher as we are nearing the end of time? Better things than we can imagine are ahead of us. Let us work, prepare, and be at the Airport of life at the last day to take off with Christ to go to possess the land.

The first stage of the journey ended when on April 13th, 1954, I flew from Kumasi to Accra and hurried to find transport to the Mission house. "Not later than 9 a.m." the brethren at the Union Office said to me, "Not later than 9 a.m., you should be at the Airport tomorrow."

The night was spent in anxiety. Having but little sleep, I was up at about 4 a.m., lest I should over-sleep and miss the glorious

opportunity. But oh! the other folks in the Mission house were all asleep and I did not like to disturb them. "Better I take a stroll outside the house and rush in to be ready when I hear at least a little noise from one of them," I said to myself.

Pondering over the adventure, I walked up and down the Church grounds. At last the door was opened and I felt relieved as I walked in to get prepared. Yes! I was at the Airport even before 9 a.m. It seemed that I was the first passenger to be there, ready for the plane.

#### The Newsmen

At the waiting room at the Accra Airport two of the local pressmen approached me and said, "Are you travelling overseas?" "Yes" I said, and after an interview, they took a picture of Pastor Gibson, Brother Aniss and me. Yes, that was the beginning of many interviews I had on my journey. Almost everywhere I went, the Newsmen were after me, clicking their cameras, some with the flash-lights which darkened my sight for some moments. Upon the information they gathered from me, very often the local papers came out with bold headlines about an "African Visitor" and also good publicity of the progress of our work in West Africa.

One day the last night will be over and the dawn of the glorious morning will break unto eternal day. Shall you be at the waiting room to meet the Lord?

### Prove The Lord

"The Lord has made us His stewards. He has placed His means in our hands for faithful distribution. He asks us to render to Him His own. He has reserved the tithe as His sacred portion, to be used in sending the gospel to all parts of the world. My brethren and sisters, confess and forsake your selfishness and bring to the Lord your gifts and offerings. Bring Him also the tithe that you have withheld. Come confessing your neglect. Prove the Lord, as He has invited you to do. 'I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, said the Lord of hosts.' Malachi 3:11." — "Testimonies", Vol. 9, pages 51,52.

## North Nigerian Mission

Acting President: J. A. Hyde M. B.

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## Evangelistic Efforts in The North Nigerian Mission

By J. O. Olomojobi

Go, preach, and make disciples should be the utmost ambition of every worker, and even a joyful time and special occasion; so as to reach the heart of people who "continue in their frantic search for pleasure in halls of wickedness."

The month of March is known as the last month of holidays for all farmers in the Northern Nigeria. And is the only month or time when people are met in huts, villages and towns. For the month of April farmers are busy preparing their field and sowing crops. At our last constituency meeting delegates unanimously agreed to go out with evangelists at their yearly efforts.

#### Gumo

Gumo is in Banchi province, the only place and the first time of entering this province with our messages; Banchi province is Hausa dwellers, of course there are pagans in scanty numbers. Our message echoed and the trumpet sounded. The people who had remained standing, waiting and hoping, responded, and over 40 people accepted the truth.

#### Kahugu

Kahugu is another new place of scene, where nets cast in a big river. Over seventy souls confessed to stay and abide by the truth messages.

#### Maigamu

Maigamu is 64 miles away from the Mission station our furthest out station so far, and about fifty miles to Zaria. It is one of the seats and home of Mohammedan religion on this side. The pagans responded, and we have over a hundred of people that stand by the truth.

We have been longing with an intense longing, to see our work opened in fifty, sixty and hundreds of miles away from the Mission Head Quarters. To proclaim messages and

for every soul to come to repentance. Now 40, 70 and 100 are newly enrolled in the Hearer class through the aid of efforts.

"The high way is smoother and higher each day, God's standard uplifted, is leading the way. And soon with all the pilgrims we'll lay down the load. And shout, for we're nearing the end of the road."

We solicit your prayer for these new souls, so as not to deviate from the truth.

#### Evacuation of Workers

"Behold, I will send for many fishers, and they shall fish them, I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks."

Evacuation is a word which is mostly and chiefly used at a time of war between one country and another. Nevertheless, evacuation here is used as a great conflict between right and wrong, and also between Sabbath and Sunday observances.

Some fifty miles away from our Mission station, where there is no Sabbath observance, but Sunday and pagans. An evan-

gelistic effort was arranged and operated.

While fishers and hunters were in non believers territory, the Sunday observers came from miles with many of their questions answered, and some were captured through, and after the lecture meetings, these added more to their interest and they returned home with the Gospel truth.

During the efforts' weeks at that new opening over forty people had taken their stand in the new found message. Arrangements are being made for their names to be enrolled in the Hearers' class.

The evangelist worker for Sudan Interior Mission — stationed over fifteen miles away, asked his superintendent for evacuation. "We will not be able to with-hold with the Sabbatarian doctrines that are spreading in our area". Those workers themselves, seek and request Bible studies.

"Let us never forget that if we do not take sin out of our pleasure, God will surely take pleasure out of our sin". The field is wide enough for all and the work is for you. Let us all make a little heaven in earth.

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## Gratitude

By C. B. Mensah

I deeply express my gratitude and appreciation for my appointment as a delegate to the General Conference and for the opportunity to tour Division fields. When I think of this great honour and privilege, I have cause to be grateful.

To all the Division, Union and Mission Officers who made this possible, I say Thank you! I would be ungrateful should I not say a word of appreciation to all the brethren who stood by my side in counselling, travelling and helping me throughout these journeys. No greater love could have been shown to any other than that which was demonstrated unto me. It is marvellous to think about and it is wonderful to delve into.

The love of the brethren in the Division field has added impetus to my faith and the warm reception given to me in the churches and conferences I visited, has been a great inspiration for my soul.

Now counting the cost of my travelling and support during these four months, I pray that this may be an investment in my life for more aggressive and fervent work

and that I may be able to inspire my co-workers and members to spiritual living and a greater effort for the Lord.

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## J. Kanu awaits the Life-Giver

By W. J. Newman

East Nigeria regrets to announce the death of Brother J. Kanu at his home on May the 13th, 1954.

Brother Kanu came to us from the Scottish church ten years ago, during which time he has served faithfully as an evangelist and District Leader. Prior to his death he had been suffering from severe abscesses and although he received treatment at the Government Hospital and was apparently recovering, he suddenly grew worse and passed away.

Pastors Nielsen and Onwere, Brethren Oluikpe and Dyboh, together with members from his district travelled 70 miles to attend his funeral.

God grant that we may all be ready when the Lord should see fit to call us.